

# The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

June 2019

## In God We Trust

I write this June LINK article on the evening of Memorial Day.

Having marched in two parades and engaged in other activities with my local VFW Post—I am quite exhausted. Paying half attention to the evening news, a special report got my attention and awakened me from my exhaustion.

The various committees of our congress in our nation's capital have decided to remove "so help me God" from all swearing in of those testifying before congress.

I thought, "What?"

This phrase has been recited all the way back to when our first president, George Washington, took his oath of office. Not only did he do this with his hand on the Bible—following his swearing in, he kissed the Bible.

Am I the only one who is witnessing the gradual secularization of a nation who once almost unanimously took pride in the phrase we see even today in our courts and on our currency—"In God we trust?"

I think back to the time of Jesus when the religious freedoms of the Jews was being squeezed by a pagan government, the Romans. The Romans saw the Jewish faith as inferior to their intellectual polytheistic worldview. The Jewish faith and practice was simplistic and lacked the powers of the Roman gods—for the Roman's trusted in their own wisdom, resources and power.

Daily living for the Jews in first century Israel was truly an act of faith. They intentionally strived to study and know the Torah

and pass that knowledge on to the next generation.

The Jews were under the burden of a pagan leaning government and Jesus broke onto the scene to help ease that burden. He said in Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**Continued on Page 2**

## WORSHIP IN JUNE

**June 2**—The Rev. Dr.

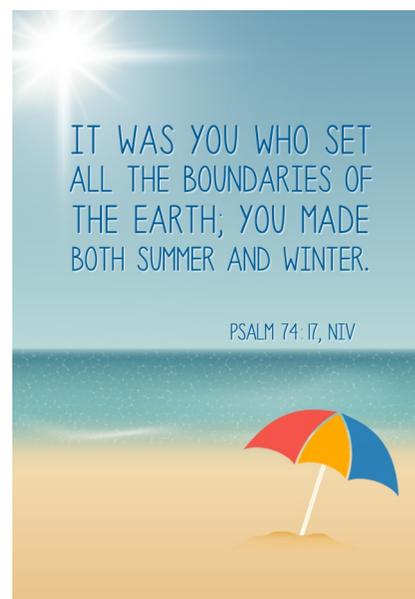
Charles Ferrara,  
John 17:20-26

**June 9**—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara,  
John 14:8-17

**June 16**—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara,  
John 16:12-15

**June 23**—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara,  
Luke 8:26-39

**June 30**—The Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara,  
Luke 9:51-62



## Circle of Concern

### For Bereavement:

Guy Durst family  
Gerald Rinker Family

### For Guidance and Healing:

Bruce Kirshner, Lisa, Ernie & Alice  
Titus, Dorothy Van Rhee, Kenny, Robert Hampton, Luke, Maura Sherman, Ezekiel, Kenny, Kimberly Hefst, Selma, Mary Lichtenhagen

### These in Rehab or Nursing Care:

**Geri Sheridan, Robert Krawzak** in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzola Dr., East Patchogue, NY  
**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](http://PatchogueUMC.com)

## Yard Sale

**P**ick up your excess stuff and bring it down to the church for our Yard Sale to benefit the SOS Capital Campaign.

It will be on Saturday, June 8, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, rain or shine. The sale will be on the church grounds if the weather is good, inside if necessary. Please, no heavy furniture.

—Wendy Hollowell

## Trust In God (From Page 1)

On this day while I am in possession of this recent news report—I find His words very comforting.

I am no prophet and don't claim to possess prophetic gifts; however, I truly believe we are beginning to enter into an era where the Church universal and our beliefs will be challenged like never before. Christian martyrs around the world are already dying in the thousands each year—simply for practicing their Christian faith.

We may not be experiencing martyrdom in this nation at this time—but we are slowly beginning to see our nation and even leadership within the Church break away from traditional doctrines of the faith.

So, as I sit here and contemplate on all those who laid down their lives in defense of freedom—yes, even the freed to challenge the teaching of the Church—I wonder, will the Church, will the people of faith, stand up for their beliefs? Will they take a stand as the First Century Jews did?

Yes, their stand cost them everything for we know in 70 AD the Romans destroyed the Jerusalem temple, slaughtered thousands of Jews and scattered the rest throughout the known world. Jesus' stand landed Him on a rugged cross. No one ever said it would be easy to keep the faith—and yes, there may even be a price to pay. But if we don't speak up and take a stand, who will?

This past Sunday part of my sermon had to do with the destruction of the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel and how they were taken into captivity because they forgot all that

God had blessed them with. And, in a major way, went the way of secularism.

May this be a warning to our government's powers-to-be. I encourage us to remain alert and observe the subtle changes in direction that is going on.

Pray for our government's leaders. Pray for the leaders of the Church. Pray that we remain a nation who continues to boldly proclaim, "In God We Trust."

In Christ,

—Pastor Chuck

## What Makes A Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family in need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
And so, He called it ... Dad

—poem4today.com



Happy Father's Day!

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue

## June 2019

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

## SOS Campaign Update

**T**wo major structural concerns are about to be addressed.

The belfry housing our church bell, original construction from 1889, has cracks in the main beams. A contractor will wrap those beams in plywood or dimensional lumber, as appropriate, to support them.

The main ceiling beam in the balcony near the east stained glass window is resting precariously on bricks that have been undermined by washed-out mortar. A Teco connector will be fabricated to secure the beam. Contractors have been secured thanks to efforts of Ed Klingel and local architect William Miller and work will commence shortly. Estimates for both should not exceed \$5,000 total.

The three large stained glass windows will be addressed next. They will be glazed, missing glass replaced, covered with an exterior Plexiglas protection and painted. The south window in particular is in need of rehabilitation since it has not been updated in more than thirty years.

Several of the rain gutters on the north side of the church need to be upgraded to provide increased water capacity. The thousands of square feet of the roof feed into these undersized gutters which are overwhelmed by the volume of rainwater. As a result, the gutters have overflowed into the building resulting to water damage, particularly in the vicinity of Pastor's office.

The brick cleaning and sealing project continues. Our consultant has applied twelve different agents as a test

to determine which will be most effective. Once one has been selected as best for our brick conditions, we will issue a request for bids from a minimum of three contractors and select the lowest responsible bidder.

Thanks to the many who volunteer to provide needed services to help keep our historic building beautiful and vibrant. Thanks to Babette Bishop for our beautiful flowerbeds around the church and Lenny, Terry and Dave for the landscaping chores in lawn cutting and edging.

Although not part of our SOS campaign, related work has commenced to replace the basement stairs on the west side of the building which serves our tenant Head Start. The stairs will be replaced by a ramp to comply with federal Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Work is almost complete with only the hand railings remaining. Upon completion, the Village of Patchogue will conduct a final inspection and issue a Certificate of Occupancy. This work is being financed by Head Start.

The Village of Patchogue continues to support our SOS Campaign. Mayor Paul Pontieri has helped us in so many ways. The Chamber of Commerce Restaurant Committee is contributing to the campaign by donating proceeds of their annual golf outing.

Finally, there will be a radio campaign advertising our June 20th fundraiser at the Mediterranean Manor. The blessings continue.

Please remember your SOS pledges to help keep the campaign going. New pledges are needed and always

gratefully welcomed. Thanks to all for their contributions and hard work.

—Jim Graham

## Honored Dead

*"... It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave that last full measure of devotion - that we highly resolve that these dead shall not have perished in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." (Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address, 11/19/1863)*

**L**ike many of us, I watched the National Memorial Day celebration on PBS.

The most moving moments surely came when the actual words of soldiers from various wars were brought to life by several actors. World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. No grand pronouncements, no lofty sentiments expressed—only the words and feelings of ordinary, decent human beings caught in the awful drama of war. Human beings often afraid, but struggling to do their duty to their nation, even unto death. Human beings making connection with others in the same circumstances; deriving strength from those connections.

Since time immemorial, we humans have waged war against each other for a variety of reasons—most often for expansion of territory, con-

trol of natural resources, religion, ideology, power. Uncounted number of lives have been sacrificed, most often young men (and women. Even in ancient times, depending on the culture, women have been warriors.) Homer wrote in the Iliad about 'the flowers of youth' lost in the Trojan War.

In my own family, my roots go back beyond the Revolutionary War. At least one of my ancestors fought in the war to establish our country. I don't know how he felt about it. I can only imagine his feelings were as conflicted as the soldiers in more recent wars—frightened, worried about family back home, determined to do his duty, praying for strength. Family members have fought in World War II, the Korean War, the 1st Gulf War, and today both my son and daughter-in-law are in the Army reserve and have seen active duty.

War leaves a terrible impact on the living as well as the dead. Even soldiers who come home without physical wounds, suffer in their minds and spirits. We see this in the high numbers of suicides among veterans. And let us not forget the great numbers of non combatants, who have lost their lives to war, when all they wanted to do was live them in peace.

Abraham Lincoln spoke about the "honored dead". It is our responsibility to honor them by remembering them, not just once or twice a year, but daily.

It is also our duty to honor them by internalizing the ideals that form the heart and soul of our democracy—liberty, equality, freedom of speech, thought, religion, and press. We honor those 'who gave the

last full measure of devotion' by making this the country it can be; by ensuring that "government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

—Barbara Becker

## Planning New Directions For The Church

**M**ore than 600 U.S. United Methodists spent three days grappling with possible options for forging what they hope will be a more just and inclusive church future.

What united those at UMCNext, which met May 20-22 behind closed doors, was their opposition to the Traditional Plan.

That legislation, which the special 2019 General Conference approved by a vote of 438-384, retains the church stance that the practice of homosexuality is "incompatible with Christian teaching" and strengthens enforcement of church bans on same-sex weddings and "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy.

The increased enforcement takes effect Jan. 1 in the U.S. But another General Conference, the denomination's top lawmaking assembly, is also just around the corner, in May 2020.

"We gathered here because the decision that happened at the special General Conference is not acceptable," said Karen G. Prudente of the New York Conference in a press conference after the event. She is on the event's 17-member convening team. "We came here to discern a better way forward for The United Methodist Church."

Those gathered identified two possible approaches toward a new Methodism, said the Rev. DJ del Rosario of the Pacific Northwest Conference. These include continued resistance to the Traditional Plan with the goal of reforming the church from within, as well as some form of negotiated separation to create something new.

Those gathered did not reach a consensus on a single direction. For now, those in attendance are working on a both-and-approach. And working groups will be developing plans for the next General Conference to consider.

"There are churches who feel every urgency that they are going to leave now," said the Rev. Adam Hamilton, one of the event's conveners. "There are also churches that say we couldn't leave even if we wanted to... So we're ultimately going to have several pathways forward."

Hamilton is the lead pastor of United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, the event host and the denomination's most-attended U.S. church with nearly 7,000 in worship on average each week.

He and others at the press conference were also clear that resistance could mean violating the restrictions in the Book of Discipline, the denomination's policy book, and risking their ministry. Resistance, conveners said, also could take less dramatic forms such as making sure their communities know all are welcome.

**Continued on Page 7**

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**“The correct response is ‘I do’ — not ‘it’s worth a try.’”**

**Don't Forget Your Pledge**

The deadline for the July-August issue of **The Link** is June 21.  
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.

## UMCNext (From Page 5)

“The term resistance is grounded in our baptismal vows,” said the Rev. Junius Dotson, an event convener and the top executive of Discipleship Ministries. “We promise to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. So there are many forms of resistance, and people have to decide how they will participate.”

The UMCNext gathering drew together at least 10 representatives from each of the denomination’s 54 U.S. conferences — many of whom applied to go. Hamilton said the event had 2,000 more people apply to attend than could fit in the room. Event organizers, he said, worked to ensure inclusion of LGBTQ United Methodists, diverse ethnic/racial groups and young people. Also in attendance were 16 bishops.

Ahead of the gathering, Hamilton said that it was closed to the press because of concern “that the dialogue might be less frank, open and honest” otherwise.

But during the event, a number of participants as well as event critics took to Twitter and Facebook to air their thoughts and complaints — offering only snippets about what was happening.

The Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, senior pastor of Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, said during the press conference that those gathered agreed to four commitments. These include:

To be passionate followers of Jesus Christ, committed to a Wesleyan vision of Christianity.

To resist evil, injustice and oppression in all forms and toward all people and build a church which affirms the full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations and abilities.

To reject the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and resist its implementation.

To work to eliminate discriminatory language and the restrictions and penalties in the Book of Discipline regarding LGBTQ individuals.

Table discussions, Gaines-Cirelli said, centered on people’s hopes for the church.

And indeed multiple participants at the event’s conclusion expressed hope for the church’s future.

### **About funding**

No general church or annual conference dollars went to funding UMCNext, the Rev. Adam Hamilton said. People paid their own way to attend and United Methodist Church of the Resurrection also covered the costs of hosting duties.

Our Movement Forward received support from sponsors. Some of the event sponsors did not contribute funds but staff labor. With help from sponsors and individual donors, organizers also provided scholarships to people who could not attend otherwise.

“It is encouraging to see centrists and progressives looking at some way forward for the United Methodist movement that looks a whole lot different than what we saw at General Conference,” said the Rev. Clay-

ton Oliphint, senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Richardson, Texas.

“I think this is a wilderness time for us,” he said. “But I think God is leading us to something better.”

The Rev. Rebekah Miles, a veteran General Conference delegate from the Arkansas Conference, agreed that much work lies ahead. But like Oliphint, she is optimistic the church is heading toward a better place.

“Leaving this event, I am much more hopeful than I was when I left General Conference,” said Miles, who is also a professor at Southern Methodist University’s Perkins School of Theology in Dallas.

The UMCNext event came on the heels of another gathering where the church’s future was on the agenda. The Our Movement Forward summit, on May 17-18 at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, also brought together United Methodists who advocate for full inclusion of LGBTQ Christians.

The summit, which was open to any who wanted to attend, aimed to center on the liberation of the marginalized, namely people of color and queer and transgender individuals. The event also had similar options on the table, including both resistance and the formation of a whole new expression of Methodism.

The Rev. Heecheon Jeon, a district superintendent in the Iowa Conference, attended both gatherings. He sees opportunities for sharing ideas across both gatherings.

**Continued on Page 7**

10 Church St., Patchogue, NY 11772

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 Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM  
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### UMCNext (From Page 7)

He said Iowa United Methodists who attended either event plan to get together to discuss next steps for moving forward.

“I hope we can share some common values to widen the circle of this liberation movement,” he said.

The Rev. Tyler Sit, the openly gay founding pastor of New City Church in Minneapolis, was a co-convenor of Our Movement Forward and a participant at UMCNext.

He likened what’s happened at the 2019 special General Conference to a giant, old tree that has fallen in a forest, leading to new saplings starting to grow and reach for the light.

“I think it would be an improper move to try to commandeer or consolidate efforts too soon,” he said.

“We are at a place right now where we need a breadth of efforts because we don’t know what’s going to work.”

T.C. Morrow was unable to attend Our Movement Forward due to a prior commitment but was an eager participant at UMCNext.

She has faced a rocky candidacy for deacon’s orders in the Baltimore-Washington Conference because she is married to another woman. She will be presented as a candidate again on May 29 at her conference’s clergy session. Whatever happens, she said she remains committed to doing ministry that fights injustice and oppression.

“We don’t know what the future will bring for the people now called United Methodists, but there are more people than ever on the jour-

ney for the full inclusion of LGBTQ people,” she said.

“I am energized by this even as I know it is a messy, complicated time as we move forward into new ways of being the church together. We need as many people as possible to resist, risking their comfort and privilege, and join this fight for LGBTQ inclusion.”

—Heather Hahn, UMCNS

### June Birthdays

**June 3** Mickey Arena

**June 9** Nicholas Lyons

**June 15** Lynne Rice

**June 25** Mia May Connors