

# The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

May 2021

## God Created Mothers To Be Extra Special

**W**henever I think of May, I think of days filled with sunshine and Mother's Day.

In fact, I was born on Mother's Day. I used to tell my mother, "Boy, did you get a great Mother's Day gift on that day?" LOL.

There is something different and special about Moms. I have fond memories of whenever we did an arts and craft project in school—I would always make it with Mom in mind and couldn't wait to present it to her. I always got the same reaction, filled with excitement and joy as if she just received a Rembrandt or Picasso masterpiece. Moms have a way of doing things like that, don't they?

I don't know what it is; however, I feel as if when God was creating mothers—He gave them a special dose of magic that only mothers can perform. It is something innate, not necessarily something that is acquired. Though, I would imagine that Moms learn much through experience. But deep down inside is this implanted ability to operate like no other when it comes to loving and caring for their children.

The great theologian, Karl Barth, was once asked why he thought his biblical beliefs and findings were true. To which this brilliant scholar simply replied, "Because my mother told me so." I love that. That is a clear example of the tremendous influence mothers have on their children.

When I think back, I envision my mother

making my favorite meals. I may have been the only kid who had his Mom prepare banana and butter sandwiches. But they were the best banana and butter sandwiches in the entire world.

If you get a chance, take a look at Proverbs 31:10-31. It describes Moms well. If I may paraphrase, it says that she gets up while it is still dark to prepare for her family. The way she lives her life is respected by her

**Continued on Page 2**

## WORSHIP IN MAY

**May 2**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, John 15:1-8

**May 9**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, John 15:9-17

**May 16**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 24:44-53

**May 23**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Romans 8:22-27

**May 30**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, John 3:1-17

Worship is with Covid restrictions.. There are no other church activities with the exception of Food Pantry.



## Circle of Concern

### Grieving

**Bob and Donna Walker** who lost their 38 year old son this past week. (Pastor Chuck)

### Healing

**Mary Prince**, sister-in-law of Bob and Eleanor, who recently suffered a stroke. (Bob Prince)

**Henry Prince**, brother of Bob, who is having difficulty as his bone cancer is presenting him with more problems. (Bob Prince)

**Ulla Ziegler Pereira** who recently had a brain tumor removed from her frontal lobe. (Pam Queen)

**Reah**, a 35 year old mother of two who has undergone a heart and kidney transplant. (Pastor Chuck)

**Florence**, friend of Michelle Ryan, has a rare cancer.

**Frank LoPresti**, who is having complications following hernia surgery. (Melany Halliwell)

**Louise Russo**, sister of Lynn, is in need of prayer. (Lynn Russo)

**Lisa Yarrington**, wife and caretaker, of her husband with esophagus cancer. (Lisa Yarrington)

**JoAnn** who, after 20 years cancer free, was diagnosed with breast cancer for a second time, will undergo surgery in May. (Kathy Halliwell)

**Nancy and Bill Schaff**, parents of Barbara Lyons, suffering from Covid.

7 year old **Nicholas Grazopolous**, with a brain tumor, has had his second clear scan.

**Christopher Racciopo** the police officer who was stabbed while on duty in Patchogue is recovering. (Pastor Chuck)

## Concerns

**Justin Zimmerman** will be going back for his medical exam and entry into the EMT Services. (Diane Zimmerman)

### Joy

**Rhoda Willis** has finally been released from the rehabilitation facility and is back at assisted living. She is continuing to get stronger, however still needs our prayers. (Carolyn Willis)

Congratulations to **Steven & Hayling Rice** on the birth of a baby boy, **Elias**, and to grandparents Steven and Dawn Rice and great grandparents Paul and Betty Rice.

### Continued Prayers

Anita Helfst, Breast Cancer Mom (Anonymous), Andrew Acerra, Said Mirzaali, Brenda Klingel, Kathy Maier, Mary Reider, Paul Weissman, Joe Calzone, Fred Reider, Bob Mayrose, Ed Rose, Debbie Merrell, Beverly Schiffrin, Maryellen Comacho, Suzanne Dalton, Arlene Hurre-Schwergerling, Kurt Watkins, Travis Gentile, Kimberly Helfst, John Rocco Megan Coonery, Suzanne Tierney, Richard Rubino, Felicia Fuentes, Liz Smith, Bruce Kirschner, Joyce Gabrinowitz, Travis Gentile, Tom King

—Compiled by Kathy Halliwell

*Please email Kathy—*

*keats1002@gmail.com with any additions or deletions.*

### These in Rehab or Nursing Care

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

## Mothers (From Page 1)

husband and children and those in the community. When I look for an example of a Proverbs 31 woman, I don't have to look too far—because my wife is such a woman. She is a great wife and mother who always placed her family before herself. Just as my mother was a great mom—my wife is a great mom and has passed that on to our daughters.

Motherhood is a generational thing—it transfers from one generation to the next.

I want to encourage you, if you are fortunate to still have your mother—make sure you say “thank you” and “I love you” often. One day she will be gone, like my mom. Don't be so busy that later on you will have regrets.

Now, I have had a limited number of people tell me that their moms were not Proverbs 31 moms. For whatever reason, their memories are not so fond. Well, I encourage you to forgive her. Let it go. One never knows why individuals act the way they do. One never knows the experiences they had—the pain in their own lives—perhaps poor role models. Choose to forgive, and pass on good things to your children.

To all the Moms, I wish you a most happy and blessed Mother's Day! It's a day we can all celebrate—because, without our Moms, we wouldn't be here.

In His Grip,

—Pastor Chuck

# United Methodist Church of Patchogue

## May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00 a.m.— Church open for worship.	3 <b>Office Closed</b>	4 10:00 a.m.— <b>Noon</b> —Food Pantry	5	6	7	8
9 10:00 a.m.— Church open for worship.	10 <b>Office Closed</b>	11 10:00 a.m.— <b>Noon</b> —Food Pantry	12	13	14	15
16 10:00 a.m.— Church open for worship.	17 <b>Office Closed</b>	18 10:00 a.m.— <b>Noon</b> —Food Pantry	19	20	21	22
23 10:00 a.m.— Church open for worship.	24 <b>Office Closed</b>	25 10:00 a.m.— <b>Noon</b> —Food Pantry	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 a.m.— Church open for worship.	31 <b>Office Closed</b>					

## United Methodists React To Chauvin Verdict

United Methodists across the connection joined the national response to the guilty verdict handed down April 20 in the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for the killing of George Floyd.

A jury convicted Chauvin on three counts of murder and manslaughter. Bishop David Bard, interim episcopal leader of the Minnesota Conference, described the verdict as both a measure of relief and a profound sadness, noting that, “no verdict can return a person from the dead.”

In Minneapolis, the decision was met with both relief and acknowledgement of the significant anti-racism work that remains.

The Rev. Dana Neuhauser, who serves New City Church — a United Methodist church plant in South Minneapolis — was at the site of Floyd’s memorial when the verdict was announced. Most of the people she was with were bracing for an acquittal, she said.

“My initial reaction was shock, then relief,” Neuhauser said. “A Black colleague with whom I was standing said, ‘We matter, we matter, we matter.’”

Meanwhile, the Rev. Laquaan Malachi, who serves North United Methodist Church in North Minneapolis, said he feels like he’s in a limbo of sorts.

“We are celebrating the mediocrity of our justice system,” he explained. “This verdict does not exonerate the system but instead highlights how difficult it makes justice when there

are no cameras watching. This verdict was a baby step and we have a long way to go.”

Throughout the past year, both Malachi and Neuhauser have spoken at vigils, marched for justice, protested police brutality against people of color and provided a pastoral presence during the uprising that followed Floyd’s murder. While they are relieved that Chauvin was held accountable for his actions, they acknowledge that the work for an equitable and just world is just beginning.

“From here, we continue ahead,” Malachi said. “This is an important momentary victory, but the work of healing a broken world occurs in our everyday interactions with those around us. The work of the church is to live into this world that we are convinced can be real.”

“Sometimes it feels like shoveling in the middle of a blizzard and all I’ve got is a teaspoon,” Neuhauser said, “but I’ll keep shoveling.”

The Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, senior pastor of Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C., was in Minneapolis and present with the Floyd family as they awaited the verdict.

She described it as “a heavy consequential moment for us as people of faith.”

“This is potentially a real pivot moment to recommit to address how to dismantle these things instead of pretending they’re not real,” she said in a Facebook Live post on Foundry’s page. “I believe God is ... always with the oppressed and the suffering.”

Church leaders expressed the sense that the verdict was just while urging the religious community to be involved in ending widespread racism and systemic injustice against people of color. M. Garlinda Burton, interim top executive of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race, noted that the Hebrew word for justice, *mishpat*, occurs more than 200 times in the Old Testament.

“God has set an anti-racism agenda for us and God expects us to live that out in our relations with Christ and one another,” she said. “It must start with hard conversations and penitent prayer and action, and truth about what the U.S. Christian church community has failed to do and be.”

In a statement, the United Methodist Board of Church and Society wrote: “As followers of the Risen Christ, we must name white supremacy as sin, and state that true justice will only be achieved when we reconstruct the public safety systems in each of our communities so that Black, Brown, Indigenous and People of Color receive equitable safety and security.”

The Baltimore-Washington Conference, Black Methodists for Church Renewal and United Methodist Women issued a joint statement calling United Methodists to action, including working for comprehensive police reform and lifting up and practicing the Social Principles and resolutions on racism. They also shared a list of resources for working toward anti-racism.

In the aftermath of the verdict, the United Methodist Council of Bishops released a statement calling for dismantling systemic racism and remind-

ing the church of its biblical mandate to work for justice.

“The racial violence experienced by communities of color has pushed us to think more deeply about how white supremacy functions in our society,” the statement reads. “We are called as people of faith to work for a world in which love, peace and justice reign.”

Floyd’s May 2020 death was a catalyst that led to the creation of the denomination’s “Dismantling Racism” initiative, launched weeks later.

While relief and even brief exuberance are understandable in the wake of the conviction, United Methodist bishops also urged the church to continue the hard work of racial reconciliation.

“We need the Holy Spirit, the breath of Jesus for the continuing work of dismantling racial inequity ... the work of building Beloved Community, the work of love,” Bard wrote.

Added Bishop Grant J. Hagiya of the California-Pacific Conference: “This verdict represents the basement and not the ceiling of what needs to take place in our nation.”

The verdict shows the community was able to hold law enforcement officers accountable, but abuses still go unpunished, said Bishop Laurie Haller of the Iowa and Dakotas conferences.

“The list of Black lives who have been needlessly killed grows each day,” she said. “The pervasive culture of racism and white supremacy, increasingly incited by political rhetoric, grows each day. The fear among parents of Black children grows each day. The flaunting of our laws against ra-

cial profiling and discrimination grows each day.”

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference suggested that, “we shed some silent tears along with our many brothers and sisters who have been traumatized by racism, unjust systems and brutality.”

“Many people have not received justice in the past, and racial inequity and violence against people of color has been a painful reality,” she said.

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar of the New England Conference said the Chauvin conviction “provides a measure of justice for George Floyd and that ray of hope for all who’ve been waiting for accountability.”

More work needs to be done around racial issues, he said, adding that “justice is not complete until all children of God can live together in community, with mutual respect and dignity and equity.”

Chauvin and his family also are suffering, several bishops acknowledged, and are worthy of the prayers of United Methodists along with Floyd’s family.

There are “no winners in the George Floyd murder case,” said Bishop Frank J. Beard of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. “We are all hurt and weakened by all forms of injustice and pain. I pray for Derek Chauvin and for his family. I continue to pray for the family of George Floyd. I pray for our police officers and those sworn to protect and to serve.”

Bishop LaTrelle Easterling of the Baltimore-Washington Conference offered a similar message.

“This is a time of prayer for the Floyd family as they continue to mourn,” she said. “This is also a time of prayer for the Chauvin family as they, too, are suffering. As the people of God, we know that forgiveness is available to all who seek it with earnest hearts.”

Gaines-Cirelli of Foundry also encouraged prayer for the members of the jury.

“Not everyone will be supportive of their decision” and may respond to them negatively, she said. “Let’s surround them with prayer.”

The Rev. Kevin R. Murriel, senior pastor of 7,000-member Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta, led an online discussion soon after the verdict with his predominantly African American congregation. He spoke of feeling relief at the verdict, especially because of past disappointments when police were absolved in killings of unarmed Black people. He also urged his congregation to stay engaged.

“We need to be working more toward justice because today it’s George Floyd, but tomorrow it’s Daunte Wright, and tomorrow it’s all the others who have gone unnamed who we still have to fight for,” Murriel said.

Other United Methodist organizations and partners also commented on the verdict.

The Rev. Michael L. Bowie Jr., national executive director for Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, described it as being “like Jesus breathed on our nation,” but he noted that hours later, a

**Continued on Page 7**

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Don't even think about it!

**Lawn Mowers Needed**

**L**enny Pearson has been a faithful servant, keeping our church lawn mowed and trimmed. But she will undergo shoulder surgery in May and needs to turn over the task to someone else.

It's a labor need only. The church has a lawn mower to use. If this is a project that you would be willing to take on or share, please contact Dave Hollowell or the church office. Thank you.

—Ed Klingel

The deadline for the June issue of **The Link** is May 21.  
 Please email your copy to [gbhoag@optonline.net](mailto:gbhoag@optonline.net).

## Chauvin Verdict

### (From Page 5)

Black teenage girl was shot by police in Columbus, Ohio.

“Until police reform and the systemic racism in this country is dismantled, we unfortunately will continue to live with the fear of not being able to breathe,” Bowie said.

The Rev. Reuben Eckels, domestic policy advocate at Church World Service, said the verdict has the potential to be a pivotal moment in the history of racial justice in America.

“One verdict does not change an entire system or culture, but it provides a sense of accountability that we as a nation must endeavor to reproduce if we are to ever truly achieve racial justice.”

The Rev. Keith Boyette, president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association, said, “Our system of justice was permitted to work and the jury carefully weighed the evidence and arrived at a verdict consistent with the law. We respect the jury’s verdict.”

United Methodist Women top executive Harriett Jane Olson said, “As people of faith, we celebrate even as we continue our advocacy work. May justice roll down like waters, today and in days to come.”

—UMNS

## May Birthdays

**May 11** Noah Lyons

**May 11** Robert Queen

## Clergyman Takes On

### QAnon

**T**he Rev. Derek Kubilus is no cookie-cutter United Methodist clergyman.

He has the dynamic voice of a talk radio host, brings his two Great Pyrenees to Bible study and calls himself “vicar” rather than “pastor.”

Though he has historical and theological reasons for using that title, Kubilus acknowledges it’s a way of standing out — a rhetorical bow tie.

Kubilus, leader of Uniontown United Methodist Church in Uniontown, Ohio, stepped out further in late January when he launched a podcast called “Cross Over Q.”

It offers a Christian challenge to the QAnon conspiracy movement, which has been a big news story since the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, when “Q” signs and clothing could be seen among the mob.

Kubilus’ podcast came to the attention of CBS’ “60 Minutes,” with Lesley Stahl interviewing him for a Feb. 21 report on QAnon.

That exposure has made for an interesting few weeks for Kubilus, including a bigger audience for his podcast, more interview requests and lots of fan mail. He’s had hate mail, too. But he’s making peace with that.

“It’s all worked out. I’m thankful people are tuning into the podcast and the message is getting out there,” he said.

Kubilus’ message, in brief: QAnon is a lie but also a pernicious force that the church needs to call out, with compassion.

Kubilus, 38, grew up attending Montrose Zion United Methodist Church in Akron, Ohio. He knew by age 13 that he would be a minister. After studying Bible and theology at Malone University, he earned a master of divinity degree from Duke Divinity School.

Since 2010, he’s been serving East Ohio Conference churches, and he’s been an ordained elder since 2014.

Through the years, Kubilus noticed the strain that polarized U.S. politics was placing on families and congregations. He read news accounts of Pizzagate, a conspiracy theory alleging a child sex trafficking ring operated by Democrats. The hoax led to a Dec. 4, 2016, shooting at a Washington pizza parlor by a man who thought he was at the ring’s headquarters.

Pizzagate was followed the next year by anonymous internet postings from a supposedly high-ranking federal official with clearance to classified information. These messages from “Q” grew into QAnon, described by the BBC as a “wide-ranging, completely unfounded theory that says that President Trump is waging a secret war against elite Satan-worshipping pedophiles in government, business and the media.”

Kubilus said, “I first heard about QAnon in 2018, and just kind of passed it off as a fad. But then people started talking about relationships they were having that were really strained by people who were believing in conspiracies.”

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## Pastor Is QAnon Foe (From Page 7)

On Jan. 6, Kubilus and his wife, Maggie, watched in horror the televised scenes of the storming of the Capitol.

“When the Capitol insurrection happened, and I saw Q flags and crosses and Confederate flags all being marched into the Capitol, I felt like I needed to do something,” he said. “I’d already been doing a church podcast, with sermons and devotionals. I said, ‘You know, I understand this technology, and I think I have something to say.’”

By late January, he had debuted “Cross Over Q,” which can be found on Spotify and other platforms.

Kubilus’ purpose is, in part, to raise awareness of the threat of QAnon

and other conspiracy theories. He’s committed to debunking but also wants to offer Christian compassion.

“The victims of QAnon are not bad people,” he said. “They’re just folks who have fallen down a rabbit hole of misinformation.”

Kubilus is sure the rabbit hole is crowded and cites an American Enterprise Institute survey suggesting more than a quarter of white American evangelicals believe the QAnon theory is at least mostly true. Fifteen percent of white mainline Protestants are in the same camp, the survey found.

A Lifeway Research study found half of white U.S. Protestant pastors say they hear congregation members repeating conspiracy theories.

“I guarantee you know someone

who is infected with this stuff,” Kubilus said on his first podcast.

After only a couple of “Cross Over Q” episodes, Kubilus was asked to be on “60 Minutes.”

“I said, ‘I’m going to have to pray about this, and talk to my wife and my district superintendent and some of my mentors,’” he recalled.

Kubilus ultimately welcomed a film crew to Uniontown United Methodist, and on a snowy Sunday they got footage of him in the makeshift outdoor shelter from which he has given parking lot sermons during the pandemic.

Stahl interviewed him remotely.

“The actual interview was about an hour and a half, and they used about a minute,” he said.

—Sam Hodges, UMNS