

The Link



Since 1791

The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

November 2008

Edited By George Hoag

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

— **Philippians 4:6, NRSV.**

Thanksgiving Day is the day when we gather together to give thanks to God, and ask for God's continued blessings. The act of remembering the blessings helps us to acknowledge that all the blessings come from God. In Hebrew, the word "hod 'ah" means "gratitude" as well as "confession." When we express our gratitude to God, we are also confessing that all the blessings come from God. We are confessing that God is who provides all our needs.

Most of us consider Thanksgiving Day as an opportunity to visit family, watch parades and football games, and eat a traditional meal that includes turkey and pumpkin pie. Before we celebrate the Thanksgiving with family, let's take time to remember what God has done for us. Let's remember all the blessings that God brought to our life, family, and church. Let's express our gratitude to God in a very special way.

I believe that one of the most meaningful ways to celebrate

Continued on Page 2

Worship in November

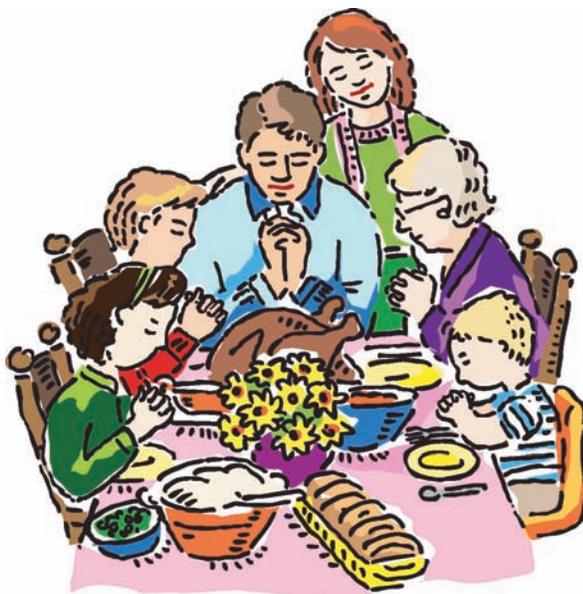
November 2 (25th Sunday after Pentecost)—Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37; Matthew 22:34-46; Pastor Chung: "Three Directions of Love"

November 9 (26th Sunday after Pentecost)—Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Matthew 25:1-13; Glen Adonne

November 16 (27th Sunday after Pentecost)—Psalm 123; Matthew 25:14-30; Pastor Chung: "Good and Faithful Servant"

November 23 (Christ the King)—Psalm 65; Luke 17:11-19; Pastor Chung: "Thanksgiving"

November 30 (1st Sunday of Advent)—Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37; Pastor Chung: "Beware, Keep Alert"



**"Blessing and glory and
wisdom and thanksgiving and
honor and power and might
be to our God
forever and ever! Amen."**

Revelation 7:12, NRSV

Circle of Concern

For Bereavement:

Family and Friends of: Tricia (Mary) Loris, wife of William Loris.

For Guidance:

Lisa D., Barbara McAllister, Joe Brentlink, David & Lori Purificato, Ray Gallo, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Brenda Bonfe D'Angelo.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Christine Quinn's cousin Frank, Jeff Burdett, Betty Braile, Nana Grace, Frank Barile, Nancy Marshall, Michael Abate, Howard Alt, Deborah Belmonte, Joan Simpson.

These at Home:

Betty Hanley, Cliff McClean, Joan Welsh, Joseph Weinzettle, Mark Hoffman, Eric & Pat Carlson, Nancy Rogers, Elise Gavrock, Martha Campanile, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Philip Crandall, Kyra McCarthy, Cheryl Ward, Linda Werner's friend Lois, Lucille Barthelme, Jean Miller, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Ruth Masem, Billy Lattazino and Kitty Dayton.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

George and Shirley Strauss; Alice Zahnd in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue, NY; Anna Satterly in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzola Drive, East Patchogue, NY 11772; Lew and Kitty Brunnemer in Cedar Lodge Nursing Home, 6 Frowein Road, Center Moriches, NY 11934; Gerry Flood in St James Nursing Home (room 269) 273 Moriches Rd., St. James, NY 11780; Doris Shrimpton in Bellhaven Nursing Center, 110 Beaverdam Rd., Brookhaven; Hazel Nargi in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue; Marian King in Sunrise Assisted Living, 2 Hills Rd., E. Setauket, Rm. 2; Anna Bonfe, Rm. 201, Cunningham Bldg., Loretto Rest, 708 E. Brighton Ave., Syracuse, NY 13205; Toby Miller (Room 213B) in Affinity Skilled Living and Rehabilitation Center, 305 Locust Avenue, Oakdale, NY 11769.

Pray for our church and her future directions!

Soup Sundays

Soup Sundays continue after worship on Nov. 2, and Nov. 9. Delicious homemade soups will be sold at modest prices to help fund the missions of the UMW.

Help Wanted

A wonderful woman needs a ride to and from church one Sunday a month. If you have a little extra time and room in your car, PLEASE contact Bob Prince at 576-9773 or leave message at 758-1917 or church office 475-0381, CHRIST IS COUNTING ON US.

Ushers Needed

See Trudy Mansfield or call her at 654-9355.

December Link

The deadline this month is Nov. 14. Please e-mail to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Thanksgiving (from Page 1)

Thanksgiving Day is by "giving." We are giving thanks to God with our offerings. We are giving attention to those who are in needs.

Remember that the first reason to be thankful to God is the fact that we became God's children through the act of Jesus Christ. The disciple Paul always expressed his gratitude to God; the reason was not his circumstances, but the grace of Jesus Christ.

The reason for being thankful has to be started from the grace of Jesus Christ, so we can embrace all the bad and good things that happened in our life with the "spirit of gratitude."

In this month, I really encourage all members of Patchogue UMC to give special thanks to God. And, remember all the things that God has done for us in our lives; and celebrate this time by giving what we have to God and our neighbors. As Christians, we also must remember that each day is a thanksgiving day. We are blessed with God's abundant love every day. Let me share a prayer of Thanksgiving with you.

A Thanksgiving Prayer by Samuel F. Pugh:

"O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry,

When I have work, help me to remember the jobless,

When I have a home help me to remember those who have no home at all,

When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer,

And, remembering, help me to destroy my complacency; bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help;

By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted. Amen."

In Christ,

—Pastor In Koo Chung

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

Stewardship

As I sit here thinking about stewardship my mind wanders—and I think of Christmas. Then the light goes off. Who are the first stewards of “the church?” How about the three wise men? The three wise men on faith, followed a star, met up with Herod (who had evil thoughts) and proceeded to follow the star to Bethlehem, where they presented their gifts to baby Jesus. Isn’t that part of stewardship, presenting our gifts, tithes, talents, time?.

The three wise men, on faith, gave up their cozy home and friends for whatever time it took to travel on the back of camels (no hummer and no gas) and no motels or McDonald’s, to find a baby. What a sacrifice. They brought gifts to little “King” Jesus, who is the cornerstone of the church. Gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh or was it faith hope and love?

What is your gift of faith? Time, Talents, Money?

Yesterday’s church weathered some rough times and now it is no different. We are like the wise men going back home the long way through the desert, no food, no water, no large endowments to fall back on. We need to pull together, tighten our belt and play, work and pray together. We need each other as a community of faith to get through the rough times.

Got an e-mail with a cute story, but ever so true, especially today. A new minister in a community starts a “bus of faith”. He goes around the community to help people and bring them to Christ. So on the first day out the minister meets a little nine year boy who has been left home with his little brother while Mommy works. The minister goes in the home for three hours and talks to the boy about accepting Jesus as his Lord and Savior. So they pray and finally the little boy accepts Jesus Christ. The minister picks him up on Sunday morning and takes him to breakfast first and then to church. The boy is amazed at the size of this big beautiful church and sits there taking everything in. Then it came time for the collection. Four big men walk down the aisle to get wooden offertory plates and proceed back up the aisle to collect. The boy has nothing and feels ashamed. Then something moved him inside (LOVE). He runs up the aisle yelling “put down the plate”, so the usher rests it on the floor, and the boy jumps into the plate and says “pick it up now”. He shouts “Jesus, I’ve no money but take me to be your faithful servant”. (HOPE at work)

In our troubled times, let us remember to pray for our country and service men and women, our church and Rev. Chung and community of faith (us) and Thank God for giving us His son.

—Jan Boyd & Dave Hallowell



Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Finances

The financial problems of our church have been building for many years as giving has declined while expenses have increased.

You’ve heard this before: For the past several years, funds have been withdrawn from our endowment account to pay our bills. Right now, with about \$25,000 remaining in our endowment, we have unpaid bills for Property Insurance and Pastor’s Pension and Health Insurance that, by year end will total about \$20,000. These must be paid. We also have about \$21,000 in unpaid Conference Apportionments. In the past, our church was able to pay these connectional funds 100%. We will not be able to do that this year, but we will need to pay part of it.

Trustees have some funds, but not a lot, and Trustee money is needed for repairs and maintenance on our buildings. An urgent roof repair (there’s a leak) at the parsonage will cost about \$3000.

If anybody has any magic solutions, we’d like to hear them, but as of right now it looks like we will be very nearly depleting our funds to get through the year.

November is the month that we receive Giving Pledges. Nobody likes to be asked for money even in the best of times and now is not good. But, to keep our doors open, we need revenue. Please prayerfully consider your giving. Remember that giving can be charged to a MasterCard or Visa card or deducted from a bank account automatically each month. You can make arrangements by calling the office.

—George Hoag

October 15, 2008

Let thy steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
Even as we hope in thee” (Psalm 33:22)

Dear United Methodists of the New York Area:

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Not since the Great Depression has the world economy experienced such turmoil and uncertainty as it has recently. All around us there is confusion, fear, anxiety, depression and anger. Economic stresses are affecting our families profoundly. Many people in our churches are suffering real pain. Not least, the poorest among us who know suffering on a daily basis are rendered even more vulnerable to shrinking financial resources, opportunities and compassion. And then there are those who live in extreme poverty. The plight of those who make up half of the world’s population, living on less than two dollars a day, is the bleakest of all as the world economic downturn will inevitably impact their lives most severely.

As people of faith, this is the time for holy boldness with holy imagination. Now is not the time to hold on in fear, but the time to give witness that our God cares. Now is not the time to shrink from the scare of scarcity, but to open our arms to the hurting people in our community and the world in witness to the abundance of God’s love and compassion. Now is not the time to turn inward, but the time to reach out and touch lives with the good news of the reign of God. As the feast of indulgence of Wall Street is over, let the feast of the kingdom of God flourish. Jesus said: *...one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions* (Luke 12:15) *....seek first God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness* (Matthew 6:33).

God is our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home. Indeed, the steadfastness of God’s love and faithfulness towards us endures forever. Though the mountains shake, waters roam and foam, nations rage and kingdoms totter, the God who is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (Psalm 46:1) is with us. Our God, who is concerned about the wellbeing of God’s children more than anyone else, is ever close to us in this time of trial.

I pray that our people will find compassion and comfort, strength and courage, faith and hope in the vision and values of God’s kingdom in our church for such a time as this.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, *For everything there is a season.* This tumultuous time will also pass. God’s people, take heart. Keep the faith. Let us put our hope in the Lord *both now and forevermore* (Psalm 131:3).

In Christ,

Jeremiah J. Park

We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;

He chastens and hastens his will to make known;

The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,

Sing praises to his name: He forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,

Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;

So from the beginning the fight we were winning;

Thou, Lord, wast at our side, All glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,

And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.

Let thy congregation escape tribulation;

Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Amen

—Traditional Thanksgiving Hymn

(A translation by Theodore Baker: 1851-1934)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS The United Methodist Church of Patchogue



Our altar at Christmas time always looks beautiful thanks to our lovely display of poinsettia plants. If you would like to help beautify our altar with these blessed poinsettias please fill out the form below and return it with payment to the church office no later than Sunday, December 7th
Make check payable to: The United Methodist Church of Patchogue
Send to: 10 Church Street, Patchogue, NY 11772

Please enter my order for the following plants:

Red Poinsettias Quantity _____ x \$10.00 each = Total \$ _____
White Poinsettias Quantity _____ x \$10.00 each = Total \$ _____
Pink Poinsettias Quantity _____ x \$10.00 each = Total \$ _____
Variegated Poinsettias Quantity _____ x \$10.00 each = Total \$ _____
Total enclosed \$ _____

In honor of _____

by _____

In memory of _____

by _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

- I will pick up after Christmas Eve Services.
- I will not pick up; please give to our shut-ins.



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United Methodist Church of Patchogue

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i>
2 10 a.m.—Church School /Communion Worship 11:30 a.m.—SPRC meeting	3 7 p.m.—AA	4 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	5	6 6:00 p.m.— Membership Committee	7	8 7:30 p.m.— Soul~Food Café, music by <i>The Spiritlifters</i>
9 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.—Finance Committee	10 7 p.m.—AA	11 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	12	13 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	14 <i>Link</i> Deadline	15 Christmas Fair
16 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 2:00–3:30 p.m.— District Days	17 7 p.m.—AA	18 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	19	20 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	21	22 9:30 a.m.—UMW
23 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.— Trustees	24 7 p.m.—AA	25 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	26 Community Thanksgiving Service	27	28	29
30 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship						

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**"WE WILL
SERVE
THE
LORD
OUR
GOD
AND
OBEY
HIM."**

JOSHUA 24:24, NIV

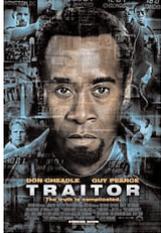


"They were celebrating a bountiful harvest?
You mean the whole thing was about vegetables?"

UMC.Org Reviews: *Traitor*

Director: Jeffrey Nachmanoff;
Production Company: Overture Films;
Cast: Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce, Jeff Daniels, Neal McDonough, Archie Panjabi, Alysia Khan, Said Taghmaoui;
Rating: PG-13 for intense violent sequences, thematic material and language

By Gregg Tubbs



UMC.org—There are few words with a more negative and damaging connotation than traitor. Judas Iscariot and Benedict Arnold were both traitors whose very names have become synonymous with the betrayal of a sacred trust. In the complex and thought provoking new espionage thriller, *Traitor*, Don Cheadle plays a human mystery, a man whose loyalties and motives are veiled by intentional deception and who is hopelessly torn between God and country. The film explores the nature of loyalty, the perversion of faith and the question of acceptable losses. And to top it off, our hero—who may or may not be on a mission to root out Muslim terrorists—is himself a devout Muslim.

Academy Award nominee Don Cheadle (*Hotel Rwanda*, *Crash*) and Guy Pearce (*Memento*, *L.A. Confidential*) deftly spar in *Traitor*, a taut and largely plausible espionage thriller of international spy versus spy, where the line between the “good guys” and the “bad guys” is blurred and all motives are driven by an understandable (if not sympathetic) point of view. In a story packed with the unexpected, it is equally surprising that the idea for the story comes from comedian Steve

Martin, who is also credited as the film's Executive Producer.

Cheadle plays Samir Horn, a Muslim born in Sudan, who is an undercover operative for a shadowy U.S. intelligence agency. At the age of 12, Horn witnessed the death of his father in a terrorist car bombing in Sudan—an early indoctrination into the world of violent treachery. Fleeing to America with his mother, the young man learned to love his new country while never giving up his Sudanese roots or Muslim faith.

In the opening scene, Horn is caught in an FBI ambush while trying to sell detonators to a group of international terrorists in Yemen. Although the FBI—led by smooth, philosophical agent Roy Clayton (Pearce)—have no jurisdiction in Yemen, they imprison Horn in a local jail and hold his fate in their hands. Surprisingly, Horn refuses to cooperate, and in so doing, gains the trust of the suspicious terrorists captured with him. When they are released, the terrorists reveal their plot to stage a massive suicide bombing attack across America. A man without a county or an identity, Horn finds himself pulled ever deeper into their conspiracy. Where exactly do his loyalties lie? Is his own life worth saving as he becomes more and more involved and gets innocent blood on his hands?

Traitor is a film that requires viewers to have an open mind and to consider complex questions. Terrorists are not portrayed as simple black and white characters, but rather as passionate human beings driven by deep beliefs. We are asked to consider whether their grievances are understandable—even if their methods are unforgivable. The film also acknowledges the gulf between the pure tenets of a religion—

including Islam and Christianity—and the actions of many who profess it. Clayton illustrates this by recounting events from his childhood in the Deep South when Klan members—supposed Christians—would burn a cross on someone's lawn at night. His father, a pastor, and his congregation would go out the next morning to remove the burned cross and comfort the terrorized family.

In this convoluted story, the most intriguing aspect is the depth and complexity with which the characters are portrayed, particularly Horn and Clayton. Horn opposes Muslim terrorists, not because he is a naturalized American or a Christian, but because he is a devout Muslim and sees killing innocents as a perversion of true Islam. Clayton, on the other hand, is a Baptist minister's son with a degree in Middle Eastern studies. Although he is Christian and American, Clayton is drawn to Horn as a kindred spirit with a similar sense of ethics.

Traitor asks us to question stereotypes, to look at other faiths with fresh eyes and to question the compatibility of killing with a religion that preaches love. For example, we are asked to consider difficult questions like what are “acceptable losses” and whether a largely innocent populace can be held accountable for the actions of their leaders. Applied to us, *Traitor* is really a film about loyalty. Though most of us never do anything that approaches traitorous, we can all search our souls about the idea of loyalty. Where do our loyalties lie? To whom do you owe allegiance—family or country? When Clayton asks Horn where his loyalties lie, he answers, “With God.” Makes you think.

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!



**The United Methodist Church of
Patchogue**
10 Church Street
Patchogue, NY 11772

The Link



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Rev. In Koo Chung, Pastoral Minister
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www.gbgm-umc.org/patchogue

Sunday Worship—10 A.M. — Sunday School—10 A.M.
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 A.M.
Supervised Nursery during worship.

We Give Thanks

Our Father in Heaven,
We give thanks for the
pleasure
Of gathering together for
this occasion.
We give thanks for this
food
Prepared by loving hands.
We give thanks for life,
The freedom to enjoy it all
And all other blessings.
As we partake of this food,
We pray for health and
strength
To carry on and try to live
as You would have us.
This we ask in the name of
Christ,
Our Heavenly Father.

—Harry Jewell



- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 11/02
Kimberly Mansfield | 11/17 Leah Kinlaw-Purificato |
| 11/02 Alec Lenhard | 11/18 David Hoffman |
| 11/06 Devin Keeley | 11/19 Meghan Monaco |
| 11/07 Brian
Condenzio | 11/19 Briana Levine |
| 11/07 Christopher Puglia | 11/21 Gianna Maritato |
| 11/10 Kevin Cruz | 11/27 Colleen Hutchens |
| 11/10 Richard Mauch | 11/27 Derek Barbaro |
| 11/11 Nicole Burch | 11/27 Matthew Masem |
| 11/11 Christian McMillin | 11/28 Ashley Marques |
| 11/12 Eliza DeCarlo | 11/28 Jake Scala |
| 11/12 Kyle MacDougall | |
| 11/13 Jason Schroeder | |
| 11/14 Eric Deubert | |
| 11/16 Joseph Conti | |
| 11/16 Melanie Randall | |
| 11/17 Jenisa Deabreu | |

We would like to include you on our e-mail list so that you can be timely updated on events. If you have not been receiving e-mail from us, please send your e-mail address to patchumc@optonline.net.