

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

September 2016

Settling In

In 1963 the singing group, The Happenings, made a song originally sung by The Tempos—a top chart hit. The song was “See You in September.” One verse says, “See you when the summer’s through.” Well, it is hard to believe, but I am writing an article for the September’s edition of the Link when summer will soon be officially over. So where did July and August go? Not sure—but I am excited that our church will be starting a whole new season with all kinds of opportunities to grow in our faith and impact in our community.

Of course, now that I have two months under my belt as your pastor, it is great that my wife and I know each of you so much better. I am even starting to remember many of your names. I feel that when I accepted my

appointment to our church by Bishop Middleton, I was entering into a partnership with each of you as we seek ways to build on our church’s glorious 225 year history. I originally had a million ideas running through my head about things we could do; however, a colleague and confidant of mine cautioned me to slow down and take smaller steps. This caused me to remember what an old commanding officer once shouted to us officer candidates: “If you are leading and no one is following you—you are not leading, you are just taking a walk.” So my desire is to cast a vision for our church that is both exciting and attainable. Parts of that vision will be shared over time as I continue to assess our congregation.

I especially celebrate that over the summer steps were taken to clean up and organize our beautiful building. We filled an entire dumpster when we cleaned out the Sunday School supply room and reclaimed the library where persons can now sit and read or have small Bible studies.

We also scheduled a Saturday Clean-Up Day when dozens of folks who love their church signed up to further beautify our church building and witness in the community. This included volunteers from the Latino Pentecostal Church as well. In the days to come you will learn about Bible Study opportunities and other classes to help grow your faith and witness. So stay tuned—great things lie ahead for our church—and you are a big part of these plans.

Continued on Page 2

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Sept. 4—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 14:25-33, *The Cost of Discipleship*.

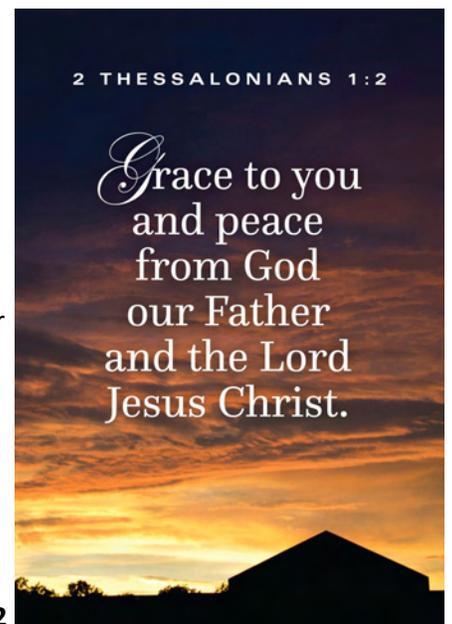
Sept. 11—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Philippians 2:1-4, *Everyday Heroes*.

Sept. 18—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 15:1-10, *How Do We Reach The Lost & Hurting Around Us?*

Sept. 25—Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, Luke 16:19-31, *Can’t Buy Me Love—Or Can You?*

2 THESSALONIANS 1:2

Grace to you
and peace
from God
our Father
and the Lord
Jesus Christ.



Circle of Concern

Bereavement:

The Edwards family, Merrill Rinker, Sabina Langdon.

For Guidance and Healing:

Steve Rea, Liza Burell, Ron Jones, Bruce Kirschner, Kathy Maier, Adrian Murphy's mother, Theresa Lindsay, Sean Abrams, Mark Doucet, Tim O'Connell, Joy Kala, Brenda Rouse, Eugene Cirulli, Eileen Austin, George Werner, Mamie White, Diane Keller, Frankie Scott Jr., Joanne, Dot Fassl, Lee Hollowell.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Frances Breen, Geri Sheridan

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Geri Sheridan in Sunrise Senior Center, 320 Patchogue-Holbrook Rd., Holbrook, NY.

John Vander Zalm in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY.

Alice Zahnd in Gurwin Jewish Nursing Facility, Commack, NY.

Ed Dew in Sunrise Assisted Living, Waverly Avenue, Holbrook, NY.

Settling In (From Page 1)

In closing, I encourage you to regularly visit our church website at www.patchogueumc.org. We have live streaming of our Sunday services, post important information and also archive all of our Sunday sermons. I also hope you find my weekly email blast messages helpful. If you are not receiving them, make sure to call the church office and give us your email address. Until next time,

See you in Church!

In His Grip,

—Pastor Chuck

The Gospel of Pokémon Go

By now, you've probably heard about the phenomenon of Pokémon Go, the augmented reality game for smartphones that



dropped suddenly and quickly skyrocketed to the top of app store download lists. Although I was not a Pokémon Trainer in my youth, I downloaded the game on Saturday just to see what everyone was talking about. I pride myself on being in-the-know with these kinds of things, and I wanted to check it out. Soon enough, I was capturing Pokémon that appeared on my smartphone's camera and searching out Pokestops in my neighborhood, going on a late morning walk despite the quickly rising temperature and the hot sun.

On Sunday morning, I discovered that my church was a Pokestop as are many churches, synagogues, historical markers, and other signs. Already, Christians have pounced on the opportunity to welcome players to the church grounds, providing water, charging stations (the game notoriously sucks battery life), and opening the door for restroom use, presumably with the hope that players will return for worship on Sunday. While hospitality to one's neighbors is never a bad thing, the level of excitement over a video

game literally delivering people to the front door of churches is a bit discouraging. It seems as if this is what many congregations have been waiting for, people to come to them rather than taking initiative to go out into the neighborhoods and communities themselves.

As with anything with a high level of popularity, there also has come the quick but inevitable backlash. The Holocaust Museum and Arlington Cemetery have asked players to cease catching Pokémon on their grounds out of respect for the solemn nature of these locations. Others have reported near-misses with people wandering around, eyes glued to their smartphones rather than where they are going, or rushing across the busy street to catch that rare Pokémon, not to mention trespassing in places where they might not be welcome. Memes bemoaning how people should be as single-minded in seeking Jesus or a job as they are in seeking Pokémon have surfaced on social media, and some parents would rather their children focus on summer reading or chores. There are also privacy concerns with how much information the video game developer is collecting from those who download and play the game.

Everyone is ready with their hot take about whether Pokémon Go is

Continued On Page 8

September Birthdays

Sept. 6 Crystal Jansson

Sept. 17 Cailin Rogers

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	2 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food delivery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	3 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
4 10 a.m.— Communion Worship 11:30 p.m.—SPRC 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF	5 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 p.m.—AA	6 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	7 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	8 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	9 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food delivery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	10 9:00 a.m.— Emmaus 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
11 10 a.m.—Worship 11:30 a.m.— Finance 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	12 7:00 p.m.—AA	13 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.—Learning Support 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	14 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	15 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	16 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food delivery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	17 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
18 10 a.m.—Worship 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 2:00 p.m.—Pastor Installation 5:00 p.m.—AME Service	19 7:00 p.m.—AA	20 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.—Learning Support 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	21 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	22 5:00 p.m.—Wesley Dinner 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	23 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food delivery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	24 7:30 p.m.—AME Service
25 10 a.m.—Worship 11:30 a.m.— Trustees 12:30 p.m.— Pentecostal MF 5:00 p.m.—AME	26 7:00 p.m.—AA	27 9:30 a.m.—Al Anon 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 3:30 p.m.—Learning Support 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—AA	28 7:30 p.m.—AME Service	29 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	30 10:30 a.m.—Help needed for food delivery 7-9 p.m.—Pentecostal MF 7:30 p.m.—NA	

Eighth In Our History Series

Making Music

When our church first started in 1791 there was no mention of music at that time. There were simple

meetings with Bible studies and sermons. By the early 1800s, however, Charles Wesley, John Wesley's brother, had written several hymns, still in our hymnal today. So singing became part of the service. At the River Ave. church, innovations took place to improve the singing by introducing instrumental music—which we are to believe was our first organ, probably

a pump organ. And I quote, "the notes fell on terrorizing discord upon the ear of the ancient divine, (Ezra Tuttle), who soon made a reproachful survey of the congregation, finding the cause of the irritating discord, delivered a groan, seized his hat and cane, and marched his primitive dignity out of the church." He was in his late 80s at that time and to keep the peace, in-

strumental music was not played while he attended.

We jump in our history to 1885 when it is written that we had a tiny organ bought for the first church on Church Street. A desire for a new pipe



1907 Choir



1959 Choir



1963 Choir

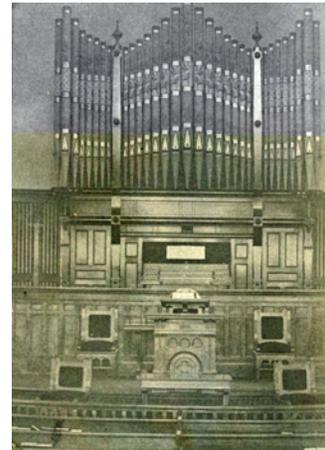
organ came in 1886. Mr. J Price and Mr. W Gray bought it from Reuben Midmer for \$1750. A suitable room had to be built to house it and it was delivered in 1887. This organ was moved to our present church in 1890.

Another desire for a bigger organ took place in 1894 when we purchased our present organ from Midmer for \$3200.

Organists' salaries started with Lottie Mills, who was paid \$40 per year. By 1971, the organist was paid \$1700. Today, the organist would get about \$200 per week. Our church music director directs the choir as well as playing the organ.

Special organ concerts were given with the opening of our new church in 1890. Also, when we received the new Midmer-Losch organ, a special concert was given in dedication. Many concerts have been given since.

In 1992, we desperately needed repair work to our present organ. We raised \$55,000 by selling tee shirts,



ceramic churches, pipes, and had bake sales, and talent shows. Foley Baker, by 1993, had repaired,

Early Organ Installation dismantled, cleaned and replaced our pipes. We also got a new console from circa 1966 at that time. When completed, we had a special concert given by Roger Castellani. As the organ is an instrument worth over a million dollars, continued maintenance is ongoing.

There is not much written about choirs until 1890. We have enclosed pictures of our choirs, which have given many concerts over the years, starting in 1907. However, we do know that the choir sang for the dedication ceremony in 1890.

Our choir is still going under the direction of Martha Campanile, who has been our director for thirteen years. Before that, Bill Morgan was our director for 19 years. We are enthusiastic about our music for the future generations.

We also had a children's choir and a bell choir. Perhaps with more members and interest, we can start them up again soon.

—Wendy Hollowell,
Church Historian

A Busy Fall

Autumn is probably my favorite time of the year. We can still enjoy a number of warm, sunny days, but the nights are usually cooler and so much better for sleeping. This September ushers in a very busy autumn season for our church community. Here are some of the events to look forward to:

The Pastor's Installation

On September 18, at 2 p.m., our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Charles Ferrara, fondly known as Pastor Chuck, will be formally installed. In addition to our congregation, invitations will be extended to the New District Superintendent, Rev. Julia Yim, as well as other churches in our area, local elected officials, and special guests of the pastor and his wife.

A reception, hosted by United Methodist Women will follow the service. Come and celebrate with Pastor Chuck, who has already had such a positive impact upon our church community.

Sunday School

Sunday School will begin again on Sept. 25. Thereafter, we will meet the 2nd and 3rd Sundays each month. For the time being, while we are growing our Sunday School, there will be two classes. The nursery class, ages 3-5, taught by Katie Weber, will learn simple, age appropriate lessons centered around "Stories of Jesus" and "Fruit of the Spirit". The older group, elementary through middle school, will learn about John Wesley, his times and theology, through a curriculum called, "Journey with J.W." They will also develop and im-

plement two mission projects, and occasionally act out dramatic skits based on Bible stories. They will be taught by Barbara Becker.

Both classes need assistant teachers, to comply with Safe Sanctuaries policy. The only requirements are that you enjoy interacting with children, recognize the importance of Sunday School and be at least 17 years of age. If you are interested, speak to Pastor, Barbara Becker, or Katie Weber.

Blessing of the Backpacks

In conjunction with the opening of Sunday School on Set. 25, there will be a special "Blessing of the Backpacks" during worship. Each child who participates by bringing their school backpack, will receive a special tag to attach to their bag.

The blessing is both an encouragement for the children and a reminder that God's blessings go with them wherever they go.

225th Anniversary

As the culmination of our year long celebration of our 225th year, we will be hosting a fundraising dinner at Mediterranean Manor, Patchogue, on October 6, at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$55.00.

We are also publishing a journal which will reflect our long history in this area. Ads are being sold to local businesses as an additional fundraising source. If you would like to participate in the journal, you can do so by purchasing an individual ad or by including your signature on the "Church Family" page. For rates and other info, please contact Wendy Hollowell.

Have You Noticed? If you haven't already done so, please take a look at some changes in the Cloud Room area. The first is that our free clothing corner has moved to the former Sunday School office across the room. This is a room that has served many purposes over the years—first as the original church kitchen, then as a thrift shop, the food pantry, and finally Sunday School office. Now it is the location of one of our important outreach ministries.

The second change is that the former clothing corner/library/conference room has become the Library/ Quiet room. There is a children's reading corner, as well as comfortable seating for adults to read, pray, think, have a small Bible study or a small meeting.

Many, many thanks to all the wonderful people who sorted, organized, cleaned, moved, and generally helped bring about these transformations. Willing hands working cheerfully together can do amazing things.

—Barbara Becker

White Elephants Wanted

Actually, we're looking for items for the White Elephant table in Wesley Hall. Treasures ranging from china to linens to other small decorative items and tchotchkes are sold to benefit the many missions of United Methodist Women. The tables will be up again in September and we'd like to have a fresh display of goods. Remember, one person's junk is another person's treasure. Thank you!

—Barbara Becker

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The deadline for the October issue
of **The Link** is **September 23.**

Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.



A Note About Restoring Hope

Our Restoring Hope capital campaign was completed several years ago but funds may continue to be contributed. All Restoring Hope contributions go to the Trustees who have continuing building expenses but no other revenue source. \$500 a month in Trustee funds go to pay off our boiler loan. Contributions can be made to either "Restoring Hope" or "Trustees".

Ordinary Time

According to The United Methodist Book of Worship, Ordinary Time is the “Season after Pentecost,” beginning the day after Pentecost and ending the day before the First Sunday of Advent.

We are in the midst of Ordinary Time.

Yet, it hardly seems ordinary at all. In the U.S., the Republicans and Democrats head toward November and for the next two months, we will continue to hear fierce, negative attacks against each party’s presidential, state and local candidates.

Brutal attacks on innocent people around the world continue to make the nightly news.

Even in Major League Baseball, the team with the best record is the Chicago Cubs, who have not won the World Series in 107 years!

Ordinary? I think not.

What’s more, we often thrive on exciting and extraordinary events and downplay, or even forget, about the ordinary days in our lives.

Yet, given the chance, I would prefer to relive a heartfelt, ordinary day over and over again.

I had one of those days many years ago. My wife and I and our three teenagers were eating a fast food dinner after a basketball game.

It was just another ordinary day; there was no special occasion or big event. But, as we laughed and enjoyed each other’s company, the stresses of work, school, bills and homework evaporated. We shared our respect and love for each other in

the things we said. The three teenagers, all close in age, put aside their petty arguments and rested their competitive natures. There was peace around the dinner table. To this parent, it was a sublime, joyous time when all five of us felt the bonds of family love strengthen between us. These glorious, ordinary days are the ones we should relish and remember. They give substance to our lives and challenge us to show our true colors in the midst of daily stresses and worries.

For our faith calls us to live a Christian life every day, not only on Sundays, holy days or special occasions. We should see each day as a new opportunity to be a Christian and spread God’s love to others.

In the movie “Groundhog Day,” Bill Murray plays Phil, an egotistical TV weatherman who relives the same February 2nd over and over again. After his initial confusion wears off, he tries to take advantage of the same daily routine for his own pleasure. He spends weeks memorizing personal facts about his producer Rita [Andie MacDowell] and then tries to make her fall in love with him. Despite many attempts to work the situation to his advantage, she always sees through his manipulations and slaps him away.

This throws him into a deep pit of despair and he decides to end his life. However, no matter which manner he chooses, he still wakes up the next morning in bed and has to start Groundhog Day all over again.

After exhausting his indulgences and narcissistic ways, he realizes there must be a better way to live. He

begins to look outward and finds many who need his help – the young boy who falls out of the tree, the old ladies whose tire goes flat, the local master of ceremonies choking on a piece of meat.

In the end, by finally dedicating his life to helping others (plus showing real humility and compassion along the way), Phil succeeds in attracting the affections of Rita and breaks the streak of endless Groundhog Days. We are called to live our lives just like Phil by looking outward and serving others with our talents and compassion. The Second General Rule of The United Methodist Church states that we will “continue to evidence” our “desire of salvation... by doing good... to all.”

This is the message of Ordinary Time when the gospel lessons “cover Jesus’ teaching ministry and tend to center on the theme of the kingdom and reign of God.” By our actions and with God’s grace, we are building God’s kingdom here on earth. In the process, we are touching Christ in others’ lives. “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40 NSRV)

In Phil’s case, he was forced to live one day repeatedly until he got it right. Unfortunately, we only get one chance to live out each day the best way we know how. When we live each day to its fullest, then we fill each day with actions and examples of God’s love for our family, our friends and ourselves.

—**Christopher Finoglia, UMNS**

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 Camille Flynn, Administrative Assistant
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 Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
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SEPTEMBER

Pokémon (From Page 2)

the best or worst thing ever, even before they have played the game. I don't believe that Pokémon Go is the answer to the prayers for growth and millennials that issue forth from declining mainline congregations. I also don't believe it is the devil incarnate, maliciously distracting young people and spying on our every move.

If people are leaving their houses, often with their friends, and exploring their communities in search of Pokémon, I think that is a good thing.

Already I have seen heart-warming stories of encounters and new friendships formed around the game, not to mention the increase in physical activity. I found myself reading histori-

cal markers I'd bypassed hundreds of times and learning about the history of my neighborhood. Rather than waiting for players to show up at the church's doorstep so that we can welcome them, I urge Christians to play the game themselves, meet others in the community, and even use it as a means for intergenerational bonding as younger people teach older people. In a divisive season in our national life, coming together around a game is not the worst thing that could happen. Republican or Democrat, black or white, male or female, we can all wander outside the comfort of our homes and churches to be Pokémon trainers.

—Kira Schlesinger,
ministrymatters.com

A Prayer for Those Who Have Hurt Us

God, it is so hard to pray for people who have hurt us. Open our hearts and



spirits so that we can see that people who hurt us are people who are hurting in their own way. We pray that you will send your healing

power to them and to us, and keep us all from hatred and cruelty so that we may learn to live together. Amen.

—beliefnet.com