

# The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

May 2019

## Tackling Temptation In May

When I think of the month of May, I automatically start singing a song from my youth. Its lyrics, in part, goes like this:

“I got sunshine on a cloudy day—and when it’s cold outside, I’ve got the month of May....”

These lyrics were made famous by what Motown group? The Drifters? No. The Four Tops? No. Smokey Robinson and the Miracles? No. If you said The Temptations—you are Right! You are no doubt a 60’s Motown aficionado for sure.

I used this sneaky intro to get into a subject that can be found in the name of that very group that sang that number one chart song back in 1965—My Girl. Temptation!

What is Temptation? Do all people have to deal with Temptation? And, if so, how? Great questions every Christian should ask him or herself on a daily basis.

First, what is Temptation?

Webster defines it, in part, as a desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise. I guess a more biblical definition as it relates to practicing Christianity would involve the intentional enticement of a person that could lead to disobeying God’s will for our lives. It can either be an enticement by God’s enemy, Satan—or, by our own earthly innate desires.

Second, is everyone subject to being tempted?

Now, I am not talking about staring at a bowl of rice pudding on the shelf of your fridge while you stand there in your

pajamas at eleven o’clock at night. I thoroughly searched the Scriptures and could not find rice pudding anywhere. The answer to this second question is absolutely YES! Why, even Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. We are all going to be tempted one time or the other to consider caving in to do something that will dishonor God and His Word. Often times this can even cause us to drift away from God if it should turn into a habit or lifestyle choice.

Continued on Page 2

## WORSHIP IN MAY

**May 5**—The Rev. Dr.

Charles Ferrara,  
John 21:1-9

**May 12**—The Rev. Dr.

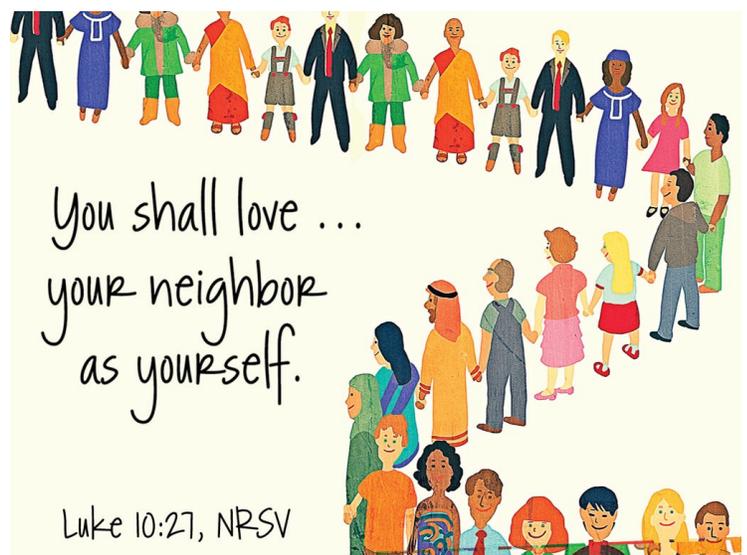
Charles Ferrara,  
John 10:22-30

**May 19**—The Rev. Dr.

Charles Ferrara,  
John 20:1-18

**May 26**—The Rev. Dr.

Charles Ferrara,  
John 14:23-29



## Circle of Concern

### For Bereavement:

The family of Ernest Ipke

### For Guidance and Healing:

Bruce Kirshner, Tony Palermo, Barbara Wider, Eva, Lisa, Ernie & Alice Titus, Dorothy Vaon Rhee, Bob & Eleanor, Kenny, Ines Morales, Justin, Frank Hayes, Tyler, McMiller family, Patty Parise, Jerry, Lia James, Dana Sikorsky, Robert Hampton, Luke, Antonio Goncalves, Jeannie Bryant, Joe Sinacori, Bill Hurley, Ryan Skidmore, Peterson family

### These in Rehab or Nursing Care:

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

**Alice Zahnd** in Gurwin Jewish Nursing Facility, 68 Hauppauge Rd., Commack, NY

*Pray for our church and her future directions!*

Prayer cards are located at the usher's station at the rear of the sanctuary.

Make a prayer request at  
[PatchogueUMC.com](http://PatchogueUMC.com)



## May Birthdays

**May 11** Noah Lyons

**May 11** Robert Queen

## Temptation (From Page 1)

Thirdly, we know what temptation is and who is affected by it—so how do we deal with it?

Well, in my first book, *Beyond the Badge*, I classified one technique of dealing with temptation as the **Joseph Maneuver**.

Joseph, when he was tempted by the sumptuous and beautiful wife of Potiphar, he ran. He simply took off and ran away from it. That is an excellent move.

The minute that temptation enters your mind—flee. Because, if we don't, that thought can reach our heart and eventually develop into an action.

You see, being tempted is not a sin in and of itself. It is only when we act on that temptation that it can lead us into dangerous spiritual places that can have not only an adverse effect on our relationship with God—but also a negative effect on how we live with others.

James 4:7 says, "Resist the devil, and he will have to flee". That takes care of the devil—but when a little of devilish behavior is churning up inside of us—go to the Joseph Maneuver—and run. It works every time.

Wishing you all a sunshine filled May and a successful run against temptation.

In His Grip,

—Pastor Chuck

## Mothers Day Flowers

Sunday, May 5 is the last day to order. Call Gail Hoag, 631-654-0038.

## Prayer For Stressed Mom

May you have clarity of thought and a morsel of sanity today. May you know that His grace is enough. For every season, every tantrum, every question, every failure. It is enough. Always.

May you know that you are wildly loved by your Father, just as you are. Not because of what you accomplished today, or didn't. Or how you feel about God at this moment, or whether you complained, or spent time reading your bible, or messed up in the worst way, or celebrated a victory. He adores you, just because.

And with of this knowledge, may you feel empowered to love your children the same way. The way God asks you to, the way your kids deserve, and the way you want to.

May you feel equipped to tackle every challenge, every situation, and every day with courage and joy even if you have to "start over" 10 times by 9 a.m.

May excitement fill your heart every morning for all that the day can be. Your children are your treasure, and this day is a gift—may you fully embrace it all.

May you lay your head down at night with a heart that is bursting and memories too plentiful to count. May you know unspeakable joy at the end of the day.

May you recognize that though these days are so (so, so, so, so) long, the years are short. They are a breath. And as you exhale yours in the darkness of the night, may your cup overflow with thanksgiving. May your dreams be sweet and your sleep be restful.

Sleep well, Momma, knowing that the work you are doing is good, and your Father is smiling on you.

—Malinda Fuller, [crosswalk.com](http://crosswalk.com)

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue

## May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	4
5 9:15 a.m.—Choir 10:00 a.m.— Communion Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	6 Office Closed 7:30 p.m.—AA	7 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pan- try 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	8	9	10 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	11
12 9:15 a.m.—Choir 10:00 a.m.— Mothers Day Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	13 Office Closed 7:30 p.m.—AA	14 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pan- try 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	15	16	17 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	18 9:30 a.m.—UMW
19 9:15 a.m.—Choir 10:00 a.m.— Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	20 Office Closed 7:30 p.m.—AA	21 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pan- try 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	22	23	24 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	25
26 9:15 a.m.—Choir 10 a.m.— Worship 11:00 a.m.— Trustees 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	27 Office Closed 7:30 p.m.—AA	28 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10:00 a.m.— Noon—Food Pan- try 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 7:00 p.m.—AA	29	30	31 10:00 a.m.—ESL 7-9 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	

## SOS Campaign Update

**O**ur blessings continue. The Save Our Sanctuary campaign has received some amazing media coverage recently.

In addition to a nice article in Newsday, we were featured in television stories on News 12 and CBS. As a result, donations have increased.

The owner of the Mediterranean Manor, Evan Abasis, contacted us to offer to provide water damage repairs to Pastor Chuck's office and the space above. He also offered to host a fundraising event on June 20th with basket raffles, appetizers and desserts with admission at \$20 per person.

Swezey's Fuel Oil has pledged a \$1,000 donation and a couple from Bellport who met and married at our church has pledged \$2,500.

The recent BAFFA concert in our sanctuary (great acoustics!) added another \$1,000. BAFFA shared half of their good-will contributions at the door and the musicians/singers contributed in addition. Thank you Martha!

Our new kitchen appliances have arrived and have been installed thanks to the Knights of Columbus of Hauppauge. This blessing came through Pastor Chuck's brother who is a Grand Knight at the Hauppauge lodge.

The appliances include a six-burner commercial grade range, a convection oven and a food warmer. The combined cost if we were to purchase these appliances would be nearly \$10,000. The Knights arranged for delivery of the appliances and removal of our current stove. The benefits of

these new appliances are already being realized by our Wesley dinners and our annual Palm Sunday breakfast. Thanks to Peter Halliwell for coordinating this project.

The brick sealing project continues. Our consultant has applied seven different agents as a test to determine which will be most effective. Once one has been selected as best for our brick conditions, we will issue a request for bids from a minimum of three contractors and select the lowest responsible bidder.

Although not part of our SOS campaign, related work has commenced to replace the basement stairs on the west side of the building which serves our tenant Head Start. The stairs will be replaced by a ramp to comply with federal Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. This work is being financed by Head Start.

Please remember your SOS pledges to help keep the campaign going. New pledges are needed and always gratefully welcomed. Thanks to all for their contributions and hard work.

—Jim Graham

## Judicial Council Partly Upholds Traditional Plan

**T**he United Methodist Church's top court has found that while some provisions of the newly adopted Traditional Plan remain unconstitutional, the rest of the plan is valid as church law.

That was the Judicial Council's ruling on a requested review of the Traditional Plan, which was approved during a special denomination-wide

legislative session in February to strengthen enforcement of bans on "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy and same-sex weddings.

In a separate ruling, legislation to provide an exit strategy for local churches wishing to leave the denomination meets three minimum requirements and thus is constitutional "when taken together with the consent of the annual conference" as specifically outlined in the Book of Discipline, the court said.

Both decisions came at the conclusion of the Judicial Council's April 23-26 meeting.

In Decision 1378, the top court said it applied "a severability test" to determine if the unconstitutional provisions of the Traditional Plan could be severed from what remained.

"Unless it is evident that the General Conference would not have enacted those provisions that are within its legislative powers without those that are not, the invalid parts can be separated if what is left is not inextricably linked and can function independently," the decision said.

—Linda Bloom, UMNS

## Commentary: What's Next?

**W**ithout overlooking the obvious pain and divisions that have arisen from the 2019 General Conference, it may be time to look ahead and to ask, "What is next for our United Methodist Church?"

We only have a little over a year until the regular General Conference in 2020. And in fact, elections of delegates to that General Conference will happen this spring in our various annual conferences. I am no prophet in the sense of foreseeing the future, but some trends seem to raise obvious questions for us to consider:

First, the results of the 2019 law-making assembly were rather predictable since the delegates were mostly the very same delegates who served the 2016 General Conference. The status quo remains.

While I understand that many hoped for different results in 2019, the reality is that only by electing different delegates will there be different results. So, will the delegations in 2020 consist of younger persons or persons more open to change? Or will annual conferences continue to elect the same persons who have served in the past?

The trend toward changing and modifying our denomination's policies about same-gender weddings and ordination of LGBTQ persons is moving slowly but dramatically.

In 1992, the General Conference considered the report of a commission it had established in 1988 to study the issue of homosexuality, and it rejected proposals for change by a vote of 710-238. That vote occurred at a time when the number of delegates from outside the United States was small. The votes in 2019 of around 55 percent to retain our traditional language show a dramatic increase in the number of delegates who want to change or modify our stance—especially among U.S. dele-

gates. Some have estimated that about two-thirds of U.S. delegates voted to modify our policies, and it was only the increasing number of delegates from outside the U.S. who held the line on our traditional positions.

So, we will likely see two diverging trends: More delegates from outside of the U.S. voting for traditional policies and more delegates from within the U.S. voting for change. Which trend will prevail?

Approaching the 2019 General Conference, we saw for the first time that “centrists” organized to try to influence voting. For the past 30 years or so, only those on the “left” and the “right” have organized into caucus groups and tried to influence voting. Will the “center” of our United Methodist Church continue to organize in the future? Since most of that group supported the One Church Plan, will they bring forth similar plans to the 2020 General Conference?

Although the results and proposals of the Commission on a Way Forward were not approved by the 2019 General Conference, our church has a history of voting “no” to many new ideas the first time, but then later adopting them. Will that prove to be the case with some or all of the proposals from the commission?

Many have observed that the 2019 General Conference continued and even accelerated the lack of decorum, spreading of gossip and rumors, and uncivil behavior that has plagued recent General Conferences. Will that kind of behavior continue in 2020 and beyond, or have enough people been embarrassed by that kind of behavior

(and the attention it gained in the national media) to move toward a more civil style of interaction in the future?

Will our United Methodist Church look for ways to organize itself to be a global church in the midst of a “flat” world? We are still trying to make our hierarchical and colonial structures from previous centuries work for us in a new world where most people (especially most younger people) demand immediate access and direct involvement in ministry and mission?

Bishop Robert Schnase has described our current system as the “up and over” model of giving our money to a general church structure which then distributes our money for us.

Many annual conferences and many local churches have found ways to establish their own partnerships for ministry and mission directly (in a “flat” way) which does not require our complicated general church structures. Will our denomination find ways to adapt to that growing trend?

Given how the speeches and statements at the 2019 General Conference reflected very different understandings of Scripture, will our United Methodist Church be able to bring some consensus to those understandings?

One way to frame the difference is that many United Methodists view the Bible as the Word of God while many other United Methodists view Jesus Christ as the Word of God whom the Bible reveals. The former viewpoint tends toward idolatry of the Bible, while the latter tends toward relativism.

**Continued on Page 7**

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“Let’s give ‘em a good start with some holy water!”

**Don't Forget Your Pledge**

The deadline for the June issue of **The Link** is May 24.  
 Please email your copy to [gbhoag@optonline.net](mailto:gbhoag@optonline.net).

For security purposes, the Church St. entrance is now locked as soon as Sunday services begin. If you are running late, be sure to use the Sanctuary entrances.

## What Next? (From Page 5)

Will our church find ways to bring those viewpoints together into a new consensus which honors Scripture by opening the church to the movement of the Spirit?

A family systems therapist would likely diagnose our current preoccupation with the issue of homosexuality by saying we have made LGBTQ persons into our “identified patient” as a way of avoiding other issues like heterosexual abuse, polygamy, child neglect, racism, sexism, etc. Would hearing that diagnosis lead our United Methodist Church to have a healthy discussion of those larger and deeper issues? Would that discussion be a movement toward health?

Will the finances of our general church remain strong? In spite of the divisions and disruptions of recent years the giving of general church apportionments has remained quite strong, but will we now see a reduction of support? Apparently, the General Council on Finance and Administration foresees problems since the agency is proposing a large reduction in the budget for the next quadrennium. Will that prove to be correct or just a self-fulfilling prophecy?

We all have mistyped “United” as “Untied” and that typo is the real question for our future. Will the United Methodist Church continue to be united or will it unravel? In order to remain united will we have to focus upon freedom within relationships, rather than uniformity within a Book of Discipline? Can we find ways to exhibit the biblical concept of the “unity of the Spirit within the bonds of peace” or will we remain stuck in

the conflicts of a political convention model like the 2019 General Conference?

What is next for our United Methodist Church?

—Bishop Michael J. Coyner, UMNS

## UMCOR Hurricane Recovery

United Methodists in North Carolina and Alabama-West Florida are undertaking large-scale recovery programs for those affected by U.S. hurricanes in 2018, with assistance from the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The \$4.6 million grant for the Alabama-West Florida Conference will help launch and fund the first two years of a phased four-year recovery program in response to Hurricane Michael.

Greg Ellis, UMCOR project manager for the grant, called it “by far the biggest program in recent memory that this conference has done.”

Nearly \$6.4 million has been allocated to the North Carolina Conference, where residents were left reeling last September from slow-moving wind and rain generated by Hurricane Florence. The storm’s impact affected nearly the entire state, including areas still recovering from Hurricane Matthew two years earlier.

Both grants were part of some \$27.6 million in funds authorized April 11 by UMCOR’s board of directors for U.S. and international disaster response, sustainable development and global migration projects, and support for denominational hospitals and health boards through the Global Health unit.

While the Alabama-West Florida Conference has suffered through significant tornados and floods in the past, “they do have some new players that hadn’t managed at that level,” said Catherine G. Earl, UMCOR’s director of disaster response and U.S. partner relations. But they are leaning into those responsibilities “extraordinarily well,” she added.

“In disaster ministry, the conferences have to go from zero to 60 very quickly,” Earl explained. Along with resources, UMCOR provides guidance and flexibility from its own disaster recovery experience, so “we’re able to provide that sense of comfort to them.”

Hurricane Michael swept across a narrow band of the Florida panhandle on Oct. 12, leaving total destruction in some areas. Six of the 12 counties that are FEMA-eligible are in the Alabama-West Florida Conference, which has received additional support from the North Alabama and Florida conferences. Alabama-West Florida also will receive a separate \$180,000 UMCOR grant for church repair.

In North Carolina, Ellis said, United Methodists are working in partnership with FEMA through a relatively new STEP (Sanitary, Temporary, Essential Power) program. FEMA assists with purchase of materials and then volunteers, like United Methodists or other religious groups, pick up the materials and perform the actual construction work.

“It really stretches their budgets and it also is a great benefit to the survivor because that money doesn’t count against the household’s allowances,” Ellis explained.

Continued on Page 8

10 Church St., Patchogue, NY 11772

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 Camille Flynn, Administrative Assistant  
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 Email: PatchogueUMC@Yahoo.com  
 Office Hours: 9:00 AM –2:00 PM., Closed Monday  
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### UMCOR (From Page 7)

Earl agreed the program is an added benefit. “The intention is to fast-track families and get them back into a livable situation,” she said. The STEP program setup allows for “sheltering in place” by providing running water, electricity, bedrooms for sleeping “and a way to secure the envelope so no further damage happens” while the house awaits further renovations.

The North Carolina Conference’s project goal is to help at least 1,020 families impacted by Hurricane Florence or Hurricane Matthew in 2016 into full recovery. An estimated 720 will be assisted through the STEP program and 300 through UMCOR funds, Ellis said.

The Mississippi Conference also will receive \$2.4 million from UMCOR to assist with recovery from multiple disasters in 2018-19, along with \$854,660 to create a management team to undergird its UMCOR recovery projects. Since 2002, Mississippi has had 25 FEMA-recognized major disasters.

Other major grants for U.S. disasters approved by UMCOR directors included \$2.3 million to the South Carolina Conference for Hurricane Florence recovery; \$1.1 million, Wind-ing Rivers United Methodist Church in Juneau County, Wisconsin, long-term storm recovery; \$1 million, West Virginia Conference, long-term flood recovery.

U.S. grants also included \$1 million for the Methodist Church of Puerto

Rico, church repair from Hurricane Maria; \$720,000, South Georgia Conference; Hurricane Michael recovery; \$700,000, Mennonite Disaster Services, Hurricane Harvey recovery; \$100,000, New York Conference, Puerto Rico volunteer coordination partnership and \$70,000, Arkansas Conference, Marion County tornado. A \$250,000 international disaster grant will go to International Orthodox Christian Charities to provide shelter support for Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians in Jordan. United Methodists in the North Kataranga and Central Congo areas also will receive \$100,000 and \$93,907, respectively for disaster management.

—Linda Bloom, UMNS