

TheLink



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

July-August 2014

Sponsored this month by Wilma Pikuritz

Edited By George Hoag



Join us for



Vacation Bible School

At the

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

10 Church Street, Patchogue

August 4-8, 2014 from 10 AM to 12 Noon



There will be stories, games, crafts, music, and snacks for preschool through 6th grade children.

There is no charge for this program.

For more information or to register call the church office at 631-475-0381 or e-mail julesjules@optonline.net.

Link Distribution

We are no longer mass mailing our monthly newsletter. We are emailing to every address that we have and copies are being distributed at church. If you would like a mailed copy, please call the church office.

Worship In July-August

July 6—Guest speaker Rev. Arturo Maine, Psalm 45: 10-17, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

July 13—Guest speaker Tom Bracken, “Seeds of Joy”, Psalm 65:1-13, Isaiah 55:10-13, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

July 20—Guest Speaker Debbie Kolacki, Psalm 86:11-17, Romans 8:1-11.

July 27—Guest Speaker Don Kolacki, Psalm 119:129-136, Romans 8:26-39.

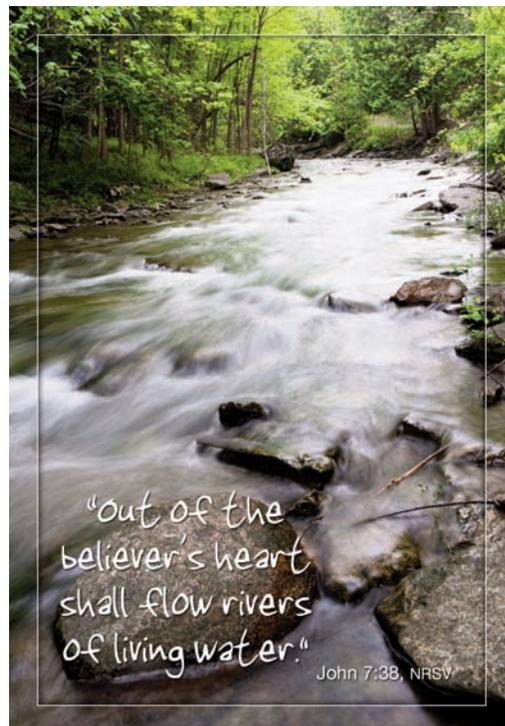
August 3—Guest Speaker TBA, Genesis 32:22-31, Matthew 14:13-21.

August 10—Guest Speaker June Barile, Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28, Matthew 14:22-33.

August 17—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Communion, Genesis 45:1-15, Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28.

August 24—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Psalm 124, Romans 12:1-8.

August 31—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Exodus 3:1-15, Romans 12:9-21.



Circle of Concern

For Joys:

For the UMM and Dianne and Glenn Adone for hosting our picnic. Happy 91st Birthday to June Miller.

For Bereavement:

For the Family and Friends of Robert Furman (Betty Rice's brother-in-law.)

For Guidance and Healing:

Janice, Louis D'Amico and family, Colleen Smith, Kathy, Bruce Clamser, Robin, Bridget and Jesse Fitzgerald, Gloria and Louis D'Amico, Charleen and family, Sheila Dreaper, Renie Meadowcroft, Terisa John, Robin, Kevin, Jasmine Arettines, James Penney, Paul Rodrigas, Corey, Keith Girouard, Laura and Louis Diamond, Chris Jackson, Esperanza Candelario, Dot Fassl, Ben Capua, Kathy Mellor, Keith Girouard, Bruce Kirschner's mother, Dianna Peterra and family, Chris Jackson, Babette Bishop, Patricia Puk, Roberta Pilsen, Rich, Leah, Joann Egan, Quigley Family, Elysse Klayes step-father, Tracy Iarocci, the McCoun Family, George Birrell, Conrad Queen, Sharon Hutchinson, Entress Family, Burrell family, Dianna Peterson, Nancy Hascall, Raymond Diamond Sr., Thomas DeCrescenzo who has joined the Marines, Dinna Peterson, Peg Moffitt, Elaine Short, Robin Corradino, Lynn Kane, Guy Vitale, Jennifer.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Keyana White, Wayne Williams, Bob Venator, Jack, Dennis Gambler, Dot Fassel, Gabby, Jessica Morendo de Ortega, Ted Davies, Flo Carde.

These at Home:

Wilfredo Franco, Sandy Burrell, Chester Gibson, Grace Cruger, John Puk, Harold, Loretta Harrigan, Frank Whalen, Justin Miller, Laurie Gaber, Sylvai, Ron Bose, Selma Graham, Lorraine Brenner, Helen.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Alice Zahnd in Affinity Skilled Living, 305 Locust Ave. Oakdale, NY

Esther Davies in Brookhaven Health Facility, 801 Gazzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY 11772.

Ted Davies in Brookhaven Health Facility, 801 Gazzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY, 631-475-4194.

Ed Dew in Sunrise Assisted Living, Holbrook. NY.

Pray for our church and its future direction.

Make your Prayer Request on line at PatchogueUMC.Org

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



"God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever; That a revolution of the wheel of fortune, a change of situation, is among possible events; that it may become probable by Supernatural influence! The Almighty has no attribute which can take side with us in that event."

—Thomas Jefferson

The deadline for contributions to the September edition of **TheLink** is August 15. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Link Sponsors Wanted

Please help us continue this monthly communication by becoming a Link sponsor. With your \$70 contribution, you get your acknowledgment at the top of the front page. We presently have September and later available.

LESSONS ALONG

the Way

May God's peace be with you!

Well, to paraphrase the mystery poet in this column last month, all of the UMC Patchogue lay servants are praying and studying. We seek out the most comfortable—yet pulpit-proper—clothes we can find for the sweltering summer heat. We ask the Holy Spirit for weeks on end to guide us in writing our sermon and prayers. We look at different translations of the Bible, to make sure we're on reasonably solid ground when we share about them with you. And we ask God not to let us trip going up and down the stairs, make unseemly noises too close to the microphone, or have the sweat under our armpits turn into a torrent rather than a trickle. (Maybe those last three items are just me).

Although I've never asked any of the others what prompted them to sign up to become what used to be called a Lay Speaker (and is now more appropriately called a Lay Servant), and to continue on with the Certified courses, I am certain that there are as many different reasons as there are servants—all of them good reasons, and all of them instilled by the Holy Spirit. And so, for those of you who still make the majority of Sunday services here during the summer, but have never sat in the Tall Chair up front, I have several questions for you to ponder:

Have you ever wondered what's involved? Not just the preaching, but the preparation, the whole experience. Have you ever wondered what it feels like? Have you ever told yourself that

you couldn't do it? Or that you could?

After I did my Walk to Emmaus, I knew that I needed to try it. I can't tell you the "why", at least not easily or with logic, especially since I've always been seriously terrified to speak in front of people. Part of the faith journey for me is to realize that God never asks us to do anything without giving us the proper tools. And for me, the most critical tools were delivered in the second Basic class, by Rev. David Mantz (I still look at the notes I took whenever I prepare a service). I don't think NYAC will excommunicate me for sharing some of the important stuff:

1) Be in constant prayer, and be open to the Spirit's guidance, when selecting readings, writing prayers and sermons, and doing anything at all in preparation for a worship service.

2) Honor your congregation, in everything from the way you dress to the level of your vocabulary to your use of props and sense of humor.

3) Make absolutely sure your sermon supports the Bible reading(s), and not the other way around (this one is mission-critical for those with egos larger than the state of Ohio. Not me, of course).

Those are the biggies, from my perspective at least.

When I did my first little 5-minute sermon[ette] in front of all the classes, I can tell you that it felt right—not great, not the start of a calling, just "right". I can tell you now that, each time I do it, it feels a little more comfortable, and a little more "right"—and please believe me when I tell you, anything that I do well is a gift from God, and no one knows that better than me.

Also—and I hope this comes across in the way I mean it—it's fun! Fun, in the sense it's a blessing and joy that I never expected to know.

But by far the most important part for me, the part that keeps me asking for more chances to do it, is the centering, peace, and spiritual healing in the preparation that leads up to the service. There is nothing quite like standing up there (without years of pastoral training) and trying to share what I believe God is saying in scripture, and as evidenced in my life, to feel the absolute humility of being God's child, and the absolute love of Jesus that is revealed to me each time I do this.

Finally, whether you pursue a Certificate or not, please don't short-change yourself by missing services delivered by a Lay Servant. We have some wonderful children of God performing this service in our church, and I am continually enriched by hearing their experiences in prayer, and in living with Jesus.

Remember: you just never know who God may use to speak to you.

Yours in Christ,

—Tom Bracken

birthdays

July 14 Kayla Abbate
July 15 Robert Dodge
July 17 Francesca Artus
July 31 Savannah Lanzetta
Aug. 3 Penelope Weber
Aug. 8 Jordan Thompson
Aug. 12 Connor Kingsbury
Aug. 16 Virginia Hayward
Aug. 19 Kaitlin Braile
Jacqueline Braile
Meghan Braile
Aug. 25 Jacob Miller

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

The Stewardship Moment

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace”. Numbers 6:24-26.

ONE DAY AT A TIME (Upper Room devotional, May 25, 2014) *

Read Matthew 6:25-34

Strive first for the kingdom of God... and all these things will be given to you as well.

– Matthew 6:33 (NRSV)

Many in our church community are without work. Most people are struggling to make ends meet, and as a result a number of churches are hurting financially. Recently, there were insufficient funds in the church bank account to pay our basics and not much room for further budget cuts. We wanted to continue our ministry of worshiping, caring, and growing toward a Christ-healed Africa, but our mission needed money. I confess I was anxious.

As I was sitting at the funeral of a colleague on a Friday morning, I had the distinct sense of God encouraging me to stop fussing and fretting about the church and to get on with the work to which I have been called. God’s peace enfolded me. That very Sunday, a church member handed me an envelope and explained that she had dreamed that her late husband instructed her to give this to the church. The envelope contained enough money to wipe out our deficit and keep us going for another few months! God had provided.

I know full well a church cannot rely on one-time gifts for daily running costs, but I thank God I have learned all over again that this is primarily

God’s work, not mine. We are privileged to be called to play a part and to trust God one day at a time.

Prayer: Dear giving God, this day we choose to serve you and trust you for our every need. Amen.

—Jeanette Krige (Gauteng, South Africa)

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

God is in charge, so I will trust.

Prayer Focus: CHURCHES STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY

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May God bless and keep us all.

—Your fellow servants on your Stewardship Committee

Palestinian Concerns Prompt Investment Sale

After an investment in G4S, a London-based security corporation, prompted concerns about human rights and prison-related issues, the United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits reassessed the purchase this spring and recently sold the stock.

Dave Zellner, the board’s chief investment officer, told United Methodist News Service that G4S initially passed its screen for investments related to prisons because the company does not receive more than 10 percent of its revenue from managing and operating prisons. The G4S stock,

worth \$110,000, was purchased last December.

But when the company’s other activities, such as maintenance, products and services related to prisons and other security services, were taken into account “we felt as though we needed to more broadly apply our exclusion of companies that have exposure to prisons,” he said.

It is not unusual for the board to be contacted by people around the denomination regarding its investments, Zellner noted. “We’re pretty serious about following through and investigating any reports we receive,” he said.

In this case, United Methodist Kairos Response, an advocacy group, said it particularly was concerned about the involvement of G4S in human rights violations in the Israeli prison system and the military occupation of Palestinian territories. The stock sale received attention from national news media, including the New York Times, after the group issued a June 12 press release.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) also met, in Detroit at its General Convention in June, and voted to divest from three companies that it says supply Israel with equipment used in the occupation of Palestinian territory.

“The timing was due to when they (pension board) sold the stock and told us they were doing it,” explained Basile, who said she was pleased with the action by the Board of Pension and Health Benefits. “We just wanted to be very prompt in getting the word out after we were told.”

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> 10 a.m.— Communion Worship 12:30 p.m.— Salvation Army Class & Service	<i>7</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>8</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> 10 a.m.—Worship 11:30 a.m.— Finance, 12:30 p.m.— Salvation Army Class & Service	<i>14</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>15</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> 10 a.m.—Worship 12:30 p.m.— Salvation Army Class & Service	<i>21</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>22</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner	<i>25</i> 7:30 p.m.—N/A	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 10 a.m.—Worship 11:30 a.m.— Trustees 12:30 p.m.— Salvation Army Class & Service	<i>28</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>29</i> 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	AUGUST 4-8. 10 a.m.— Noon—Vacation Bible School	

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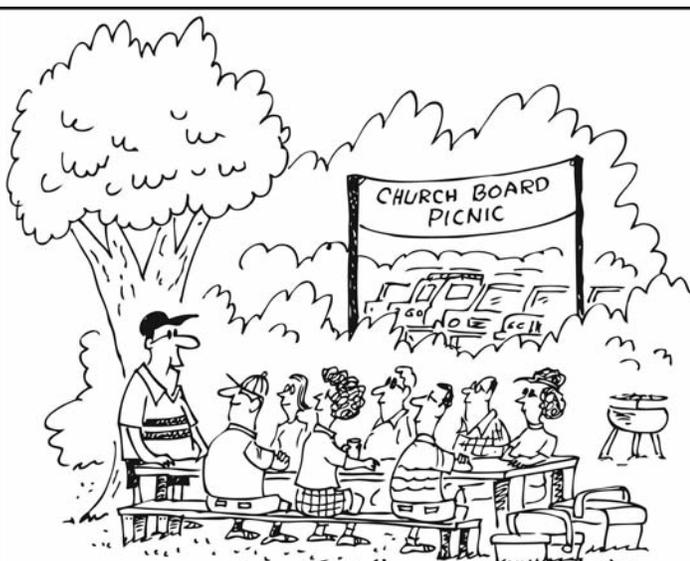
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HOPE Love JOY FAITH
 Peace

Poll: Sexuality Not Top Church Priority

When it comes to issues facing The United Methodist Church today, same-sex marriage ranks far down on the list.

That's according to a new survey of church members across the United States. Nearly 4 in 10 United Methodists said the first or second most important issue facing the church is "creating disciples of Christ."

The other most important issues, according to members, are youth involvement (27 percent); members' spiritual growth (24 percent); decline in membership (19 percent); poverty (17 percent); children at risk (17 percent); and social injustice (16 percent).

Only 11 percent ranked sexual orientation and same-gender marriage as the first or second top issue facing the denomination. That puts the ongoing debates around human sexuality as eighth in importance to United Methodists, according to the poll.

The results come from a May 30-June 1 survey by email of 509 U.S. United Methodist lay members by Corporate Research of Greensboro, N.C., and Research Now of Dallas. The poll screened out pastors, retired pastors and paid staff at any level of the denomination to focus on the views of lay members, who sometimes can seem voiceless in churchwide discussions.

The 509 sample size — representing a denomination with about 7.4 million U.S. members — is a typical statistical sample of the kind seen in political and market research.

For example, most market research of large populations uses samples of 400 or fewer that have a 5 percent margin of

error, 95 percent certainty. Gallup often will survey 1,000 people to represent the U.S. population of about 318 million.

This United Methodist survey has a 4.4 percent margin of error. The data are weighted according to United Methodists' geographic distribution across the United States.

United Methodist Communications, of which United Methodist News Service is a part, commissioned the research. The survey cost \$7,500. The sample was identified by an outside company, and it was vetted twice to be sure the people included United Methodist members. UMNS had no role in the survey.

"This poll shows what really matters to the members of The United Methodist Church," the Rev. Larry Hollon, top executive of United Methodist Communications, said in a statement. "It also clarifies that the people in the pews are more concerned about faithful living and changing lives for Christ than they are about some of the other issues that we hear so much about."

The poll results come as United Methodist leaders have been spending an increasing amount of time and energy trying to address issues revolving around homosexuality.

On May 22, a group of 80 United Methodist pastors and theologians in a press release suggested an amicable split of the denomination, saying differences over homosexuality and other issues are irreconcilable. Meanwhile, more than 1,000 United Methodist clergy have expressed a willingness to officiate at same-gender weddings in violation of church law.

But nearly 90 percent of respondents

to the new poll said The United Methodist Church should not split over issues related to human sexuality.

Those considering a denominational split broke down this way:

- 7 percent agreed with the statement: "These issues (sexual orientation and same-gender marriage) are the most important issues facing the church. If the church does not change its position on these issues, it should split."

- 5 percent agreed with the statement: "Making changes to the church's positions on these issues is indefensible and I would support a split if this happened."

Sixty-three percent said the issue of sexual orientation and same-gender marriage is "diverting the church from more important things."

At the same time, 74 percent said it is important to come to agreement on the issue at the next General Conference. The denomination's legislative assembly will convene May 10-20, 2016, in Portland, Ore.

Seventy percent of respondents agreed with the statement: "The issue is hard, but God is bigger and unity of the church is stronger."

"I think one of the key points in this research is that the people surveyed don't see the issue of human sexuality as the sole driver for the mission of the church," Hollon told United Methodist News Service. "It's one issue but not the sole driver that should determine whether we split or not. They are saying there are many important expressions of mission and ministry that also require attention. Foremost among these is making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

—Heather Hahn, UMNS

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Pastoral Minister
Christine Saas, Office Assistant
Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-475-3132

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Sunday Worship—10 AM — Sunday School—10 AM
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
Supervised Nursery during worship
Hearing assistance provided

Address Service Requested



What's Cool In Sunday School



I just wanted to thank everyone for a wonderful school year. Debbie, Don, Pam, Rocky, Kathy, Penny, thank you so much for all your hard work this year. You make my job so much easier with all your help and support. Cynthia, thank you so much for your second year of running our Vacation Bible School and being my go-to girl if I needed help with anything.

Due to ongoing family issues, I will not be the Sunday school superintendent next year. It's with a heavy heart that I step down but I can't give this position the attention it deserves. I truly and from the bottom of my heart thank Debby and Rocky for taking over my position. I will, however, still teach.

I hope everyone is having a wonderful Summer and I'll see you in September.
Blessings,

—Elizabeth Biederman

Pastor Sanchez's Address for May 18th-August 15th

Chaplain Basic Officer
Leaders Course (Class #Summer 2014-002)
CPT Ernesto Sanchez USACHCS
10100 Lee Road
Fort Jackson SC 29207-7090

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