

TheLink



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

June 2012

Edited By George Hoag

No Vacation From God

Beloved Friends,

Most families try to sneak in some well deserved vacation time during the summer. It's good and a healthy thing to do in order to have peace of mind, rest and hopefully a change in routine.

If you think of it, the word vacation literally means to take time off from vocation, or daily work. For followers of Jesus Christ, it's not so much what we do to make a living, but the way we are living, it's much more a lifestyle. Following Christ is our calling. It's our "vocation" and it takes a whole life to do it! We really don't intend to take vacation from being Christian and loving God. So, what do we do as a disciple while on vacation?

A pastor friend talks about the way Canadians use the term vacation; he says they would rather call it "going on holiday." That's what they call vacation. The word holiday, of course, comes from the joining of the words holy and day. Wouldn't it be great to live all of our days as holy days? After all, one day is not more holy than another, for God. So we sing every Sunday "This is the day that the Lord has made".

Let's try something, maybe try to live out the rest of our days in a way that they might take on more of the

Worship In June

June 3—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Light and Darkness*, Isaiah 6:1-8, John 3:1-17.

June 10—Guest Speaker: June Barile.

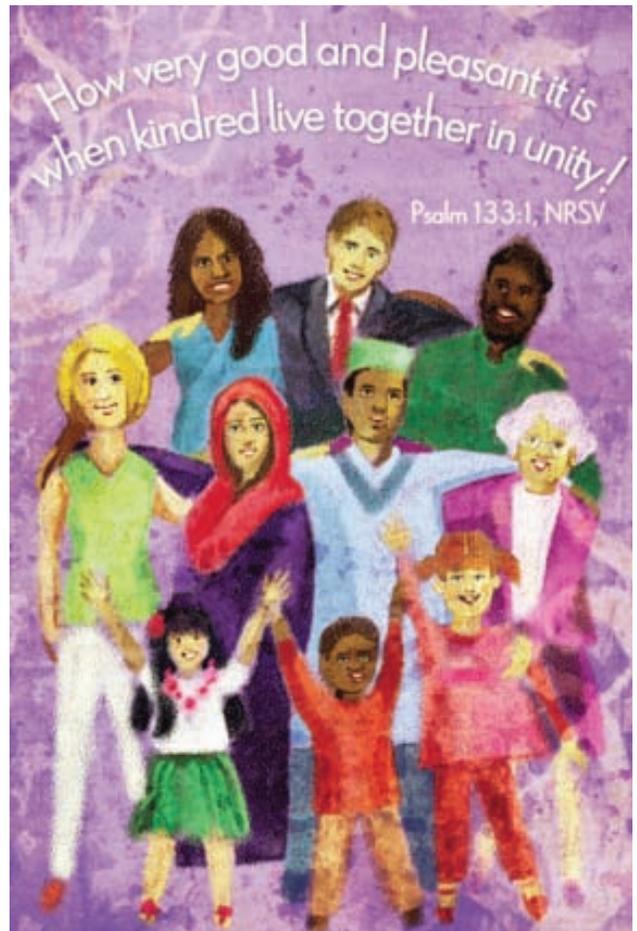
June 17—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Another Point of View*, Psalm 20, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17.

June 24—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez: *Even For The Leviathan*, Job 38:1-11, Mark 4:35-41.

characteristics of holy days. Then, we wouldn't have to work so hard to get away on vacation, only because all of life can be acknowledged and lived more as vocation, our daily calling from God.

When vacation season is over, our calling will still be intact. My friends take your well and deserved vacation this summer, but please don't take a vacation from God. Join us each Sunday for our family reunion as we gather for worship. Go Summer!

—**Pastor Sanchez**



Circle of Concern

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, Rubano, Sofia and her family, John Casale, Our Troops and Veterans; Dean and family, Rachel Nason, 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, 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, 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, Anna, Ben Gentry, Ted Dew, and for comfort and healing for Raymond and Randy Prince on the passing of Tina Prince, the Elam Family, Paula Rowe, Susan McDowell and Jennifer Femister and family.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Harry Watson, Debbie Fiore, John Vanderzalm, Layden John Clark, Mary Zatorski, Dan, Ernest Boyd, Chris, Phil Ianello, Emily, Earl Hartsfield, Mike D., Joseph Hawthorne, Emma Rasley, Angelo, Kelly Seeman, Rebecca Hendersen, Gil Brown, Pat Ward, Pat, Christina Broom, Barbara Asmus, Susanna Davies-Pepper, Todd Skwirz, Mike Welsh, Joyce Ferrante, Kathleen Russo, Caroline Moore, Amelia McCarthy, Corinne Burdett, Pat Bayne, Ronald Mansell, Linda Carrol, Pat Q. Bayne, Gail Devery, Carmelo Espiritu, Doc McNight, and Maureen Grippi.

These at Home:

George Hoag, 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, 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, Conrad Queen.

** 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.

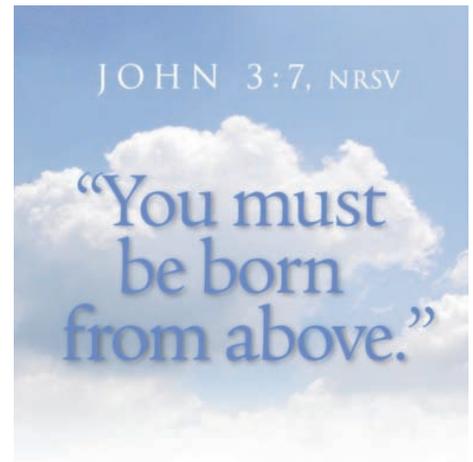
Hazel Nargi in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue.

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.

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

Pray for our church and her future directions!



Hear Our Sermons and Watch Our Services Online

Click on the Links at www.PatchogueUMC.org

Note that the next **Link** will be a combined July-August edition. The deadline for contributions is June 15. Please e-mail your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

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

Stewardship

Spring brings warmth and the greenery that make it a season of joy and rebirth. The pulse of our church seems to quicken as we look forward to the many activities planned for this spring and summer.

The first Saturday of June will be busy for our MYF. That morning the Peanut Butter and Jelly Gang will meet at the Commack UMC at 8 AM to make sandwiches for the hungry here on Long Island. They had to postpone May to June 2. They would like to thank all those who donated items for May. The donations are appreciated and will be used on the second. The support of our congregation bolsters their resolve on an early Saturday morning. Please continue to provide peanut butter, jelly, bread, sandwich bags, paper towels and plates. A box for these donations is in the office. Our MYF will continue to help feed some 130,000 people each week here on Long Island.

Our MYF are proud to have provided funds for two cleft-palate operations through the Smile Train Mission. There is a Junior MYF for our younger teenagers that is co-ordinated by Raquel Miller. Adventure Land in Farmingdale is one of the Jr. MYF events coming this July. The entire MYF will enjoy a beach day this summer – date to be announced. They are planning to go to Splish Splash in August. Everyone is invited to join the MYF for any of these events. With so many busy youth, confirming dates for events takes time. If you are interested in joining them at an event please contact Carla Gibson, MYF Leader, at 750-3557.

Steve Rice has organized a Bowl A-thon for Saturday June 2 from 7-9 PM. It will take place at the Patchogue 40 Lanes Bowling Alley on Division Street, kitty corner to the Long Island Railroad Station. The \$20 fee allows you to bowl all night, shoes, two pieces of pizza and a soda. It will be great fun. If you can not make it, a donation would be appreciated. The MYF and other bowlers will be asking for sponsors. Please help them out and come join us for a night of family fun while raising funds for the church.

Steve Rice obtained the carnations given to all our mothers who attended church on Mother's Day. They were given to honor his mother, Betty, and all our mothers.

Bob Prince coordinated the Mother's Day Plant Sale. The geraniums enhanced the beauty of our sanctuary.

The Davies family would like to thank those good stewards who help Ted to get to see his bride, Ester, of more than seventy years. Ester is at the Brookhaven Health Care Facility on Gazzola Drive, East Patchogue. Barbara Becker & Jean Miller, Trudy and Tom Mansfield, Bob Prince, Bob Rogers and I have been getting these two together each day, when possible. Barbara recently found a blurb in the ADVANCE "Archives" section stating that Ester's 17th birthday party in 1923 was attended by a certain Frederick Davies.

Sunday afternoon June 3 is our church picnic at the Holtsville Ecology site from 1:30 to 5 PM. The United Methodist Men host the picnic. If you can bring salads, chips or desserts it would be appreciated. See you there!

Wesley Dinners served almost 100 dinners last month to some 50 people. The cost of preparing these meals is reduced substantially thanks to Island Harvest. Lenny Pearson and volunteers pick up food that is used by Wesley Dinners and the Food Pantry.

Barbara Becker would like to begin serving daily lunches for school children this summer. Many children depend on free school lunches. When the summer vacation begins, these lunches end. The Federal government will subsidize the lunches, if we can provide the site and volunteers to serve. Island Harvest will provide the prepared food, even pizza. We need volunteers who can serve these lunches Monday through Friday from 12–1 PM. Please consider volunteering so that hungry children can get at least one good meal a day. Call Barbara at 475-1792 to volunteer to follow Christ's request to "feed my lambs."

A new refrigerator was purchased by a prominent church family to replace a failing one in the kitchen. It will save the church money through being more efficient. Thank you.

The Patchogue Village Community Garden has provided a 4' x 10' plot to our church at the Bay Ave. site. Carol Kirschner will design and co-ordinate the growing of vegetables in our plot. Our Confirmation Class will help tend to it fulfilling a community service project. They will be growing vegetables for Wesley Dinners and the Food Pantry. If you can help work with members of our Confirmation class, please speak with Carol 732-7670 or Barbara Becker 475-1792.

Our Membership Secretary, Carolyn Willis and Lola Schwartz have been toiling to upgrade our membership

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

rolls. Thanks to their hard work the rolls are finally being brought up to date. Two hundred letters have been sent out so far, asking absent members if they want to remain on the church rolls. To date only some thirty answers have been received. Return addressed and stamped envelopes are provided for your privacy. We understand that members have busy lives and may not get around to answering the letter. If we do not hear from you after two years of trying, the Conference dictates that your name be removed from the rolls. Please reply to the letter!

The Golf Outing was to be held on May 16, after this article went to press. A report will be in next month's LINK.

May you enjoy the bounty that God provides you in the coming months of summer.

Please keep your church in mind by keeping your tithes up to date this summer. We thank you.

—**Dave Hollowell, Stewardship**

General Conference Wrap

United Methodists from five continents addressed a wide range of challenging issues, including church structure and human sexuality, and engaged in an Act of Repentance toward indigenous people during their 10-day legislative gathering.

Meeting in the Tampa Convention Center, steps away from the waters of Tampa Bay, the 988 delegates recalled through worship, song and sermon the healing and transforming ministry of Jesus beside the Sea of Galilee.

As storms on the Sea of Galilee alarmed the disciples, so too, conflicting stands on structure and social jus-

tice issues troubled the delegates and some 4,000 visitors and staff. Perhaps the most surprising lightning strike occurred at 4:30 p.m. on May 4, the final day of the assembly, when the delegates received word from the church's supreme court that a major piece of legislation regarding restructuring violated the denomination's Constitution.

Afterward, Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster of the Charlotte (N.C.) Area, outgoing Council of Bishops president, sought to comfort a frustrated assembly at the start of the evening session. "God always provides a way," he said.

In addition to restructuring and the Act of Repentance, General Conference addressed a wide range of topics during its April 24-May 4 gathering. The delegates:

Retained the church's position regarding homosexuality, deciding not to adopt language that would have said United Methodists are not of one mind on this issue;

Did away with "guaranteed appointments" for clergy;

Rejected a proposal for setting aside a bishop to serve as full-time president of the Council of Bishops;

Entered into full communion with a number of historically black pan-Methodist denominations;

Approved making the United Methodist Women an autonomous organization rather than operating it under the church's missions agency;

Created a national ministry plan for Pacific Islanders;

Adopted a \$603.1 million budget for the 2013-2016 period.

Human sexuality

One of the most troubling actions occurred May 3 when some 100 people entered the plenary area following the defeat of an effort to add a statement to the Social Principles that urged unity and co-existence in spite of opposing views on homosexuality.

The assembly retained the current stance saying the denomination considers all persons are "individuals of sacred worth [however, the church] does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching."

Indiana Bishop Michael Coyner, presiding officer, adjourned the May 3 morning session after only 20 minutes as the singing of protesters made it difficult to conduct business.

When the assembly gathered after a longer-than-planned lunch break, Kansas Bishop Scott Jones, was the presiding officer for the afternoon session.

Some 100 people seeking changes in denominational policies related to homosexuals gathered around a communion table at the center of the assembly hall.

"I feel your pain," said Germany Area Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, president of the Council of Bishops, in an opening prayer. The Rev. Frank Wulf, a supporter of changing the policies and clergy person from the California-Pacific Annual (regional) Conference, offered a second prayer, asking God for a way for the "broken community [to find] a voice that promotes healing and hope." After the prayers, the demonstrators left peacefully.

Continued on Page 7

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>2</i> 7:00–9:00 p.m.— Bowl-a-Thon
<i>3</i> 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.— Communion Worship/Sunday School 1:30 p.m.—Church Picnic	<i>4</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>5</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>8</i> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>9</i>
<i>10</i> 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School Bible Presentation 11:30 a.m.— Finance/Trustees Confirmation Class	<i>11</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>12</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>15</i> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>16</i> 9:30 a.m.—UMW
<i>17</i> 10 a.m.—Worship/ Sunday School Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Last Day of Sunday School	<i>18</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>19</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>22</i> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i> 9 a.m.—Bible Study 10 a.m.—Worship 11:30 a.m.—Church Council	<i>25</i> 7 p.m.—AA	<i>26</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>29</i> 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>30</i>

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**WE CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

Bayport Patchogue Souls Softball Schedule

Monday June 1 Away at William Floyd Middle School

Monday June 18 at Home

Tuesday June 26 at Home

Tuesday July 3 Away at Saxton Avenue Middle School

Reminder

In order to keep track of kitchen equipment, as well as tables and chairs from Wesley Hall, anyone wishing to borrow any of these 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. Unfortunately, we can not always afford to replace them. Thank you!



General Conference (from Page 5)

Since only the morning session had been set aside to discuss issues related to human sexuality, the conference did not address petitions calling for changes in the present policy of denying clergy the right to conduct services of union for persons of the same gender or policies prohibiting the ordination and appointment of self-professed practicing homosexuals.

An earlier “holy conversation” on issues related to human sexuality also was cut short because of an extended discussion on the rules.

Difficulties with homosexuality did not originate in Tampa, and the journey through these difficult waters will not end here. Advocates for change proclaimed they will not leave the church; they will live out their calling within the denomination.

End to guaranteed appointments

Many delegates were surprised when the conference placed a proposal that would effectively end guaranteed appointment for clergy on the consent calendar, a device used to expedite legislation when there are fewer than 10 members of a legislative committee opposed to a proposal.

After a few delegates discovered what they had passed, an attempt to reconsider the issue was rejected by a margin of 564 to 373. On May 4, the final day of the meeting, the conference agreed to ask the Judicial Council for a ruling on whether the measure violates the Constitution. That ruling will come at a later meeting of the Judicial Council.

—**Rich Peck, UMNS**

Why Do We all Have to Think/Believe/Be Alike?

The 2012 General Conference of the United Methodist Church recently concluded its current sessions. (General Conference is held every four years.) This year, as in many years past, a major issue was the church’s stance on homosexuality as reflected in the Book of Discipline, which says that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teachings. Many Methodists had hoped to change that position, which includes the prohibition on the ordaining of openly gay pastors. Many believe that homosexuality is not a sin, at all, but a reflection of the infinite diversity of God’s human creation.

Others vehemently oppose that view, pointing to verses in the Bible, primarily the Old Testament, that forbid homosexual practices, as evidence that it’s against God’s will.

The recent Conference brought no change on this topic, but what struck me as a shame was the defeat of a resolution to amend the language to say that not all United Methodists agree on this issue. As an article in Faith in Action (newsletter of the Board of Church and Society) stated, “We couldn’t even agree to disagree.”

Really. Will our denomination founder if we admit that we all don’t think alike? Why should we think or believe alike? Our demise could rather come as the result of our failure to behave as followers of Jesus, preferring instead to maintain barriers between us, to insist there is only one right way to believe, to worry more about organizing according to corporate practices, than to be in loving mission and ministry to all the earth. We should be able to be respectful of the wide range of beliefs on this and all issues relating to leading a God-pleasing life. Can any of us categorically state we know and understand everything about God? Yikes, I hope not. That would be major hubris and chutzpah.

While I don’t agree with those who believe that everything in the Bible is the word of God, I understand why they might believe so, and respect that. I agree with Rev. Robin Meyers, who wrote that “human fingerprints are all over the Bible.” I do think we should read and study the Bible prayerfully, but with an understanding of social, historical and cultural context. Much of the taboos and laws compiled in Leviticus or Deuteronomy reflect the needs and practices of an early society in a particular place and time. For example, do you think if a relative tries to convert you to a different religion, you should kill them? Or if your son refuses to obey you once too often, you should stone him? (Hopefully not!)

Let us pay more attention to Jesus’ teachings of love, mercy, humility, faith and inclusion, rather than on the appalling human drive to have the only answer, which is another way of saying to have power and control over others. While it may be somewhat correct to say that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teachings, that does not say it is incompatible with Jesus’ teachings.

—**Barbara Becker**



**The United Methodist Church of
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Sunday Worship—10 AM — Sunday School—10 AM
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
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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.

A Father's Day Prayer

Let us praise those fathers who have striven to balance the demands of work, marriage, and children with an honest awareness of both joy and sacrifice. Let us praise those fathers who, lacking a good model for a father, have worked to become a good father.

Let us praise those fathers who by their own account were not always there for their children, but who continue to offer those children, now grown, their love and support. Let us pray for those fathers who have been wounded by the neglect and hostility of their children.

Let us praise those fathers who, despite divorce, have remained in their children's lives. Let us praise those fathers whose children are adopted, and whose love and support has offered healing.

Let us praise those fathers who, as stepfathers, freely choose the obligation of fatherhood and earned their step children's love and respect. Let us praise those fathers who have lost a child to death, and continue to hold the child in their heart.

Let us praise those men who have no children, but cherish the next generation as if they were their own.

Let us praise those men who have "fathered" us in their role as mentors and guides.

Let us praise those men who are about to become fathers; may they openly delight in their children.

And let us praise those fathers who have died, but live on in our memory and whose love continues to nurture us.

—Kirk Loadman



June 2 Shannon Leahy

June 4 Aspen Chase

June 7 Joseph Famulari
Brendan Collazo
Billy Hacker

June 9 Autumn Meyer
Nicholas Lyons

June 13 Jocelyn Furman
Jennifer Furman

June 15 Lynne Rice

June 23 Emily Weiss

June 25 Brandon Gessow
Logan Fudal

June 28 Matthew Stawecki