

# TheLink



## The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

April 2012

Edited By George Hoag

### Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

In Philippians, the Apostles Paul writes:

*I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me...I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. (NLT)*

Paul shows us that growing in Jesus Christ is a practice! That is the idea behind Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. Author Bishop Robert Schnase writes, "By repeating, deepening, expanding, and improving upon the five basic practices of congregational ministry, churches change and grow and learn...They open themselves up to being reshaped by God's Spirit, revived and reformed to serve the ever-changing contexts and needs of people." (Five Practices, p. 125)

Beginning in April, our church will dig into the meaning of the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations. The entire congregation will explore the areas of:

- **Radical Hospitality**

### Worship In April

**Apr. 1—Psalm Sunday**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *In Remembrance of Her*, Isaiah 50:4-7, Mark 14: 1-15, 47.

**Apr. 5—Maundy Thursday**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *In Remembrance of Me*, Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14, John 9:1-41.

**Apr. 6—Good Friday**—A Tenebrae service with various reading, in the Cloud Room.

**Apr. 8—Easter Sunday**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *When God Remembers*, Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23, John 20:1-18.

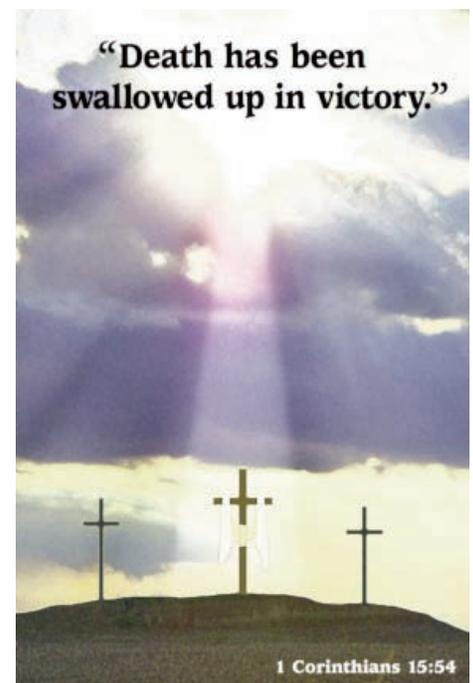
**Apr. 15**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *In Our Midst*, Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24, John 20:19-31, John 12:20-33.

**Apr. 22**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Peace! What Happened?*, Psalm 4, Luke 24:36b-48.

**Apr. 29**—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Determined To Love*, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24.

- **Passionate Worship**
- **Intentional Faith Development**
- **Risk-Taking Mission and Service**
- **Extravagant Generosity**

We will find out what they mean and how God uses these practices in congregations to spread the Good News. We will find out why these practices are so essential that "...a failure to perform them in an exemplary way results in congregational deterioration and decline." (Five Practices, p. 7-8) These practices will draw the creative, committed, and gifted congregation into excellence in ministry. They will change our perspective. Don't miss it!



—Rev Ernesto Sanchez

# Circle of Concern

## ***For Bereavement:***

For the Family and Friends of Franklyn Rowe; for the Family and Friends of "Angel."

## ***For Guidance:***

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Ray Clark, Cat Placement and Rescue, Michael Dellazizzi and family, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Joanne, Robert C. Hiene, the Americo Family, Rose Conti, Holly Nelson, Lisa Prince, Joan, the Neuman family, Wilfredo Franco, Mary (co-worker of Betty Rice), Monica, Patrick Keena, Sheila Dreaper, Frank Whalen, Rubano, Sofia and her family, John Casale, Our Troops and Veterans, Dean and family, Rachel Nason, all those who have lost their jobs, Carlos Alvarado, for the Nations of Africa, Tim, Paul, Christine, Mr. Bralla, Pete and Carol Moore, prayers of comfort for police and fireman and all those who risk their lives to make ours safe and better, Glenn Hollins, Raquel Miller, Emma Easley, Tom, Mike, Matt, Brian, Justin, Ray Anderson, Lori, Irene Catalino, Justin and Dean Angell, Pat, Lisa, Ben and baby Anna, Heather Reiss, James Wright's Grandmother, Barry Burrell, Linda, Stephen Martin, Lori Purificato, Ashley Lauren, Jose Garcia, for those in our church community who are fighting against cancer, Linda Morgan, Luigi, Maureen, Tom Mansfield and friends, Emma Evelend, Lisa, Barbara Rago, Amy Vining, Catherine Weber's aunt, Esmeralda Coppola, Carmen Marrero, Loriann, David, Kathleen Russo, Alicia Evans, Debbie Holand, Jemma, Barbara, Katie, Anna, Suzanne, Amanda Garcia, Doris May, Margaret, Lois, Laurie, Bonnie Smith, Debbie Turpeau, Julio, Marvin Rice, Arthur Rice, Lisa, Paul Walkawitz, Debbie, Tom Kerr, Laura Jacobs, Mr. Dominic and family, Mrs. Snick, Sarah and Justin Tann for a healthy pregnancy and birth of their first child, Barbara Jehle, Elise Gavrock, Steve, June Barile, Luke Gonzalez, Debbie Reading, Lisa Atcullian-Gentry and Ben Gentry.

## ***These Who are Hospitalized:***

Josh Boneventure, Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Harry Watson, Debbie Fiore, Patrick Diamond, John Vanderzalm, Layden John Clark, Mary Zatorski, Dan, Peter Moor (Kathie Loris' father), Ernest Boyd, Chris, Phil Ianello, Emily, Earl Hartsfield, Mike D., Joseph Hawthorne, Emma Rasley, Mr. Tallon, Angelo, Kelly Seeman, Rebecca Hendersen, Gil Brown, Pat Ward, Pat, Christina Broom, Barbara Asmus, Glenn Hollins, Susanna Davies-Pepper, Glenn Schwartz, Todd Skwirz, Mike Welsh, Joyce Ferrante, Kathleen Russo, Caroline Moore, Amelia McCarthy, Corinne Burdett, Pat Bayne, Ronald Mansell, Linda Carrol, Pat Q. Bayne and Anna Gentry.

## ***These at Home:***

Joseph Weinzettle, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Timothy Oliva's Aunt Susan, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Marie Lino, Marta, Donna Herrick and Philip Rudolph, Jytte & Nils Sorensen (Geri Sheridan's relatives in Denmark), Robert Dodge and Suzanne Olivotti-

Dodge, Sandy Burrell, Ted Davies, John Casale, Mr. O'Keefe, Lorraine Greco, Emily Navidad, the Moultrre Family, Kim Farrel's daughter, Ceil Witt, June Barile's parents, Muriel Vilar, Guillermina Alverio (Pastor Sanchez's mother,) Catherine Interrante, Arthur Rice and Beth Widera, Catherine Interrante, Arthur Rice and Beth Widera.

*\* Please contact the Church Office if someone should be removed or added*

## ***These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:***

**Alice Zahnd** in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue, NY.

**Hazel Nargi** in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue.

**Rachel Nason** in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue.

**Ester Davies** in Brookhaven Health Facility, Room 78D, 801 Gonzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, 631-289-3150.

*Pray for our church and her future directions!*

## ***Borrowers Please Return***

Anyone wishing to borrow kitchen equipment, as well as tables and chairs from Wesley Hallany must sign them out in a log kept in the church office. We are currently missing several of the newer white tables and their chairs, as well as some large pots and expensive knives. Thank you!

The deadline for contributions to the May edition of TheLINK is April 13.

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

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

## Stewardship

Pastor Sanchez at the last Council Meeting said that: "Things are stirring in our church." They are in many ways. Sunday attendance has been growing, our MYF is becoming more involved, and clean up efforts are underway.

Our congregation began Lent with a solemn and powerful Ash Wednesday Worship service. Pastor Sanchez and Debbie Kolacki developed this stirring service. Those who attended took away with them a deeper appreciation for Ash Wednesday.

Last year Debbie presented the Stations of the Cross at the Good Friday service. Actually seeing a crown of thorns and not just visualizing it greatly impacted me. Many of us have had a couple of rose thorns stab us. Imagine someone forcing a crown of one inch thorns down upon our head. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, suffered and died to take away our sins.

The MYF's campaign to raise money for its mission, "Smile Train," has raised \$500. The members did this through their Spaghetti Dinner and helping to serve and sell Irish soda bread at the St. Patrick's Dinner. They can provide for two operations to correct children with cleft palates. We are very proud of our youth.

The MYF will be attending another Peanut Butter & Jelly Gang sandwich-making event at the Commack UMC on Saturday, May 5, at 8 AM. Everyone is invited to participate. Leaders Raquel Miller and Debbie Watson and children will be leading the MYF and volunteers to Commack. Donations of bread, jelly, and peanut butter would be greatly appreciated. Please bring donations to church the Sunday before and bread

that day. The Commack church is one of a network of churches involved in this mission project. They prepare sandwiches on an assembly line basis and produce thousands of them in a couple of hours. More than 130,000 people receive these sandwiches on Long Island each week. In some cases this is the only food some people receive in a day.

For an activity that is a little more fun, the MYF will host an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, April 1. The hunt will follow church services. All Sunday School students will meet a special guest. We want everyone to be there. Please put the date on your calendar along with the Palm Sunday Breakfast, which starts at 8:00 AM.

The UMW began the clean up of our church at its February meeting. The members cleaned out their closet on the stage. Many of the unwanted items are slated for the next yard sale. Two fellows, Mike Cinerar and I helped them by hauling away the garbage to the dumpster and ecology site. The following Saturday Lenny Pearson, Mike and I removed the remaining items from the Conference room.

Franco and Ray Henson began the work of removing the clutter months ago. Now we can use that room for meetings again.

The Sunday School staff has been wanting to clean up the Cloud Room for some time. One old display case is gone. We would like to get rid of two electric organs. One of the two in the Cloud Room will remain. Another in the choir room is available.

There is an old walnut desk for anyone who wants it. All you will have to do is transport it yourself. If you know

of someone who wants the desk and/or organs, please contact the office (475-0381).

The Saint Patrick's Day Dinner was a great fund raiser for the church. Thanks to Bob Prince and our many dedicated volunteers, we all had a great time. Bob was able to get the corned beef and cabbage from the Sports Deli in Holtsville. Don Kolacki obtained the Irish soda bread and rye bread as a gift to the church from Werners. The Ward Hill Band provided Christian Music for part of the festivities. Several of our own members provided Irish music when the Ward Hill Band was on break. We would like to thank all who came out to support this great event.

There are many good stewards on our Wesley Dinner Committee. One goes above and beyond in buying, picking up donated food from Island Harvest, and maintaining the food closet. Lenny Pearson also works with Jean Miller in the Food Pantry on Tuesday mornings.

Wesley Dinners served a record 90 meals and provided 38 take out meals in February. They received a \$2000 grant to feed the hungry from the Suffolk County Legislature. Our own Bonnie Abbott worked with former legislator Jack Eddington's office to secure the grant and the funds were received last month. We are feeding the hungry through God's grace.

Ester Davies is in the Brookhaven Health Care Facility, D unit, room 91. Ted and his bride of almost 70 years would like to visit one another daily, if possible. Family members, Barbara Becker, Jean Miller, Bob Prince and I have been bringing Ted to see her five or six times a week. Consider providing

*Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!*

him a ride of a weekly or back up driver, if one of the regulars are not available. Please call Barbara 475-1792, Bob 758-1917 or myself 475-5339 if you can help. Ted lives near Lowe's on Route 101 in East Patchogue, while Ester is one block east of Brookhaven Hospital on Gazzola Drive off Rt. 101. They are less than two miles apart. Bob and I drop Ted off for a couple of hours so he can have lunch or dinner with her. Please help a fellow member of our congregation.

Early April will be a busy week for fundraising. The Palm Sunday Breakfast begins at 8:00 AM on April 1. Starting early Good Friday morning and continuing through Saturday is our Flower Sale. Our own Bob Prince organizes these events with Ted Davies and their intrepid helpers. All are welcome to help make these fund raisers a success. The money raised provides for the All Church Picnic which will be held on June 3 at 1 PM. The remaining money goes to the church. Come join us as a volunteer or buy flowers for loved ones.

Our Golf Outing will be held at Calverton Links on Wednesday May 16. We will be needing golfers, prize baskets, and volunteers to work the event.

—David Hollowell, Stewardship

## Imagine

*"Wealth is not necessary to the glory of any nation; but wisdom, virtue, justice, mercy, generosity, public spirit, love of country. These are the real glory of a nation; but abundance of wealth is not." John Wesley.*

I wonder what our world would be like if all nations, especially our own, took Wesley's statement to heart. In a world where the acquisition of wealth and power is the driving force behind

our economic institutions and systems, where it forms and sustains governmental actions and policies, where, sadly, it even motivates too many religious institutions, it is difficult to imagine how things would be if society were organized on a foundation of justice, mercy, wisdom, etc. What would our lives be like if we all exhibited the Fruit of the Spirit in our daily individual and national lives, instead of merely paying them lip service on Sundays or in our public rhetoric?

Imagine a world where there was an equitable distribution of economic wealth. Some could have more, but everyone would have enough - enough food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, freedom to think, believe, and enjoy the life God has given us. In such a world, 9 million children under the age of 5 would not have to die each year, because they do not have enough food or medicine.

Imagine a world where all parts of a society work together to develop a rational plan to utilize natural resources without destroying them; where they develop sustainable sources of energy and where all citizens become stewards of the environment.

Imagine a world where there is no motivation for war. If governments were not interested in acquiring more and more power, or in zealously holding on to what they had, what would be a cause for war?

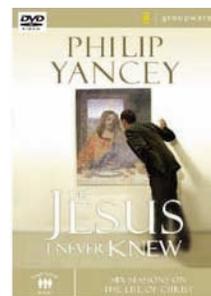
Does this sound idealistic, utopian, unrealistic? Well, idealistic can also mean visionary and optimistic as well as naive. Utopian can mean ideal and perfect as well as fanciful and unfeasible. And as for unrealistic - I guess that depends on whose reality. I truly

believe that if we live lives that are faithful to Christ's teachings, if we are transformed by our love of God, then our actions and behavior follow faithfully and such a just and loving world seems ever more possible. Imagine.

—Barbara Becker

## New Wednesday Night Study

All are welcome to join us for the six session Philip Yancey video study,



*The Jesus I Never Knew.* Each week we will view several film depictions of Jesus, his life, and his ministry. After viewing these, we will turn to the

Gospel accounts of the same scenes and discuss what we believe really happened. We'll be asked to put aside our preconceived ideas of who Jesus is and think about him as the Bible presents him—brilliant, creative, challenging, fearless, compassionate, unpredictable, and ultimately satisfying.

We will meet April 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 9, 16, 7:30–9:00 PM, in the Choir Room; please use the side entrance next to the Head Start building. The cost for a book is \$10 but scholarships are available. Please contact Debbie Kolacki at 363-6499 or [debbiek88@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiek88@yahoo.com) for more information or to sign up.

We also have Bible study on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 9:45 AM in the Cloud Room. We will not be meeting on Palm Sunday and Easter.

The Friday morning Bible study led by the pastor will resume meeting after Easter.

—Debbie Kolacki

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue

## April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b> 8:00–9:30 a.m.— Pancake Breakfast 10 a.m.— Palm Sunday Communion Worship</p>	<p><b>2</b> 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p><b>3</b> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 7:30 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p><b>6</b> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery 7:30 p.m.—Good Friday Service, Cloud Room</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>8</b> 10 a.m.—Easter Communion Worship</p>	<p><b>9</b> 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p><b>10</b> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p><b>11</b> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study</p>	<p><b>12</b> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>13</b> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p><b>14</b> 8:30 a.m.—Driver Education Class</p>
<p><b>15</b> 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.— Finance/Trustees</p>	<p><b>16</b> 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p><b>17</b> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study</p>	<p><b>19</b> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>20</b> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p><b>21</b> 9:30 a.m.—UMW</p>
<p><b>22</b> Native American Ministries Special Sunday 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School</p>	<p><b>23</b> 7 p.m.—AA</p>	<p><b>24</b> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p><b>25</b> 7:30 p.m.—Bible Study</p>	<p><b>26</b> 5 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>27</b> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b> 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Church Council</p>	<p><b>30</b> 7 p.m.—AA</p>					

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**UMW**



**Prayer Labyrinth**

On Apr. 21, the UMW and anyone who would like to participate, will go to Sayville to "walk the Labyrinth".

Labyrinths have long been a means to center and focus our spirits as we seek to know God.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

Looking ahead, please be reminded that on May 20, after church, the UMW is sponsoring a "Building Bridges" session, along with a light lunch. Building Bridges is a program of the Multi Faith Forum of the Long Island Council of Churches and provides an opportunity for members of several different faiths to share information about their beliefs and their lives in the community. This is an all church event and I hope you plan to attend.



"An Easter bonnet? I thought  
you were Lady Gaga."

## \$60 Million In Church Funds Sparks Debate

The 2012 United Methodist General Conference will take up legislation this spring that would allow the redistribution of up to \$60 million in general church funds.

The money is intended for three efforts: providing more theological education outside the United States, developing more young church leaders and fostering more vital congregations.

However, discussion during the Connectional Table's March 4-6 meeting showed the body that proposed the measure is divided about whether the petition would fulfill its aim or even if it passes muster under the denomination's constitution. The Connectional Table, a group of 60 clergy and laity, coordinates the denomination's mission, ministries and resources.

"It's very clear that you don't make a decision about the amount of money and not answer two fundamental questions: 'Where's it coming from?' and 'What will it do?'" said the Rev. H. Eddie Fox, world director of evangelism for The World Methodist Council. "We have not answered either of those questions very well, and I don't believe we can go forward."

The Rev. Andy Langford, who helped draft the original proposal last summer, offered a revised version on March 6 for the Connectional Table to consider.

He said he hoped to clarify the source of funds and some of the spending plans. He requested the resolution be referred to the board of the General Council on Finance and Administration, the denomination's finance agency, hoping also to gain its support.

In his revision, Langford said the funds would come from the denomination's World Service Fund, which supports most general agency work, and the spending should focus on the adaptive challenge of directing resources "to an intense concentration on fostering and sustaining an increase in the number of vital congregations." He said the spending should include accountability with metrics.

In other words, we cannot determine today exactly how every penny should be spent," said Langford, pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Concord, N.C. "But we want to give ourselves the flexibility, the focus for the adaptive challenge."

But a number of Connectional Table members protested that endorsing the revision would be out of order because the original petition has already been submitted to General Conference and only the denomination's top legislative body now has the authority to change it.

East Ohio Area Bishop John L. Hopkins, the Connectional Table's chairperson, said he did not consider the resolution out of order. "This body has a right to make a resolution, and it has the right to be in conversation with GCFA about the content of that resolution," he said.

Ultimately, after a 25-minute discussion, Connectional Table members voted down Langford's revision and did not refer it to the General Council on Finance and Administration.

The finance agency has taken no action on the \$60 million proposal. Moses Kumar, top staff executive, said the agency would deal with the proposal after it is passed by General Conference in the same manner as other funding proposals.

General Conference will get its chance to evaluate and potentially amend the

original proposal when it meets April 24-May 4 in Tampa, Fla.

### What the petition would do

The "Reallocation of Funds" petition is part of a proposed reorganization of the denomination's general church agencies.

The legislation would consolidate nine of the denomination's 13 general agencies into a new United Methodist Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry. A 15-member board of directors would govern the center, and that board would answer to a proposed 45-member General Council for Strategy and Oversight, which would replace the Connectional Table.

The restructuring plan originated with the Interim Operations Team, and the Connectional Table refined and endorsed the plan, including the redistribution of \$60 million, at its meeting in July 2011. The proposals come after more than four decades of declining U.S. membership and a number of reports saying the denomination's status quo is unsustainable.

Under the reallocation provision, the board of the new Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry would evaluate spending across the seven general church funds. Those are the Africa University, Black College, Episcopal, General Administration, Interdenominational Cooperation, Ministerial Education and World Service funds.

After its assessment, the 15-member board could recommend the redistribution of up to \$60 million, about a tenth of the \$603 million recommended budget for all seven apportioned funds during 2013-16.

—Heather Hahn, UMNS

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Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Pastoral Minister  
Christine Saas, Office Assistant  
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## Food Pantry



The food pantry which serves our community under the able direction of Jean

Miller, with back up from Jim Miller, who ran this ministry for many years, is in great need of both food and money. Demand is up; donations are down. While we are blessed to receive food from the Lions Club and the IRS fairly regularly, and are able to use some things from Island Harvest, we always have to supplement by purchasing items. There is no money left in the pantry treasury. If you can help by donating food or money, that would be an awesome blessing.

## A Gardening Opportunity



Patchogue is in the process of developing a community garden, where

residents and some churches will be able to grow and harvest fresh produce. Imagine if we could provide fresh vegetables and maybe some fruits on a regular basis during the summer and fall to our neighbors who use the food pantry or attend Wesley Dinners. Needless to say, it would take commitment and hard work. But, if you are someone who loves gardening, this could be a terrific ministry for you to be part of. More information will be forthcoming, but if you are interested, let Barbara Becker know or speak to Pastor.



## THIS MONTH'S Birthdays

- Apr. 2 Eireann McGrath
- Apr. 4 Emma Christiansen
- Apr. 7 Leonard Trionfo  
Jillian Leahy
- Apr. 9 James Rose
- Apr. 13 Jay-Lynn Lynch
- Apr. 15 Sara Okun
- Apr. 17 TJ Ryan Jr.
- Apr. 18 John Armstrong
- Apr. 20 Erica McDowell
- Apr. 24 Andrei Gamcsik
- Apr. 25 William Alfonso-Zea  
Sarah Biederman
- Apr. 27 Olivia Lipponer

**Palm Sunday Breakfast**  
**April 1**  
**8:00—9:30 AM**