

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

November 2023

Why Must We Worship God?

It is important that we understand why we must worship God. Worship lies at the heart of what we must do to maintain our relationship with God.

The biblical words most often translated into English as “to worship” mean to bow down or humble oneself before a greater authority. In worship, we acknowledge the Lord as King and offer the tribute of our praise.

Through worship we see God act for us and hear him speak to us. Worship keeps the lines of communication open.

Through worship we respond to God’s faithfulness by pledging our renewed faithfulness to him and by giving him permission to do his work in our life.

To worship is to tell our loving Father how much

we love him in return. As we do these things, God blesses us with his presence in our midst.

Worship is the art of expressing oneself to God. It is an expression of the heart to God without any expectation of anything in return. This is a discipline that is learned; we must learn that expression and open our hearts as channels of the Holy Spirit.

Worship puts God in his rightful place as the worshiper reflects on who God is and all that he has done.

Worship is much more than just singing. Worship can include prayer, silence, reading, dancing, clapping, and many other expressions of praise and adoration. Worship is nothing more than opening one’s heart to God and enjoying a relationship of loving communion with him.

Through worship man comes to God and has an immediate experience with God and then goes forth transformed.

Worship is the deep within us calling out to the deep in God. This level of worship is best expressed in quietness, “Be still, and know that I am God.”

Psalm 46:10

Continued on Page 2

WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

Nov 5— Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 107:1-7,33-37

Nov 12—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 78:1-7

Nov 19—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 123

Nov 26—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 100



Circle of Concern

Bereavement

The **Jansson** family as they mourn the loss of their aunt. (Lauren Halliwell)

Gabi Pelicani, who died at 5 from childhood cancer, is celebrating her 5th anniversary in heaven. (James Ciancimino)

Healing

Richard Rubino who continues to suffer from the effects of his throat cancer, and has decided to begin hospice. Additional prayers for **Brenda Klingel**, his mother and caretaker. (Ed Klingel)

One year old **Nate**, grandson of Steve Sapolis, nearly drowned and is suffering from a potential brain injury. Prayers for his parents and family as Nate continues to recover. (Conrad Queen)

Jill Kiefer Chaskin battling end stage cancer and also for her husband David who also has serious health problems. (Barbara Becker)

Mark and Jackie Halliwell that they both have quick recoveries. (Michelle Ryan)

Prayers for God's healing, love and peace for **Rhoda Willis** who was admitted to the hospital and transferred to Brookhaven Rehabilitation. (Carolyn Willis)

Joy

Alexander Richard Pearson was born on Tuesday, October 17th. He is the first grandchild of Lenny and Russell. Mother and baby are all doing well.

Continued Prayers

Phyllis Richi, Jazmin Kerr, Linda Werner, Nancy Ciancimino, Cheryl, Flo Carde, Kathy Hollowell, Jim Brown. Crystal, Laura Clifford, Rob Lyons, Jim Zappia, Katie, Brianna (child w/ brain cancer), Dan Cassidy, Suzanne Tierney, Angela Avanzano, Kimberly Helfst

—**Kathy Keating**
Keats1002@gmail.com

Worship (From Page 1)

Why should we worship God? As we search the scriptures, there are many references given to why we should worship.

We should worship God because we were created to worship God. Isaiah 43:7 says, "Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." God created us for his glory. When we worship God then we are glorifying God.

We should worship God because we were chosen to worship God. 1 Peter 2:9 says, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." As Christians, we are chosen by God to declare praises unto him.

We should worship God because we were called to worship God. Psalm 95:6 says, "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." The scripture says come; we are invited to take part in worshiping the Lord our maker.

We should worship God because we are commanded to worship God. Revelation 14:7 says, "...Worship him who

made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." The command was given by the Angel to worship God.

Worship is meant to bring the abundance of God into our lives. This will allow the Christian to establish an intimate relationship with God. The only way to cultivate an intimate relationship is to spend quality time with the person whom you are establishing the relationship with.

This is the main reason why I worship; to establish a personal relationship with my Father. The abundance of God in our lives will be determined by how much time we spend with him. As you practice worship, you bring the presence of the Lord in your life.

Worship is crucial in ministry because it involves close communion with our creator. As Christians, our goal should be to become more and more like Christ everyday. Worship allows us to consciously cooperate with God so He can transform us, it provides the right conditions for the Spirit to grow, and it enables us to be filled with God's Word and God's Spirit.

Worship must play an active role in ministry because it is one of the actions that we can take to help deepen our faith and encourage us on our journey as Christians.

Blessings,

—**Pastor Debbie**

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 p.m. – Pentecostal	2 7:00 p.m. –AA	3 7:30 p.m. – Pentecostal	4
5 10:00 a.m. – Worship/ Sunday School 6:00 p.m. – Pentecostal	6 Office Closed 7:00 p.m. –AA	7 10:00 a.m. – Noon–Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. –AA	8 10:00 a.m. – Shoebox pack- ing 7:30 p.m. – Pentecostal	9 7:00 p.m. –AA	10 7:30 p.m. – Pentecostal	11 10:00 a.m. – UMW/UWF
12 10:00 a.m. – Worship/ Sunday School 6:00 p.m. – Pentecostal	13 Office Closed 7:00 p.m. –AA	14 10:00 a.m. – Noon–Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. –AA	15 7:30 p.m. – Pentecostal	16 7:00 p.m. –AA	17 7:30 p.m. – Pentecostal	18 3:00-5:00 p.m. – UMW/ UWF Holiday Tea Party
19 10:00 a.m. – Worship/ Sunday School 11:30 a.m. – Church Council 6:00 p.m. – Pentecostal	20 Office Closed 7:00 p.m. –AA	21 10:00 a.m. –Noon– Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. –AA 7:00 p.m. – Community Thanksgiving Serv. Lutheran Church Of Our Savior	22 7:30 p.m. – Pentecostal	23 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Thanksgiving Dinner 7:00 p.m. –AA	24 7:30 p.m. – Pentecostal	25
26 10:00 a.m. – Worship/ Sunday School 6:00 p.m. – Pentecostal	27 Office Closed 7:00 p.m. –AA	28 10:00 a.m. – Noon–Food Pantry 7:00 p.m. –AA	29 7:30 p.m. – Pentecostal	30 7:00 p.m. –AA		

Confessions of a Crank

Sometimes it really is easier to be cranky, irritable, and negative in outlook than to be uplifted, positive, and serenely optimistic.

I was thinking about some of my pet peeves, things that raise my ire and make me grumble to myself. For example, the misuse or deliberate twisting of otherwise bland words or terms so that they become “buzz words”—words that when you hear them have an immediate visceral impact.

No thought necessary, just get angry at whatever point of view – political, religious, and cultural – they have been co-opted to represent. Especially if that point of view doesn’t agree with your own.

Two of the most irritating (to me) being “politically correct” and “woke”. In and of themselves, they mean little—but they have been manipulated to stand for a political and social mindset that tends to value humanistic social concerns and programs, and appreciates diversity, over fiscal frugality and a more closed society.

Another crankiness inducing phenomenon is when words or terms are incorrectly defined. Socialism, for example, is not the last step before communism. In its simplest definition, it means the government controls one or more means of production. It can also encompass supportive public programs like Social Security, Medicare, Public Education, etc. A number of European countries, including the UK, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, have forms of programs like

universal health care, free or subsidized college education, etc. No one would accuse them of teetering on the verge of communism.

Then there’s CRT—Critical Race Theory—contrary to some political fear mongering, is not a curriculum created to brain wash vulnerable kindergartners. It is, as I wrote in a previous Link article, a theory relating to the impact of racism on the American legal system. It was never meant to be nor has it been taught or discussed in any elementary, middle or high school setting. Those who claim it is are either misinformed or dishonest.

I think the moral of this story is that we should hesitate to just accept things we are told or read or hear. Think about what is being said; question it; read different viewpoints. Come to our own conclusion about its validity. Think, not just react.

To return to my opening sentence, while it can be easier to be negative, nevertheless, there are so many opportunities to be joyful, uplifted and optimistic in life. One such was the Youth Sunday worship service that was Oct. 29.

Six young people, ranging in age from early elementary through high school and including one young adult, led the congregation in worship. I couldn’t help but smile all the way through. Their lovely spirit shone through each of them.

When Jesus said, in Matthew 19: 13,14: “Let the children come onto me and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs”, He was confirming the innocence of their hearts and spirits; not yet clogged by material

and worldly values. An innocence that puts them closer to God. An innocence that strengthens and uplifts our church family.

—Barbara Becker

Church Leaders in Holy Land Call for De-escalation, Respect for Human Rights

The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem called for peace and justice amid unfolding violence.

“The Holy Land, a place sacred to countless millions around the world, is currently mired in violence and suffering due to the prolonged political conflict and the lamentable absence of justice and respect for human rights,” their statement reads. “We, the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, have time and again appealed for the importance of respecting the historic and legal Status Quo of the holy shrines.”

The statement unequivocally condemns any acts that target civilians, regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, or faith. “It is our fervent hope and prayer that all parties involved will heed this call for an immediate cessation of violence,” the statement reads. “We implore political leaders and authorities to engage in sincere dialogue, seeking lasting solutions that promote justice, peace, and reconciliation for the people of this land, who have endured the burdens of conflict for far too long.”

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem expressed deep concern about the cycle of violence.

“The operation launched from Gaza and the reaction of the Israeli Army are

bringing us back to the worst periods of our recent history," the statement reads. "Unilateral declarations surrounding the status of religious sites and places of worship rattle religious sentiment and fuel even more hatred and extremism," reads the statement. "It is therefore important to preserve the Status Quo in all the Holy Places in the Holy Land and in Jerusalem in particular."

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land expressed shock and distress over the escalating violence in the Gaza Strip and its surrounding areas.

"As the language of 'war' is now being used to characterize this violence, it is important to remember that the warfare of today is not isolated," reads the statement. "It is connected to a larger context and a longer history."

—World Council of Churches

Holy Land Travelers Safe, Concerned for War Victims

Most everyone was blindsided by the surprise Hamas attack on Israel, including hundreds of travelers looking forward to a tour of the Holy Land with commentary from a prominent United Methodist pastor.

"I'm sitting in the theater on the cruise ship, and I have 480 people sitting there really excited about going to walk in the footsteps of Jesus," recalled the Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of Resurrection, a large United Methodist church based in Leawood, Kansas, with six campuses.

Hamilton spoke with UM News on Oct. 10 from the cruise ship, which

was in the Mediterranean Sea near the Greek island of Rhodes.

"I'm getting ready to lecture them and show them pictures and slides and tell them how to spiritually prepare themselves to have a pilgrimage," he said. "It's about 50 churches; I think 30 pastors are on here, but it's mostly lay people.

"And I was lecturing on the life of Jesus in the Holy Land and showing them the places they were going to visit and what ... to expect when we received word of what was happening in Israel."

The surprise attack the morning of Oct. 7 has led to the deaths of at least 1,900 on both sides, reported The Associated Press. The militant group Hamas and other armed groups in Gaza have reportedly taken 150 Israeli soldiers and civilians hostage to use as human shields meant to lessen the Israeli response, the AP reported.

Israeli warplanes responded by bombing Gaza Strip neighborhoods, killing trapped Palestinians and destroying buildings. The victims include Palestinians not affiliated with the militant groups.

"As a people who pray for and work toward peace, we in the United Methodist family are appalled and dismayed by the animosities and inhumane actions undertaken by Hamas," said Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, president of the Council of Bishops, in a statement from the council. "The declaration of war on the part of Israel as a result is also deeply saddening.

"We condemn the Hamas militants who have killed and captured civilians, women and children in Israel," he continued. "We equally decry the

deaths of innocent civilians, women and children caught in the crossfire of the Israeli retaliation in the Gaza Strip."

In addition to his concern for those caught in the hostilities, Hamilton was determined to deliver a rewarding experience for the Holy Land tourists despite the change of plans. A small group on the boat went to the captain and asked for the trip to be canceled and have them dropped off in Athens. That request was denied.

"This trip that they've been planning for years, it's a kind of a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Hamilton said. "How do I help them?"

He hastily managed to rework his lessons based on current events and where the ship was able to travel, and forged on.

"I will say how proud I am of these people," he said. "The folks who are here, some of them are older adults who saved up for years to be able to go to the Holy Land, to go to Egypt ... and suddenly they weren't going to be able to do those things.

"But their primary concern was for the people who were on the ground in Israel and Palestine," he added. "We had a prayer service (Oct. 9) with a Catholic priest and a Jewish rabbi leading ... and most of our people showed up for that."

Hamilton planned to meet another group of travelers, this time 300 members of his own church, in a week or so for a tour based on the travels of the apostle Paul on the Aegean Sea. He plans to lead that group as scheduled.

Continued on Page 8

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"We'd love to have you speak, Ezekiel, but we're a non-prophet."



Community Thanksgiving Service
Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Jayne Ave.
Nov. 21, 7:00 pm

The deadline for the December issue of **The Link** is November 24.
Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

Wesleyan Theology Demands That We Be Antiracist

Laura Smith Haviland (1808-1898) was born a Quaker and became a leading abolitionist in Michigan during the 1830s, but she found that her community of faith did not support her. She turned to a Wesleyan understanding of salvation and discovered an unquenchable fire that burned for freedom.

By the 1850s, Haviland was in Louisville, Kentucky, visiting a friend who had been arrested for underground railroad activity. The jailer in Louisville was a Methodist—a Methodist class leader, to be precise. He tried to convince Haviland that abolitionists were all wrong and that slavery was not so bad. Then he asked in exasperation: “I would like to know ... where you abolitioners get your principles of equal rights.”

Haviland replied in no uncertain terms: “We find them between the lids of the Bible.” Then, in sublime detail, she explained that all people are created in the image of God, and if this was not enough clarity, Jesus died and rose for each and every human being. People are doubly sacred. This emphasis on the cross was rooted in a particular teaching of the Wesleyan tradition. Salvation is not a matter of exclusionary election, granted some and denied others. The love of God, shed abroad on the cross, was offered for all — and not simply all in a nondescript way — but each and all in personal, sacrificial power.

John Wesley hammered this conviction home often. His New Testament notes declare that Jesus tasted death for every person “that ever was” (Hebrews 2:9). And that Louisville jailer called himself a Methodist class leader!

I think of this Wesleyan doctrine and its implications for antiracist work today. In an era when even the memory of slavery is distorted and spun to perpetuate injustice, our theological tradition demands that we respect the value of every single human being.

This was a common theme among many Methodist abolitionists. I have told the story of five of them in a new book, *Compelling Lives: Five Methodist Abolitionists and the Ideas That Inspired Them* (Cascade, 2023). My book is part of an exciting academic initiative named the “Wesleyan and Methodist Explorations” series.

When the Wesleyan family today pursues racial justice, it is taking its theological heritage seriously. That is why many are investing time and energy in a variety of programs known generally as anti-bias/anti-racism work. This is not some trendy, secular endeavor. It is one example of Wesleyans being Wesleyan.

Over the past few years in particular, many United Methodists have organized, presented and learned from a host of events aimed at “dismantling” racism. Topics range from confronting our dominant culture’s support of colonialism to understanding how systems often codify bias.

The journey beyond racism must be aware of systems and structures, but it must also be personal. Sojourner Truth, a Methodist, was known for the way she lived the law of God. This was no works righteousness or attempt to earn God’s favor.

A colleague in New York State once wrote a letter commending her witness to friends: “Let her tell her story without interrupting her, and give close attention, and you will see she has got the lever of truth, that God helps her to pry where but few can.” In closing, this man insisted that, “She cannot read or write, but the law is in her heart.” Truth knew the good and bad of social structures, but she confronted them with a heart set on God.

It is time to let go of the inauthentic divide between theological integrity and the search for racial justice. According to our doctrinal tradition, these are two sides of the same coin. The smear tactics used to paint antiracism concerns as a dangerous, ideologically motivated agenda are disingenuous and, quite frankly, contrary to our theology.

Laura Haviland professed that when Jesus entered our world “to dwell for a season upon our earthly ball, to suffer and die the ignominious death of the cross, he shed his precious blood for the whole human family, irrespective of nation or color. We believe all are alike objects of redeeming love.”

Do we believe this today? Our theological integrity is at stake.

—the Rev. Christopher P. Momany,
UMNS

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 Worship Video Livestreaming at PatchogueUMC.Org
 Previous services available.



Travelers (From Page 5)

Educational Opportunities Tours, a Christian travel ministry used by the Hamilton group and other United Methodists, reported Oct. 10 that all their tour groups were safely evacuated out of Israel and on the way home. Family members concerned about people traveling in the area may call (800) 247-0017 with further questions.

Hamilton’s group did realize that an earlier timeline on their trip could have placed them in danger.

“I think everybody was thoughtful about that,” he said. “Had we gotten there a day earlier, would we have been there at the time the rockets were fired off? ... So I think people felt grateful that they were not, but again their concern has always been for the other people.”

—Jim Patterson, UMNS

Dear Heavenly Father, it’s easy to point our fingers at others when they forget to thank us. But You show us that it’s also very possible we are forgetting to thank You and others for the blessings in our own lives. Help us to follow in the footsteps of the one leper who remembered to come back and thank Jesus. We want to grow in our attitude of gratitude. In Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen!

—Noelle Dey, crossroads.com



★ **Veterans Day:** ★
Thank You for Your Service!

November Birthdays

- Nov 4** Kiley Keely
- Nov 10** Montanna Queen
- Nov 16** Parker Hoag
- Nov 21** George Hoag
- Nov 25** Damon James Callier
- Nov 29** Bryson Schwartz



Shoebox packing is 10:00 am, Nov. 8