

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

September 2022

Thank You

As I sit here contemplating on what I should write, two words come to mind:

Thank you.

I want to personally say thank you to the members of the United Methodist Church of Patchogue. You have gone above and beyond to make my family and I feel comfortable. We appreciate the warm welcome and kind gestures you've shown towards us.

"May the Lord now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this." (2 Samuel 2:6, NIV)

What a blessing it has been to serve you for the past two months. I can see the hand of God already at work in the lives of the believers. I am looking forward to what the

future holds for us as we continue to journey forward in ministry.

We must understand that ministry is the work of God by the people of God. Ministry must transform lives through a genuine experience of God. The thrust of ministry is to reach the lost at any cost.

In Mark 16:15, Jesus gives the command to the disciples to "Go ye in all the world and preach the gospel to every creature".

As Christian disciples, we all must fulfill this great commission as well. II Corinthians 4:3 tells us that "...if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to those that are lost:", so it is imperative that we let everyone know that Jesus has come to give us life more abundantly.

We must help others in the community to bring about life changing experiences. We must

provide a community of hope; proclaiming God's inclusive love; removing barriers to faith; and empowering all people to grow in grace toward wholeness.

Jesus is the perfect example of what ministry is all about. Jesus met the people right where they were; he went out into the community.

Continued on Page 2

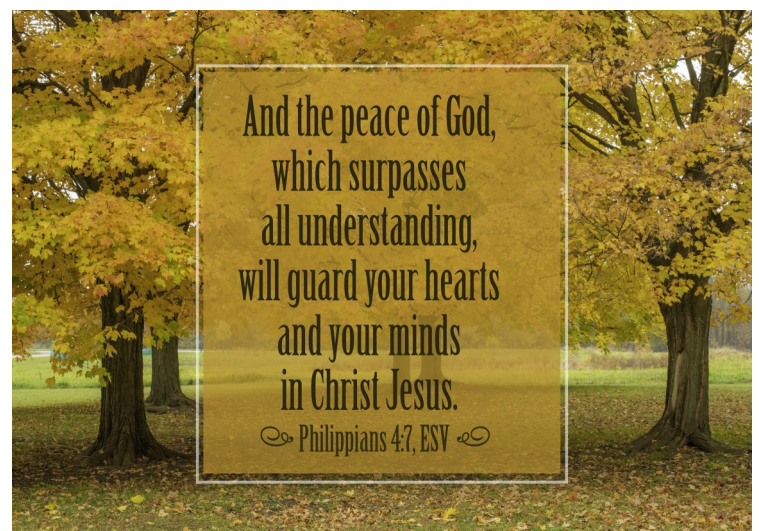
WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Sept 4—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Luke 14:25-33

Sept 11—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Luke 15:1-10

Sept 18—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Luke 16:1-13

Sept 25—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Luke 16:19-31



Circle of Concern

Bereavement

The family of **Anita Katz**, Commissioner of the Suffolk County Board of Elections,.

The family of **Carlos Miguel Rodriguez**.

Healing

Rebecca Jansen is not feeling well.

Continued Prayers

Baby Zion, Courtney Glover, Jordan Barios, Trevor Hatalski, Dawn, Ronald Lyons, Bill Stryker, Warren Stines, DeAnna D'Amelio, Diane Kelly, Lance Marques, Bruce Kirschner, Donna Logurcio, Billy Appenzeller, Kirt Watkins, Kevin Clifford, Ted Forsyth, Ed Witt, Mike Haberman, Christine Tortorice, Rob Conforti, Sherrie Ann Maglicco, Ulla Ziegler Pereira, Kimberly Helfst, Paul Halayko, Harry Higbie, Suzanne Tierney, Monica Hunter

—**Kathy Hallowell**

Contact Kathy at
Keats1002@gmail.com



PRAYING
FOR YOU

Birthdays In September

Sept 1 Terry Ryan

Sept 17 Cailin Rogers

Sept 20 Renee Jaymes Schwartz

Thank You (From Page 1)

Jesus loved the people; he accepted and embraced them just as they were.

Jesus healed the people; he ministered to their physical needs, and then Jesus saved the people; he ministered to their spiritual needs.

Let us follow Jesus' example and equip ourselves to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

—**Pastor Debbie**

Back to School Prayers

Pray these back to school prayers over your children as school begins and year round.

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." – Psalm 118:24

God, thank you for this new day. Thank you for all the blessings and challenges that it will bring. Please grant us all the courage, wisdom, and love that we will need to follow you today. Amen.

"Love your neighbor as yourself." – Mark 12:31

Lord, help [child's name] to love their neighbor as themselves. Help them to show love to friends, classmates, teachers, and everyone they meet at school. Help them to treat others as they would want to be treated, those that they like and even those that they do not like. May their love be contagious and uplifting at their school. Amen.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9

God, please help [child's name] to be strong and courageous today. Help them to face any obstacles and challenges with bravery, knowing that you are there with them wherever they go. Amen.

"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." – 1 Peter 5:7

God, we know that you want the best for us, and that you promise to restore and redeem even the broken bits of life. Help [child's name] to give all their worries and anxiety over to you, and to trust that you will love and care for them. Amen.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." – James 1:5

Lord, please grant [child's name] the wisdom that they need to get through today. Help them to make wise choices and to always do what they know is best. Amen.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." – Proverbs 27:17

God, please bring good friends into [child's name]'s life. Help them to find those people who will bring out the best in each other. Help them to choose friends who know you, or who want to know you, and friends who will build them up, challenge them, and support them. Amen.

—**outponthwaters.com**

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

September 2022

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

Bishop Urges End To Falsehoods, Pivot To Future

Amid a summer of denominational discontent, Council of Bishops President Thomas J. Bickerton called on fellow bishops and church members to begin pivoting The United Methodist Church toward a hope-filled future.

Bickerton also decried what he called “a constant barrage of negative rhetoric that is filled with falsehood and inaccuracies” coming from backers of a breakaway theologically conservative denomination that launched in May.

He specifically disputed claims that United Methodist leaders are abandoning the denomination’s doctrinal standards in the Articles of Religion, that they do not embrace the primacy of the Bible and that they do not believe Jesus Christ is the son of God.

While The United Methodist Church will maintain basic Christian teachings and its historic roots in Wesleyan theology, Bickerton said he does expect United Methodists to make changes. Those changes include recapturing a spirit of evangelism, practicing the church’s theology of mission and confronting the sin of racism.

“It is time, in our role as leaders, to initiate a conversation about what it is we want and dream about as a

church moving forward,” Bickerton said Aug. 22 in his first formal address as the bishops’ president. “What do we see as the next expression of Methodism? What kind of church do we envision in the ongoing United Methodist Church?”

Bickerton also leads the New York Conference. The address is archived on the Council of Bishops Facebook

Bishop Bickerton: “It is time, in our role as leaders, to initiate a conversation about what it is we want and dream about as a church moving forward...What kind of church do we envision in the ongoing United Methodist Church?”

page.

The Council of Bishops met last month to discuss various challenges facing the denomination and to begin planning for its future.

The bishops gathered at a time when a number of congregations and church leaders are trying to discern whether they want to remain part of The United Methodist Church.

After decades of intensifying disagreements about the status of LGBTQ people in the church, General Conference — the denomination’s top law-making body — was set to vote on a denominational separation plan in May 2020.

But after COVID-related complications delayed General Conference a third time to 2024, organizers went ahead and launched the theologically conservative Global Methodist Church on May 1.

Since then, those who worked to form the denomination have been trying to recruit as many United Methodists as possible to the new fold. Those recruiting include the Wesleyan Covenant Association, an unofficial advocacy group that announced in May it would stick around to help congregations that want to leave The United Methodist Church.

Church disaffiliations also have been on the rise, though not all of the churches that disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church opt to join the Global Methodist Church.

But amid their recruiting, some supporters of the new denomination have accused United Methodist bishops and other church leaders of not holding with core Christian doctrines such as the virgin birth, the divinity of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of Jesus Christ or salvation through Christ alone.

Such accusations have led to repeated questions to *Ask The UMC*, a ministry of United Methodist Communications that answers queries about church teachings. *Ask The UMC* has responded that all of these positions are bedrock in the denomination’s doctrinal standards and are not about to change.

At the same time, some are calling for The United Methodist Church to have a comity agreement with the new denomination to ease transitions to the Global Methodist Church.

Bickerton acknowledged that The United Methodist Church and its predecessors have a long history of building ecumenical relations with Christian denominations that have taken various stances on homosexuality. However, Bickerton said those relationships “are completely dependent upon each side recognizing the inherent and God-given worth of the other.”

“We would have never entered into a relationship with a group that wanted our recognition but could only criticize us in return,” he added. “This is not how we, as Christian people, do our work.”

Jay Therrell, president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association, over the past two weeks has urged the group’s constituents to take more direct action against The United Methodist Church.

He urged constituents to escrow or withhold apportionments — shares of giving that support ministry beyond the local church — from annual conferences he argues make it too hard for churches to disaffiliate.

Therrell also called on constituents to file complaints against bishops and other conference leaders they believe are not upholding the denomination’s bans on same-sex weddings and “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy. A number of bishops have agreed to hold complaints related to homosexuality in abeyance while the denomination’s transition shakes itself out.

In his presidential address, Bickerton expressed gratitude to clergy and laity who continue to give apportionments.

He also explicitly called out both the Global Methodist Church and the Wesleyan Covenant Association by name.

“I ask the members of the GMC and the WCA to stop this negative rhetoric of accusations and statements that are just not true,” Bickerton said. “It damages our public witness as Christians and does little to invite people into the hope-filled story of God’s love.”

After Bickerton’s address, Therrell shared with UM News and others that he knows of “no one at any level of leadership in the Wesleyan Covenant Association or the Global Methodist Church that has said the doctrinal standards of The United Methodist Church have changed or will change.”

Bickerton called on United Methodists not to return an “eye for an eye” but to spread scriptural holiness across the land and invite “a broken world into the possibility of being a part of a story that will change their lives.”

Part of healing a broken world, he and other bishops said, requires The United Methodist Church to address the sins of racism and colonialism.

During the meeting, the bishops voted to make their work against racism a more permanent part of their ministry by changing their Anti-Racism Task Force into the Anti-Racism Leadership Team.

The bishops and other observers also heard an overview of how colonialism has shaped world history and how The United Methodist Church developed.

“While colonialism may seem to be a thing of the past,” said Bishop

LaTrelle Easterling, chair of the Anti-Racism Leadership Team, “it is very present in every aspect of our society, and its vestiges will infect our future if we are not intentional in understanding and addressing them.”

Easterling leads the Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware conferences.

David W. Scott, the director of mission theology at United Methodist Global Ministries, said colonialism has not only shaped the secular world but also the Christian church, including The United Methodist Church. He said that nowhere is that colonial mindset more evident than in the denomination’s governance, which “privileges what happens in the United States as the most important thing going on in The United Methodist Church.”

Bickerton said the church’s work toward a more equitable future and its current efforts to respond to disaster such as Kentucky’s floods and help people forced from their homes in Ukraine are just a few examples of how the church tries to live out Christ’s call.

“Church, there is a way through the storm and a course that can be followed that will lead us to the other side,” Bickerton said at the conclusion of his address. “It will not be done in isolation. It cannot be done relying upon our own ideas. It must not be done without the power and presence of Christ in our midst.”

—Heather Hahn, UMNS

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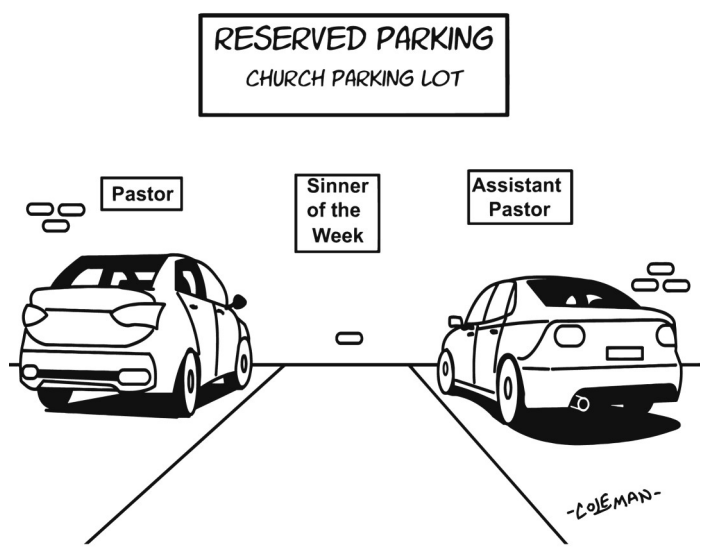
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Save Your Old Magazines

Dave Hollowell would very much appreciate your saving the magazines you have read and passing them on to him. He takes them for the enjoyment of adult and nursing home residents and shut ins. They can be dropped off in the church office.

The deadline for the October issue of **The Link** is September 23.
 Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.



Don't Just Stand There. Do Something!

I'm a Southern boy. Grew up in the country. Grew up on a family farm. Grew up fishing and squirrel hunting. Guns were a simple part of life, as natural as books and family antiques.

But with guns came expectations: that you would learn gun safety before you were allowed to shoot, that you would always know what you were shooting at (and what was behind it), and that you always, always took great care when handling firearms.

Along with those expectations came those of another kind from my family and our family church. Those included loving one another, always striving to do no harm, taking responsibility for our actions and when we messed up, doing something to correct the situation.

When we endure yet another mass shooting, we witness the collective grief and outrage, scenes of the anguished loved ones of the victims, and the statements of politicians that something needs to be done. So, yes, something needs to be done. But by whom?

I recently read Joan Chittister's book "The Time Is Now." She exhorts all Christians to claim their prophetic role. She tells about a time when she was led through a class session, looking at Bible stories and then imagining she was watching the scene unfold when Jesus would look up at her and

ask, "And you? What will you do? Stand there and watch?"

That's the question with which I'm now struggling, more powerfully than before. What will I do? We wring our hands at the awfulness of these tragedies. We wait for politicians to find the moral character and courage to lead meaningful change. Somebody needs to do something. And we wait for something to happen. We hold

Too often, we hold prayer vigils and pray for peace and healing. And then we go home until the next shooting.

prayer vigils and pray for peace and healing. And then we go home until the next shooting. Maybe in Texas. Maybe in Buffalo. Maybe in a school. Maybe racially motivated. Maybe livestreamed. The only thing that isn't maybe is whether it'll happen again.

And you. What will you do? Stand there and watch? Some people believe that we fight the battles that are worth fighting. My personal take on this has been that I fight the battles that are worth losing. When it comes to justice, fighting the good fight doesn't always work out so well. But not fighting is so much worse.

I would love to see Congress act in a united way to pass — and enforce — legislation that is meaningful and effective. But I also know that the reality is that legislation only goes so far. Every law ever passed about illegal drugs, for example, has failed to stop their use. A law has its place, and laws are important. But our own

faithful personal and social formation is vital.

As Methodists, we once embraced the concepts of personal holiness and social gospel. In our DNA is this idea that we care for souls — both our own and those around us. We are called to be involved in our communities and to help one another along this life journey we share. I often say that God is the backdrop to

everything that I am and do. If that is true, then love is the backdrop to everything that I am and do. And that includes being involved in the

lives of those around us.

With those martyrs in Revelation, our cry goes up, "How long, O Lord?" But the vital question for me these days is: What will I do? Our hearts need a new awakening. We know from experience that it is relationships that work — not waiting on politicians, not waiting on new laws, not waiting on somebody to do something. You are who God wants to use right now. What will I do? What will I do in and with my community to make love more powerful than this senseless rage that leads us into such horror, time and again?

— Rev. Dr. Sean C. Turner, UMNS



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 Worship Video Livestreaming at PatchogueUMC.Org
 Previous services available.



God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising. We need courage to enter into the transformation process.

God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We, too, have our

own growth, may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power-filled presence. May we gain strength from this.

moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns. As we see the patterns of our

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope. Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.

God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this, we are grateful.

—prayerist.com