

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

November 2019

Being Thankful Around the Dinner Table

By the time this newsletter is printed and distributed, Halloween will be over—no more knocking at the door and hearing that familiar phrase: “Trick or Treat.”

Don’t get upset with me, but it is my least favorite observance during the entire year. But that is a whole other story.

Now, it is November and the first thing that pops in my head is one of my favorite celebrations, Thanksgiving.

Which, by the way, we will be celebrating an ecumenical Thanksgiving service with the area churches and synagogue on Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, located at 45 Oak Street, Patchogue.

So, plan to come out and worship with our

neighboring houses of worship.

I have always felt that Thanksgiving ought to be every single day, because we have so much to be thankful for. However, it is a national holiday.

Originally a harvest festival—thanking God for all of His provision—it became a national holiday with a proclamation by George Washington in 1789. By the way, that was only two years before the Patchogue United Methodist Church was established.

For whatever reason, Thomas Jefferson decided not to observe the holiday, and its celebration was intermittent until the presidency of Abraham Lincoln, who made it a federal holiday in 1863 during the Civil War.

It is commonly referred back to when the Pilgrims in 1621, after their first

harvest in the New World, celebrated a feast that lasted for three days thanking God for their bounty.

Imagine eating turkey for three straight days? It is believed on that First Thanksgiving 90 Native Americans and 53 Pilgrims celebrated together.

And yet, it is believed that a Thanksgiving celebration even preceded the Pilgrims when Thanksgiving services were routine in what become the Commonwealth of Virginia dating back to 1607.

Continued on Page 2

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

Nov. 3—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 19:1-10

Nov. 10—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 20:27-38

Nov. 17—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 21:5-19

Nov. 24—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 23:33-43



Circle of Concern

Bereavement:

Henry Wyman, Jean Miller

For Guidance and Healing:

Bruce Kirshner, Lawrence & family,
Tyler Ferrari, Sabrina, Dick Ohlean,
Melissa Houston, Millie, Daniel, Caril
Silva, Sobena's family, Paul Rice

These in Rehab or Nursing Care:

Geri Sheridan, Robert Krawzak in
Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801
Gazzola Dr., East Patchogue, NY
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. 2 Elyse Jacobs
Nov. 4 Kiley Keeley
Nov. 10 Montana Queen
Nov. 16 Josie Hoag
Nov. 21 George Hoag
Nov. 25 Damon James Callier
Nov. 29 Bryson Schwartz

Thanksgiving (From Page 1)

On October 6, 1941, both houses of the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution fixing the traditional last Thursday date of November for the observance of what we now celebrate as Thanksgiving Day in America. And it has become a wonderful time for family and friends to gather around a common meal ever since.

Do you have reasons to be thankful? I'm sure you do. Have you ever thought about taking out a pad and pen and writing down all of the things in your life you should be thankful for—both small and large? It could prove to be a beneficial exercise.

I am grateful that so many of our members and members of the community come to our church each Thanksgiving to prepare a full-course home cooked Thanksgiving meal for anyone who comes to our church.

It does my heart so good to see individuals and families sitting down and being served by our members knowing that many of them are alone and would not have experienced a family Thanksgiving dinner.

So, as you sit around the Thanksgiving dinner table this year while salivating over the mashed potatoes with gravy, stuffing, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, corn and turkey—not to mention pumpkin pie, cheese cake and other delicious desserts—remember to be thankful for all the blessings in your life.

I am sure there are many.

Thanksgiving blessings to all in
Christ,

—Pastor Chuck

A Thanksgiving Day

Prayer

Lord, so often times, as any other day
When we sit down to our meal and pray

We hurry along and make fast the blessing

Thanks, amen. Now please pass the dressing

We're slaves to the olfactory overload

We must rush our prayer before the food gets cold

But Lord, I'd like to take a few minutes more

To really give thanks to what I'm thankful for
For my family, my health, a nice soft bed

My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head

I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those

Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know

Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond measure

Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure

That You, dear Jesus, reside in that place

And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace

So please, heavenly Father, bless this food You've provided

And bless each and every person invited

Amen!

—Scott Wesemann,
learnreligions.com

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	

SOS Campaign Update

Here's a brief summary of activities associated with our *Save Our Sanctuary* campaign and related improvements.

We awarded the large stained glass window protection and painting to Outer County Construction. The work has been completed.

We had a car crash into the Early Headstart classroom at the southwest corner of Wesley Hall. We had to replace the entire window and patch some of the brick and interior block.

Craftsman Storefront replaced the window and Outer County did the masonry repair. Ray Henson and Dave Hollowell temporarily closed up the window opening following the accident. Thankfully no one was hurt.

We awarded a contract to install new larger copper gutters at the northwest stair projection, commonly called the cold room to Sandstorm Construction. They should be starting soon.

We have put the exterior brick pointing out to bid. The bids were due Oct 7th and Dave Hollowell and Ed Klingel will review and make a recommendation to the trustees.

The hot water heater for Wesley Hall has not produced enough hot water for some years now. This has also caused issues for Early Headstart. Dave has been in discussion with Swezey and another plumbing contractor. We looked at a separate instant hot water system but that would require a separate flue, thus not feasible. Swezey has suggested that we install a new 72 gal hot water heater

and valve off the old one to save money. This would cost about \$5,000.

Please remember your *SOS* pledges to help keep the campaign going. New pledges are needed and always gratefully welcomed. Thanks to all for their contributions and hard work.

—Jim Graham

We're Not There Yet

In recent years, there was some use of the term, "Post Racial" in describing our society.

The idea being that all the struggles of the Civil Rights movement had finally, 150 years after the end of the Civil War, resulted in a discrimination-free cul-

ture. Where

people are judged "on the content of their character, rather

than the color of their skin"; where all colors, ethnicities mingle freely and have equal access to the rights and benefits of a free society.

If only that were true.

While we have made significant progress from "Whites Only" bathrooms, and the lynching of black teenagers because they might have whistled at a white woman, there still remains an ugly current of bigotry that lies just under the surface of daily life, and which, in the last few years, has been strengthened and encouraged for cynical political purposes.

Some people point to the fact that we elected, not once but twice, an African American man as President of

this country as proof that we have moved beyond racism, and, therefore, 'they' should get over it.

"Those people" should stop complaining about slavery. It ended 150 years ago, they say.

Conveniently overlooked in the reference to President Obama are the many derogatory remarks about this Harvard educated, articulate American, whose very citizenship was questioned in the whole manufactured "birther" controversy. Not to mention that his wife, also Ivy League educated, also smart and articulate, was described as an "ape in high heels" by someone neither

smart nor articulate.

It is sometimes disheartening to realize that we have not made more

There still remains an ugly current of bigotry that lies just under the surface of daily life.

progress in realizing our ideals of equality, freedom, equal opportunity for all.

In his new book, *Stony the Road*, Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. opens a window into post Civil War America, and shows how deliberately negative and pernicious images of Black people, coupled with restrictive "Jim Crow" laws, and severe vigilante violence, helped to crush the hope created by the Emancipation Proclamation, and the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution.

A hope that was not fully revived until Brown vs the Board of Education in 1954, and the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's.

During Reconstruction, freed slaves and those who had been freed previously, began to enthusiastically participate in American society.

African American men were elected to Congress; bought land, started a variety of businesses.

But, to those who had benefited from slavery, reconstruction was an evil period. The mythology of the 'contented slave', grateful to be cared for by the master, like a not very bright child, was embraced. As was the fantasy of the antebellum world as one of gracious and noble living, a society of heroes.

These were reinforced through books, speeches, and visual images. Advertisements, post cards, trade cards, black face minstrelsy, moving pictures (ex: *Birth of a Nation*, and later *Gone with the Wind*), "all played a pivotal role in persuading American society that black Americans were irreversibly different from white people and needed to be kept separate."

Sterling Brown identified seven stereotypes of black people promulgated in society:

1. The contented slave;
2. The wretched freedman;
3. The comic negro;
4. The brute negro;
5. The tragic mulatto;
6. The local color negro;
7. The exotic primitive.

Gates says, " It is a sad fact that these characterizations continue to work within our psychological and cultural subterranean racial landscape." And, if we are honestly self and socially aware, we must admit that they do.

If we are to work toward an American society that actualizes our ideal values, that holds that all people are indeed created equal, then we must examine our own preconceptions and change them.

I recommend this book to anyone who loves this country and earnestly wants to make it better.

—Barbara Becker

UMCOR, Partners Start Asylum Seekers Project

United Methodists are initiating a three-year, \$2 million pilot project to support asylum seekers in the U.S. and engage local church members as they embrace the biblical mandate of welcoming the stranger in their own communities.

Three partners — the United Methodist Committee on Relief, Church World Service and National Justice

For Our Neighbors — will work together to provide resettlement support and legal assistance for those claiming asylum in New York, Houston and Miami.

The project was introduced during the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries meeting Oct. 10-12. UMCOR is a part of the denomination's mission agency and the UMCOR directors approved the grants to CWS and NJFON.

New York Area Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, UMCOR's president, noted that addressing issues of migration was part of the relief agency's mandate.

"In the midst of these challenging days for so many, whether it is due to a natural disaster, a life-threatening disease or the ongoing threats of persecution, we take seriously our role to make our name come alive for anyone anywhere that needs the United Methodist Committee on Relief," he told UM News.

NJFON, a United Methodist network of organizations providing free and low-cost legal services to immigrants will provide the legal assistance component for the project. NJFON is a wholly-owned subsidiary of UMCOR.

Bickerton encouraged United Methodists to support the pilot project by

donating to JFON through UMCOR and "most importantly, to raise awareness within our congregations of the current

We take seriously our role to make our name come alive for anyone anywhere that needs the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

challenges facing those who are seeking asylum and to actively pray for their well-being."

CWS, which has been resettling refugees since World War II, will help asylum seekers with practical needs such as housing, registering children for school, enrolling in language classes and accessing various social service and community programs.

Continued on Page 7

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R. JUDY

"A little less shock, a little more glad to see me would be nice."

Don't Forget Your Pledge

The deadline for the December issue of **The Link** is November 25.
 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.

“None of us can do this alone and we felt that establishing a partnership with UMCOR and Justice for Our Neighbors was the right way to address this,” said Erol Kekic, executive director of the CWS Immigration and Refugee Program.

“We all bring to the table different assets and capacities, and we certainly can do more together than we can do alone.”

The asylum pilot project also offers a new way for the three partners to respond to increasingly restrictive U.S. immigration policies.

The most recent action set the 2020 refugee ceiling at 18,000, compared with previous average levels of 95,000.

Such restrictions are worrying both in terms of putting people in harm’s way and setting a precedent for the future, Kekic said. The new policies also run the risk of being counter to U.S. law, as well as international law that the U.S. has been a signatory to, because the effect is to deny the right to apply for asylum to people really in need of such protection, he said. “Asylum is a fundamental human right,” Kekic said. “Access to asylum has to be open to people if we’re going to be living in a global community.”

The continuing focus of the Board of Global Ministries on migration issues was the subject of its top executive’s report to directors. Thomas

Kemper highlighted a wide range of migration ministries, describing what he called hopeful examples of mission the United Methodist people collectively do “in a fractured world and church.”

UMCOR supports migration projects on a worldwide basis. Unlike some of its other work, “global migration is not a disaster, it’s a phenomenon,” said the Rev. Jack Amick, UMCOR’s director of global migration. In addition to addressing basic human

needs and providing legal assistance, UMCOR joins with others to push globally for immigration

policies that are humane, predictable and transparent so people don’t make desperate, dangerous choices. “What we are trying to do ultimately, is prevent death,” Amick said during a presentation to UMCOR’s directors.

The relief agency also wants to “excite the imagination” of churches and offer ways to embrace the biblical mandate to welcome the stranger. The asylum seekers project is one way to do that, he added.

NJFON, the 20-year-old United Methodist network of independently run legal offices, is well aware of the shortage of affordable, accessible immigration attorneys in the U.S., said Rob Rutland-Brown, executive director. While the network has 17 sites around country in 14 states, “the

truth is there is a need for this work everywhere,” he said.

Staff at JFON offices help people unite with their families and work on citizenship cases, but a big category of clients are those escaping from violence. In September, the national network sent the first of four teams to Tijuana, Mexico, to provide legal counsel to waiting asylum seekers. The pilot project grant will allow CWS to shift some emphasis from refugee resettlement to helping asylum seekers get settled in a community while awaiting their court hearings.

The ecumenical relief agency already had worked with UMCOR on the church-based shelters that receive individuals granted temporary entry by immigration officials at the U.S. border and help get them to cities around U.S. to join family members. “We’re trying to make those first 24 to 72 hours as a welcoming and comfortable as they can be,” Kekic told UMCOR directors.

Equally important is giving churches an opportunity to work with asylum-seeking families in their midst, he added. “People don’t have to go to the border ... They can do it in their own backyard.”

Part of that ministry, Kekic said, is learning from asylum seekers to understand their stories and their needs. “People need to be heard and that’s a big part of their healing,” he explained. “That’s where we start and then we build from there.”

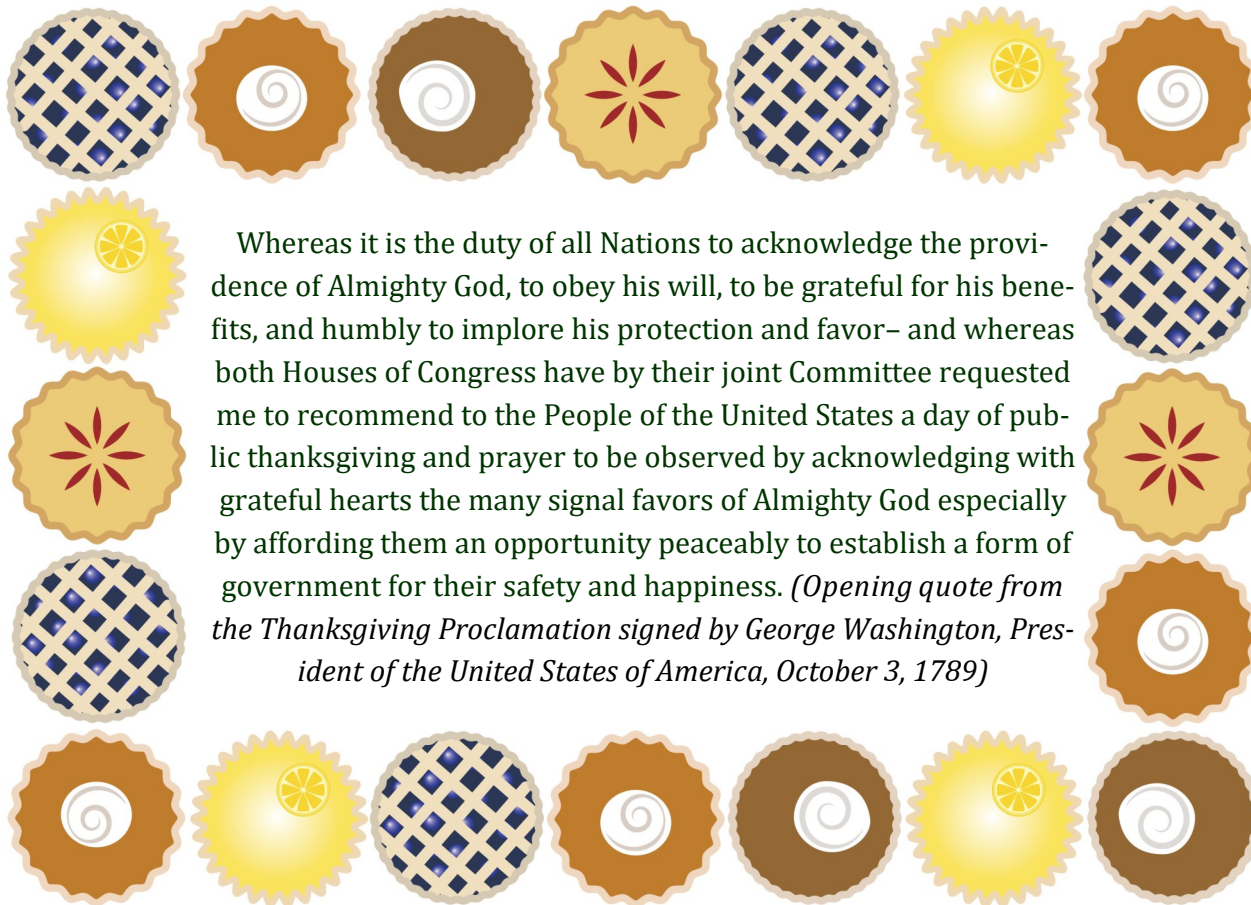
—Linda Bloom, UMNS

Pushing globally for immigration policies that are humane, predictable and transparent so people don’t make desperate, dangerous choices.

10 Church St., Patchogue, NY 11772

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 Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
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Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor— and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness. *(Opening quote from the Thanksgiving Proclamation signed by George Washington, President of the United States of America, October 3, 1789)*