

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

June 2015

Is It Well With Your Soul?

Praise God for his everlasting gracious mercy and love!

How are you doing with your soul these days?

When I try to write something, I usually tend to ask myself the same question first in order to check my emotions having to deal with ordeals, I mean, everyday life issues. Everyone has his/her own problem that may be relatively small for someone else's eyes, but an enormous one for our own.

Again, it is my testimony how amazingly faithful our Lord is! God never failed me. In the midst of those moments of hardship, I felt the strong presence of God to help me sustain and discern.

I would like to give thanksgiving for everything what God has done and is doing through my life.

As a fairly new spiritual leader, I would like to also encourage you with my assurance that God is up to something big in and through our hearts and minds, and through the community. God is a living God for the past, the present and the future.

Proverbs says, "fear of the Lord is the beginning of the wisdom."

What a timely suggestion of the worship committee to suggest "a sermon series!"

For the next five Sundays starting in June, I will be preaching on Proverbs, one of the wisdom literatures.

Let us make it a useful opportunity to check in with our souls, so that we may be inspired, and lightened to go forward from the present stage of our own to another level.

By the grace of God, we are connected here in such a time as this.

Let us praise and rejoice to have become a big Christian family. In Christ,

—Rev. Dawn Yoon

WORSHIP IN JUNE

June 7—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Psalm 138, Mark 3:20-35

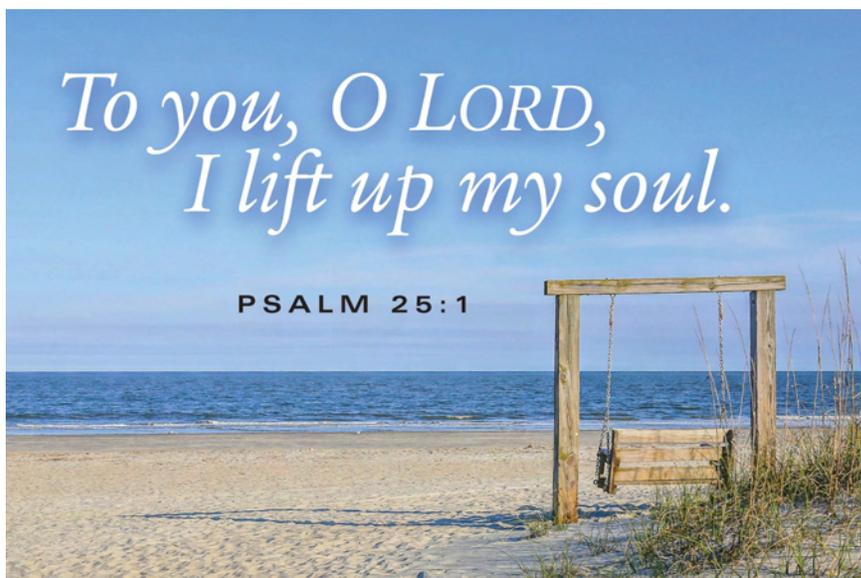
June 14—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Psalm 20, Mark 4:26-34

June 21—Father's Day, Rev. Dawn Yoon, Psalm 9:9-20, Mark 4:35-41

June 28—Rev. Dawn Yoon, Psalm 130, Mark 5:21-43

*To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.*

PSALM 25:1



Circle of Concern

For Joys:

Conrad Queen made it home safely!
The Glorification Singers!

Louis Diamond for mowing the
Parsonage lawn & Ruben, from the
Pentecostal Church, volunteering to
mow the church grounds.

Thank you to Bob Prince & his
volunteers for the beautiful altar
decorations and setting up for the
Mother's Day Flower Sale.

Thank you to Lenny Pearson and Jim
Graham for waiting until 4 p.m. on
Sunday for the florist to arrive.

For Bereavement:

Family & friends of Stephen Mulderig.
Joan, friend of Lola Schwartz, on the
sudden passing of her son.

For Guidance and Healing:

Janice De La Vergne, Christy Wood,
Dawn Rice, Laura Diamond, Tommy &
Violet Benincase, Jay Yoon, Mamie
White, Mrs. Lerdone, Lois Wood,
Michelle Barnes, Debbie Schwinge,
Debbie Redding, Wilfredo Franco,
Marilyn Franco, Scott Twing, Elena
Pecciolie, Michael Becker, Juanita
Magill, Abigail Springhorn, George
Kralicket, Bob Prince.

These Who are Hospitalized: Louise
Lopez, Lance Marques.

These at Home:

Deanna Peterson & her son and his
family, Marge Prince, Phyllis Hicks.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

John VanderZalm in Brookhaven
Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzolla
Drive, E. Patchogue, NY.

Leona Kreamer in Brookhaven
Memorial Hospital, 101 Hospital Rd.,
E. Patchogue, NY.

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

Ed Dew in Sunrise Assisted Living,
Waverly Avenue, Holbrook, NY.

*Pray for our church and her future
directions!*

Great-Grandma Williams

Ada L. Williams was born in
1876 and, according to
family lore, was related to
Betsy Ross, Roger Williams (founder of
Rhode Island), and family members
who owned land in "New Amsterdam"
on which the World Trade Center was
later built. She lived a long and healthy
life, dying at age 97 in 1973.

I knew Ada L. Williams as Great-
Grandma, although her more formal
title certainly was Great-Grandmother.
She was my mother's grandmother
and I loved her dearly, even though
we spent only a couple of weeks
together each year until her death
when I was twenty. Indeed, my heart
is still filled with fond memories of
summer vacations with her at the
shore in Jersey, the ducks on the pond
in her backyard in Fair Bank, and the
wonderful breakfasts she would fix
every single day.

So exactly why did my Great-
Grandma Williams make such a
difference in my life? Quite simply, she
was present in exactly the way I
needed as I made the decision to
accept Jesus Christ as my Savior and
Lord, took my first baby steps of living
as a person of faith and wrestled with
a call to ministry that, much to my
chagrin, would not leave me alone.

All of this may sound rather routine
and exactly the sort of thing you might
expect to happen. Not so with me. For
all intents and purposes, I grew up in
an unchurched family. We would
attend church sporadically, especially
when we moved to a new community,
which happened frequently. My
parents, although very loving and
supportive of my own faith quest, did
little to nurture me into faith.

That's exactly the breach into which
my great-grandmother stepped.

This ordinary woman played an
extraordinary role in my life during the
formative first two-and-a-half years of
my Christian journey. Not because she
was physically present, but because
she kept up a steady stream of
correspondence that literally guided
me, metaphorically walked alongside
me, and sometimes dragged me as I
started down the path of a journey I
continue still today.

Sadly, I have been unable to locate
those letters, of which there were
probably 25 in all. So while I cannot
remember the specifics, the letters
from Great-Grandma remain with me,
like many a dream I have had. I may
not remember details or fully
understand the dream when I awaken,
but it is so real that I literally can feel it
as it burrows deeply into my soul and
lives there, often for years.

What I remember vividly about that
correspondence—even if I can't
remember anything specific—is that
letter after letter was filled with grace,
encouragement, and profound
wisdom about God.

—Bishop Gary Mueller, UMNS

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00 p.m.—AA	2 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	3	4 7:30 p.m.—Choir	5 9:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	6
7 10 a.m.— Communion Wor- ship/Kids/ Breakfast Club 11:30 a.m.—SPRC 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	8 7:00 p.m.—AA	9 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	10	11 7:30 p.m.—Choir	12 9:00 a.m.—LAST ESL Class 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	13 UMW Mission
14 10 a.m.—Mothers Day Worship/Kids/ Breakfast Club 11:30 a.m.— Finance 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	15 July-August Link Deadline 7:00 p.m.—AA	16 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	17	18 7:30 p.m.—Choir	19 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	20 UMW Meeting
21 10 a.m.—Father's Day Worship/Last Day Kids/Breakfast Club /Heat offering 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	22 7:00 p.m.—AA	23 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	24	25 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—Choir	26 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—N/A	27
28 10 a.m.—Worship 11:30 a.m.— Trustees 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	29 7:00 p.m.—AA	30 9 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA				

the Way

May God's peace be with you!

I was requested—make that challenged—recently to do something I've never done before, by someone who is fairly well versed, placed, and credentialed in the United Methodist Church.

Apparently this person wanted me to think before I made a specific decision too hastily, a decision that would represent a major change in my life, as well as impact others.

Although I have been considering this change for half a year now, it still seemed a reasonable request, and I have been carrying out the assignment faithfully so far.

What is this assignment? To read a chapter of Proverbs each day, the chapter number to coincide with the calendar date. I started this on May 14th, and the cycle will be completed on June 13th.

In case you don't know, there are 31 chapters of Proverbs, and 31 days in May. All that accounting training keeps paying off, by golly!

I should tell you at this point that in the past when I have glanced at Proverbs I usually found them either confusing or annoying, depending on my mood, level of cynicism and lack of understanding at any given time.

I like the Psalms a lot, and Joshua, Daniel and Isaiah are pretty cool, but I'm generally not an Old Testament type of guy. So I can't say I was

thrilled to depart on this little journey. However, depart I did.

I was stuck by several things right away. The most glaring item to jump out at me was the fact that "discernment" is mentioned in each chapter of Proverbs from 14 through 19, for a total of something like ten or eleven times.

Aside from realizing I'd been set up (senior clergy can be sneaky!), I decided I had better do a little research on that word—discernment, not sneaky—as it is used Biblically.

The most tantalizing definition I found was "perception *in the absence of judgment* with a view to obtaining spiritual direction and understanding" (italics mine).

I found it tantalizing because I just don't use discernment in that context—okay, in ANY context—very often. Even after the spiritual joys and treasures with which I have been blessed over the last few years, my human arrogance is still not keen on admitting that my initial reaction / analysis / decision process might not always be right.

And while I may be more forgiving of people in general these days, I still seem to want to hold myself to some unrealistic standard of excellence, which means I don't need God's help, which means I'm delusional.

Therefore, discernment seems to be an appropriate, if not exactly welcome, approach.

In addition to discernment, I have found a lot of really great and—for me—new stuff so far. Micah 6:8 (one of my absolute favorite Bible verses) comes straight from Proverbs 21:3.

The abbreviated form of 16:18 is "pride goes before a fall".

There are a lot of verses that have caused me to stop reading and think; a number that are confusing; and yes, some of them are still just plain annoying. Sorry, Solomon. Of course, miners in California sifted through a lot of river bottom to get the gold nuggets, didn't they?

The bottom line is that these readings, and this little spiritual discipline, are by their very nature forcing me to use this principal of discernment. Yes, I kick and scream and bang my spoon on my high-chair, but I'm doing it.

Will I reverse my course on this major decision that is looming in the near future? Probably not. Perhaps that's not the point, because my likely course may really be the right one.

What this discipline *will* do is allow me to ask God for His guidance in more than a perfunctory way; it is the small but vital distinction of asking for God's direction and help, rather than asking His blessing on my direction.

And in humbly asking for help, I actually admit that I need Him, and His unending love, and His round-the-clock acceptance.

If I do that, I stand an excellent chance of following God's plan for me.

Wow – I feel better already!

Yours in Christ,

—Tom Bracken



"THE PATH OF
THE RIGHTEOUS
IS LIKE THE
LIGHT OF DAWN."

PROVERBS 4:18. NRSV

WHO WE ARE



When Marge Prince was a little girl, her father, a World War I veteran, started working in the sand mines at Port Washington. Sand mining was a major industry on Long Island from the 1870's through 1980, because of the fine quality of our island's sand. By 1930, 100 million tons of sand had gone from Port Washington to New York City to make the concrete that built the City's skyscrapers. (There is a monument to the miners in Port Washington).

Although Marge had been born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, she and her four sisters and two brothers grew up on Long Island and Marge has never left it. She met her husband, Raymond Prince, on a blind date, and after he returned from WW II, they moved to Maspeth, Queens, where they operated a restaurant. Because Raymond tended the bar in a way reminiscent of Jackie Gleason on his television show, Marge and Ray were often referred to as "The Honeymooners."

In the mid 60's, Marge, her husband, and their four children moved to Everett Street in Patchogue. Shortly thereafter, she began to take in foster children. One of those children, Scott, came to them at the age of three, with no language skills and with physical disabilities. It was predicted that he would never progress in his development. Ha. The doctors didn't reckon with Marge. Through her nurturing love, encouragement and abiding faith,

Scott thrived and eventually graduated from high school, obtained a driver's license, and became a functioning adult.

In the 70's, Marge and her daughter, Sue Leddin, started attending our church and became part of the fabric of this faith community. (Bob, her youngest, her wild child, didn't join until the 90's.) They were communion stewards, created banners that are still used in the sanctuary, cooked dinners for fundraisers and were an important part of the United Methodist Women. That's how I first met Marge.

Marge and the other wonderful women showed me what it meant to be a woman of faith, to overcome obstacles through commitment, grace, and the sheer joy of working together as a team. She, as well as the others of her generation (Connie Halliwell, Lucille Barthelme, Jane Kemp, June Miller, Jean Eid, Esther Davies, and so many others) were and are role models for me.

When asked what she would like to see happen in our church, she thoughtfully replied, "That everyone who comes to church receives the love of Christ in their hearts."

The one thing Marge Prince would like everyone to know about her is that she believes in the power of prayer. "Prayer," she said, "is everything."

What do you say to a woman who has spent her whole life nurturing others and living a life of faith except a profound, "Thank you, Marge."

—Barbara Becker

A Father's Day Prayer

God our Father,



in your wisdom and love you made all things.

Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

June Birthdays

June 1 Richard Rubino
June 1 Catherine Schultz
June 4 Jo Anne Henn
June 4 Robert Lindquist, Jr.
June 7 Lauren Krenicky
June 9 Nicholas Lyons
June 15 Lynne Rice
June 22 Donal Morrissey, Jr.
June 25 John Layton, Jr.
June 28 June Barile

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Early Link Deadline for July-August

The deadline for the July-August issue of **The Link** is **June 15**. Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

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“You’re supposed to be on vacation, Ed.”



A Note About Restoring Hope

Our Restoring Hope capital campaign was completed several years ago but funds may continue to be contributed. All Restoring Hope contributions go to the Trustees which have continuing building expenses but no other current source of revenue.

Church Body Seeks Openness on Human Sexuality

United Methodist clergy could perform same-gender weddings and conferences could ordain openly gay clergy if legislation by a denomination-wide leadership body wins General Conference approval.

By a vote of 26 to 10 with one abstention, the Connectional Table on May 18 approved legislation that would remove prohibitive language that makes it a chargeable offense under church law for clergy to be “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” or to officiate at same-sex weddings.

Bottom line: If this legislation passes, clergy would not risk church trials or the loss of their credentials for officiating at same-gender weddings or, in some conferences, coming out as openly gay.

Dakotas-Minnesota Area Bishop Bruce R. Ough, who chairs the Connectional Table, led the group in prayer after the vote.

“We pray that through the gift of your Holy Spirit, you will use this work in ways that will ultimately honor you and help us find our way forward as the United Methodist expression of the faith,” Ough prayed.

The Connectional Table is a United Methodist body of clergy and lay people from around the world that acts as a sort of church council for the denomination, coordinating its mission, ministry and resources.

Ultimately, General Conference — The United Methodist Church’s top law-making assembly — will determine if

the proposal becomes the denomination’s official policy when it meets May 10-20, 2016, in Portland, Oregon.

What the legislation says

Under the proposal, individual clergy would decide whether to officiate at same-gender marriages just as the Book of Discipline — the denomination’s law book — now allows clergy to decide which couples to wed. Clergy would not be required to bless same-sex unions.

Similarly, the proposal leaves the question of whether to ordain openly gay clergy up to individual conferences. The denomination’s constitution already gives conferences the main authority in determining whom to ordain, within the guidelines of the Book of Discipline.

The proposed legislation defines marriage as a covenant “that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between two people who are married to each other.” It also notes that such marriage “is traditionally between one man and one woman.”

At the same time, the proposal notes that the denomination “historically has not condoned the practice of homosexuality and has considered the practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” It also retains the denomination’s ban on using church funds “to promote the acceptance of homosexuality.”

The Connectional Table’s process

The vote came after more than three hours of prayer, small-group discussions and finally three speeches each for and against the legislation. The morning discussion also included

time for hymn singing and reflection on Scripture.

Each of the small groups had members of varied perspectives on the church’s stance, which currently states that the practice of homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching.”

The Rev. Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai, who guides the Connectional Table’s legislative writing team, told Connectional Table members before the discussion that no matter what they decided United Methodists would feel a sense of loss.

“Our LGBTQ brothers and sisters are already dealing with a sense of loss of acceptance in our churches,” she said. “If we change our position, our more theologically and socially traditional brothers and sisters will feel a sense of loss of acceptance in our church. No matter what we do, if we remain in conflict with one another, we will continue to feel a loss of stability and unity.”

The Connectional Table’s vote followed a motion it affirmed in April 2014 after the first of three public panels on human sexuality. After hours of discussion, the body approved “parallel paths” of dialogue and work toward changing the Discipline “to fully include LGBTQ persons in the life of the church.” The initials stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning.

At the body’s February meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, the legislative team announced that it was not considering any proposals to reorganize

Continued on Page 8

10 Church St., Patchogue, NY 11772

Rev. Hyo Jung (Dawn) Yoon, Pastoral Minister
 Meghan Vanderhoof, Administrative Assistant
 Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-475-3132
 Email: office@PatchogueUmc.org

Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.Org

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Sexuality Proposal (from Page 7)

the denomination's structure along ideological lines.

Instead, the team presented three directions for the full body to consider in response to the 2014 motion.

The first was to bring no changes to General Conference on this matter. The second option was what the legislative team called "full inclusion," removing all references in the Book of Discipline that cast homosexuality in a negative light.

The third approach of removing prohibitive language was what the legislative team recommended and the full table overwhelmingly affirmed at the Mozambique meeting. Thirty-

six Connectional Table members attended that meeting.

The Connectional Table's May meeting basically put that proposal into legislative language.

Why the Connectional Table is addressing this

Bigham-Tsai said the legislation is in line with the Connectional Table's mandate in the Book of Discipline to address "emerging issues" and determine "the most effective, cooperative, and efficient way to provide optimum stewardship of ministries, personnel, and resources."

Passionate debate over the church's stance on homosexuality has erupted at every General Conference since 1972. The lawmaking assembly has consistently voted to keep the language and over the years has expand-

ed restrictions against gay clergy and same-gender unions.

But the debate has heated up as more countries and more U.S. states legally recognize same-gender civil marriage and more pastors are asked by gay congregants to officiate at their weddings.

The U.S. Supreme Court is weighing the possibility of overturning state bans on recognizing such unions. A ruling on that question is not expected until the end of June. Nearly 60 percent of United Methodists live in the United States.

The Connectional Table's proposal is expected to be one of many petitions dealing with human sexuality that will go before the 2016 General Conference.

—Heather Hahn. UMNS