

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

October 2018

Bah Humbug to Halloween

I must admit that I am the Ebenezer Scrooge of Halloween. I sincerely do not like nor enjoy when this day of ghouls and goblins comes around each year.

Of course, when I was a kid and went from door to door collecting candy, I thought it was the greatest day during the entire year. I guess, as I grew older—and maybe crankier—I no longer appreciate youth knocking on my door into the wee hours of the night.

I will say, however, I do enjoy giving candy to the younger children who come around during human hours.

I wonder if most people know the origins of this so-called holiday when people dress up hoping that their photo will not reach their

employer on Facebook the next day?

Halloween's roots can be traced back to Celtic culture in Ireland.

According to their "Druid" religion, November 1st was New Year's on their calendar. The celebration would begin on October 31st, and last into the following day—sort of like the youth who knock on my door at almost midnight!

They believed that the spirits of all who died in the prior year, would rise up and roam the earth on this night—shades of Vincent Price (younger folks, look up on Wikipedia as to who he was). Wait, it gets even darker.

This was an evil night when spirits roamed the streets and villages and Lord Samhain, the lord of Darkness (sounds like the devil to me) would arrive in search of the spirits to

take them to the underworld. Interesting origins so far, right?

Now to the origins of its name, Halloween. Halloween was called "Hallow E'en in Ireland. It evolved from "All Hollows" Eve. It originated from the pagan holiday honoring the dead—and I'll soon make the connection to the Christian Church.

Continued on Page 2

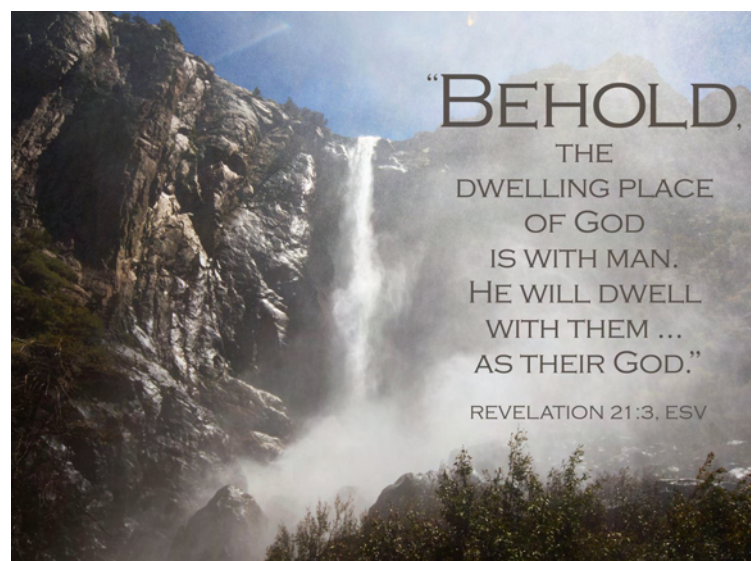
WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

Oct. 7—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara,
Mark 10:2-16

Oct. 14—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara,
Mark 10:17-31

Oct. 21—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara,
Mark 10:35-45

Sept. 28—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara,
Mark 10:46-52



Circle of Concern

Bereavement:

Kelman family

For Guidance and Healing:

Henry Prince, Marjorie Bates, Jim Davis, Maura Sherman, Frank, Gabriella Palacios, Katie Graves, John Puk, Baby Luca, Scott Rosenburg, Janice, John Gamber, Baby Ben Ruddy, Jim M, Frank Knoedl, Michael Becker, Bill, Mark Halliwell, Ron King, Krystan & Nick, Barry Kaminski, Nancy Baratela, Gladys Carabello, Cathy Halliwell (Lauren's mother), David, Ron Langdon, Meg, Bill Delvalez, Dane Kelly, Frank Carroll

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

October Birthday

Oct. 7 Sophia Capobianco

Halloween (From Page 1)

On All Hallows Eve, the veil between the world of the living and the world of the dead was thin (sounds like pollution and the stripping of the ozone layers to me). However, I guess this so-called veil was thicker every other day of the year? Who knew? It allowed the souls of the dead to come back to earth, as I already mentioned, and walk among the living.

People would leave out food, treats and candies for the dead to enjoy with the hopes that the spirits would leave them alone.

I did that one year and left a large Tupperware bowl of candy on our front step—and a big kid took all the candy and the bowl.

They would also carve out turnips and rutabagas, and place embers in them to ward off the evil spirits. This, of course, was the glowing predecessor to the pumpkin Jack O'Lantern we enjoy carving and painting each year.

In response to all of this—once the Roman Catholic Church took hold of Ireland—the Catholic Church created All Saints Day (also called Hallomas) on November 1st to honor and pray for the souls of the dead.

We Methodists also took on this tradition and celebrate it as well. All Saints Day was created, in part, to

downplay the pagan holiday of Hollow E'en.

Unfortunately, and here comes the Scrooge side of me, the church didn't succeed in this alternative practice.

Halloween has grown from the ancient Druid Holiday into a multi-billion-dollar industry where people dress up in character in everything from Donald Trump to the Grim Reaper.

I would also imagine that the stocks of CVS, Target and Costco goes up on Wall Street with all the candy they sell. By the way, did you know that Halloween is second only to Christmas in spending?

Consumers spend over \$2.5 Billion during Halloween. That's a whole lot of candy, costumes, decorations, pumpkins and party goods. Imagine if a chunk of that money was spent on feeding and clothing the hungry?

In His Grip,

—Pastor Chuck



United Methodist Church of Patchogue

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	2 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	3 7:30 p.m.—AME	4 7:30 p.m.—AME	5 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	6
7 10:00 a.m.— Communion Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	8 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	9 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	10 7:30 p.m.—AME	11 7:30 p.m.—AME	12 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	13
14 10:00 a.m.— Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	15 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	16 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	17 7:30 p.m.—AME	18 7:30 p.m.—AME	19 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	20
21 10 a.m.— Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	22 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	23 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	24 7:30 p.m.—AME	25 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—AME	26 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	27
28 10 a.m.— Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	29 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA	30 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	31 7:30 p.m.—AME			

Trustees Are Busy

In the past few months, the Trustees have been able to complete updates, grant requests and many projects.

I want to thank Gail Hoag, who graciously became our secretary. She re-wrote and updated our annual and short term contracts for the use of the church. The new contracts address all the problems and insurance requirements necessary to protect us. Thank you, Gail, for your expertise in this matter.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Barbara Becker, who worked so hard researching and applying for grants to restore our old building.

Barbara was able to obtain a grant from the New York Landmarks Conservancy that will provide money for repointing the bricks this coming Spring for our 128 year-old building.

Barbara and Joan Curtis attended a seminar on available grants earlier this summer. There, they learned of a New York Parks and Landmarks grant that we hoped would pay for a lot of the restoration of the large circular East Rose window.

Barbara, Joan, and Camille spent countless hours preparing and e-mailing the documents. The grant may be available to us in 2020.

Henrietta Gardner has also been searching for grants and presented one that would pertain to us. Barbara, our intrepid grant writer, will apply for it in the Spring.

A condition of the New York Landmarks grant is that we hire Joel Snodgrass of the Steward Preservation Services, LLC.

Joel inspected the attics, roofs, and exterior walls of the old building. He is preparing a prioritized survey of repairs needed to stop the water damage to our building. We hope to receive it soon.

The Trustees have completed a number of projects this Summer. A new security system was installed by Newday Security. The old system, dating back to 1992, had problems and cost us a lot of money. The new system is more user friendly and economical.

The parking lot was paved last month with the peninsula being reduced 16 feet allowing better access.

This was urgently needed because of a dander of car accidents and falls from potholes. Two families donated towards the project which is greatly appreciated.

We are under contract to take down the balcony East wall of the sanctuary. The work is to begin on October 29th. We will have to place fans up there for three months or more in order to dry out the water in those walls before we can sheetrock them.

Three of the roof valleys over the sanctuary are worn from weathering. A portion of the Conference loan will pay to have them replaced.

Work needs to be done on the leaking pans behind the long louvers in the belfry. The metal exterior shrouds around the three large circular windows need to be modified. The shroud panels butt together and don't overlap, causing leaks at the bottom.

The East wall leak has caused a lot of the damage on the middle of the wall below the balcony.

Thanks to the SOS Campaign with their fundraising and dedication, we should be able to tackle all these problems and return our sanctuary to its former glory.

—Dave Hollowell

Out of Africa

❗❗ Racism is hateful bullying and a means of reinforcing self-identity at the expense of others. There are no essential genetic elements for any particular group of people who might be identified as a 'race' As far as genetics is concerned, race does not exist." (Dr. Adam Rutherford, *A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived.*)

When my children were small (three or four), sometimes a child in their pre school or in the neighborhood would ask, "What color are you?" My son would generally ignore them, but my daughter, in a quizzical voice, would answer, "Beige or tannish." Maybe those children hadn't learned their colors yet!

As they grew, my children would sometimes encounter confusion about 'what they were'. My son was frequently addressed in Spanish, with people assuming he was Dominican.

Once, my daughter and I were shopping, and the cashier asked her, what her nationality was. To which, she naturally replied, "American." "No", said the young lady, "Where are you from?" To which my daughter replied, "Brooklyn."

The cashier was clearly perplexed and finally muttered she thought maybe she was Jamaican. (West Indies, not Queens.) I think the lack of clarity evinced by that young woman, as to what she was actually asking, is representative of our national confusion on 'race'.

Humans seem to want to categorize things, to force who and what we encounter into neat, easily understood compartments. So when someone does not conform, such as the offspring of a mother whose genome represents mostly Western Europe, with contributions from Ireland/Scotland/Wales, the Iberian Peninsula, (Spain and Portugal) and Scandinavia, and a father whose ancestors were primarily from Africa, (although if asked where he was from, he would have certainly said, "Brooklyn.") people are puzzled. And uncertain.

Perhaps, back when we were hunter-gatherers, living in small tribes and kinship groupings, it made sense to be wary of strangers.

By the way, did you know that the custom of shaking hands with your right hand was a way of showing you didn't have a weapon, since most were right handed. (What left handed people did, I can't say.)

The problem is that 'race' is not a scientific concept. It is, to use currently popular terminology, a 'fake' idea. The tragedy of 'race' is that it has been used to separate, demonize, and dehumanize our own species into hostile factions.

And it is dumb. Scientists have known for a long time that our species developed in Africa, and roughly 65,000 years ago, Homo Sapiens be-

gan to migrate out of Africa and spread over the globe, adapting and changing as we went. (By the way, did you know that there were three other species of humans -Homo Denisovan, Homo Neanderthalis, and Homo Erectis.

Some of them migrated earlier. Eventually, our species became predominant, but some humans today carry the genes of these other humans.)

We are essentially cousins, albeit many times removed. We literally are the human family. If only we would learn to appreciate and understand the various differences between us that have developed over the millennia, while cherishing our commonalities.

The book from which I took the introductory quote, *A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived* (The Human Story Retold Through Our Genes) by Adam Rutherford, is informative, articulate, and often witty. I have to confess that some of the genetic science went right over my head, but even so, it brought a new and broader perspective to my understanding of who we are and where we came from.

There were also interesting segments concerning the genetic history of the Charles Darwin family and the royal Hapsburgs. (The latter provided a cautionary study of why we shouldn't intermarry with close relatives!)

We truly are all God's children.

—Barbara Becker

Faith Communities Help Immigrants

A father and his 8-year-old son stay close to each other on the small blue mat next to the windows in a building on the grounds of the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle.

Other children are running across the cool terrazzo floor, weaving around tables, dodging grown-ups, riding plastic scooters, playing with toys and laughing.

The adults — who are wearing ankle monitors that track their movements until their cases are heard — are quietly sitting at tables eating, chatting in small groups, watching the children and talking to volunteers. Some people are grabbing short naps on the thin rubber mats under the bright glare of the fluorescent lights and all are anxiously awaiting the next part of their journey.

Catholic Charities runs the Humanitarian Respite Center in downtown McAllen, this building on the Basilica's grounds — nicknamed the "hotel" — is for the overflow of immigrants. The United Methodist El Valle District helps purchase needed supplies for this center and for La Posada Providencia, another respite center located in San Benito.

The people gathered here have been arrested and held in a border patrol detention facility for up to 72 hours.

They arrive dirty, hungry, often speaking no English. They are abandoned by the coyotes — smuggler of undocumented immigrants — who

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Don't Forget Your Pledge

"We'd prefer that you fill out your name in our guest ledger."

The deadline for the November issue of **The Link** is Oct. 26.
 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.

Immigrants (From Page 5)

they paid several hundred dollars to get them safely to the U.S.

The respite center gives them a temporary safe place to land. Family or sponsors buy bus tickets for them while they await disposition of their case. Most are only in the respite center for 24-hours or less as they wait for the bus to their destination.

The father and son are waiting for their bus to Pennsylvania, where they have some cousins. They have been offered a shower, clean clothes, food and some much-needed rest. They asked to be called Oliver and Anthony instead of their real names to protect them as they await a court hearing about whether they will stay in the U.S. or be deported.

It has been a long and frightening journey for these two who fled their home in Honduras, Oliver said through an interpreter. He described the trip as hot — “very high temperatures.” He said he was afraid for their lives, afraid of kidnappers. Plus they had to leave his wife, Anthony’s mother, behind.

“It is a big sacrifice to come,” he said. “But I am here to give my son a better life.”

The family cannot afford to pay for school and because he is not in school, Anthony becomes a target for dangerous gangs in Honduras, Oliver said.

The nation’s attention was focused on the small town of McAllen, Texas, after the Trump administration issued a zero tolerance policy that resulted in children being separated from their families at the border. More than 500 children remain in government custo-

dy a month after a court-ordered deadline for reuniting families.

Susan Hellums, United Methodist Border Area Coordinator for the El Valle District, Rio Texas Conference, and First United Methodist Church in McAllen, coordinated a visit for United Methodist News Service from July 31-Aug. 4 to report on the ways the church is offering ministry to those crossing the Texas borders.

Hellums is well-known among advocates for immigrants, the border police and other religious and secular organizations involved in immigrant ministry.

Many times, those advocates said, “We don’t know what we would do without the Methodists.”

Sister Norma Pimentel, CEO and director of Catholic Charities for the Rio Grande Valley, greets Hellums with a warm hug at the Humanitarian Respite Center in downtown McAllen, just a few blocks from the busy bus station.

“ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has notified us there will be 75 people arriving today,” Pimentel said. She and Hellums quietly discuss supplies the center needs.

About three hours later, dazed passengers spill out of the dark interior of a dusty bus into the bright, white-hot sunlight outside the bus station in downtown McAllen.

The adults are clutching plastic bags containing personal belongings including shoelaces that were taken when border police arrested them. All the adults have ankle monitors. Mothers and fathers hold tightly to their children’s hands while trying to

absorb where they are and what they need to do next.

There are people of all ages, from babies to elders.

Eli Fernandez, a volunteer from the Humanitarian Respite Center, gathers them under the branches of a large tree and speaks to them for a few minutes before arranging them in single-file and directing them into the large bus station.

While Fernandez works with people who have tickets leaving the station within hours, Luis Guerrero, rolling around on his motorized scooter, directs the rest of the group to some seats along the wall.

Guerrero is an ex-firefighter who lost one of his legs in the line of duty. He comes to the bus station almost every day because he wants to help these sojourners.

“One day I saw a nun in here having a problem and I asked if I could help,” he said. “She said yes. She left and I stayed,” he said, laughing. He has devised his own way to help. Once the volunteers have helped people get their tickets, he takes them aside for a lesson about the “gray dog.”

“I tell them to look at their tickets then I say, ‘Do you see a dog anywhere else?’ They nod and point to all the signs with the dog. I tell them, follow the dog all to the way to your destination.”

He smiles, “No one has been lost yet. ”The immigrants also get a large white envelope supplied by the Humanitarian Respite Center. On the front, in large letters, are the words:

Continued on Page 8

10 Church St., Patchogue, NY 11772

The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Pastoral Minister
 Camille Flynn, Administrative Assistant
 Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-475-3132
 Email: PatchogueUMC@Yahoo.com
 Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM., Closed Monday
Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.Org

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



Immigrants (From Page 7)

“Please help me. I do not speak English. What bus do I need to take? Thank you for your help.”

Clutching their envelopes, a group follows Blanca Muñoz, another respite center volunteer, to their next stop. Applause greets them. “We applaud to let them know they are welcome,” Pimentel said. Hellums said the stream of immigrants is part of everyday life for people living in McAllen and other towns and cities along the border.

She first started working with immigrants in 2014 when there was a huge surge of unaccompanied minors reaching the border. She works with many of the non-profits serving immigrants.

Ann Cass, executive director of Proyecto Azteca, said the faith community is essential. Proyecto Azteca is a non-profit self-help construction company which allows immigrants to purchase their own home.

“They put the face back on immigrants,” she said. Andi Atkinson, executive director of La Posada Providencia, said all of the people in the emergency shelter for immigrants and asylum seekers have a story to tell.

“No one flees their homes unless bad things have happened to them,” she said. Atkinson, who is also president of United Methodist Women for El Valle District, said the shelter is tiny “but we make do.

“We pull out cots and mats and people sleep on the kitchen floor.”

One of the current residents is Shalom (not her real name), an asylum seeker who fled Zimbabwe because of political oppression. She wrote a letter to La Posada Providencia and six other shelters while she was in prison in Dublin, Ireland.

“La Posada responded,” she said, smiling. “It was all by grace. I can see God working in my life.”

The recent news about families being separated has brought a lot of media attention. Political tweaks are going to happen, Pimental said.

Everyone who walks through the doors is a person in need, Hellums said.

“We just help them.

—Kathy L. Gilbert, UMNS