

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

January 2022

Making Jesus' Dean List in 2022

Headlines often catch our attention, don't they? It beacons us to read further to get the rest of the story. One recent headline read in bold letters, "Omicron Variant Sweeps Across America." Just when we thought we were done with COVID-19 and the Delta Variant—here comes Omicron to greet us as we finish one year and enter into the next.

If there was a local newspaper in Palestine 2,000 years ago it may have read something like this, "The Promised Messiah Broke into the World in Bethlehem!" Thus, the reason we celebrated Christmas on December 25. But now, we are beyond Christmas some 2,000 years later. We now know that the little babe in the manger

grew up to become a local rabbi who recruited 12 common people to be his disciples, his students. And, for three years he journeyed the dusty roads of Palestine to share the good news, heal the sick and even raise the dead.

From a carpenter apprentice to a rabbi and eventually the sacrificial Lamb of God, sacrificed for the sins of the world, yours and mine—literally laying down his life on a rugged cross.

But, because we are post resurrection followers of him, we know that the borrowed tomb where his lifeless body was laid to rest couldn't hold him. It almost sounds like I am writing an Easter message for January. So, why don't I highlight a new headline for this month, "What Will We Do With The Resurrected Jesus in 2022?"

Are we serious followers of Jesus? Are we true disciples (Talmidim) students of his?

Well, when I pursued my college degrees—it required study. It required me to crack open the books and absorb and digest what I was reading. Then, I had to apply that knowledge in the form of a term paper or answering questions on an exam.

Continued on Page 2

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Jan. 2—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, John 1:10-18

Jan. 9—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan. 16—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, John 2:1-11

Jan. 23—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 4:14-21

Jan. 30—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 4:21-30

Worship is still with some Covid restrictions. Masks are required.

WITH ALL WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, HE MADE KNOWN TO US THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL

EPHESIANS 1:8-9, NIV



Circle of Concern

Healing

Baby Jude, and his parents. He has been struggling with cancer of the eye. (Kathy Halliwell)

Linda Werner as she heals from her hip surgery.

Walter Stewecki and his wife, Linda. Walter has dementia and is now getting a pacemaker. (Dave Hollowell)

Dawn Rice, wife of Steve Rice, who underwent gallbladder surgery, and is recovering at home. (Paul Rice)

Concerns

Special prayers for all who were affected by the devastating tornadoes and lost their homes and more importantly loved ones as a result of these natural disasters.

Continued Prayers

Carol Janssen, Nancy Schaff, John Hefferman, Tim Hollowell, Brianna Maglio, Richard Pryor, Ulla Ziegler Pereira, Maryellen Comacho, Kimberly Helfst

Compiled by Kathy Halliwell

*Please email Kathy—
keats1002@gmail.com with any
additions or deletions.*

In Nursing Care

Robert Krawzak in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzola Dr., East Patchogue, NY

Birthdays In January

Jan. 3 Florence Carde

Jan. 19 Abagael Weber

Jan. 19 Thomas James Farrell

Jan. 27 Michael Jansson

Jesus' List (Fom Page 1)

How diligent I studied determined what my final grade for a particular course would be. That makes perfect sense. The whole theory of passing the test through osmosis is a myth. If you don't apply yourself toward any worthwhile endeavor—you shouldn't expect a positive outcome.

If you want to be an accomplished painter or musician, it requires endless hours of applying time-tested techniques, study and practice. I can assure you that neither Rembrandt nor Bach just woke up one morning and created a masterpiece.

So, where am I going with this? New Year's is often associated with making resolutions. In other words, resolving or being resolute in consciously applying oneself toward a goal and accomplishing that goal.

Yes, we can resolve to go to the gym, stop eating chocolate or quit smoking—all excellent in and of themselves. But, how about making a New Year's Resolution to be a better student of Jesus in 2022? And just like any student who seeks to get a good grade, why don't we resolve to begin studying the Word of God more this year?

Start simple. Start by reading the Gospel of Matthew and perhaps a Psalm and Proverb a day. That would be a great start. Slow the process down. Don't just read for the sake of reading like trying to get to the final chapter of a novel. No, systematically and carefully begin reading and devouring little bites of

the whole—perhaps a small section of the Gospel and one Psalm and Proverb. Stop and reflect on what you just read.

Yes, it would be great if you could commit each passage to memory; however, it is much more important to absorb the essence of what the writer is trying to convey in the text. What I have experienced over the years is that many times what I read in the morning I will be able to somehow apply during the course of that day. Isn't that wonderful—a life application text book?

I pray your headline for this new year will read, "A DISCIPLE OF JESUS (You and Me) RECEIVES A RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE FROM THE TEACHER, RABBI, JESUS!"

Yes, the Omicron Variant may be sweeping across the land—but so is the Spirit of the Living God. And it is through that Spirit, the Holy Spirit, we will gain a better understanding of the messages God wants us to hear through His sacred and precious Word—the Bible. What an incredible journey it is going to be in 2022.

Journeying Together, I remain
In Christ,

—Pastor Chuck

Services Resume

Because of Covid concerns, on the advice of our Bishop and District Superintendent, Christmas Eve and Dec. 26 services were canceled. They resume as of Jan. 2.

All existing Covid protocols continue including mandatory masks.

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

January 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----|--------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1  |
| 2 10:00 a.m.— Worship | 3 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA | 4 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA | 5 | 6 7:00 p.m.—AA | 7 10:00 a.m.— ESL 7:30 p.m.— Pentecostal | 8 |
| 9 10:00 a.m.— Worship | 10 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA | 11 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA | 12 | 13 7:00 p.m.—AA | 14 10:00 a.m.— ESL 7:30 p.m.— Pentecostal | 15 |
| 16 10:00 a.m.— Worship | 17 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA | 18 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA | 19 | 20 7:00 p.m.—AA | 21 10:00 a.m.— ESL 7:30 p.m.— Pentecostal | 22 |
| 23 10:00 a.m.— Worship | 24 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA | 25 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA | 26 | 27 7:00 p.m.—AA | 28 10:00 a.m.— ESL 7:30 p.m.— Pentecostal | 29 Michelle Higbie Craft Rental |
| 30 10:00 a.m.— Worship | 31 Office Closed 7:00 p.m.—AA | | | | | |

\$30 Million From United Methodists In BSA Bankruptcy

Negotiators for The United Methodist Church have reached a settlement for the denomination to pay \$30 million as part of the Boy Scouts of America's bankruptcy reorganization plan.

Local United Methodist churches in the U.S. have long been leading sponsors of Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops, and the \$30 million is to be paid over three years into a trust fund for survivors of Scouting-related sexual abuse.

All U.S. annual conferences of the denomination are being asked to make a commitment to raise the necessary funds, church leaders said. The settlement, announced Dec. 21, comes after months of negotiations, and the overall bankruptcy plan still must be approved by a federal bankruptcy court.

United Methodist leaders said the settlement they reached meets key objectives, including bringing healing and support to survivors, and absolving local United Methodist churches that sponsored or chartered BSA troops from abuse claims involving Scouting activities.

In a Zoom call about the settlement, leaders emphasized the denomination's commitment to survivors. "We are deeply sorry for the harm that has been caused to good people through Scouting and particularly through ministries of Scouting in United Methodist churches," said Bishop John Schol, who has had a leading

role in representing the denomination in the bankruptcy matter. Steven Scheid, director of United Methodist Men's Center for Scouting Ministries, said the settlement commits the denomination to meeting with survivors, hearing and sharing their stories, and to working to boost safety in Scouting programs and other youth work.

"If we're to be the body of Christ in the world today, it's our obligation to be a part of the healing that happens," Scheid said.

The BSA released a statement about the United Methodist settlement.

"This is an extremely important step forward in the BSA and United Methodists' efforts to equitably compensate survivors, and our hope is that this will lead to further settlement agreements from other parties," the BSA said.

More than 9,000 United Methodist churches in the U.S. that have a history of chartering Scouting troops are among the parties voting on whether to approve the BSA bankruptcy plan. Those are churches that filed a "proof of claim" in the proceeding, asserting rights to insurance coverage or other protections BSA might have offered.

Earlier this month, the United Methodist negotiators were encouraging those churches to vote "no," but with the settlement, the churches are asked to vote for the plan. Those that already have voted against it are asked to change their votes, and directions on how to do that are being shared through annual conferences.

The United Methodist Ad Hoc Committee — consisting of eight annual conference chancellors, two bishops, two lawyers from the General Council on Finance and Administration and two staff members from United Methodist Men — oversaw negotiations with lawyers for the BSA and other key parties. Committee members stressed that under United Methodist polity, they do not have authority to obligate the denomination.

"The Ad Hoc Committee only has the authority to recommend," Schol said. "The Ad Hoc Committee is recommending to annual conferences the financial settlement and for the annual conferences to commit to raise the funds."

Each conference is getting a request based on the number of abuse claims filed against its congregations, he added.

Annual conferences will decide for themselves whether and how to follow through, but Schol and others said the settlement represents the best approach for survivors and local churches.

"We could have been looking at many times that (\$30 million) amount" if abuse cases were tried in the courts, said George "Buzzy" Anding, Louisiana Conference chancellor and Ad Hoc Committee chair.

U.S. annual conferences already have joined the General Council on Finance Administration in helping pay the fees of lawyers helping the Ad Hoc Committee. Each conference is being asked to contribute \$10,000 more for that purpose.

Schol noted that of the \$30 million, \$2.5 million will, under the settlement

terms, be “held back” — and go toward funding legal work needed to make sure United Methodist-related abuse claims filed in state courts are ultimately resolved by payments from the survivors’ fund.

With its future threatened by abuse-related lawsuits, the BSA filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in February 2020, seeking to reorganize and carry on.

The BSA reorganization plan has gone through a number of versions, but the heart of it remains a fund that would compensate some 82,000 former Scouts who say they suffered sexual abuse from adult leaders and others.

With contributions from the BSA, local Boy Scout councils, insurance companies and chartering groups, the fund was at \$2.6 billion even before the United Methodist settlement. If approved, the plan will represent the largest sex abuse settlement in U.S. history.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — known to many as the LDS church or Mormons — had been the largest chartering organization before cutting ties with the BSA. The LDS church agreed in September to contribute \$250 million to the survivors’ fund.

The United Methodist Church’s settlement amount is much smaller. But the settlement also calls for the denomination to help raise \$100 million for the survivors’ funds from non-United Methodist chartering groups that the Ad Hoc Committed negotiated to include in protection from future abuse-related litigation.

Schol said church leaders will be providing more details about the settlement in a Frequently Asked Questions format. A press release issued just after the Zoom event said the United Methodist Council of Bishops has committed to lead the church as follows:

- Work with all United Methodists to raise funds for the Survivor Trust Fund.

- Tell the story of harm done to survivors through a series of articles to be published by the denomination and by each U.S. annual conference to draw attention to child sexual abuse and call upon the church to be vigilant in working to prevent child sexual abuse in churches, homes and the community.

- Carry out a denomination-wide review of all Safe Sanctuaries and other policies to safeguard young people from sexual abuse, and update policies as necessary and ensure the policies are being followed.

- Provide opportunities for sexual abuse survivors to share their experiences with United Methodist leadership if they choose to do so.

- Work with all United Methodist ministries and with the Boy Scouts of America to continue to make programs safe for all young people.

Provide leadership to help all BSA chartering organizations make a \$100 million contribution to the Survivor Trust Fund.

- Participate as a member of the Survivors Working Group.

Bishop Tracy Smith Malone joined other church leaders in the Zoom meeting in stressing the importance of serving abuse survivors.

“This was the cornerstone of our mediation and settlement,” she said. The United Methodist Church and predecessor denominations have worked with BSA for more than 100 years.

As of 2020, United Methodist Men — the agency overseeing the denomination’s Scouting ministries — reported that more than 3,000 United Methodist churches in the U.S. chartered about 9,000 scouting units, involving 300,000 youth.

Schol said advice will be coming soon for local churches about their relationships with Scouting troops.

“We all hope that the church and BSA will continue to serve young people in programs that grow young people and keep young people safe from harm,” he said.

—Sam Hodges, UMNS

United Methodists Respond After Devastating Twisters

United Methodists in Kentucky, Tennessee and neighboring states are coming to terms with the devastation of a string of tornadoes Dec. 10-11, while also mobilizing quickly to provide food, emergency shelter and other relief.

The storm system that struck on Friday evening into Saturday morning — including one tornado that caused destruction across some 240 miles — is blamed for nearly 90 deaths.

Two of those killed were Marsha Hall and Carole Grisham, sisters and members of Dawson Springs United

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Crio

"It's a 12-step group for church members who like to write angry letters but not sign their name."

Don't Forget Your Pledge

The deadline for the February issue of **The Link** is January 21.
Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Methodist Relief (From Page 5)

Methodist Church in Kentucky. They were found among the rubble several houses from the one they shared in Dawson Springs, a TV station reported.

Twisters sheared roofs and shattered windows at some United Methodist churches and parsonages, as well as badly damaging congregation members' homes and local businesses.

"We will be dealing with the aftermath long after the media and social media reports have ceased," Kentucky Conference Bishop Fairley said in a statement.

Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference Bishop William McAlilly was a district superintendent in the Mississippi Conference during Hurricane Katrina recovery, and on Dec. 12, he toured some of the hard-hit parts of Kentucky and Tennessee, with visits to three United Methodist churches and their communities.

"I'd say this is on a par with Katrina, in terms of damage done," McAlilly said by phone.

Mayfield, Kentucky, was one of his stops, and a focus of much news coverage, given the extent of the damage there — including to Mayfield First United Methodist Church.

After getting word of the tornado threat, the Rev. Joey Reed and his wife, Laurinda, fled from the Mayfield church's parsonage to its historic sanctuary, taking refuge in a basement closet.

"My wife and I held hands and we prayed, and after a few seconds there was a huge shattering sound," Reed told UM News.

That was glass doors breaking, and soon they heard two thuds — the sound of much of the roof collapsing. Though the couple escaped without injury, Reed described the building damage as catastrophic.

"There's no roof from the front of the church to the education annex, and very little standing," he said.

Reed said destruction is widespread in Mayfield, with three church families having lost their homes and others having had significant damage. One frequent visitor to the church is missing and presumed dead, Reed said.

At Cayce United Methodist, in the farming community of Cayce in southwestern Kentucky, a tornado hit both the church building and the nearby parsonage. The Rev. Jim Wolfgang, pastor, was in the church working on his sermon — a Friday night ritual.

His wife, Judith, was in the parsonage.

"I went to the hall with my dog and held onto the doorposts for dear life. Did a lot of praying," she said.

She and the dog, Ruby Jewel, emerged unhurt even as a tornado blew off most of the roof and took down most of the walls.

"A third to a half of the house is just gone," she said.

Jim Wolfgang was unhurt as well, and Cayce United Methodist's roof and window damage was relatively minor.

Not so for most structures in Cayce.

"Every home in this little community here sustained serious damage and most total damage," he said. In Dresden, Tennessee, the recently remodeled Dresden United Methodist Church had its roof blown off and stained-glass windows blown out. The double front glass doors were shattered and an adjacent building lost half of its roof, said Amy Hurd, communications director for the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference.

McAlilly said both the Mayfield and Dresden churches likely are total losses.

United Methodist churches have been helping since soon after the tornadoes passed through.

About 25 displaced people were sheltering at Madisonville First United Methodist Church in Kentucky on Dec. 13, said the Rev. John Kalz, copastor of the church.

"We have a Red Cross shelter set up in our gym and conference rooms area," Kalz said. "We have folks who are filtering into our building, spending the night getting fed, having a place to take showers, all those normal things."

The Rev. Jason Sutfin leads Leachville First United Methodist Church in Leachville, Arkansas, which he said had homes and businesses, including the local cotton gin, badly damaged by the storms.

The church itself only had a sign blown down and some shingles dislodged. With power out in the community on Dec. 11, Sutfin arranged

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Tornados (From Page 7)

for a generator and opened up the church as a meal station.

“We’ve been feeding people and letting people charge their phones — that kind of thing,” he said.

Monette United Methodist Church in Monette, Arkansas, has been gathering supplies for relocated residents of a local nursing home destroyed by a tornado, said the Rev. Nancy Rainwater, pastor.

McAlilly noted that some early response teams from the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference have begun to deploy, and more will soon. Conferences are urging no individuals or churches to self-deploy, but rather to get clearance and direction from conference disaster relief leaders.

“The United Methodist connective system is shining very brightly in this situation,” said Jim Morse, disaster response coordinator for the Kentucky Conference. “The problem is everyone wants to jump in and do something. That’s admirable, and very appreciated. But we’re still in the rescue phase.”

The United Methodist Committee on Relief already has made solidarity grants to the Arkansas, Kentucky and new Tennessee-Western Kentucky conferences. These early emergency grants help meet the immediate needs of survivors and offer flexibility to the conferences in meeting those needs as they emerge.

Many are looking for ways to help people in the storms’ aftermath. But

for now, UMCOR, too, is urging volunteers to stay put.

“As the search and recovery efforts are still ongoing at this time, we encourage anyone interested in helping to not self-deploy but instead wait for updates on how and when to engage,” said Lara Martin, UMCOR’s director of U.S. disaster response.

“Until then, we invite continued prayer and the support of survivors through donations to Advance #901670. As rescue efforts shift to response, UMCOR stands ready to journey with the affected conferences from the chaos of disaster on towards a holistic, multiyear long-term recovery.”

—United Methodist News Staff