

# The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

September 2018

## Outside Your Zone?

**H**ave you ever felt uncomfortable about doing something? Can you remember loaning somebody something who never returned it and you were uncomfortable about asking for it back—even though it was yours to begin with?

Have you ever been uncomfortable about telling someone the truth? It was true, but you were intimidated about how the other person might react. I would believe most people are like this some way or the other.

This past summer our church decided to participate in Patchogue's Alive After Five® event to help promote our church and our SOS (Save Our Sanctuary) Campaign—a campaign to help with all the desperately needed repairs our beautiful 127-year-old building is in need of.

Our assigned space where we had a table, tent and display set up was right next to a loud

rock band. One thing was for sure—the people who gathered around were quite happy, perhaps a little tipsy. However, they were a great crowd with a good attitude—all things considered.

So, here we were trying to hand out free bottles of cold water and fliers telling the recipient about our beautiful historic church next to the rock band playing a song from AC/DC.

Most of the people we approached graciously accepted the free water; but very few, if any, wanted to receive our flyer or hear information about our church. To which I was not disappointed.

Why? You never know if we had reached just one person and made them curious enough to come to church on Sunday.

Jesus said in John 4:35 that the fields were ripe for picking. Later in Luke 10:2 he told his disciples that the harvest was plentiful.

Now, growing up in Brooklyn I have absolutely no farming experience.

However, while in seminary I did work on a farm for two days in Pennsylvania. And when the fields are plentiful, I learned that the farmer and crew get out there and work that field.

Well, Jesus is telling us that it is no coincidence that the village of Patchogue and surrounding areas is exploding with life, growth and vibrancy. It is a challenge by both Jesus and the new demographics to awaken our church to go out and work the field that is plentiful.

**Continued on Page 2**

## WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

**Sept. 2**—The Rev. Dr.

Charles Ferrara,  
James 1:17-27

**Sept. 9**—The Rev. Dr.

Charles Ferrara, Mark 6:1-13

**Sept. 16**—The Rev. Dr.

Charles Ferrara,  
Mark 8:27-38

**Sept. 23**—The Rev. Dr.

Charles Ferrara,  
Mark 9:30-37

**Sept. 30**—The Rev. Dr.

Charles Ferrara,  
Mark 9:38-50



## Circle of Concern

### Bereavement:

Len Ricchi family

### For Guidance and Healing:

Henry Prince, Marjorie Bates, Jim Davis, Maura Sherman, Michael Becker, Frank, Gabriella Palacios, Katie Graves, John Puk, Baby Luca, Scott Rosenberg, Janice, John Gamber, Baby Ben Ruddy, Jim M., Fran Knoedl, Bill, Mark Halliwell, Ron King, Krystan & Nick, Barry Kaminski, Nancy Barate-la, Gladys Carabello, Cathy Halliwell (Lauren's mother)

### 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

**Sunday School  
Begins Sept. 16**

## Our Zone (From Page 1)

But back to my comment about being uncomfortable—

Most people are not comfortable about sharing his or her faith. Americans, in general, are that way—we don't want to impose our beliefs on others. I get that. It would probably shock most people to know that by nature I am an introvert—and have been all of my life. I do not find it easy approaching people about uncomfortable subjects.

I think most of us fear rejection concerning such matters. But seeing it is September, wouldn't it be a great idea to just invite a friend, a family member, a co-worker, a neighbor—or even a stranger, to your beautiful church? It just may be that experience that will change his or her life.

My wife and I did that with our neighbor across the street from us and he has come to church all summer and recently said to me that it has changed his life.

Isn't that what Jesus does the most—CHANGE THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS?

So, yes—we may be uncomfortable inviting someone to church. They may tell us no, not interested. That's okay. But they just may say "Yes" and show up on Sunday morning like our neighbor did. Remember, the field is ready and the harvest is plentiful in the Patchogue area. All there is needed is for us to go out there and invite them in.

Hope you all had a wonderful Summer and that we all returned safely to begin a brand new chapter for our church in September.

In His Grip,

—Pastor **Chuck**

## September Birthdays

**Sept. 17** Cailin Rogers

## New Membership Class

**P**astor Chuck invites anyone interested in learning more about our church and becoming a full member to sign up for the next New Member Class on Sunday, October 14.

The class will meet in the Cloud Room at 11:40 AM, following Fellowship Hour. Sign-up forms are located at the usher stations in the rear of the sanctuary and in the church office.

## New Live Streaming

**W**e continue to live stream our worship services but have changed their internet location. The video, both live and recorded can now be found on YouTube.

A link can be found at PatchogueUMC.org or if you have the YouTube app you can access our channel directly. To find it, search on "Patchogue Methodist Live Stream".

Unlike our old UStream service, the recordings do not post immediately. It now takes up to a day for the postings.

We switched after Ustream canceled their free service. YouTube is free.

Paster Chuck's sermons are also posted weekly as audio podcasts. There is a link on our website but you can also download the "Podcasts" app. A search on "Patchogue" will show "Podbean-Patchogue United Methodist Church".

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 10:00 a.m.— Communion Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	<b>3</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 7:00 p.m.—AA	<b>4</b> 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	<b>5</b> 7:30 p.m.—AME	<b>6</b> 7:30 p.m.—AME	<b>7</b> 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	<b>8</b> 9:00 a.m.— Emmaus 9:00 a.m.—UMW
<b>9</b> 10:00 a.m.— Worship 11:30 a.m.—Finance 1:00 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	<b>10</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 7:00 p.m.—AA	<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:0 p.m.—AA	<b>12</b> 7:30 p.m.—AME	<b>13</b> 7:30 p.m.—AME	<b>14</b> 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10 a.m.— Worship 1:00 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	<b>17</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 7:00 p.m.—AA	<b>18</b> 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	<b>19</b> 7:30 p.m.—AME	<b>20</b> 7:30 p.m.—AME	<b>21</b> 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10 a.m.— Worship 1:00 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	<b>24</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 7:00 p.m.—AA	<b>25</b> 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	<b>26</b> 7:30 p.m.—AME	<b>27</b> 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—AME	<b>28</b> 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	<b>29</b> Camp Quinipet Retreat through Sunday
<b>30</b> 10 a.m.— Worship 1:00 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME						

## No End In Sight For Church Wildfire Response

The evening session of vacation Bible school was just wrapping up at First United Methodist Church in Redding, California, when the word came — the Carr Fire was advancing and it was time to evacuate.

The Rev. Joe Major, his wife, Julia, and dozens of church members loaded into cars and navigated clogged roads, along with thousands of other residents leaving the area on July 26. “This fire was explosive,” Major recalled. “The people in the northern neighborhoods of Redding had almost no time to get out.”

Unpredictable and fast-moving, the Carr Fire created firewhirls or “fireados” — intense fires that whipped up towering spirals and created winds up to 143 miles per hour. Since July 23, the fire has killed eight and destroyed more than 1,000 residences — and it’s just one of 18 fires still burning in the worst wildfire season in California history.

The United Methodist California-Nevada Conference responded in Redding by distributing more than \$5,000 in gift cards for Walmart, groceries and fuel to evacuees.

That came on the heels of response efforts for a series of other fires, beginning in June with the Pawnee Fire in Lake County and the Klamathon Fire in Siskiyou County — all on top of ongoing recovery efforts for the October 2017 wildfires and in previous years. Due to warmer weather, drought and more home construction in forest are-

as, California is seeing earlier, longer and more destructive wildfire seasons. Sonja Edd-Bennett, director of the conference’s disaster response ministry, worries this could become a “new normal.”

“We haven’t even hit the height of the fire season yet,” she told United Methodist News Service. “There’s even some concern that we no longer have a fire season, and that these fires could potentially affect us year-round.”

Two fires in the Mendocino Complex fire — geographically the largest wildfire in California history — forced the evacuation of 40,000 of the 65,000 living in Lake County.

All of the seven United Methodist churches in the county have had clergy or church members under evacuation at some point in the last few weeks and at least one family in Shasta Lake United Methodist lost their home. In total, 147 homes were destroyed in an area that was already strained by the loss of 2,000 homes to fires in the last three years.

“Only about 10 percent of those homes have been rebuilt, so the county is facing a significant housing crisis as a result,” said the Rev. Shannon Kimbell-Auth, pastor of Middletown United Methodist Church.

The conference is distributing gift cards for groceries and fuel to evacuees at the local assistance center for the Mendocino Fires in Lucerne — more than \$7,000 to date, thanks to funding from the United Methodist Committee on Relief, the conference and donations from local churches. Churches as far as away as Santa

Clara and Fremont have sent gift cards, volunteers or cash to help out. Even those who aren’t evacuated or in immediate danger are feeling the effects.

“The smoke is affecting people’s health,” said the Rev. Judy Shook, pastor of Ukiah United Methodist Church. “Many people are wearing masks or forced to stay inside with the windows closed. It’s affecting community events.”

At least six firefighters have died so far in the 2018 wildfires, setting a grim record. More than 14,000 firefighters are currently working the fires, about half of them from out of state or overseas. Thousands are based in Ukiah, where planes fly out of the airport to spread fire retardant.

“We see them in our restaurants and people applaud,” Shook said. While the fires burned, two United Methodist churches were busy in late July and early August ministering to children still traumatized by last year’s fires.

Ukiah United Methodist and First United Methodist of Santa Rosa each hosted Camp Noah, a free day camp for children in their communities affected by the October 2017 fires, including many whose families had lost their homes.

Developed by Lutheran Social Services, the Camp Noah curriculum uses the story of Noah to teach resiliency and disaster preparedness but does not proselytize or present a religious perspective. Each camp hosted about 40 children; organizers at both



churches said the program met a real need.

“There were lots of deep conversations that you might not expect 6-year-olds to have,” said the Rev. Lori Sawdon, pastor of First Church in Santa Rosa.

Many children took advantage of a quiet room set aside for the camp and staffed with counselors ready to listen. “One mother told me that her son didn’t cry himself to sleep for two nights in a row — something he’s done since last year’s fire, until Camp Noah,” Sawdon added.

Disaster relief staff expect a similarly long road for recovery and rebuilding long after the 2018 fires are contained. Edd-Bennett says the next step is to assess needs; she’s planning to apply for long-term UMCOR recovery grants to assist in the Redding and Shasta Lake communities.

Meanwhile, UMCOR is still working in places like Weed, California, where a fire struck four years ago.

“UMCOR does not abandon the community after the initial response,” said the Rev. Toni Hartman, pastor of Yreka United Methodist Church. “They’ve stayed and worked with them through the whole process.” In Redding, Major and his wife remained evacuated for about a week, along 80 people in the congregation of 300. The church and the Majors’ home were safe, but eight other church families lost their homes. Bishop Minerva Carcaño preached at Redding on Aug. 5 and met with those families.

Church members are now focused on helping Redding recover and rebuild. They collected supplies and

toys for families affected by the fires and volunteered at evacuation centers at Shasta College and Simpson College as well as at shelters for animals separated from their owners. The Redding church hosted an interfaith prayer vigil for the community and served as home for the Shasta College Vocal Institute, a voice and drama intensive for high school students, which needed to relocate when the college campus was repurposed for evacuees.

“Church members just jumped in,” Major said. “This is where I see God working through all this — so many people reaching out and caring for one another.”

#### **How you can help**

United Methodists wishing to help can make donations directly through UMCOR’s Domestic Disaster Response Advance #901670.

Donations can also be made to the California-Nevada Disaster Response Fund either by check or online.

—Mary Jacobs, UMNS

## **Methodists Unite On Welcoming Immigrants**

**W**hile United Methodists differ on how the denomination should regard homosexuality, they speak with much broader agreement on immigration.

Both division and consensus were apparent in recent months as annual conferences, the denomination’s regional bodies, met to worship and conduct church business.

As happened last year, a number of conference voters approved reso-

lutions on the treatment of immigrants as well as the denomination’s longtime debate around the status of LGBTQ individuals. Such resolutions are aspirational, but they give a sense of how church members apply their faith to current challenges.

On the question of how the United States should treat newcomers, annual conferences proclaimed a common message: Keep families together. “Immigrants are living in fear because they are increasingly victimized by family separation, detention, deportation, raids and acts of hate and violence,” said the Great Plains Conference in a resolution urging change to “Our Sinful Immigration System.” “Christians are called to respond to situations of great suffering such as this,” the resolution continued.

That was one of the three resolutions Great Plains voters passed calling the U.S. to be more humane toward people seeking asylum or simply a better life within its borders. And the conference, which encompasses the states of Kansas and Nebraska, wasn’t alone.

At least 18 of 54 U.S. annual conferences — a third — passed resolutions insisting on the reunification of immigrant families or more generally urging churches to care for immigrants. Among those urging support for immigrant families were three conferences along the southern U.S. border: Rio Texas, Desert Southwest and California-Pacific.

**Continued on Page 7**

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**Don't Forget Your Pledge**



"This isn't exactly what I had in mind!"

The deadline for the October issue of **The Link** is Sept. 14 (note early deadline). Please email your copy to [gbhoag@optonline.net](mailto: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.

## Methodists on Immigration (From Page 5)

But United Methodist support for immigrants stretched well beyond the southernmost ports of entry, extending from Oklahoma to Indiana to New England and multiple conferences in between.

More on annual conferences  
Annual conferences are yearly, regional gatherings around the globe that combine United Methodist worship and business. They celebrate the licensing, commissioning and ordination of new clergy as well as clergy retirements. There are 54 conferences in the United States and 80 in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. United Methodist News Service is posting annual conference reports as we receive them. See reports.

Such resolutions frequently invoked Scripture, which, in both the Old and New Testaments, urges hospitality for migrants. As a Great Plains resolution pointed out, Jesus likened himself to a stranger needing welcome.

The resolutions also often cited The United Methodist Church's Social Principles, which have long opposed "immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children."

Conference voters passed these resolutions amid public outcry about the Trump administration's "zero-tolerance" policy toward illegal immigration, which directly led to the separation of thousands of children from their families. The policy affected

even those seeking asylum in the United States.

President Donald Trump issued an executive order June 20 declaring an end to family separations, but the order did not address how families already separated could be restored. Since then, federal courts have ordered the administration to reunify families. Nevertheless, hundreds of children remain split from their parents or guardians.

The United Methodist ministry Justice for Our Neighbors, which provides legal aid to immigrants, has been working to reunite families. United Methodists also have prayed for and organized worship with those detained.

On the last day of their annual conference, 75 Pacific Northwest members held a prayer vigil outside the federal detention center in Washington State, where hundreds of undocumented immigrant adults were detained.

Earlier this month, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference members held a prayer vigil outside a detention center for young boys in Texas.

The strong response against separating families contrasts with the varied responses conferences have given to a debate that potentially can separate the denomination.

During their sessions this year, most conferences took time to discuss the work of the Commission on a Way Forward, which has proposed different possibilities for how the denomination handles ministry with LGBTQ individuals.

Ultimately, decisions about the denomination's direction will be in

the hands of the 864 lay and clergy delegates elected by annual conferences to attend the special General Conference in 2019.

Since 1972, the denomination's Social Principles have described the practice of homosexuality as "incompatible with Christian teaching." Today, the denomination's Book of Discipline — of which the Social Principles are a part — also makes officiating at same-gender weddings or being a "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy member a chargeable offense under church law.

A majority of bishops in early May recommended the commission's One Church Plan that would leave questions of the ordination of LGBTQ clergy up to annual conferences and same-gender marriage up to local churches.

At least two conferences have endorsed that plan. Other conferences more generally have called for unity in diversity. Still others have called for stronger enforcement of the denomination's current prohibitions.

Voters in the Oriental and Equatorial, East Congo and the Kivu conferences, all in the Democratic Republic of Congo, took stands against same-gender marriages.

The Estonia Conference in eastern Europe endorsed the commission's Traditional Plan, which calls for stricter enforcement of church restrictions related to LGBTQ individuals.

The Mississippi Conference referred a resolution urging that the church maintain current standards to its General Conference delegation.

**Continued on Page 8**

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

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



## Methodists (From Page 7)

The conference referred to its board of ordained ministry a resolution that encourages the board and district committees on ministry to remain faithful to the language of the Book of Discipline with regards to clergy behavior and human sexuality.

The conference adopted a resolution encouraging all Mississippi United Methodists to remain committed to the process of the Commission on a Way Forward and to remain true to their vows and connection.

The Virginia Conference members passed a resolution saying they “urge and pray that the 2019 General Conference will resist schism and express openness to diverse perspectives in matters of sexual identity and practice.”

Both the Oregon-Idaho and New York conferences took steps to ensure LGBTQ individuals would be part of their General Conference delegations. The New York delegation has named two LGBTQ individuals as its co-chairs.

These conferences all met before full details of the commission’s plans were publicly available.

Many across the denomination are urging prayer as the denomination heads to the special General Conference.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson, who leads the North Georgia Conference, was among them. Bishops do not have a vote at General Conference. “Our decisions over the next year are incredibly important,” she told the conference. “My request is, please

start a conversation and discuss this and gain understanding. To really see the image of God in every human being requires us to see the image of God in every human being. That is the role of the church.”

—Heather Hahn, UMNS

