

TheLink



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

February 2013

Edited By George Hoag

Pathways to Vital Worship: The Worship Planning Team

We serve a triune God who is alive and constantly active in mission in our world. Worship can be the vibrant overflow of our discipleship to Jesus Christ. How can you help your congregation offer worship that is fully vital? Vital worship looks, sounds, and even feels different in different contexts because the people who offer it and the gifts they bring are different. But whatever the context or the style, when worship is vital, there is energy and authenticity in what happens. The power of God's Word touches the hurts and awakens the hopes of real people. Visitors are glad they came. People participate because the singing, the hearing, the praying, the sharing at the Lord's Table, and the sending forth are done in ways that say, "This is real. This matters. This is life!" In vital worship the people are addressed, touched, washed, fed, anointed, and strengthened in relationship to God and to one another. Considering these more holistic aspects of worship and the congregation is the work of the worship planning team. Your church need not be large for your leaders in worship ministry to develop a more comprehensive approach to worship. What is important is to discover your own passion

Continued on Page 4

Worship In February

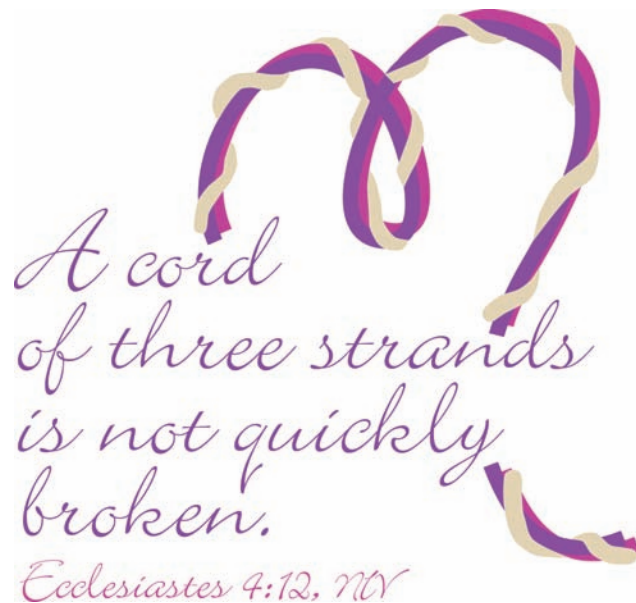
Feb. 3—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *To the Outsiders*, Jeremiah, Luke 4:21-30.

Feb. 10—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *On the Right Track*, Exodus 34:29-35, Luke 9:28-36 (37-43).

Feb. 13 (Ash Wednesday)—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Journeying with Our Eyes on Jesus*, Joel 2:12-18, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21.

Feb. 17—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Remember, Rejoice, Rededicate*, Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Luke 4:1-13, 8-10.

Feb. 24—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Take Heart—The Foxes Will Fail*, Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, Luke 13:31-35.



Circle of Concern

For Guidance:

Barbara McAllister, Ray Clark, Cat Placement and Rescue, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Joanne, Rose Conti, Lisa Prince, Joan, the Neuman family, Wilfredo Franco, Monica, Patrick Keena, Sheila Dreaper, Sofia and her family, John Casale, Our Troops and Veterans; Dean and family, Carlos Alvarado, Tim, Paul, Christine, Carol Moore, 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, Purificato Family, Ashley Lauren, Linda Morgan, Luigi, Maureen, Tom Mansfield and friends, Emma Evelend, Lisa, Barbara Rago, Catherine Weber's aunt, Esmeralda Coppola, Carmen Marrero, Loriann, David, Kathleen Russo, Alicia Evans, Debbie Jemma, Barbara, Katie, Anna, Suzanne, Amanda Garcia, Doris May, Margaret, Lois, Laurie, Bonnie Smith, Debbie Turpeau, Julio, Lisa, Paul Walkawitz, Debbie, Tom Kerr, Laura Jacobs, Sarah and Justin Tann for a healthy pregnancy and birth of their first child; Barbara Jehle, Elise Gavrock, Steve, June Barile, Luke Gonzalez, for comfort and healing for Raymond and Randy Prince on the passing of Tina Prince, the Elam Family, Paula Rowe, Jennifer Femister and family, Joann Henn, Steve McCarthy, Bruce Kirschner, Elaine and family, Lillian Aparicio, Marge Prince, Stephen, Lisa, Rich Azzopardi, Carolyn Seus, Rosemary Swartz, Joe Tucker, Kevin Stieger, Melanie Schnieder, Connie Castogua, Marybeth Losch and family, Joan Curtis' sister, Michael Emmel, Joseph Emmel, Kim Kluge, Emily Zeh, Bruce Kirschner's mother, Jody, Victor Levine's father, Henry Prince, Caleb Edward, Ryan Cullin, Sanborn Family, Lisa Manzollilo, Donna Horoski, Mia Heyliger, Andrew, Caleb and for everyone who has been affected by the storm. For all those who must go without.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Debbie Fiore, Layden John Clark, Mary Zatorski, Dan, Ernest Boyd, Chris, Phil Ianello, Emily, Mike D., Joseph Hawthorne, Emma Rasley, Angelo, Kelly Seeman, Rebecca Hendersen, Gil Brown, Pat Ward, Pat, Christina Broom, Barbara Asmus, Susanna Davies-Pepper, Mike Welsh, Joyce Ferrante, Kathleen Russo, Caroline Moore, Amelia McCarthy, Ronald Mansell, Linda Carrol, Carmelo Espiritu, Doc McNight, Maureen Grippi, Debbie Turpeau, Rich Kaufold, Michael T. Battaglia, Andrew Wittman, Jr., Al Monteverdi, Henry Ohlsen, Carolyn Venator, Gladys Messias, Laura Magill, Kent Turchaniun, Erin Purce, Henry Prince, George Russler, Pasquale Arpaio, Waldon Scott, Trudy Ann Smith.

These at Home:

Joseph Weinzettle, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Marie Lino, Marta, Donna

Herrick, Philip Rudolph, Jytte & Nils Sorensen (Geri Sheridan's relatives in Denmark), Sandy Burrell, 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, Glenn Hollins, Beth Widera, Marie Cirillo, Bob Ruggiero, Pat Addison, Don Wilson, Pat Q. Bayne, the McCarthy family, Mike Battaglia, Al Montverdi, Janet Monteverdi, Paula Rowe, Albert Eid, Thomas, Andrew Brand, Ted Davies, Ed and Brenda Klingel and Jean Miller.

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.

Esther Davies in Brookhaven Health Facility, 801 Gozzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY 11772 Room 78D 631-289-3150.

Peter Moor in Veteran's Home at Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook, NY.

Pray for our church and her future directions!

**Make your Prayer Request
on line at
PatchogueUMC.Org**

The deadline for contributions to the March edition of **TheLink** is February 8. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

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

Vital Worship (From Page 1)

for helping your congregation offer worship that is authentic and vital and to sense that you are a leader gifted by God and supported by resources and people in your congregation and beyond.

Vital Worship

Many of these signs of vitality are present in worship. In what ways does your congregation express vitality in worship?

- People are welcomed, honored, and cared for.
- God's story, which is our story, is always told.
- Jesus is experienced as present in love and power.
- The people and the community are changed by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- People are active in singing, praying, and responding.
- There is passion in the pastor's presiding and preaching and the congregation's singing, praying, and responding.
- Varied ages and cultures participate actively.
- Things (food, water, candles, furnishings, fabrics, vessels) are used generously to point to the presence of God.
- Actions (people being baptized, sharing bread and cup, offering the peace of Christ to each other) point to the presence of the risen Lord.

• People offer their whole bodies in worship in culturally appropriate ways (posture, hands raised in prayer, dance, movement, clapping and meditation).

• Worship space is arranged so the people can be together and see one another.

• There are calls and responses: people experience God calling, and they respond.

• Leaders work in concert to prompt the participation of all the people.

• Leaders are prepared and expect to hear God's Word and experience God's power.

• Leaders act with the people more than for the people.

• Everyone acts in ways that say, "Worship matters."

• People who are experiencing hurt and isolation receive a healing touch.

• All the people have a sense of belonging and know how to participate.

• There is energy, and the way worship unfolds makes sense.

• The worship reveals the planning, gifts, and preparation of the people.

Consider what's working well now and ways your congregation shows or has shown signs of vital worship. How might you and others on the worship planning team or committee help your congregation claim and build on its strengths and, over time, add more vital practices to its repertoire?

In Christ,

—**Pastor Sanchez**

Counters

Many thanks to our three new Counter volunteers: Helen Smith, Pam Queen and Jim Graham. We need three more. Please see Tom Bracken.

Grief Transcends Faith Boundaries In Newtown

As the Dec. 16 televised interfaith service made clear, the response in Newtown, Conn., to the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School has transcended religious boundaries.

Representatives of Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i and various Christian traditions — United Methodist, Congregationalist/ United Church of Christ, Lutheran, Episcopal, Roman Catholic and Community Church — took part in the service, which included an impassioned eulogy by President Obama.

The Rev. Stephen J. Sidorak Jr., top executive of the United Methodist Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, considers such diversity "a sign of things to come, religiously speaking," in an area once considered Yankee and Protestant.

"The interreligious response (in Newtown) was quite impressive and, I think, sophisticated in the best sense of that word," said Sidorak, who previously had served for many years as executive director of the Christian Conference of Connecticut.

Sidorak has experience in organizing that type of joint response. Three days after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, a service at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford drew 3,000 people inside and 1,000 outside to the largest interreligious gathering in Connecticut's history.

He was able to pull that off because the connections already existed through the 7-year-old Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding, of which he was co-founder and past president.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

“We built up relationships,” Sidorak explained. “We nurtured them; we sustained them. That’s what it takes.”

“Obviously, the religious community of Newtown had done that. They were there for each other.”

The Rev. Karen Karpow, pastor of the United Methodist Church of Danbury nearby, confirmed the area’s religious diversity, pointing to Danbury’s own Association of Religious Communities. That organization sponsored a prayer vigil for Newtown on Friday evening.

A contingent from her congregation worshipped with the Newtown United Methodist congregation at 8 a.m. Sunday before Danbury’s regular 10:30 a.m. service. During children’s time at their own church, Karpow introduced a volunteer team scheduled for Hurricane Sandy relief work this week on Staten Island and talked “about how we respond when we’re afraid — that terrible things happen, but helpers come.” The children then circled around the team and commissioned them.

Praying and grieving together

During the televised service, the Rev. Mel Kawakami, senior pastor of the Newtown United Methodist Church at Sandy Hook, which is near the school, was paired with Rabbi Shaul Prayer of Congregation Adath Israel in giving the opening general prayers of grief and consolation.

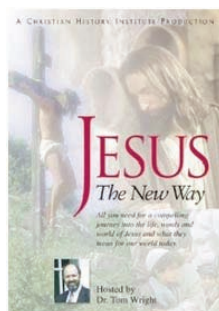
Prayer, who conducted the funeral Dec. 17 for the youngest victim, Noah Pozner, told the New York Times that clergy members in Newtown are “very close” and had been in constant contact since the shootings.

Continued On Page 7



Three Kings Sunday on Jan. 6 featured these three kings. (Left to right) Pastor Sanchez, Don Kolacki, Tom Bracken, and Ernest Ipke.

New Lenten Study Group Starting



All are invited to join us for a six session DVD study written and presented by New Testament scholar Tom (N.T.)

Wright. The study

is an introduction to the mission and message of Jesus in its historical context. The six presentations are entitled: Getting the Kingdom Started, Startling Surprises, Longing for a King, Why Did Jesus Die?, Who Was Jesus?, and The New Claim.

The first session of the study will be on Wednesday, Feb. 6, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. We will meet in the choir room, so please use the side entrance next to the Head Start building. To register or for more information, contact Debbie Kolacki at 363-6499 or debbiek88@yahoo.com.

—Debbie Kolacki

Make Plans

Saturday, March 16—St. Patrick’s Dinner, 5:30–7:30 PM.

Corned Beef or Irish Roasted Chicken
Music by Hill & Warp
Adults: \$12. Seniors: \$10
Children under 12: \$6
Family Plans available, Meals To Go

Sunday, March 24—UM Men Sponsored 21st Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast, 8:00–9:30 AM.
Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, Bacon, Sausage, Juice, Coffee, Tea, Milk All You Can Eat
Adults: \$6, Children: \$4, Under 3 Free

Friday March 29, Saturday, March 30—Easter Plant Sale, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM

Lenten Season Schedule

Ash Wednesday—Feb. 13
Palm Sunday—March 24
Maundy Thursday—March 28
Good Friday—March 29
Easter Sunday—March 31

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i> 11 a.m.—Bible Study 7:00 p.m.—N/A	<i>2</i>
<i>3</i> 9:00 a.m.—Adult Study 10 a.m.—Communion Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Confirmation Class	<i>4</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>5</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>6</i> 7:30 p.m.—Adult Lenten Study	<i>7</i> 7 :30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>8</i> 10:00 a.m.—Parkinson’s Support Group 11 a.m.—Bible Study 7:00 p.m.—N/A	<i>9</i>
<i>10</i> 9:00 a.m.—Adult Study 10 a.m.—Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Finance	<i>11</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>12</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>13</i> 7 :30 p.m.—Ash Wednesday Service	<i>14</i> 7 :30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>15</i> 11 a.m.—Bible Study 7:00 p.m.—N/A	<i>16</i>
<i>17</i> 9:00 a.m.—Adult Study 10 a.m.—Worship/Sunday School	<i>18</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>19</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>20</i> 7:30 p.m.—Adult Lenten Study	<i>21</i> 7 :30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>22</i> 11 a.m.—Bible Study 7:00 p.m.—N/A	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i> 9:00 a.m.—Adult Study 10 a.m.—Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Trustees	<i>25</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>26</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>27</i> 7:30 p.m.—Adult Lenten Study	<i>28</i> 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7 :30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal		

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Have Mainline Denominations Lost Their Voice?

I was reading Frank Schaeffer's most recent article on Huffington Post and was stopped in my tracks by these statements:

"Why aren't the mainline denominations pitching their churches' tolerant and noble humanistic and enlightened views about individual empowerment, community and spiritual rebirth to the spiritually disenfranchised on a larger scale?"

"If the mainline churches would work for the next few years in a concerted effort to gather in the spiritual refugees wandering our country they'd be bursting at the seams."

I wanted to shout at my iPad, "Yes, and that is what we are seeing happen in The United Methodist Church when we intentionally reach out to people in our communities."

Mainline denominations, each for its own reasons, decided to withdraw from the media in the 1980's, at the same time these media were becoming the most influential shapers of attitudes and values in human history. Amid a revolution in thought and conversation, many of the mainline churches left their place in the discussion to others.

This retreat has caused faith communities to lose their voice in the ongoing conversations that are shaping moral and ethical values. The result is disastrous. It is not merely accidental that an image of God is being projected by some religionists that is judgmental, vindictive and the cause of human suffering.

When the church loses its capacity to engage in conversations about faith, it

diminishes its capacity to be relevant in an increasingly secular culture. And we're seeing how harmful this can be.

The irony is that many young adults are seeking a Christianity that is more progressive, less defined by blue state/red state politics and more concerned with the needs of their community, and re-defining who is our neighbor. They want to hear about healing, hope and redemption. And they want to act on these values, not just talk about them.

The mainline denominations offer that message and the opportunity to act on it, but without a voice in the media landscape, we are destined to obscurity.

In The United Methodist Church, we are reaching out to young adults through a call to Rethink Church, our invitational media campaign. We are asking young adults to rethink church, not in terms of what it is, but what it could be. Not just a place to go, or a particular politics, but rather something we do. By using a variety of media in partnership with local congregations and general church agencies, we are calling young adults to join us in acts of mission. In 2011, some 4500 churches mobilized more than 500,000 volunteers, serving 4,000,000 people in 16 countries. Up to 40% of these volunteers were not members of a United Methodist Church, and through this association were more inclined to visit these churches.

Communicating strategically in the global media environment in which we live today is an act of theology. I think we're answering Schaeffer's question and a movement is building, but that he is asking the question means we must do more.

—Rev. Larry Holton, UMNS

Newtown Grief (From Page 5)

As the service began, the rabbi sang Psalm 46. Kawakami referred to those killed as "lights lost to the world" and he prayed for God's tender mercies for them and for "families and friends torn by grief" and prayed for God's love to also encompass "neighborhoods, the town, state, nation and world."

The Rev. Jane Sibley, visitation minister for the United Methodist Newtown congregation, offered a prayer for the first responders — local and state police who received standing ovations when they entered the high school auditorium before the memorial began.

Her prayer recognized those who responded when they were needed, asking God "to walk with them in the days ahead" and provide them with "people to listen to their stories."

Jason Graves of the Al Hedaya Islamic Center in Newtown, gave readings from the Quran and a young child, Muadh Bhavnagarwala, chanted a Muslim prayer.

John Woodall, a leader in the Baha'i faith community, gave a reading and prayer from his tradition.

Other participants included the Rev. Matt Crebbins, Newtown Congregational Church; the Rev. Kathleen Adams-Shepherd, Trinity Episcopal; the Rev. Jim Solomon, New Hope Community Church; the Rev. Jack Tanner, Newtown Christian Church; the Rev. Leo McIlrath, ecumenical chaplain of Luther Home of Southbury; the Rev. Bob Weiss, St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church, and the Rev. Rob Morris, Christ the King Lutheran Church.

—Linda Bloom, UMNS

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Pastoral Minister
Christine Saas, Office Assistant
Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-363-2163

Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.org

Sunday Worship—10 AM — Sunday School—10 AM
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
Supervised Nursery during worship
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Address Service Requested



We would like to reduce our mailings. If you can use an e-mail copy (it's in color that way), instead of mailed, please call the office.

What's Cool in Sunday School

Now that the holiday craziness has died down, I just wanted to take a moment and express how grateful I am for our church family. Thank you Barbara Becker for organizing a truly wonderful Christmas pageant. Thank you to all the wonderful people who helped out before, during, and after the pageant (you know who you are.)

I also wanted to say how much Sarah and I enjoyed the Three Kings Celebration. The presentation during church service and the food were wonderful. I will be posting on our Sunday School bulletin board (located in the cloud room next to the stairs going up to Wesley Hall) when our next teacher's meeting is going to be. If you are interested in helping out our wonderful kids please attend this meeting because many hands make light work.

Have a wonderful Valentines Day!

—*Blessings, Elizabeth Biederman*

The food pantry is in need of some specific items:

Pasta, pasta sauce, canned beans, green beans, canned peas, canned corn.

Thanks.

**Hear Our Sermons and
Watch Our Services Online**

Click on the Links at
www.PatchogueUMC.org

THIS MONTH'S birthdays

- Feb. 3 Kody Miller
- Feb. 4 Jake Spera
Julianna Wright
- Feb. 7 Reece Mapleson
- Feb. 13 Jaclin Famulari
- Feb. 14 Jessica Lesson
- Feb. 17 Robert O'Reilly
- Feb. 18 Christopher Wassmer Jr.
Daymien Bunting
- Feb. 24 Lily Rogers
- Feb. 25 Gia Cline
- Feb. 27 Jenai Buckley