

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

November 2018

Giving Thanks Every Day

During our Saturday morning Bible Study, we learned that the people who lived in the ancient city of Priene (now modern day Turkey), just a few miles from Ephesus, attributed all their blessings to the goddess Athena. Fresh water that flowed from the incredibly built temple built with marble stones quarried and hewn from Greece, was attributed as provision from Athena.

When persons entered the market place to sell their wares, they paid tribute to Athena. The local politicians opened their council meetings by paying tribute to Athena. Even the community hearth where fire was brought from Athens and where people came to get flame to heat and bless their homes, attributed

the fire from Athena. They literally practiced a belief that all blessings flowed from their goddess.

I guess the real question is, do we believe that all of our blessings flow from our God? We sing this every Sunday when we present the morning offering: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow..." But do we believe it? Are we thankful for our shelter, fresh running water, refrigeration, food in our fridges, readily available health care, clothing, our families...and the list goes on.

Well, the people of Priene were consistently thankful to their goddess for all they had. Do we take the blessings we have for granted? That

requires a personal answer, doesn't it? But it is something to think about.

Yes, it is hard to believe it is already November. And, during the month of November we celebrate Thanksgiving—a time when we give thanks to God for all of our blessings. But why just one day a year? And frankly, I would surmise without being judgmental, that most Americans use the day to have a great family gathering, eat good food, and watch a football game.

Continued on Page 2

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

Nov. 4—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara,
John 11:32-44

Nov. 11—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara,
Mark 12:38-44

Nov. 18—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara,
Mark 13:1-8

Nov. 25—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara,
John 18:33-37



*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His love endures forever. Psalm 107:1*

Circle of Concern

Joys:

Lauren for her new job, Ed Klingel's birthday

Bereavement:

Savary family, Hoogsteden family

For Guidance and Healing:

Henry Prince, Marjorie Bates, Jim Davis, Katie Graves, John Puk, Baby Luca, Scott Rosenburg, John Gamber, Baby Ben Ruddy, Jim M, Fran Knoedl, Michael Becker, Bill, Cathy Halliwell (Lauren's mother), Steve Rice, Helen Smith's grandson, Mary Ellen Strieb, Lu Russo Ellis, Boy Scouts, Billie Court, Debbie, Jackie Braile, Brenda Klingel

These at Home:

Lee Hollowell

These in Rehab or Nursing Care

Facilities:

Geri Sheridan in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzola Dr., East Patchogue

Alice Zahnd in Gurwin Jewish Nursing Facility, 68 Hauppauge Rd., Commack, NY

Pray for our church and her future directions!

Prayer cards are located at the usher's station at the rear of the sanctuary.

Make a prayer request at
PatchogueUMC.com

November Birthdays

Nov. 1 Bruce Kirshner

Nov. 4 Kiley Keely

Nov. 10 Montana Queen

Nov. 16 Josie Hoag

Nov. 21 George Hoag

Nov. 25 Damon James Callier

Nov. 29 Bryson Schwartz

Giving Thanks (From Page 1)

Would you say that the majority of these gatherings actually pay tribute to God from whom all their blessings flow?

I would like to go a step further—why don't we thank God EVERYDAY for all of the blessings we enjoy on a daily basis. Perhaps some of you are already doing this—and that is super. For the people of Priene, their whole life revolved around a goddess who wasn't even a god—but rather a huge statue that sat in a temple built by human hands.

Well, the apostle Paul says that we are temples that were not built by human hands, but built by God. I pray as temples of the living and true God, we will be thankful everyday. That each morning we arise, we would take a moment to thank God from whom all blessings flow—and not just during a worship service on Sunday morning.

Thankfully serving with each of you, I remain thankfully in His grip,

—Pastor Chuck

Community Thanksgiving Service

Patchogue's ecumenical Thanksgiving Service which has been held in the past on

Thanksgiving Eve, will this year be on Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7:00 PM, at St. Paul's Episcopal church.



Sunday School During the Holiday Season

Time seems to be flying at breakneck speed this Fall. The beginning of the holiday season is peeking around the corner of November.

So, here's what we'll be involved in during November and December:

On Nov. 4, we'll begin collecting small items to be used as "stocking stuffers". Last year, the Sunday School children prepared over 25 Christmas stockings, which were then given to the children of ESL students and Food Pantry participants. We hope to exceed that number this year! Suggested items for donation include: small toys, stuffed animals, games, books, hats, gloves, scarves, lip balm, etc. A more complete list will be distributed on Nov. 4.

Also on the 4th, after worship, we will have a preliminary meeting to plan and organize the Christmas pageant. All the children and their parents are encouraged to attend. Thereafter, rehearsals will be held regularly throughout November and December.

On Dec. 9, we will be creating Christmas cards which will then be sent to shut-ins, those in the military, those grieving, and others. If you have someone you would like the children to send a card to, please sign up on the list which will be posted in Wesley Hall.

Continued on Page 4

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 p.m.—AME	2 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	3 9:00 a.m.—Bible Study 10:30 a.m.— Church Clean-up
4 10:00 a.m.— Communion Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	5 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	6 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	7	8 7:30 p.m.—AME	9 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	10
11 10:00 a.m.— Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	12 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	13 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	14	15 7:30 p.m.—AME	16 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	17 10:00 a.m.— Charge Conference
18 10 a.m.— Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	19 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	20 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	21	22 5:00 p.m.— Thanksgiving Dinner 7:30 p.m.—AME	23 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	24
25 10 a.m.— Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	26 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	27 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	28	29 7:30 p.m.—AME	30 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	

Sunday School (From Page 2)

Dec.16 will find the children stuffing the stockings.

Dec, 23 we will present the 2018 Christmas Pageant.

It is a wonderful thing for children and young people to contribute to others in tangible ways. They get a sense that they can make a difference in bringing joy and hope to others. In our Sunday lessons, we emphasize the importance of compassion, love, kindness, and servanthood. We have some lovely children and young people in this church family of ours. Let us all work together to nurture and guide them into being faithful disciples of Jesus.

Peace and Joy Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

—Barbara Becker

Sanctuary Campaign Repair Work Begins

The following is a brief summary of activities associated with the Save Our Sanctuary project as of Oct. 29.

Henry Restoration on Oct. 22, began work on the north and east roof valley gutters. They found that when the cupola was replaced following Hurricane Gloria in 1986, the contractor used aluminum flashing. It has pitted from the salt air and is in poor condition. We have asked Henry Restoration to provide a price to replace the aluminum with copper. We have also asked if his roof foreman can look at the roof flashing above Pastor's office, which is also aluminum and in worse

shape. Since they have the man-lift available and roof people on site, we should get it fixed right away.

Henry is installing the copper valleys and shingling. Another possible area that may be leaking is the cupola base moldings. In some cases the seams have opened up. The suggestion made was to use a premium caulking to reseal them. That caulking should last twenty-plus years.

Our restoration consultant Joel Snodgrass plans to take a closer look at the flat and angled lower roofs next to the belfry. He feels that area needs work also. Ed and Dave will talk to him concerning the budget for Phase II and to look at the bulging bricks, the hole in the Rose window shroud, and the south flat roof to see if they need work.

Pastor, Ed and Dave met with Joel and Shane from Henry Restoration to clarify their scope of work and associated fees. Joel seemed to accept Ed's proposal to provide ten-hour blocks of time to do what he needs to as manager of our project. They went over the areas that need to be replaced or repaired. Shane will get back to us with prices.

After some confusion about when work would begin to remove the damaged plaster from the east interior wall of the balcony, workers from Andrew Vincent Co. arrived on Monday, Oct. 29, as originally scheduled, and that work was expected to be completed before the weekend.. The plan is to leave the wall stripped to bare brick for several months to be sure that it remains dry.

Linda met with our insurance adjuster who brought in a roofer to help identify the roof leaks causing the damage in Pastor's office and the room above. Lenny was good enough to hold the rope while the roofer repelled down the roof to locate the possible leaks. He even found one leak that several other roofers had not. We will add these three leak areas to Henry's list to fix before cold weather sets in. We need to obtain the brick washing chemicals that Joel requested for sampling. Dave picked up the brick cleaning samples from ProSoCo. He also made arrangements with Sherman-Williams in Patchogue to receive the caustic samples that Joel requested.

George Signorelli had been expected to start work to reinforce the cracked roof rafters beneath the belfry roof but has not. Calls and e-mails to him have gone unanswered.

As you can see, this is a slow and arduous, and sometimes frustrating process requiring many hours of work from our team of volunteers.

On another note, more than \$20,000 in donations have been received so far. That's in addition to grant funds of \$60,000 received and an additional \$20,000 committed. We also have received a \$120,000 conference loan.

Thank you to all.

—James Graham



UMC Church Decisions Ahead

The Rev. Stan Copeland strongly favors the One Church Plan, which would give United Methodist churches and pastors in the U.S. leeway on such currently banned practices as hosting and performing same-sex weddings. But one part of the plan doesn't thrill Copeland: A congregation must have a majority vote in favor of hosting same-sex weddings before holding one on church property.

Copeland would rather the pastor and other local church leaders make that call.

"Any time we have a (congregational) vote it's potentially divisive," said Copeland, longtime pastor of Dallas' Lovers Lane United Methodist Church.

The special called session of General Conference, set for Feb. 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, will likely consider three plans for helping The United Methodist Church cope with the decades-old conflict over homosexuality that has worsened and threatens to break up the denomination.

The One Church, Traditional and Connectional Conference plans all hold the potential for wrenching votes by congregations and conferences.

Dave Nuckols was a member of the Commission on a Way Forward that worked with the Council of Bishops in coming up with the plans.

"The voting is a big deal," Nuckols said.

Others aren't sure that's the case now, as the special General Conference looms.

Michigan Area Bishop David Bard has been having town hall meetings to explain the plans, and he's been surprised at how little talk there's been about the potential for local votes.

Philadelphia Area Bishop Peggy Johnson has had the same experience, with One Church a modest exception.

"One of the criticisms of the One Church Plan I've heard is that it brings the argument (about homosexuality) down lower, and it makes the local churches have to grapple with that," she said.

The One Church Plan drew a majority recommendation from the Council of Bishops and has gotten much of the attention in town hall meetings.

Backers have stressed that the plan would allow for more "contextualization" but would not require any local church votes.

While that's true, no church could have a same-sex union without the congregation voting in favor by a simple majority.

Nuckols said the commission, in crafting legislation, sought to reassure "center right" U.S. congregations. "We want to make it explicit that they're welcome and that things aren't going to happen to them (without a congregational vote)," he said.

The denomination's Judicial Council met in October to consider the constitutionality of the plans. It found the One Church Plan to be largely constitutional. The church's top court found more problems in the Traditional Plan petitions that would

need to be addressed before that plan could pass a constitutional test. Since another legislative proposal — the Connectional Conference Plan — contains proposed constitutional changes required for implementation, the court ruled it has no authority to scrutinize the plan at this time.

Some United Methodists had challenged the congregational vote on same-sex unions as encroaching on a pastor's right to decide what services can be held at the church.

The One Church Plan also would allow a bishop to ask the non-binding advice of an annual conference session on ordination standards tied to human sexuality. While the plan opens the way to LGBTQ people getting ordained, an annual conference clergy session could thwart that by approving restrictive language — another opportunity for conflict over a vote.

The Traditional Plan would keep the ban on churches and clergy hosting and officiating same-sex unions, continue to prevent the ordination of gay clergy and toughen enforcement against violations, which have been widespread in some conferences.

Every conference would have to vote on whether it is prepared to uphold fully those church law provisions, and if it is unwilling, it would be pushed to withdraw from The United Methodist Church and form another, self-governing Methodist group.

The Traditional Plan would let an annual conference leave by a simple majority vote to do so.

Continued on Page 7

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Don't Forget Your Pledge



"This isn't exactly what I had in mind!"

The deadline for the December issue of **The Link** is Nov. 23
Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

For security purposes, the Church St. entrance is now locked as soon as Sunday services begin. If you are running late, be sure to use the Sanctuary entrances.

Decisions (From Page 5)

Local churches in a departing conference could elect to stay in The United Methodist Church, again by a simple majority vote.

And local churches that support same-sex marriage, but are in a conference that chooses to uphold the current Discipline, could vote to leave The United Methodist Church and join a like-minded group. That vote would have to be by 55 percent. Under the Traditional Plan, any group of 50 or more churches could vote to leave and form a self-governing group, though each would have to pay its share of their conference's unfunded pension liability.

Advocates stress the Traditional Plan's "gracious" character, an effort to avoid court fights over property and other assets.

"It provides a way for those who cannot live together to go their separate ways with blessing, allowing both to pursue ministry in faithfulness to their consciences without coercion," wrote the Rev. Thomas Lambrecht, a Commission on the Way Forward member, in a column for Good News Magazine.

But the constitutionality of this plan too is under challenge, with Thomas Starnes, representing a group of conference chancellors, arguing in a brief that it's outside the "call" for the special General Conference. Alaska Conference layman Lonnie Brooks takes aim at the plan, including the idea that a conference can vote to go.

"An annual conference, as provided in the Constitution as a matter of its creation, may not discontinue or dissolve itself, which would be the full

effect of its withdrawal from the Church for any purpose," Brooks wrote in a brief.

Assuming the Traditional Plan survives constitutional scrutiny and passes at the special General Conference, there will be lots of churchwide votes in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, predicts the Rev. Tom Lank.

"Some folks who have been able to get by uncomfortably in the situation we have now are going to be forced to make a decision they didn't really want to make," said Lank, a General Conference delegate from the Greater New Jersey Conference. "You're going to see more churches in liberal or progressive areas having votes to leave the denomination."

The Connectional Conference Plan would eliminate the five U.S. jurisdictions, which are geographical and include the annual conferences within the jurisdictional boundaries. There would instead be three connectional conferences — progressive, unity, traditional — based on theology, including as it applies to ministry with LGBT persons.

Voting opportunities abound in this plan, beginning with jurisdictions deciding by a simple majority which connectional conference to join. Central conferences — church regions in Africa, Europe and the Philippines — could become their own connectional conference or choose to align with a U.S. connectional conference. Annual conferences that aren't happy with their parent group's decision could vote to join another connectional conference.

And if a local church disagrees with its annual conference's alignment, it

too could vote to join a different connectional conference.

The Arkansas Conference's Bishop Gary Mueller noted recently that under this plan "three United Methodist churches in close proximity to each other might all be part of different annual conferences."

The Rev. Tim Overton-Harris worries about the traditional-minded rural churches of the Oregon-Idaho Conference's Cascadia District, where he is superintendent. Those churches have found connection with other United Methodist churches in the area, even if they don't agree on homosexuality, he said.

Overton-Harris wonders whether those traditional churches, some quite isolated geographically, will find any degree of United Methodist connectionalism if they're part of another conference.

But Overton-Harris also questions the idea that church votes are likely to be divisive.

"By and large, churches would already know what the vote (result) is going to be," he said.

Lisa Maupin, a Great Plains Conference delegate to General Conference, believes the large crowds at town hall meetings about the plans means many United Methodists understand it is time for hard decisions.

The challenge now, she believes, is to inform and support them.

"You have to think about how to love people through that process," Maupin said.

—Sam Hodges, UMNS

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 Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
 Hearing assistance provided



17 Things of Thanks

Thank you, God for the times You have said "no." They have helped me depend on You so much more.

Thank you, God, for unanswered prayer. It reminds me that You know what's best for me, even when my opinion differs from Yours.

Thank You, Lord, for the things you have withheld from me. You have protected me from what I may never realize.

Thank You, God, for the doors You have closed. They have prevented me from going where You would rather not have me go.

Thank you, Lord, for the physical pain You've allowed in my life. It has helped me more closely relate to Your sufferings on my behalf.

Thank you, Lord, for the alone times in my life. Those times have forced me to lean in closer to You.

Thank you, God, for the uncertainties I've experienced. They have deepened my trust in You.

Thank You, Lord, for the times You came through for me when I didn't even know I needed a rescue.

Thank You, Lord, for the losses I have experienced. They have been a reminder that You are my greatest gain.

Thank You, God, for the tears I have shed. They have kept my heart soft and mold-able.

Thank You, God, for the times I haven't been able to control my circumstances. They have reminded me that You are sovereign and on the throne.

Thank You, God, for those people in my life whom You have called home to be with You. Their absence from this earth keeps my heart longing for **heaven**.

Thank You, God, that I have an inheritance in the heavenly places...something that this world can never steal from me

and I could never selfishly squander.

Thank You, God, for the greatest gift You could ever give me: forgiveness through Your perfect Son's death on the cross on my behalf.

Thank You, God, for the righteousness You credited toward me, through the death and resurrection of Jesus. It's a righteousness I could never earn or attain on my own.

Thank You, Father, that You know me, You hear me, and You see my tears. Remind me through difficult times that You are God, You are on the throne, and You are eternally good.

And thank You, Lord, not only for my eternal salvation, but for the salvation You afford every day of my life as You save me from myself, my foolishness, my own limited insights, and my frailties in light of Your power and strength."

—Cindy McMEnamin