

# The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

October 2022

## A Church United In Worship

I strongly believe that “where there is unity there is strength”.

A perfect analogy of that statement is displayed in a scene from a Charlie Brown Peanuts cartoon. In this specific segment, Linus is watching television. Lucy enters the room and demands that Linus change the TV channel, by threatening him with her fist if he didn't.

Linus says to her, what makes you think you can walk right in here and take over? Lucy replies, “These five fingers; individually they're nothing but when I curl them together like this into a single unit, they form a weapon that is terrible to behold.”

Linus responds by saying, “which channel do you want?” Turning away, he looks at his fingers and

says, “Why can't you guys get organized like that?”

We can clearly see that a unified effort is the best effort.

As we look to God's word, Ephesians 4:3 instructs us to make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

This text means that we must always keep ourselves in agreement with the Holy Spirit. This is the key principle we need to successfully be a church united in worship; for worship is an integral part of the believer's life.

Worship lies at the heart of what we must do to maintain our relationship with God. Worship is our spirit touching God's Spirit. So in essence, worship will keep us in agreement with the Holy Spirit.

Using the cross as my illustration, there are two dimensions of worship.

The first dimension is the vertical aspect of worship in which the worshipper communicates with the Lord. This vertical aspect will allow us to minister to the Lord, to realize the manifest presence of God in our midst, to provide an opportunity for God's power to be released in the church, to provide an

**Continued on Page 2**

## WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

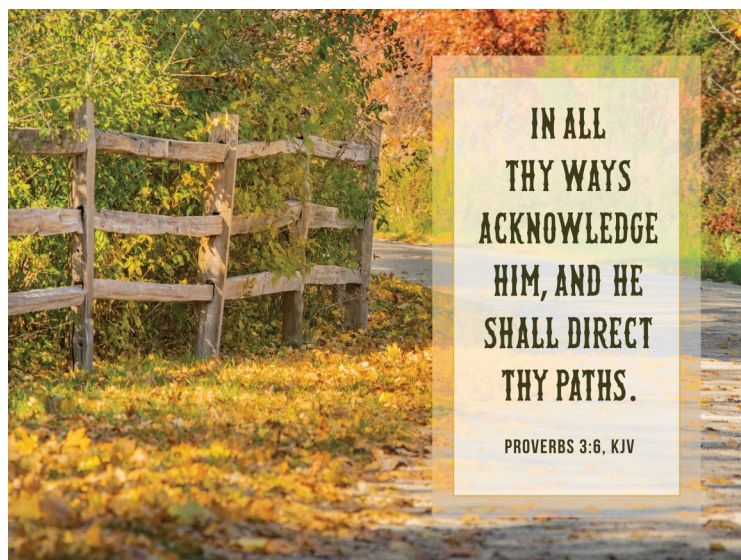
**Oct. 2**—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 137

**Oct. 9**—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 66:1-12

**Oct. 16**—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 19

**Oct. 23**—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 65

**Oct. 30**—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 119:137-144



IN ALL  
THY WAYS  
ACKNOWLEDGE  
HIM, AND HE  
SHALL DIRECT  
THY PATHS.

PROVERBS 3:6, KJV

## Circle of Concern

### Bereavement

The family of **Calvin Kerr**. (Diane Zimmerman)

### Healing

**Ronald Lyons** who is hospitalized with complications of lung cancer.

(Barbara Lyons)

**Kiley Keeley**, who will see a neurologist for a nerve disorder in her foot. (Linda Werner)

**Karl Knoth**, has been recovering from a brain bleed. (Linda Werner)

**Mike** who will be having surgery for a brain tumor. (Kathy Halliwell)

**Christian**, a 31 year old man who suffered a stroke.

Prayers for a mother's blood sugar to get under control. (Kristina Kamsic)

**Cousin Jenna's** PET scan to be cancer free. (Kristina Kamsic)

**Chris** who is in the hospital with pneumonia and is in need of a pace-maker. (Suzanne Tierney)

Eleanor's father, **Ernie Titus** has Covid. (Eleanor & Bob Prince)

### Continued Prayers

Lynn, Baby Michael, Diana Walsh, Robert Niosi, Baby Zion, Courtney Glover, Jordan Barios, Trevor Hatalski, Dawn, Bill Stryker, Warren Stines, DeAnna D'Amelio, Diane Kelly, Lance Marques, Bruce Kirschner, Donna Logurcio, *Billy Appenzeller*, Kirt Watkins, Kevin Clifford, Ted Forsyth, Ed Witt, Mike Haberman, Christine Tortorice, Rob Conforti, Sherrie Ann Maglicco, Ulla Ziegler Pereira, Kimberly Helfst, Paul Halayko, Harry Higbie, Suzanne Tierney, Monica Hunter

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## Church United

### (From Page 1)

atmosphere for the gifts of the Spirit to be manifested, and to open up channels of communication between us and God.

The second dimension of worship is the horizontal aspect of worship in which the worshipper communicates with others.

This is essential for congregational worship. The horizontal aspect provides an enhanced feeling of unity within the body of believers, provides the opportunity to confess and profess faith before others, make declarations of God's glory before unbelievers, as well as create a platform for the sermon and rest of the service.

If we want the vertical aspect "us-to-God" of worship to really shine, we must work on the horizontal aspect "us-to-each-other" by always keeping ourselves in agreement with the Holy Spirit.

John 17:21 says "that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

If you are in agreement with the Holy Spirit, you will automatically be in harmony with another believer who is in agreement with the Holy Spirit.

A.W. Tozer the author of *The Pursuit of God* has a perfect example for this. Let's take a room this size— how many pianos can we put in this room if there weren't any chairs? Let's just say 100.

Now picture a room with 100 pianos. How do you tune them all together? Can you imagine sitting at the first one and trying to tune the first one to the second one, and then trying to tune the third one to the first two, and do that 100 times?

Can you imagine how hard that would be? Has it ever occurred to you that 100 pianos all tuned to the same tuning fork are automatically tuned to each other? That's how you tune 100 pianos. You tune them to the very same tuning fork.

They are in unison by being tuned, not to each other, but by being tuned to another standard that's outside themselves, one that they all have to bow before.

Is this true for you and me, for 500 worshippers in a church together, all so different? How do you achieve unity? Unity is found when each of us individually tunes ourselves and our hearts to the Holy Spirit with the vertical aspect of worship, and not to each other then and only then will the horizontal aspects of worship begin to fall into place.

We can be assured that when we truly worship, God will, according to his sovereignty, respond. A church united with the Holy Spirit produces a church united in worship.

—Pastor Debbie

## Birthdays In October

**Oct. 8** Ed Klingel

**Oct. 9** Dave Holowell

**Oct. 25** Wendy Holowell

**Oct. 25** Jim Graham

## Anniversaries In October

**Oct. 2** Michelle & Terry Ryan

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue

## October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Worship/ Blessing Back- packs <b>6:30 p.m.-</b> Pentecostal	3 Office Closed <b>7:00 p.m.-AA</b>	4 <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Noon-Food Pantry <b>7:00 p.m.-AA</b>	5	6 <b>7:00 p.m.-AA</b>	7 <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> ESL <b>7:30 p.m.-</b> Pentecostal	8
9 <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Worship/ Sunday School <b>6:30 p.m.-</b> Pentecostal	10 Office Closed <b>7:00 p.m.-AA</b>	11 <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Noon-Food Pantry <b>7:00 p.m.-AA</b>	12	13 <b>7:00 p.m.-AA</b>	14 <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> ESL <b>7:30 p.m.-</b> Pentecostal	15
16 <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Worship/ Sunday School <b>6:30 p.m.-</b> Pentecostal	17 Office Closed <b>7:00 p.m.-AA</b>	18 <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Noon-Food Pantry <b>7:00 p.m.-AA</b>	19	20 <b>7:00 p.m.-AA</b>	21 <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> ESL <b>7:30 p.m.-</b> Pentecostal	22
23 <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Worship/ Sunday School <b>6:30 p.m.-</b> Pentecostal	24 Office Closed <b>7:00 p.m.-AA</b>	25 <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Noon-Food Pantry <b>7:00 p.m.-AA</b>	26	27 <b>7:00 p.m.-AA</b>	28 <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> ESL <b>7:30 p.m.-</b> Pentecostal	29
30 <b>10:00 a.m.-</b> Worship/ Sunday School <b>6:30 p.m.-</b> Pentecostal	31 Office Closed <b>7:00 p.m.-AA</b>					

## Churches Discern Whether To Stay Or Go

**T**he pastors of two faithful North Carolina United Methodist churches have at least one goal in common when it comes to whether to leave the denomination over questions of sexuality and theology.

Myers Park in Charlotte and Wesley Memorial in High Point may be heading in different directions, but they both want to follow Methodism founder John Wesley's directive to "Do no harm."

"I decided a long time ago, we need to help each other end well in this process," said the Rev. Jeff Patterson, pastor of Wesley Memorial, a conservative congregation that is likely to leave The United Methodist Church. "If we don't have that commitment to helping each other end well and to find who they are in Christ, what we will have is a tendency to control, manipulate and intimidate.

"I'm trying really hard to stay away from that part of the spectrum." At Myers Park, which is expected to remain in The United Methodist Church, the Rev. James Howell said he is looking for consensus rather than winners and losers.

"By the grace of God, we haven't had to vote." Howell said. "We haven't thought one nanosecond about leaving. ... We've talked a lot over time about being a big tent church, which is hard."

At Myers Park, the congregation is more concerned about making a difference where they are, rather

than questions about sexuality, he added.

"(The congregation) kind of settled into who we are way back," he said. After decades of debate about the status of LGBTQ people in the church, General Conference was set to vote on a denominational separation plan in May 2020. After being rescheduled three times due to COVID-19, the denomination's top lawmaking body now is scheduled to meet in 2024.

The delay led to the early launch of the Global Methodist Church, a new traditionalist denomination that has been encouraging United Methodist churches to disaffiliate.

A United Methodist News review of U.S. annual conference reports showed about 600 church disaffiliations since 2019 — a fraction of the more than 30,000 United Methodist churches in the U.S. More are in various stages working toward it. The General Council on Finance and Administration has begun reporting disaffiliations, but their tally lags behind UM News' data because of the way the information is collected.

After voting to disaffiliate, some churches — including large Texas churches — are discerning further about whether to join another denomination or remain independent. Rhetoric around the split has heated up in recent months. There have been claims that The United Methodist Church is moving toward denying the virgin birth and the divinity and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Several bishops have stepped forward to deny such charges, most prominently Council of Bishops President Thomas J. Bickerton during an

Aug. 22 address to his fellow bishops. Bickerton also leads the New York Conference.

Bickerton decried what he called "a constant barrage of negative rhetoric that is filled with falsehood and inaccuracies" coming from backers of the Global Methodist Church.

As in North Carolina, many United Methodist churches across the country are working to address the question of disaffiliation in less divisive ways. Informational meetings, notes from pastors, surveys and studies, videos and one-on-one meetings are among the means of communication.

"We knew that some churches would want to disaffiliate, and we wanted to make that process as grace-filled as possible" said the Rev. Jessica Rooks, district superintendent for the Mile High Metro District in the Mountain Sky Conference. "We wanted belonging and connection to be our focus, which is why we launched the 'Belong' campaign.

"We put our focus on the mission and ministry of who we are, rather than on the conversations about splintering."

So far, only a handful of churches are undergoing the disaffiliation process in the Mountain Sky Conference, Rooks said.

Along with localized efforts, the conference has broadly distributed a video with the theme of "Belonging."

"We've blanketed that everywhere," Rooks said. "We've tried to send it to local churches, to different leadership bodies, to lay leaders, to clergy. ... It's on social media. It's on our website."

Rooks has also personally delivered a sermon on the topic of “Belonging” to many churches under her purview. The Rev. Laura Brantley, a former pastor at Brentwood United Methodist Church south of Nashville, who was a member of its discernment team, has advised pastors from Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia on the process.

“The first thing I do is try to help them broaden their scope of what they’re trying to discern,” she said. “It usually ends up being something more akin to, ‘Who is God calling us to be as a church in this particular time, in this particular context that we find ourselves in?’”

At Brentwood, the discernment process got underway in 2015 with “a year-long study focused on scripture interpretation, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit through prayer and conversation with subject matter experts, including theologians, bishops, doctors, psychologists, gay and lesbian individuals and others,” according to a document titled “Discernment Team Proposal & FAQ,” which is available at the church website.

Other steps in the process included:

Offering a four-week course for interested church members about homosexuality, marriage and ordination;

Having the discernment team attend the 2019 Special General Conference in St. Louis, the UMCNext meeting in Kansas City in spring 2019 and the Wesley Covenant Association meeting in Oklahoma in November 2019;

Establishing a larger discernment team comprised of lay and clergy leaders to make a recommendation regarding disaffiliation to the church council.

“The discernment team engaged in nine months of intensive work that included study, prayer, listening sessions and holy conversation,” the report read. “Our intent from the beginning and above all else was to listen to the movement of the Spirit. When we began our work, there seemed to be uncertainty about the best way forward, but by the time we had completed our work, we arrived at what seemed to us to be a Spirit-led alignment in our recommendations.”

At the end of the process, the discernment team recommended that Brentwood remain a United Methodist congregation.

Brantley said one key to Brentwood’s process was “to think the best of people even if they don’t agree with you.”

“If we don’t agree with each other, we’ve got to be OK with that, but still love each other and still respect each other and not demonize (anyone).”

**Jim Patterson, UMNS**

## What Does The Church Say And Do About Climate Change?

United Methodists affirm the reality of climate change and urge each other, our communities, companies we invest in, and governments where we live to take all necessary steps to address and reduce the localized harms climate change already has brought and

the worldwide harms that await.

United Methodists have been addressing climate change in the Social Principles and Book of Resolutions for decades. In 2006, the Council of Bishops created a statement, “God’s Renewed Creation,” intended to be used in worship, in study, and to spark action across all United Methodist churches worldwide. They also created a supporting website.

Among the actions the Council of Bishops specifically called United Methodists to undertake, beginning in 2006, are:

- Organize within our own particular congregations to study and plan what we can do as individuals and members of our churches (for example, congregational “Green Teams” reclaiming the familiar refrain: Think globally, act locally).

- Update our knowledge of pending legislation, conventions, and treaties concerning nuclear proliferation and the critical timelines for achieving a truly secure world free of nuclear weapons.

- Call to accountability public officials and decision makers in local and national governments to eliminate barriers to flourishing and sustainable communities.

- Interact with those in power over community, national, and international policies to change systems and structures that destroy, deplete, or damage the earth.

The most recently adopted, and most comprehensive statement, “Climate Change and the Church’s

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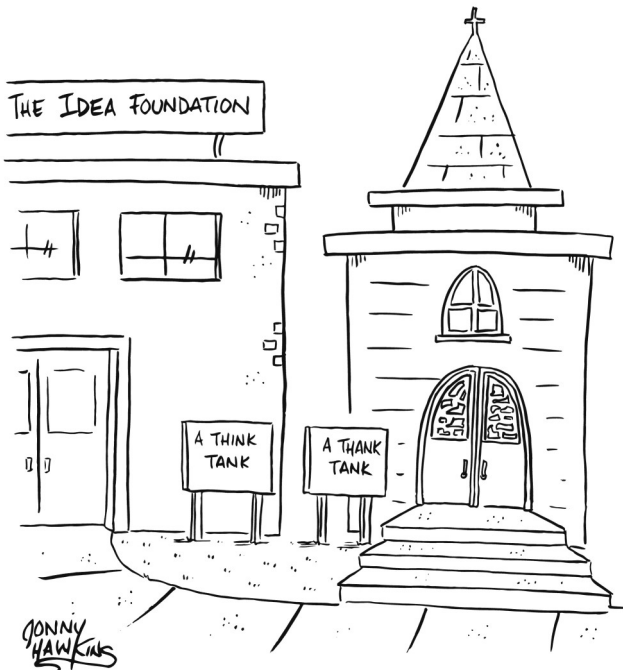


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## Save Your Old Magazines

**D**ave Hollowell would very much appreciate your saving the magazines you have read and passing them on to him. He takes them for the enjoyment of adult and nursing home residents and shut ins. They can be dropped off in the church office.

The deadline for the November issue  
of **The Link** is October 21.  
Please email your copy to [gbhoag@optonline.net](mailto:gbhoag@optonline.net).

## Climate Change

### (From Page 5)

Response” (2016 Book of Resolutions, #1035), calls United Methodists to study the Bishops’ resources from 10 years earlier; “explore lifestyle changes as individuals and faith communities;” support those impacted by fossil fuel extraction and the need to change to sustainable forms of energy; make changes in our own facilities and meeting practices to reduce our carbon footprints; and advocate for changes in our own national policies and binding international agreements to reduce the effects of climate change and support those who must adapt to the changes.

Statements can be powerful. They can also be ignored. The real test of any statement is what people do with it. United Methodists are, in some ways more than others, fulfilling all five of the actions to which General Conference called us in 2016.

#### **Study the bishop’s statements:**

This work remains to be done in earnest. The website that hosted the bishops’ original statement in 2006 had not been substantially updated in over a decade and is not currently active. It appears to have been hoped that, “if we build a website, they will come.” What website analytics Ask The UMC could find indicate they did not come in any significant numbers. Nor is there evidence of much annual conference organizing or resourcing around this website or its resources over the years.

The General Board of Church and Society’s website, however, hosts a Climate Justice page that refers to the 2006 study document and posts

links to all statements on climate justice in the current Social Principles and Book of Resolutions. Even with the loss of the original website, it remains possible to use this page to help fulfill what the resolution calls for.

#### **Explore lifestyle changes as individuals and faith communities:**

More widely noticed and used to study these issues among United Methodists than the bishops’ statement was the “Green Church” series of resources by The Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter and others, published in 2010 by Abingdon Press, and still available for sale in print and electronic format. These resources for adults and children specifically point to and support lifestyle changes by congregations and individuals. Free downloadable worksheets are also available to help students form and lead congregational “Green Teams” and keep track of their progress.

#### **Make changes in our own facilities and meeting practices to reduce our carbon footprints:**

Since 2021, United Methodist general agencies have engaged in “Net-Zero” planning processes, with a goal of zero net carbon emissions by 2050. Moving away from work models that require many employees to drive daily to a central office is already a substantial step toward this goal. Reducing travel and purchasing carbon credits for necessary travel; reducing or eliminating shipping of physical resources where possible; examining investment portfolios and reallocating investments toward companies that reduce carbon emissions; and deter-

mining needs for far more energy-efficient physical workspaces are among the actions many general agencies are taking to achieve this goal on or before the 2050 deadline.

#### **“Support those impacted by fossil fuel extraction and the need to change to sustainable forms of energy”:**

As the Net-Zero Commitment statement notes, this effort is about more than reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

It is also about “leveraging the gifts of our connection putting equity and justice at the center.”

The Council of Bishops in 2006 had already identified that the carbon-based fuel economies of much of the world were causing substantial ecological and economic harms to millions of people worldwide, including but not limited to ongoing exposures to pollution in air and groundwater, low wages, and the life-shortening, health-endangering labor involved in mining and extraction.

Carbon- and fuel-based economies have also led to the destruction of whole ecosystems through mountainside removal, unprecedented levels of seismic activity and groundwater pollution through fracking, and untold damage to the environment and the health of other life forms through the carbon-dependent process of transporting carbon-based fuels. These harms affect a disproportionate number of poor people, people of color, women and children. And the effects are often generational.

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## Climate Change (From Page 7)

Simply reducing carbon dependence or shifting from one source of energy to another does not address generational harms, nor does it prevent them from being perpetuated.

This is why net-zero commitments, whether as general agencies, annual conferences, local churches, families, business owners or individual United Methodists, call us to work toward ending injustices.

That includes whatever changes must be made in our individual lives and our economic and political systems to stop existing harms and prevent future ones. And it means commitments and concrete actions now to bring restoration and care to the people, groups and ecological sys-

tems that have been irreparably and irreversibly harmed by our ongoing commitment to using carbon-based fuels.

### **Advocate for changes:**

United Women in Faith recognizes the scope of action needed to accomplish these underlying economic and political changes. That's why one of its two major advocacy campaigns during 2022 is "Just Energy 4 All." While celebrating the impact of the group's own previous advocacy to pass the reforms included in the Inflation Reduction Act, United Women in Faith reminds United Methodist women and others that those steps were scarcely enough. More action is needed to end the underlying economic and political incentives that prevent real progress toward reduc-

ing the harms of carbon-based fuels and climate change.

Through Just Energy 4 All, United Women in Faith calls United Methodists to act now, and invites us to continued action by signing up for ongoing climate justice emails.

Together, United Methodists are committed in word through official statements and study, and in deed through direct action, policy changes and advocacy not only to recognize the harms climate change is bringing but also to act to reduce them where possible. And where reduction is no longer possible, to help all our neighbors in the world adapt to irreversible harms climate change has already caused and will cause in the years to come.

—Ask The UMC, UMNS