

The Link



Since 1791

The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

October 2009

Edited By George Hoag

Spiritual Food

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)



First,
I pray
that our
church
can be a
place

where we learn God's Words and God's Will for our lives. The words of God are our spiritual food that nurtures us and makes us grow to become mature Christians. When we build our community on the words of God, our congregation will be a strong and healthy congregation. Second, I pray that everyone in our church always experiences the true fellowship. The Greek word that has been translated "fellowship" means far more than just meeting together, eating, and having a good time. It means a closeness, a sharing, a common bond, a feeling of togetherness, of belonging to each other, of belonging to the family of God. Third, I pray that our church can be the place where we worship God and practice the communion together. Through practice of communion, we are with God, and united with all those who claim Jesus as our Lord. We build

Continued on Page 2

Worship In October

October 4 (World Communion Sunday, 18th Sunday After Pentecost)—Job 1:1-1, 2:1-10, Luke 22:24-27, "Lord, Make Me a Servant", (Rev. In Koo Chung).

October 11 (19th Sunday After Pentecost)—Job 23:1-9, 16-17, Mark 10:17-31, "Blanket Sunday".

October 18 (Laity Sunday, 20th Sunday After Pentecost)—Job 38:1-7, Mark 10:35-45.

October 25 (Reformation Sunday, 20th Sunday After Pentecost)—Job 42:1-6, 10-17, Matthew 23:1-12, "Re-formation", (Rev. In Koo Chung).



*He is the reflection of God's glory
and the exact imprint of
God's very being*

Hebrews 1:3, NRSV

Circle of Concern

Bereavement: The family of Lew Brunnemer.

For Guidance:

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Joe Brentlink, Philip Crandall, Ray Gallo, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Christy Wood, Lois Wood, Michael Dellazizzi and family, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Pat, Joanne, Robert C. Hiene and the Americo Family.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Christine Quinn’s cousin Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Baby Joseph, Bertha Smith, Shelly Granger , Bob Tenaglia, Rachel Nason, Bruce Kirschner and Corinne Burdett.

These at Home:

Betty Hansley, Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, Eric & Pat Carlson, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Philip Crandall, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Frank Westerland, John, Mike Welsh, Hazel Freely, Dave McKendrick, Paul Rice, Timothy Oliva’s Aunt Susan, Rosemarie, John Krulger, Philip Crandall, Rachel Nason and Shelly Granger.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Alice Zahnd in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue, NY; Anna Satterly in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzola Drive, East Patchogue, NY 11772; Kitty Brunnemer in Cedar Lodge Nursing Home, 6 Frowein Road, Center Moriches, NY 11934; Gerry Flood in St. James Nursing Home (Room 269) 273 Moriches Rd., St. James, NY 11780; Doris Shrimpton in Bellhaven Nursing Center, 110 Beaverdam Rd., Brookhaven; Hazel Nargi in McPeak’s Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue; Marian King in Sunrise Assisted Living, 2 Hills Rd., E. Setauket, Rm. 2; Anna Bonfe, Rm. 201, Cunningham Bldg, Loretto Rest, 708 E. Brighton Ave., Syracuse, NY 13205; Toby Miller (Room 213B) in Affinity Skilled Living and Rehabilitation Center, 305 Locust Avenue, Oakdale, NY 11769; Joan Simpson, Good Samaritan Nursing Home, 101 Elm Street, Sayville, NY 11782.

Spiritual Food (from Page 1)

a healthy and strong church around the table of our Lord.

“All who believed were together and had all things in common. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts.”(Acts 2:44,46)

Fourth, I pray that our church can be the place where we practice constant and consistent prayer. Prayer is the cornerstone of a strong and healthy church. Fifth, I pray that our church can be the place where we practice of giving and sharing in Christ. We are called to care for one another. We are called to share what God has given us with those who are in need. Finally, I pray that our church can be the place filled with true joy. Because of Jesus we live with a deep and genuine joy. A healthy and growing church of God’s people is filled with this true joy!

May God continue to bless our church family with the steadfast love and grace.

In Christ,

Pastor In Koo Chung

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

CHECK OFF LIST

I am willing to help my church by:

Counting Sunday donations monthly

Helping with the nursery

Joining the choir

Helping with the Sunday school

Helping to cook and serve our community meals

Joining the Membership Committee

Be an usher

Other

We are all talented in different ways and blessed with abilities. Please be a good steward and find in your heart one of these above opportunities to fulfill. Fill out this form and place it in the offering plate, or mail to the church:

United Methodist Church of Patchogue, 10 Church St., Patchogue, NY 11772.

Lift up your church with your prayers, presence, gifts and service.

Blanket Sunday



On Oct. 11, we will have a special service focused on the humanitarian pro-

grams of Church World Service.

Church World Service is one of the major aid organizations, like UMCOR and Red Cross, who respond in times of disaster and crisis. Sometimes the crisis is the result of natural forces, like an earthquake or flood, sometimes the effect of human actions, like war or ethnic oppression. In either case, families and individuals are left homeless, traumatized, with no resources. One of the most immediate needs is often shelter and warmth. CWS has a program called Blankets+. When disaster strikes, sturdy, warm blankets are distributed, which can provide bedding and makeshift shelters. Most of us have never had to face the prospect of homelessness and cannot fully imagine how wonderful a simple blanket can be. About 30 years ago, our apartment in Brooklyn was destroyed by fire. It was literally stunning to come home and realize that the material framework of your family's life no longer existed - no beds, no clothing, no place to live. While we had options—we could have come out to my parents, though that would have interrupted the children's schooling—it was still devastating. Happily, the people in our neighborhood responded with immediate shelter, food, clothing, and money. They were wonderful. But what happens when your whole neighborhood is in disaster? When your whole village has been leveled by an earthquake? Then the gift of blankets, food, medicine is

the difference between life and death.

On Blanket Sunday, Kathleen Burton, Associate Director and regional coordinator for Church World Service, will talk about their many programs that respond to disasters across the globe and their aftermath as well. A CWS blanket will be displayed, and following Ms. Burton's talk, there will be an opportunity to present a special offering by pinning it to the blanket. Let us answer Jesus' call to be good neighbors - "In so much as you have done for the least of these, you have done for Me."

— **Barbara Becker**

United Methodist Women

On Oct. 24, a Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. until noon, we



will host the fall meeting for the Long Island East District of UMW. The district extends from the ends of the twin forks all the way into

Nassau County. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with United Methodist Women from many areas of the island. The topic will be Immigration and I will be speaking and leading a workshop on the subject. A light breakfast will be served. Communion will be celebrated at the conclusion of the program.

United Methodist Women have been working for good in this world for 140 years. 140 years ago, women were thought incapable of even traveling by themselves, without the protection of a man. Yet, a small group of eight Methodist women raised enough money to send two (women) missionaries off to India to minister to the

unmet needs of women and children. Interestingly, while the church 'fathers' reluctantly agreed to let the women go, they wanted to control the money raised. The answer from the women was a polite but resounding, "No."

While it seems that women have come a long way in this country, let us remember that we only received the right to vote approximately 80 years ago. Before that, it was argued we were too emotional, not intelligent enough, and should just do what our husbands told us. In regions of the world even today, women are little more than chattel, belongings to be disposed of as their fathers, husbands, brothers decide. As Christians, as women, we need to be informed and involved. Come join us on the 24th. All are welcome.

On October 31st, the Annual meeting of New York Annual Conference United Methodist Women will take place at First United Methodist Church, Mt. Vernon, NY. The meeting will be from 9am to 3pm. The theme is "Living the Sacred : United Methodist Women Celebrating our 140 Years in Mission and Fulfilling the Purpose." The guest speaker will be Bishop Jeremiah Park. There will be a variety of workshops. There is a registration fee of \$15.00. Car pooling can be arranged. For more information or a registration form, see Dianne Adone or Barbara Becker.

— **Barbara Becker**

We would like to include you on our e-mail list so that you can be timely updated on events. If you have not been receiving e-mail from us, please send your e-mail address to patchogueumc@yahoo.com.

Stewardship

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we help one another in the trials of life. The Sunday following Barbara Bonfe's Memorial Service, Al Bonfe asked if someone could sketch a rendition of the memorial window that they donated in the upper Cloud Room.

The window is the one with the two doves and a red heart. In a testimony to Christian love, three people offered to do one. Pastors wife, Myung Jin, traced their window from the banner of all the windows that hangs in Wesley Hall. From that she produced a likeness of the window. Don Kolacki also traced the banners' window and made a paper rendition. The third one was a lovely quilt hanging of the window created by Nancy Link. Thank you all for your outpouring of love for a fellow parishioner.

This rainy summer has caused more than usual the number of lawn cuttings and shrub trimmings at both the Church and parsonage. Ray Henson did most of the cuttings. Barry Burrell and Steve Rice have both cut the lawn twice, and I the parsonage. This saved the Church thousands of dollars in landscaping fees. Please thank these people when you see them in Church for their hard work.

The counters are unsung heroes of this Church. Each Sunday they wrestle with counting and recording the heat, flowers, food pantry, Hope Campaign, weekly pledges and special offerings that sometimes gives them headaches. It can take an hour or more to tabulate and record the weekly offerings. Under the leadership of Tom Bracken, these members are true stewards: Anelyn Agtuca Kneher, Brenda Klingel, Joanne

Shadbolt, Linda Stawecki, Kate Weber, Linda Werner and Dave Hollowell. Trudy Mansfield and Jean Miller are substitutes. We need at least one more monthly counter and two people who can do the fifth Sunday of the month – four times a year. Please join our team! See Tom Bracken or Dave Hollowell in Church or call the office and tell Chris, our administrative assistant, that you want to help. Thanks. This summer found Tom Bracken counting an inordinate number of times. We are in his debt not only for counting, but the many numerous hours of recording and tabulating our individual contributions. Please thank Tom for all he does when you see him in Church.

Last month we thanked Jim Miller for his stewardship in our Church. He locks the outside doors of the Church after services before he leaves. Occasionally we find one open due to someone leaving it literally open, after Jim leaves. PLEASE, if you are late in leaving the Church make sure that the doors close and lock behind you. We have lost chairs and tables, and if the wrong person finds an open door, they may do much worse!

The heating system at the parsonage is very old, tired, inefficient and the oil tank needs replacing. Last year it broke down twice in the winter. The system needs to be replaced and the Trustees have contracted with Swezey Fuel Company to do the work in early October. We should save from one third to almost half the cost of heating our pastor's home with a new system. We appeal to you to please bring your Hope Campaign pledge up to date and be as generous as possible, so we can pay off this large expense as soon as possible. We need almost \$5,000 more than we have in Trustees funds at this time. Swezey has provided a time payment plan to help us through these lean times.

This November we will be presenting our Stewardship Campaign for next year. Though a struggle this year with the recession, our finances have stabilized. Pastor and the leadership are now able to give more energy to spiritual matters and missions, thanks to your support and fidelity. "May God bless you, keep you and may his face shine upon you."

—**Dave Hollowell**

Lewis Brunnermer

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Lew Brunnermer. He had been with our church for over 90 years. Lew was one of the pillars of our church. He was active in the Himanders Club well into his 80's. Both he and his wife Kitty were active and loving members of our church. Lew was active with the plant sale and was a Trustee for many years. Lew was instrumental in helping us whenever we needed him. When admitted to a nursing home, he was also an active participant and leader among the residents. Sympathy cards can be sent to his son, Lewis Brunnermer at 22 Neville St., Center Moriches, NY 11934. Phone number is 878-2472. Memorial donations can be sent to the Nature Conservatory. There may be a Memorial Service planned for the future in our church for him.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>2</i> Women's Retreat on Shelter Island	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> 10 a.m.— Communion Wor- ship/Sunday School	<i>5</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>6</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>7</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>8</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School/ Blanket Sunday 11:30 a.m.— Membership Com- mittee	<i>12</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>13</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>14</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>15</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>18</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance Committee 7:00 p.m.—Healing Service	<i>19</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>20</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>21</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>22</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 9:00 a.m.—noon.— LIE UMW Fall Meeting 7:30 p.m.—Charge Conference
<i>25</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School	<i>26</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>27</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>28</i> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study	<i>29</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>

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*“Let my teaching
fall like rain and
my words descend
like dew, like showers
on new grass,
like
abundant
rain on
tender
plants.”*

Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV



Campbell

“Ed here has some sort of problem with his membership on the visitation committee.”

The deadline for the November edition of **The Link** is October 16.

Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Why Is Universal Health Care 'Un-American'?

By the Rev. Jim Rigby



Is anyone else having trouble believing this topic is really controversial?

Here's one way to frame such a discussion: If an infant is born to poor parents, would we be more ethical to give medicine to that child so he or she does not die prematurely of preventable diseases, or would we be more ethical if we let the child die screaming in his or her parent's arms so we can keep more of our money?

Or, let's say someone who worked for Enron, and now is penniless, contracted bone cancer. I've been asked to discuss whether we are more ethical if we provide such people medicine that lessens their pain. Or would we be more ethical to let them scream through the night in unbearable agony so we can pay lower taxes?

I can't believe I am standing today in a Christian church defending the proposition that we should lessen the suffering of those who cannot afford health care in an economic system that often treats the poor as prey for the rich.

I cannot believe there are Christians around this nation who are shouting that message down and waving guns in the air because they don't want to hear it.

Heresy in many churches

But I learned a long time ago that churches are strange places: Charity is fine, but speaking of justice is heresy in many churches.

The late Brazilian bishop Dom Hélder Câmara said it well: "When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a Communist."

If you actually try to do something to help the poor, they call you a Socialist.

Too often today in the United States, if you talk about helping the poor, they call you Christian. But if you actually try to do something to help the poor, they call you a Socialist.

Some of the other speakers today have been asked to address what is possible in the current political climate. I have been asked to speak of our dreams.

Let me ask two questions: How many of you get really excited about tweaking the insurance system so we just get robbed a little less? How many of you want universal health care?

I realize that insurance reform is all that's on the table right now. It can be important to choose the lesser of evils when that alone is within our power at the moment.

The American dream

But we also need to remember our dream. I believe the American dream is not about material success, not about having the strongest military. The American dream is that every person might have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It's amazing to hear Christians who talk about the right to life as though it ends at birth. They believe every egg has a right to hatch, but as soon as you're born, it's dog eat dog.

We may disagree on when life

begins, but if the right to life means anything, it means that every person, who has finished the gestation period, has a right to life. And if there is a right to life, there must be a right to the necessities of life, such as health care.

'Mercy more than life'

I believe the American dream was not about property rights, but human rights. Consider the words of this national hymn:

O beautiful for patriot's dream that sees beyond the years. Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears.

Doesn't that sound like someone cared about the poor? There are those who consider paying taxes an affront, but listen to these words:

O Beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life.

"Mercy more than life." Have you ever noticed those words before? Supporting universal health care does not make you socialist or even a liberal, it makes you a human being. And it makes you an ambassador for the American dream which, in the mind of Thomas Paine, was a dream for every human being, not just Americans.

As we struggle to get health care to all people, we may have to settle for the lesser of two evils. But remember your dream: the true American dream, a human dream.

Whatever we win through reform is just the first step toward a day when every human being truly has a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!



**The United Methodist Church of
Patchogue**
10 Church Street
Patchogue, NY 11772

The Link



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www.gbgm-umc.org/patchogue

Sunday Worship—10 A.M. — Sunday School—10 A.M.
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 A.M.
Supervised Nursery during worship.

Address Service Requested



- 10/1 Matthew McGrath
- 10/2 Ryan Campbell
- 10/2 Edison Chae
- 10/2 Jessenai Deabreu
- 10/4 Marc Freiwirth
- 10/5 Eric Zimmerman
Jasmine Famulari
- 10/9 Brittany Gross
- 10/10 Dylan Fieurilli
- 10/13 Ronell Purificato
- 10/14 Matthew Ferrio
- 10/15 Skyla Shaw
Eric Wertz
- 10/17 Jarid Butler
- 10/20 Brian Shadbolt
Brittany Ficurilli
Jake O'Brien
Zakkariyya Rowe
- 10/26 Travis Belmonte
- 10/27 Amanda Schavone
- 10/29 Justin Martin
- 10/31 Kyle Kaminsky

A Prayer For Fall

O Thou who hast shaped both the world in which we live as well as our lives as individuals and nations according to seasons, we thank Thee, for realities changeable and unchangeable, for gentle mornings and cool evenings, for gifts that sensitize and deepen our spirits and for the mounting anticipation of holy days and holidays. We thank Thee for lives deepened and nurtured by loving relationships, the warm acceptance of friend and family, the deep ties nurtured within Thy holy Church and the peace of Thy Spirit in the midst of the struggles of war and torture and debasement. May these and all Thy blessings shape us into people more prone to giving than receiving, more given to gratitude than complaining, more aware of need than our own self-satisfaction. Thou knowest, O God, that there is another side to us. Discouragement often tempts us to despair; anger leads to depression; tension grows into anxiety; grief makes us withdraw; incapacitation tempts us to self-pity; rejection leads to loneliness. We bring such subtle turns of mind to Thee, yielding our lives to thine inestimable grace, seeking trust in Thee and Thy will. Lead us from the deserts of

unfaithfulness into the rich plains of hope. Guide us from the dark caves of doubt into the illumination of faith. Heal our spirits, give us new life. Complete the work Thou hast begun. Because of our blessings, release us through a flow of gentleness and mercy that will bring healing where there is hurt; peace where there is violence; beauty where there is ugliness; justice where there is brokenness; beginnings where there are dead-ends.

O Thou who art beyond our grasp yet within our reach, past our knowing but answerable to our searching, disturber of the assured and assurer of the disturbed, grant thy grace to those for whom we especially pray: those who live in darkness of poverty and need the light of prosperity; those who live in the light or prosperity and need the grace of sharing; those who live in the midst of defeat and need the peace that passeth all understanding; those who suffer pain and those who give their lives to healing ministries; those who have heard the Word and strayed away and those who tell the Truth.

O Keeper of Promises, renew the promise in us and in those we love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
—Jim Winkler