

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

November 2021

Thanks For The Memories

Yes, it is hard to believe, but it is already the month of November. November has always been a special month for me, because it is during this month that we celebrate Thanksgiving.

I have been a tremendous fan of Norman Rockwell, who I feel captured so much of the more innocent times in America through his illustrations. I have traveled to the Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts on numerous occasions, wondering what it must have been like to sit back and watch the master at work.

Some of his compositions I admire the most are his paintings of Thanksgiving scenes. One such painting entitled, "Freedom from Want,"

depicts a family gathered around a dining table while grandma brings out the roasted turkey. This 3-D image on a two-dimensional canvas invites the viewer in to join the excitement, hear the laughter and discussions and almost smell the stuffing and gravy about to be consumed.

Another Thanksgiving portrait created by Rockwell, "Home for Thanksgiving," depicts a young soldier-son, home from WW II, peeling potatoes next to his admiring mother in preparation for the Thanksgiving dinner. One can almost read the expression on the mother's face symbolizing a thanksgiving to God for answered prayer in bringing her son safely home.

I can recall being thousands of miles away from home on

Thanksgiving while serving in the Army, thinking how nice it would be to taste Mom's turkey instead of eating C-rations that Uncle Sam provided. Perhaps that is why I love Rockwell's work so much.

Yes, November each year reminds me of family. Many of those family members are gone,

Continued on Page 2

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

- Nov. 7**— Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Mark 12:38-44
- Nov. 14**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Mark 13:1-8
- Nov. 21**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, John 18:33-37
- Nov. 28**—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 21:25-36

Worship is still with some Covid restrictions. Masks are required.



Circle of Concern

Bereavement

Family and friends of **Geri Sheridan**, who has gone home to the arms of our Lord and Savior. (Joan Curtis)

The Kellerman Family. **Mark Kellerman**, the father of three teenage children lost his wife, their mother, to breast cancer two years ago. Now he has lost his battle with Covid. It's a small family, no grandparents. The children are now in the care of their aunt. (Janet and Jerry Alt)

Family of **Stanley Wylazowski**, cousin of Gail Hoag, who suffered a fatal heart attack at his home in the Philippines.

Healing

Arthur Rice, Paul Rice's brother, at Albany Medical Center, has West Nile Virus and encephalitis and is waiting to enter a nursing home.

Leila Radoncic, Kathy Kurtz's 3 year old granddaughter had complications from an asthma attack which resulted in a collapsed lung. She is stable and now resting at home. (Kathy Kurtz)

Donte Corion, son of Shannon and Michael, great grandson of Flo Carde. Donte was born on Oct. 19 and remained in Stony Brook Hospital with breathing problems. He has now been sent home. (Flo Carde)

Carol Janssen is undergoing knee surgery. (Barbara Becker)

Continued Prayers

Tim Hollowell, Mr. Lee, Louise Russo, Rebecca Janssen, Nancy, Jackie and Chris Iarocci, Pastor Nick Seaburger, Lola Schwartz, Kathleen Kelly, Brianna Maglio, Richard Pryor,

Harry Higbie, Rhandi, Niall Morrissey, Jay Murdock, Carol Anderson, Suzanne Tierney, Diane Dain. Ulla Ziegler Pereira, Christopher Racciopo. Andrew Acerra, Maryellen Comacho, Suzanne Dalton, Travis Gentile, Kimberly Helfst

Compiled by Kathy Halliwell

*Please email Kathy—
keats1002@gmail.com with any
additions or deletions.*

These In Nursing Care

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

Birthdays In November

Nov. 2 Elyse Jacobs

Nov. 4 Kiley Keeley

Nov. 10 Montana Queen

Nov. 16 Josie Hoag

Nov. 21 George Hoag

Nov. 25 Damon James Callier

Nov. 29 Bryson Swaetz

Memories (From Page 1)

but those special memories will always live with me; therefore, they too also live with me.

What are your memories of Thanksgiving? I am not naïve enough to realize that for some, those memories are not so endearing. That is why we should try to create new experiences that will live on with those who experience them with us. It is never too late to create great memories.

After almost two years of what has become the "New Norm" due to Covid, we need to make new memo-

ries. Yes, Covid has created memories in our minds, no doubt. Perhaps, even in these challenging times we were able to find things that are positive.

For example, it forced individuals to spend more time with those whom they live with. Others found more time to read or begin a new hobby or take an online course. Churches were forced to be more creative in finding ways to reach their parishioners. And yes, the flip side is that for many, dear loved ones were lost to this dreadful virus. Either way, the memories of the times of Covid will live on with us to be shared with generations to come who never faced such a challenge.

Medical professionals claim that when a person is having a good time, there are regions of the brain that will be more active, like the prefrontal cortex, during both the encoding of that memory and also trying to retrieve all that memory later. We may not have a son home from the war, but just like that mom in Rockwell's painting, we should be thankful to God for all our blessings and answered prayers.

Thanksgiving is a great time to commemorate that. So, let's get our prefrontal cortexes busy creating memories that will last for a lifetime and beyond.

Happy November and Happy Thanksgiving!

In His Grip,

—Pastor Chuck



United Methodist Church of Patchogue

November 2021

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

Work Day

On Saturday Oct. 16 we held a restoration day to clean and varnish the four sets of exterior wood doors of the old building. We were able to complete the two south foyer doors, prep and partially varnish the north foyer doors.

The cold room, Church Street east doors, are prepped for finishing. The other north doors, outside the office, need to be prepped for varnishing. Lenny Pearson painted the four outside stair cases.

We thank these volunteers: Jerry Alt, Babette Bishop, Barbara Becker, Joan Curtis, Lenny Pearson, Wendy & Dave Hollowell.

Another work day was scheduled for Saturday Oct. 30.

—**Dave Hollowell**

Altar Flowers

We are once again using live flower arrangements on the altar. If you would like to order an arrangement in honor or memory of someone, you will be able to take the flowers with you after service. The designation will be noted in the bulletin. The price is \$30.

To reserve a date, call Gail Hoag at 621-654-0038 or email gailshoag@gmail.com.

Thank you for helping enhance the beauty of our Sanctuary.

—**Gail Hoag**

Handbook Aims To Reach Unvaccinated With Compassion

Whether COVID-19 vaccinations are an answer to prayer or a harmful evil has led to distrust and anger while the death toll continues to rise.

The push to get every person vaccinated against COVID-19 has opened wide divisions that can't be healed without compassion, said the Rev. Dana Horrell, who has written a handbook to help congregations reach out to the unvaccinated.

"We have been told to love your neighbor and the way we do it is by listening. We don't do it by telling people what to do," he said in an interview about his handbook, Mobilize Vaccine Turnout!

Horrell, pastor at Cooperstown United Methodist Church in New York, said the idea for the handbook came to him after a conversation with a 95-year-old member of his church who told him she had not gotten the vaccine.

"She said her daughter didn't believe in the vaccine and she depended on her daughter for a ride," he said. Horrell then talked to the woman's son and offered to help.

"I just offered a nudge and now all three family members are vaccinated."

Misinformation or lack of access are factors for many unvaccinated people. Horrell pointed out that something as simple as offering a ride or being available to talk can sometimes be enough.

The handbook contains resources for setting up conversations about the vaccine when people don't agree. Not every unvaccinated person is anti-vaccine. Many don't have access, he said.

Some communities are "socially vulnerable," according to The U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Factors include poverty, lack of vehicle access and crowded housing and racial health disparities.

While anger at the unvaccinated is reaching a boiling point after a summer surge in COVID-19 cases due to the delta variant, the handbook advocates compassion and a willingness to listen, Horrell said.

"Rev. Horrell has a talent for how to draw the largest circle to include as many people as possible. Having an overview resource for vaccination efforts is so important," said Cheryl Lasher, director of RISSE, Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus. The development center works with people from all over the world, especially those from refugee camps.

RISSE was started by Emmaus United Methodist Church in Albany, New York, in 2017 and is a United Methodist Advance project.

"We have to meet people on their own ground. Having large families is hugely important to various cultures, so concerns about (the vaccine) affecting fertility is a big fear," she said. "The peer-to-peer model is very important for our clients. Educating with the pros and cons of vaccines along with how to protect their children are also high priority."

Horrell said pastors and church leaders are trusted people in communities.

“The pandemic really reminds us that everybody counts,” he said. In the handbook, he sets a goal of getting 90 to 100% vaccinated.

“Let’s be ambitious and get everyone vaccinated. I don’t see why we can’t be bold and do that. I believe churches have a role to play. That’s why I am a parish minister.”

—Kathy L. Gilbert, UMNS

Mobilize Vaccine Turnout! is available as a downloadable PDF at www.vaccineturnout.com.

Anti-Racism Campaign

It was a nightmare scenario that could have been deadly.

Two toddlers locked in a car on a hot day. The keys mistakenly left inside the vehicle by their mom.

“It was a very hot day and the air conditioning was not on,” said Morgan Stafford, executive director of the Memphis Wesley Foundation. Back then, he was working with children at Antioch United Methodist Church in Nashville as part of Project Transformation Tennessee.

Stafford was going to call the police for assistance, but the mother begged him not to do it.

“No policía! No policía!” she pleaded.

“My heart sank,” Stafford said. “I knew that she was in a vulnerable spot because of documentation. It was a very hard experience to see a mother who was in a spot where she had to risk the safety of her own children because a phone call could not be made.”

Tragedy was avoided because one of the trapped children was able to follow instructions to unlock the car from within.

The incident was in his mind when Stafford documented on his Facebook page in June 2020 his effort to do an intentional action each day for a month to address racism. The activities included participating in a protest, watching an anti-racism documentary and supporting a Black-owned business.

The idea was adapted in September 2020 by the national United Methodist Dismantling Racism campaign, which also began in June that year after the death of George Floyd and protests across the U.S.

The denomination’s campaign is now more than a year old, and church leaders say the discussions are still just beginning.

“There are many committed leaders at all levels of the church who are actively working to dismantle racism, tribalism, xenophobia and white supremacy,” said Bishop LaTrelle Easterling of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, who also chairs the Council of Bishops’ Anti-Racism Task Force.

“While we have come a long way, there is still a long way to go.”

Louisiana Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, who is president of the Council of Bishops, concurs on both counts.

“I don’t think this is the kind of work that has a beginning and an end,” Harvey said. “I think it’s on the continuum. This will not come to an end. This will continue.”

As was everything, the Dismantling Racism initiative was impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

“The lack of in-person meetings and the postponement of General Conference has required creative approaches to the work of anti-racism,” said Erin Hawkins, executive director of Connectional Ministries for the California-Pacific Conference, the former top executive of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race and a consultant for the Dismantling Racism campaign.

“We have relied on Zoom meetings and the creation of digital resources to support the initiative’s efforts with great success, but these methods have their limits. ... The deep work of changing hearts and minds and dismantling systems that sustain oppression requires us to show up physically in spaces where transformation is needed.”

Despite that hindrance, Dismantling Racism has enjoyed successes, Easterling said. Those include:

- A service of lament for the sin of racism;
- a town-hall series in partnership with the United Methodist Board of Church and Society and United Methodist Women;
- a series of Lenten devotionals featuring bishops from across the global connection; and
- providing support and resourcing for diversity, inclusion and anti-racism efforts within annual conferences.

The response hasn’t been entirely positive. One oft-heard complaint has been that the campaign is “too political.”

Continued on Page 7

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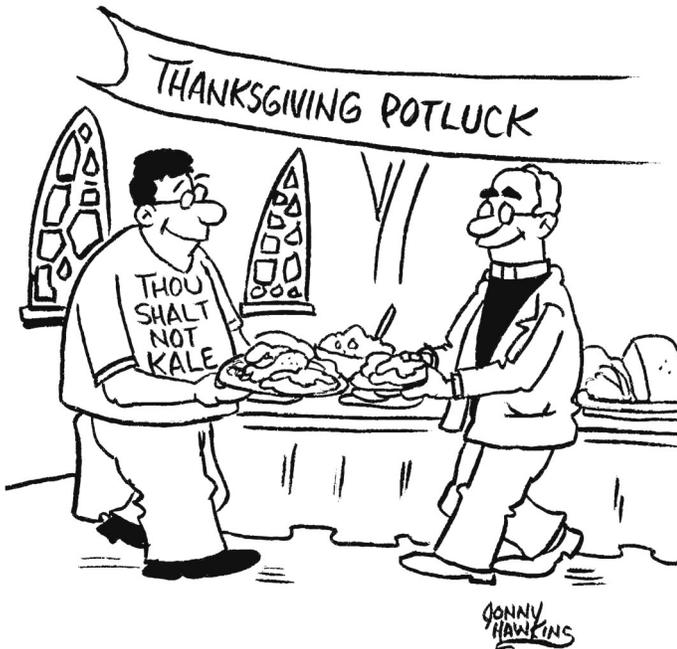
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The deadline for the December issue
of **The Link** is November 19.
Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Anti-Racism (From Page 5)

“Jesus' crucifixion was pretty political, but we don't necessarily like to go there,” Harvey said. “I think (Dismantling Racism) is deeply theological. I think it's deeply Gospel driven.”

“When we think about Jesus' words to us of loving God and loving our neighbor, I don't know how much more biblical and theological you can go as far as that is concerned.”

Leaders in some churches avoid racial discussions because it can be divisive, Harvey said.

“When we start talking about white fragility, it's an uncomfortable conversation,” she said. “When you point out white privilege, it's a hard pill to swallow. ... The resistance, I think, is in not wanting to cause more division than already exists in the church.”

Although the Dismantling Racism campaign is mostly happening in the U.S., racism is also a problem abroad. Bishop Mande Muyombo of the North Katanga Episcopal Area said discussions are also taking place in Africa, the Philippines and Europe.

“Ethnic discrimination and violence as a result of tribalism is a very serious issue in many parts of Africa,” Muyombo said. “The bishops here are working to address this and to bring an end to the bloodshed, corruption and division that it causes.”

In the Philippines, preventing discrimination against indigenous people has been a priority for bishops. In Europe, the focus has been on working with migrant and refugee populations as well as speaking out against nation-

alist efforts that promote white supremacist values.

There are several new anti-racism efforts on tap, Easterling said, including:

- An ecumenical briefing about how The United Methodist Church is partnering with other denominations and faith groups on anti-racism;
- a process of truth and reconciliation to support healing the legacies of racism in local communities;
- an Advent devotional series;
- an anti-racism social justice agenda for the church; and
- educational materials and digital resources for continued discussion and action.

The Council of Bishops is committed to the long haul when it comes to anti-racism work, Easterling said.

“The central message of this campaign is that justice, freedom and belonging are inalienable rights to personhood and birthrights as children of God,” she said. “Wherever we see systemic infringement upon freedom and liberty, we must work to bring real change.”

—Jim Patterson, UMNS



A Christian Prayer of Gratitude

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined. You have surrounded me with people who always look out for me. You have given me family and friends who bless me every day with kind words and actions. They lift me up in ways that keep my eyes focused on you and make my spirit soar.

Also, thank you, Lord, for keeping me safe. You protect me from those things that seem to haunt others. You help me make better choices and provide me with advisors to help me with life's difficult decisions. You speak to me in so many ways so that I always know you are here.

And Lord, I am so grateful for keeping those around me safe and loved. I hope that you provide me with the ability and sense to show them every day how much they matter. I hope that you give me the ability to give to them the same kindness they have provided to me.

I am extremely grateful for all of your blessings in my life, Lord. I pray that you remind me of just how blessed I am and that you never allow me to forget to show my gratitude in prayer and returned acts of kindness.

Thank you, Lord.

In your name, Amen.

—learnreligions.com

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Office Hours: Tues-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Worship Video Livestreaming at PatchogueUMC.Org
Previous services available.



The Patchogue Arts Council featured our church in its Oct. 15-17 downtown light display.

Thanksgiving Prayer

O Lord our God and heavenly Father, in your indescribable mercy you have provided food and drink for the nourishment of our bodies.

Grant us peace to use these gifts from your hands with thankful, reverent hearts.

Let your blessing rest on these your gifts, to our comfort and health.

Grant, good Lord, that as we hunger and thirst for this food for our bodies, so may our souls earnestly long after the Bread of eternal Life, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

—crosswalk.com