

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

October 2017

Celebrate October

Being a somewhat student of history and realizing we are about to enter a new month of October, I thought it would be a good idea to highlight some historical events that have occurred during this tenth month of the year.

On October 1, 331 B.C. Alexander the Great defeated the king of Persia. Old Alexander had a love for developing new real estate, did he?

On the 1st of October 1890 the National Weather Bureau was created. Thank goodness for that with all of the hurricanes we have been experiencing lately.

On October 7, 1777 the Americans beat the British in both battles of Saratoga and Bemis Heights—let's hear it for the Blue Coats!

On October 14, 1947 Chuck Yeager made the

first supersonic flight. Just love the guys first name, don't you?

On October 20, 1864 President Lincoln established Thanksgiving as a national holiday--and just think, that was before the NFL?

On October 28, 1776 General George Washington during the Battle of White Plains was forced to retreat to New Jersey. Chalk one up for the Red Coats—and why would George want to go to New Jersey with such high taxes?

So that is some October history.

What about holidays celebrated during the month of October?

October 1 is International Coffee Day, whatever that is—though I am sure Starbucks and Duncan Donuts will just love it! Also on that day it is World Vegetarian Day—

so you can have your cup of coffee with a cucumber!

On October 4 begins a week of the Jewish Sukkot also known as the Feast of Booths or Feast of Tabernacles. I can remember all of the fire escapes in my Williamsburg neighborhood with booths that were built on them. I loved the Jewish holidays—but I think it is unfair that the Christians don't have any in October?

Continued on Page 2

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

Oct. 1—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, *It's All About Doing God's Will—Not Where You Come From*, Matthew 21:23-32

Oct. 8—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, *What Will We Do With the Master's Vineyard?*, Matthew 21:33-46

Oct. 15—Laity Sunday: worship led by the Laity

Oct. 22—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, *Where do Our Loyalties Lie?*, Matthew 22:15-22

Oct. 29—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, *Love Is the Answer*, Matthew 22:34-46



Circle of Concern

For Bereavement:

Avery Family, Graham Family, Brenner & Durrett Families, Blum Family

For Guidance and Healing:

Sean, Frankie Scott Jr., Evertte Edwards, George Werner, Lee Hollowell, Henry Prince, Josh Janson, Patricia Puk, John Puk, Charles Martin, Dianna Peterson, Mary Smith

These Who are Hospitalized:

Charles Martin, Sherry, Katelyn, Seth Greiner

These at Home:

Jeanna Moritz, Bruce Kirschner, Cheryl Keeley, Viola Schwartz, Mario Conti, Jean Miller, 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, Commack, NY

Ed Dew in Sunrise Assisted Living, Patchogue Holbrook Rd, Holbrook, NY

Len Ricchi, in Medford Multicare, Medford, 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

October (From Page 1)

October 6 is German-American Day—so put on your Lederhosen while waiving the good 'ole Red, White and Blue.

On October 22 it is National Nut Day—now, they are either celebrating pecans, almonds and walnuts or people not hitting on all cylinders—not sure?

October 29 is National Cat Day—so make sure you spoil your feline friends that day—a little extra catnip would be nice.

And last but not least, on October 31 it is Halloween—so get over to Target, K-Mart, Costco or CVS and stock up on candy, because those costumed goblins will be knocking on your door all hours of the night. Boy, that calendar is busy in October.

Alright, we touched on history and celebrations, but let me end with saying: There are five Sundays in October and wouldn't it be great if you bat a thousand and make all five worship services? Guess what? I'll be there—always excited to see each of you. Let's plan on having a blessed October—Lederhosen or not.
Blessings,

—Pastor Chuck



Revision Committee Begins Work on New Version of The United Methodist Hymnal

Work on a groundbreaking revision of *The United Methodist Hymnal*, designed to be a print/digital contextually adaptable resource for primary use in the United States, begins this fall following the selection of the full Hymnal Revision Committee.

The process for Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH), the Council of Bishops, and the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools to select the 15 committee members began in late 2016 and continued through the spring of 2017.

“Revising our church hymnal, especially by adding the songs and prayers that define worship for United Methodists of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, will help our congregations expand relationship-building and discipleship-making into their communities,” said the Rev. Junius B. Dotson, General Secretary (CEO) of Discipleship Ministries, which shares responsibility for the denomination’s hymnal with The United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH).

“We are honored to have the members of this diverse committee working to develop a version of our hymnal that can grow and expand with our church,” Dotson said.

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United Methodist Church of Patchogue

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 a.m.— Communion Worship 11:30 a.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	2 7:00 p.m.—AA	3 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	4 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	5	6 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	7 7:30 p.m.—AME Service Walk To Emmaus
8 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:40 a.m.—Bible Study 11:30 a.m.—Finance 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	9 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	10 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	11 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	12	13 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	14 Church Cleanup Day 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
15 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Church Council 11:40 a.m.—Bible Study 11:40 a.m.—New Mem- ber Class 12:30 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	16 7:00 p.m.—AA	17 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	18 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	19	20 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	21 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
22 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Trustees 11:40 a.m.—Bible Study 11:40 a.m.—New Mem- ber Class 12:30 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	23 7:00 p.m.—AA	24 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	25 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	26 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner	27 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	28 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
29 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School Suffolk Marathon 11:40 a.m.—Bible Study 11:40 a.m.—New Mem- ber Class 12:30 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	30 7:00 p.m.—AA	31 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA				

Standing With Puerto Rican Church After Hurricanes

United Methodists were praying and standing in solidarity with Puerto Ricans while awaiting word about the effects of Hurricane Maria.

The Category 4 hurricane left Puerto Rico without power, with major building and infrastructure damage and a staggering amount of rain — about 30 inches in some areas.

“We feel with the people of Puerto Rico and in a special way with the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico,” Thomas Kemper, top executive of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, told United Methodist News Service.

“Bishop Héctor (Ortiz Vidal) is our board member and we have a number of Global Ministries missionaries and their families serving in Puerto Rico. We pray for their safety and stand in solidarity as one Methodist family.” In a Sept. 21 message to United Methodist Communications, Ortiz said the destruction was “immense” and communications difficult.

“We do not know yet the damage that our churches suffered,” the bishop wrote. “I live in a sector that is isolated and blocked right now. I am working together with my neighbors in removing debris from the blocked roads and I trust some time it will be open.

“But we are alive and we are standing in the fight. With the strength of God’s hope, we will rebuild Puerto Rico again.”



Reached on Sept. 20 through a Facebook message, Paloma Rodriguez Rivera, a youth leader in the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, said she believed there were many homes that had been flooded or “completely destroyed” by the hurricane-force winds but didn’t know what areas had been affected most by Maria.

“It is a miracle that I have internet because most people don’t,” wrote the San Juan resident. “I see that a lot of people don’t know anything about their family and they are desperate in the diaspora.”

This is the second of a tropical storm one-two punch for Puerto Rico. Hurricane Irma brushed by Puerto Rico on Sept. 6, leaving more than a million people without power but not the widespread damage that has resulted from Hurricane Maria.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief “is praying along with others” for the safety of people in Puerto Rico, said Catherine Earl, the agency’s director of U.S. disaster response and partner relations.

“We know that there are many people here on the mainland that have family and friends and other missional connections to Puerto Rico

and the people of Puerto Rico,” she added.

Through the church and other partners—including National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster—and governmental connections such as FEMA, UMCOR can be part of a coordinated response in Puerto Rico when relief work begins, Earl said.

Kemper said UMCOR staff already had reached out to the Methodist Church in Puerto Rico regarding response and recovery.

In a letter written to Kemper as Irma was headed to the island, the Puerto Rican bishop asked The United Methodist Church for prayers and solidarity.

At that point, the Puerto Rican church had been in contact with 100 churches, including those on Vieques, Culebra and St. Croix of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

“We have oriented them in following the necessary steps to prepare for this atmospheric event,” he continued. “We have put in place an emergency system to work in the aftermath of the event. Nevertheless, there is not enough preparation for this type of hurricane.

“We are requesting the United Methodist Church for your prayers and your solidarity during this difficult time,” the bishop wrote. “Knowing that people outside of our area are praying for us gives us faith and courage.”

—Linda Bloom and Michelle Maldonado, UMNS

Earthquake Hits Methodist Churches and Ministry

Methodists are among those affected by and responding to the earthquake that struck south central Mexico on Sept. 19, killing at least 245 people.

The Rev. Raquel Balbuena, a superintendent in the Methodist Church of Mexico's Southeast Annual Conference, said she has had reports from pastors of deaths among Methodist church families in the state of Morelos, near the earthquake's epicenter. Some church buildings of the Methodist Church of Mexico were damaged, as were some parsonages and homes of church members and ministry staff.

The Give Ye Them to Eat ministry, founded by longtime United Methodist Board of Global Ministries missionaries Terry and Muriel Henderson, saw damage to its Tree of Life Training Center in the village of Tlancualpican, in Mexico's state of Puebla.

The center teaches sustainable agriculture and other strategies for improving the lives of impoverished people in the area.

Muriel Henderson said all of the center's employees and extended family have been accounted for, but many will be repairing their homes. Tile roofs, plaster walls and windows at the center sustained damage. The buildings can be repaired.

"It will take time and money, but it will be done," she said.

The Hendersons are retired from both Global Ministries and Give Ye Them to Eat, and live in Keller, Texas, after four decades in Mexico. But they remain close to the ministry. Give Ye Them to Eat is supported by United Methodists through Advance #07629A, and mission teams from United Methodist churches and conferences in the U.S. have long done work there.

When the earthquake struck, the Hendersons were hosting two pastors from the Methodist Church of Mexico, including Balbuena.

Henderson said they all had been trying to call friends and colleagues in Mexico, and that Balbuena had learned from pastors of deaths among Methodist church families and of damage to church buildings in her conference.

Bishop Cruz Hernandez of that conference has compiled a list of several churches and parsonages that had cracked walls, confirmed the Rev. Edgar Avitia, global area liaison for Global Ministries.

The mission agency's missionary personnel in Mexico were reported safe after the earthquake. "Because I was home without a phone or internet and the buildings immediately surrounding mine seemed to be fine, I wasn't made aware of the scale of the earthquake or of the damages until later," said Amanda Cherry, a global mission fellow in Mexico City.

Cherry, interviewed by email, said she would be joining in relief work. She added that the Rev. Hector Laporta, a United Methodist missionary in Mexico City, has been working

with the local Seminario Metodista Dr. Gonzalo Báez Camargo to provide food for relief workers.

Universidad Madero, a Methodist school in Puebla, Mexico, which earlier this year hosted a major meeting of the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges and Universities, has been collecting supplies for earthquake victims.

Some Methodist Church of Mexico churches and ministries have become collection centers for relief, a task that began with a deadly earthquake that hit Sept. 7 off the coast of the state of Chiapas, Mexico.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief said it expects to be providing short-term support, with a focus on food supply, hygiene kits and bedding, and long-term support for rebuilding. Searches continue in Mexico City for survivors of the Sept. 19 earthquake. It occurred on the anniversary of a 1985 earthquake in Mexico City that killed thousands.

—Sam Hodges, UMNS

New Member Class

We have been blessed with so many new faces in our congregation.

Pastor Chuck invites anyone who would like to learn more about our church and consider becoming a full member, to join a class that begins Sunday, Oct. 15.

Class will start at 11:40 a.m. following Fellowship Time in the Cloud Room. Please fill out the sign-up form or call the church office to let us know you will be attending.

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The deadline for the November issue
of **The Link** is October 20.
Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.



**"No, son, not Martin Luther King.
Just Martin Luther."**



Listen to God (and Mom) As You Navigate Through Life

The walnut table in my Mom's kitchen sits quietly in the sunlight. It used to be bigger, expanded with leaves to handle the meals and conversations of nine family members. But now it is much smaller, crowded with books and mail, with just enough space for a single place setting.

This kitchen table was the center of my universe during my school years, the site of many "kitchen table talks" with Mom. It was from this table that I would look ahead. Never too far into the future, usually a semester or two, imaging what it would be like on my own. What road should I take? Where will I end up?

Looking back, I don't see a straight line. I see a complex road map filled with a thousand streets intersecting at many points. My path, highlighted in yellow, is filled with many twists and turns.

At each of the turns I could have gone in the opposite direction, altering the yellow line and changing my future. What role did God play in this journey?

In the film "Forrest Gump," when Forrest asks his mother about his destiny, he has already led an eventful life. He was an All-American football player, a decorated Vietnam War hero and a gazillionaire working as a shrimpin' boat captain. Years earlier, he had even taught Elvis a special dance move.

Forrest may not be able to see far into the future, but he follows the

advice of people he respects. His good instincts help him to act quickly. When Jenny talks about jumping off a bridge or Lieutenant Dan wants to die like his ancestors, Forrest steps up and challenges them. He acts on his own good sense of what is right.

But even after all he has accomplished, Forrest still asks his mother for guidance about his own destiny. His wise mother, however, resists the urge to give him a road map. "I happen to believe that you make your own destiny. You have to do the best with what God gave you," she tells him.

In Christian theology, there are different views on the relationship between our actions on earth and our eternal salvation in heaven. A belief known as predestination states that we can do nothing about our salvation. God has already determined our destiny and by God's grace some of us (but not all) are saved to manifest divine grace here on earth.

Mrs. Gump's advice leans the other way, acknowledging God's gifts grace and our talents, but she puts the responsibility of Forrest's destiny squarely on his own shoulders.

Somewhere in the middle is the Wesleyan belief that our gracious God desires the salvation of all and invites us to freely accept God's grace in our lives. As United Methodists we have the choice to follow God and accept God's grace to live in a more Christ-like manner.

Like the feather in "Forrest Gump," sometimes we are floating on a breeze created by God to move us in a particular direction, other times we are willing that feather ourselves along the path we choose.

The best flights are when we are always checking the wind, spending prayerful time to understand God's will in our lives, and positioning our feather to keep the wind at our back, helping us along our journey.

Forrest comes close to this same understanding near the end of the film. When talking to Jenny at her gravesite, trying to understand the past so he can raise little Forrest without her, he says, "I don't know if we each have a destiny or if we're all floatin' around accidental-like on a breeze. But I think maybe it's both. Maybe both are happening at the same time."

Sometimes I wonder about the points on my road map where I turned one way instead of another. What would life be like now if I had taken another path? Some of the changes might have been superficial, such as owning a different house if I had stayed with a particular job. Other paths would have drastically changed my life, such as returning to Illinois after college instead of meeting my wife in Nashville.

Looking back, I took this path because I listened to God's will and made my own decisions on what was best for my life. Today, it feels like the wind is at my back and I am confidently facing the future with God's grace in my sails.

Still, there are times when I have to dock my ship at my mother's residence, sit at the kitchen table and have a good talk with her to stay on the right path. I hope you will find time to do the same.

—**Christopher Fenoglio**, UMNS

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Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.Org

Sunday Worship—10 AM | Sunday School—10 AM
 Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
 Hearing assistance provided



Methodist Hymnal (From Page 2)

Brian Milford, President and Publisher at UMPH, said the revised hymnal will be significantly different from the traditional printed hymnal, with a much deeper and broader scope of material and delivery methods that utilize current and future technology.

“The current hymnal, published in 1989, includes four major sections with a limited number of hymns, songs, acts of worship, services, and prayers,” Milford said. “The 2020 UM hymnal will potentially contain thousands of items in these same categories, gleaned from previously published resources such as the 1989 hymnal, *Mil Voces Para Celebrar*, *Songs of Zion*, *The Faith We Sing*, *Zion*

Still Sings, *Worship & Song*, and many other collections.”

The Hymnal Revision Committee will select from these resources and from other published works of contemporary music and text literature, new and existing hymns, songs and prayers submitted for consideration, and might commission additional works, Milford said. New delivery methods will make it possible to include the many additional resources. Rather than one print version of the hymnal that is the same for all churches, each United Methodist congregation will be able to have a customized print version, if that is the delivery method they prefer, Milford said.

A core of material, which will be present in every print version of the

hymnal, can be augmented with selections from a Hymnal Revision Committee-selected and General Conference-approved supplemental body of work.

The Hymnal Revision Committee embodies the identity of today’s church and the church of the future. Other constituencies not represented on the committee will be sought and highly valued as consultants in the revision process.

—UMNS

