

# The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

September 2017

## See You In September

In the Summer of 1959 when I was spinning tops, trading comic books and playing stickball with my friends, there was a famous song sung by a group called The Happenings that played on our transistor radios every hour on the hour—the song, “See you in September.” Yes, after a long summer it tells of getting back together with people you didn’t see during that summer break.

Church is like that in a way, members on vacation, people away attending family reunions, kids off from school brings a little chaos to the household, etc. But for some reason, September kind of picks up all the pieces and unjumbles the scatter of life and reassembles things in order once again.

The kids are back in school, vacations are over and it appears that our routines are reclaimed once again.

Now how does this tie into church? We all know that the new church year officially begins on the First Sunday of Advent; however, in reality on a practical level—the new year for the church begins in September for all the reasons mentioned above.

It is when people are back in the pews and plans for the new year are unfolding and being implemented. So it is with great excitement that I look forward to all the things we are planning to do as a church.

A fantastic Sunday School program will unfold for Pre-K through High School in addition to Bible studies for our adults as well.

Confirmation training will start leading up to

our confirmands being confirmed on Pentecost Sunday.

There will be a “Back to Church Sunday” on Sept. 17 when we will ask all our members to invite someone to church—we will even offer them a free and scrumptious lunch. On that same Sunday we will also be doing the blessing of the backpacks as our children start a new school year.

**Continued on Page 2**

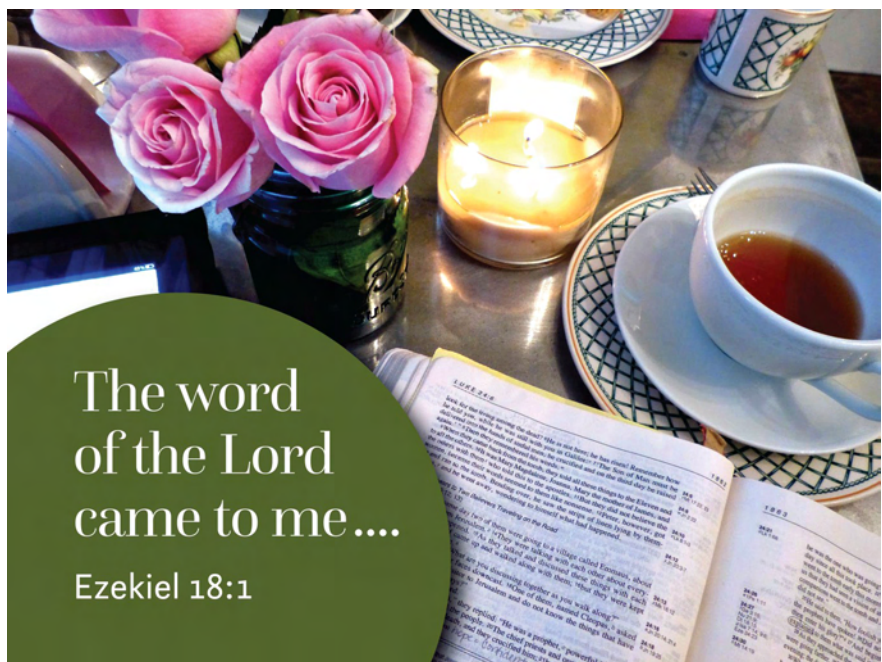
## WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

**Sept. 3**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, *Taking Up One’s Cross Daily*, Matthew 16:21-28

**Sept. 10**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, *Jesus In The Midst of Us*, Matthew 18:15-20

**Sept. 17**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, *Forgiveness Is The Key To Peace*, Matthew 18:21-35

**Sept. 24**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, *There’s No Seniority When It Comes To God’s Grace*, Matthew 20:1-16



The word  
of the Lord  
came to me....

Ezekiel 18:1

## Circle of Concern

### For Bereavement:

Avery Family, Graham Family, Brenner & Durrett Families

### For Guidance and Healing:

Sean, Frankie Scott Jr., Evertte Edwards, Michael Becker, Edward Blum Sr., George Werner, Lee Hollowell, Henry Prince, Josh Janson, Tim Hollowell, Patricia Puk, John Puk, Charles Martin, Dianna Peterson, Lynette Monciello, Randy, Suzanne Tierney

### These Who are Hospitalized:

Cheryl Williams, Charles Martin, Sherry, Katelyn, Lee Hollowell, Seth Greiner

### These at Home:

Jeanna Moritz, Bruce Kirschner, Cheryl Keeley, Viola Schwartz, Mario Conti

### 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, Jean Miller** in Hampton Nursing Center, Southampton, 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

## September (From Page 1)

The church choir will be back blessing us with their musical gifts. Our church will host the 2017 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. And the list goes on. So seeing you in September is full of enthusiastic excitement.

Even though I am writing this article in August, I find myself being drawn to September. I pray all of you had a great summer and are ready to reclaim your regular routine. I look forward to celebrating a new year with all of you as I remain  
In His Grip,

—Pastor Chuck

## September Kicks Off a New Year For Our Church

### Sunday, September 10

**9-11 Sunday.** During morning worship we will take a moment of prayer and silence to remember those who were lost on September 11, 2001 and those who have served and continue to serve keeping our nation safe.

### Sunday, September 17

**Back to Church Sunday** with a theme of "A Place to Belong." Everyone is encouraged to invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to church on this Sunday. There will be a special luncheon following worship for our members and their invited guests.

### Blessing of the Backpacks.

Everyone is encouraged to bring their children and backpacks to be blessed by the pastor

as they begin a new school year. Backpack Blessing tags will be given for each bag, so bring out the kids!

**Sunday School Begins** for all ages, Pre-School to High School. We are excited to offer a Sunday School program for all of our children. Registration forms are available on the table leading up the stairs to Wesley Hall.

### Sunday, September 24

A brand new Bible Study begins starting after fellowship time at 11:40 a.m. in the Cloud Room. All are invited.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** Scheduled for Sunday, October 15 following worship in Sanctuary. This class will be led by Pastor Chuck. All those who wish to officially join the church, please sign up in Wesley Hall. Childcare can be available if given early notice.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** will begin this fall. Schedule is still being finalized. Please sign up all children 6th grade or higher who wish to be confirmed. Registration is necessary in order to secure needed materials. Confirmands will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018.

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue

## September 2017

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

## On Being Human

“The dangerous paradox that the human species must face: intellectually, we seem able to tackle the most challenging problems with confidence, whereas we find ourselves, at the same time, in dealing with basic human issues, pathetically inept. It is perverse in the extreme that hatred, prejudice, and conflict should thrive in a world made materially sophisticated through the almost limitless inventiveness of the human mind.”

These words were written by the renowned anthropologist, Richard Leakey, in 1976, in his book, "Origins". (Co-authored by biochemist, Roger Lewin.)

What seems even more perverse to me is that, forty one years later, while our technological abilities have soared, (eg: in 1976, pay phones were common; few people had access to computers) our ability to recognize our common humanity and work together to meet common human needs, still remains 'pathetically inept'.

Hunger still abounds, millions of children still die of preventable causes every year, the air, water, and soil are still being polluted, and power struggles still result in disastrous wars that maim, kill, and displace millions of men, women, and children across the globe. And the hatred, prejudice, and conflict that Leakey wrote about in 1976?—Still there.

The recent violence in Virginia tore the cover off the cesspool of bigotry, fear, and ignorance that has continued to flourish under the civilized ground of our nation.

White supremacists marching cheek to jowl with neo Nazis, brandishing torches and chanting slogans like "we will not be replaced by Jews", in a scene depressingly reminiscent of 1930's Germany, gave evidence that there are still believers in the mythology of racial superiority. Mythology that has no grounding in truth.

The ancestors of our species, Homo Sapiens, the ancestors of all modern humans, developed in Africa over several million years. Approximately, 65,000 years ago, (give or take a few thousand!) some of our species began to migrate out of Africa, eventually spreading over the face of the earth. As they moved into different climates, different topographies, over time, physical adaptations took place.

The most obvious of these adaptations is skin pigmentation. All humans need vitamin D, for which the sun is the best source and which is absorbed through the skin. In regions such as equatorial Africa, for example, more pigmentation is needed to protect skin from damage due to intense sunlight. In Scandinavia, on the other hand, the need for heavily pigmented skin greatly diminishes. So skin color is an adaptation to physical environment, not a sign of superior intellect, moral character, or cultural superiority. It is evidence of the amazing adaptability of the human species.

And yet, skin color has been used to separate and dehumanize whole groups of human beings throughout history. Sometimes, the motivation was economic—slavery is the cheapest form of labor, and if you can view

the slaves as not quite human, as inferior to yourself, it makes it easier to rationalize the institution. Sometimes, the motivation is political power. Sometimes it's an easy way for those who are poor and struggling themselves to feel superior to those who appear different.

What do we do to change this? What do we as Christians who want to try our best to follow the teachings of Jesus in our daily lives, not just in our words or on Sundays, what do we do?

First and foremost, we need to examine our own hearts—are we nurturing secret biases, secret prejudices, based on fear or ignorance of not only those with differing pigmentation, but different religions, cultures, etc.? What are we teaching our children by our comments at home and our behavior outside the home? Remember the song from *South Pacific*—"you have to be taught to hate, you have to be carefully taught." Children are not born hating. And we need to try to have constructive conversations with those who seem to hold fast to their prejudices and fears.

Here is what Leakey says: "The choice is simple—and it is stark—either the true brotherhood of mankind is universally recognized or the future is very bleak indeed". And, "We are One People, and we can all strive for one aim: the peaceful and equitable survival of humanity."

—Barbara Becker

## It Just Isn't Right

When the word began to emerge from the horrific events in Charlottesville, Virginia one of my first reactions was a genuine one: *"What will I say this time that will be any different than what has been said over and over again these past several months?"* It has happened to us again—an intolerable, unacceptable, egregious act of racism, violence and injustice. This is an event that once again calls every leader to speak out against every white supremacist, neo-Nazi, and hate group that exists, calling for justice, civility, and a better way. Lives have been lost and others have been scarred for a lifetime.

It just isn't right.

As I laid in bed dealing with my own virus, I began to reflect on the virus that was being described on the television in front of me. It's an illness that has crippled and paralyzed us in so many ways. My first emotion was one of sadness. I began to think about innocent victims on site in Charlottesville and the chaos they were immersed in when a car plowed into the crowd. My sadness grew when I thought about family members of a young woman and two police officers who died. It grew even more when I thought about those who have seen this happen all too often in other settings and have been victimized by racism and alienation all their lives.

It just isn't right.

My sadness quickly turned to feelings of anger. I was angered at the hatred being thrown around in vulgar signs and inappropriate words. I grew

angry when I saw people who somehow felt as if they had a right to do what they were doing and even more so when a former leader of the KKK stated that they were carrying out the mandate "to take our country back." My anger boiled over when I began to think about what I would say if I were in that setting and how I would retaliate with rebuttals to such narrow thinking. I watched it all and kept thinking to myself one thing.

It just isn't right.

In the hours that followed, I found my anger being "ministered to" when I read a "tweet" from Barack Obama. In a very appropriate and well-timed moment, the former President quoted Nelson Mandela in his book, *Long Walk to Freedom*, "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." Mandela was right then and Obama was right in quoting it in the midst of this situation. And in that moment, I felt guilty for my own sense of hatred that had been stirred in the midst of this unfolding tragedy. Hatred.

It just isn't right.

Those emotions led me to a feeling of disappointment. Disappointment that we were having to experience yet another scene of pain, discord, and inappropriate behavior. Disappointment in leaders who could not appropriately or accurately name the wrongness of the action. Disappointment that, no matter the progress being made, we were once again

forced to step back and start again from the beginning. Disappointment that racism continues to deeply affect people within our communities and churches in ways that are oppressive and sinful. And, if I'm honest, disappointment in myself.

I began to wonder, as I have before, things like: When were the times when I did not address a situation properly when I had the chance? When were the times when I looked the other way and did not deal with a matter at hand that needed a strong word of advocacy and justice? What were the occasions when I leaned inappropriately on my own white privileges and failed to see clearly the racism around me that needed a voice that declared the wrong and projected the right? You see, I was always taught to remember the old phrase that says, "when you point the finger at someone else, there are three fingers pointing right back at you." Jesus made a similar reference when he talked about our tendency to point out the speck in someone else's eye all the while ignoring the log in our own. For all of my disappointment over what was happening in Charlottesville, I couldn't help but be disappointed in myself as well.

As the statements addressing what happened in Virginia began to emerge, nothing seemed to satisfy me. I read one statement and thought, "That didn't go far enough." I read another and thought, "Yep, I read almost the exact thing the last time." Nothing seemed to reach me.

That is, until I read a response written by my friend, Julius Trimble,

**Continued on Page 8**

## ASSOCIATE'S GOURMET MARKET



*Experienced Butchers & Caterers for over 20 years*  
*Also providing Groceries, Dairy & Produce*  
1699J Rte. 112, Medford, NY 11763  
Phone (631) 475-1749  
Fax (631) 447-5086  
www.associatemarketli.com

## Bay Harbour Insurance Agency, Inc.



*We're here to help you!*

88 Waverly Ave.  
Patchogue, NY 11772

(631) 758-1550  
(631) 289-2176 Fax

Rick Braille, CIC  
Rick@Bayharbourgroup.com

TEL. (631) 475-5734  
FAX (631) 758-2568

OFFICE HOURS  
BY APPOINTMENT

## PATCHOGUE FAMILY MEDICAL CARE, P.C.

CHRISTINE M. DOUCET, MD  
ANDREW S. WANG, DO  
LAURA E. GIL, RPA-C  
LYNDIE A. HUGHES, RPA-C  
FAMILY PRACTICE

130 MEDFORD AVE., (ROUTE 112) PATCHOGUE, NY 11772

# Ruland

FUNERAL HOME, INC.

500 North Ocean Ave.  
Patchogue, NY 11772  
631-475-0098

# CBC

CUE BROKERAGE CORP.

THE PROPERTY &  
CASUALTY INSURANCE  
SPECIALISTS

**Sandra Morrissey**  
Office Manager

Sandram@CueBrokerage.com

180 East Main Street, Suite 205  
Patchogue, New York 11772  
Phone: 631-475-6000 Ext. 139  
Toll Free: 800-233-8283  
Fax: 631-475-0030  
www.CueBrokerage.com

The deadline for the October issue  
of **The Link** is September 22.  
Please email your copy to [gbhoag@optonline.net](mailto:gbhoag@optonline.net).



“Charlotte is always willing to substitute on very short notice.”

# Don't Forget Your Pledge

## Birthdays

Sept. 6 Crystal Jansson

Sept. 17 Cailin Rogers

## The Importance of Sunday School

For a good part of my adult life, I did not attend church at all. Oh, occasionally, I would attend a service with a friend, or a wedding or funeral that took place in a church, but I certainly could have been classified as one of the “unchurched”.

And, yet, for all those years, the moral and spiritual lessons I'd learned as a child in Sunday School, at Glendale Methodist church (Queens) stayed with me. Jesus' teachings about love and kindness and caring for others formed a foundation, a context, for me as a person.

It was not until 1994, after the passing of my mother, that I began attending Patchogue UMC. The kindness of Rev. Gary Betts, who conducted the funeral service, added to the spiritual yearning that had always been present in my heart, drew me to our church and I've never left.

I share this to emphasize that the spiritual, moral, and ethical lessons children learn in Sunday School can and will become a part of the fabric of their lives.

This fall, our Sunday School classes begin on Sept. 17. There will be three classes:

1. High school/middle school, ages 12-18.
2. Elementary, ages 7-11.
3. Pre-school-1st grade, ages 2-6.

Classes will be held every Sunday, EXCEPT the first Sunday of the month, so that children can celebrate communion with their families. Registration forms and information sheets are

available on the desk near the stairs to Wesley Hall, at the ushers' stations in the sanctuary and in the office. This will be a joyful experience for children and their teachers.

—Barbara Becker

## UM Ministers Rescued In Texas Floods

United Methodists ministers have been among those rescued from rising waters in Houston as Tropical Storm Harvey brought catastrophic flooding to much of south Texas.

The Rev. Vincent Harris, a Texas Conference district superintendent, and his wife, Paula, had about a foot of water in their house Sunday when officers of the Klein, Texas, police department knocked on their door and encouraged them to evacuate.

“We felt it was best to go,” Harris said.

They were taken to safety by boat and are spending the night in a family member's vacant house. Harris noted that he and his wife are veterans of Houston's chronic flooding, but were unprepared for what Harvey has brought.

“I don't think anyone thought it would be this bad,” he said. “I've been here for 20 years, and I've never seen anything like this.”

The Rev. R. DeAndre Johnson, pastor of music and worship life at Christ United Methodist Church in Sugar Land, Texas, posted on Facebook on Aug. 27 that he and his family were on top of their house, awaiting rescue.

He posted in the early evening of Aug. 27 that he and his family had been rescued “by a team of kind, gen-

erous friends from our new church as well as perfect strangers from our neighborhood who did good deeds. Our feet are dry, and we are headed to overnight at the senior pastor's house.”

The Rev. Chappell Temple, senior pastor of Christ United Methodist Church, was part of a team that used an ocean kayak to float the Johnson family to safety.

“It was an interesting day,” Temple said. “I thought, ‘This is our Dunkirk, this civilian flotilla.’”

The Rev. Andrew Wolfe, associate pastor at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Houston, lost his home and both cars to the floods.

“We are really close to Bray's Bayou, and the water rose very quickly,” he said. “The rain and floodwaters have not let up. Everything in our area is flooded from front-door to front-door.”

Wolfe just moved into his home in recent weeks and did purchase flood insurance, but with the 30-day waiting period, he is not sure if his home will be covered. “Our family is safe and that is the most important thing,” he said.

Most Houston-area United Methodist churches cancelled services or worshipped online because people were either stranded in their homes or pastors wanted to keep folks off the roads, said Texas Conference Bishop Scott Jones.

“The flooding is widespread in the Houston area. There is not one area that has not been affected. I am praying for all involved,” he said.

—Shannon Martin and Sam Hodges,  
UMNS

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

**Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.Org**

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



### Isn't Right (From Page 5)

the bishop of the Indiana Annual Conference. In Bishop Trimble's statement, he made a reference to our baptismal and membership vows as United Methodists. That article led me to my hymnal. And my hymnal led me to the words that inspired and challenged me in the midst of this latest act of violence and hatred.

In each liturgy found in our hymnal, these words are repeated over and over again:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his

grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

Will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

Will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

Read these vows again. Pay attention to the words underlined. These are the "strongest possible terms" anyone could use in addressing the injustices associated with the actions of white supremacy, neo-Nazism, and blatant racism. They just so happen to be the words associated with what we have been asked to do every day as United Methodist Christians. We renounce wickedness, reject evil, resist oppression! We accept God's

power and confess our need for God's grace! We strive for faithfulness, long to represent Christ in the world, and pray for the courage to strengthen our witness! This is who we are called to believe.

So, what is the appropriate response to the actions in Charlottesville? We shouldn't be afraid to point the finger at these actions and say, "It just isn't right!" But should also see the fingers pointed back at ourselves as well. Read those vows again. Repeat them. And ask yourself the question, "*How am I renouncing wickedness, rejecting evil, resisting injustice, confessing Jesus Christ, trusting God's grace, serving as Christ's representatives, and witnessing to it all in the way I live my life?*"

—Thomas J. Bickerton, Bishop, NY  
**Annual Conference**