

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

September 2023

Why Pray

I can't believe it's September already. As the saying goes "time flies when you're having fun". I hope you all had a wonderful summer. My family and I was able to vacation at Disney this year. We had a blast. Naiya had us on every rollercoaster and water slide in the parks. John and I didn't know we had it in us, but we kept up. Now I need a vacation from my vacation.

As we prepare to get back in the swing of things, I would like to give you a few nuggets to hold on to along your Christian journey in regard to why should we pray. At the beginning of the summer, I challenged everyone to pray every day. Now that we are in September, I encourage everyone to continue to pray for a minimum of 6 minutes every day.

Why should we pray?

1. We pray because we love God. We spend time with God in prayer and communion because we love him. Just as a man and woman in love desire to be together and communicate, so we (if we love God) will desire to be with Him and to fellowship with Him in proportion to our love for Him.

2. We pray because we depend on God. God is our source. He is our life (Colossians 3:4). Through prayer we receive the comfort, the strength and all the other resources that we need in life - both naturally and spiritually. Prayer (relationship with God) is as necessary to the spiritual life as air is to the natural life.

3. We need to pray to resist temptation. "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation." (Mt. 26:41). Much sin is the result of the sin of prayerlessness. Through lack of prayer, we are weak and Satan gains the advantage in our lives

4. We need to pray because it is necessary for us to invite God to act in salvation. God gave the earth to Adam and his descendants. We must invite God to work here. If no one invites God to work here, Satan (the god of this world through man's universal rebellion - 2 Corinthians 4:4) will dominate the affairs of men and eventually the judgment of God will come.

Continued on Page 2

WORSHIP IN September

Sept 3— Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22

Sept 10—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 149

Sept 17—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 114

Sept 24—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 105: 1-6, 27-45



Circle of Concern

Healing

Dave Hollowell who was hospitalized for a blood clot. (Wendy Hollowell)

Chris Evans who is going through a difficult time. (Suzanne Tierney)

All the people in Hawaii who were affected in any way by the tragic wildfires. (Betty Rice)

DeAnna D'Amelio who is struggling with the mental effects associated with ALS as she loses control of her body. (Kathy Halliwell)

Richard Rubino who is still struggling as he heals from lung cancer. (Brenda Klingel)

Continued Prayers

Brianna (child w/ brain cancer)
Lana (child w/Surgery), Rhonda Nelson (aneurysm surgery),
Dominique Meyer (and her unborn son), Dan Cassidy, Beverly Shifrin, Katie, Suzanne Tierney, Angela Avanzano, Tim Hollowell, Brenda Miller, Dolores, Cynthia, Jessy, Daisy Hill, Michelle Parker, Kimberly Helfst

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



Begins October 1

Prayer (From Page 1)

By inviting God often and specifically, multitudes can be saved that would otherwise be lost.

5. We need to pray because God commands us to pray. "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving." (Colossians 4:2). "Then he [Jesus] spoke a parable to them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not lose heart." (Luke 18:1). The need to pray is as great as the authority of God which commands us: "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Prayer is so vital to all that God wants to do on the earth, and so essential to us, that God commands us to do it all the time. We should even deny ourselves sleep and food at times in order to pray more and with greater power. (Matthew 6:16; Luke 6:12; Luke 21:36; Colossians 4:2; 2 Corinthians 11:27).

Blessings,

—**Pastor Debbie**

UMW

In August the women assembled 39 bags of hygiene supplies for the homeless and those living in a precarious situation. They will be distributed in our food pantry. Thanks to all the women who donated items.

Future Events

Sept. 22-24 UMW retreat at Camp Quinipet, Shelter Island. The theme is Finding Peace in an Anxious World.

Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, 10:30-11:30, Montana Queen presents workshop on Avoiding Scams.

Nov. 18. Holiday Tea.

—**Barbara Becker**



Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, which is a Christian international relief organization.

OCC sends shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies to children in need around the world, affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease.

A simple shoebox shows the love of Jesus. Each month features different items for inclusion.

For September, we will be collecting 12 pack pencils, pencil sharpeners, and pink erasers.

This year, at Patchogue UMC our goal is to pack 30 shoeboxes at our Annual Packing Party in November. Please remember that your gift will be an expression of God's love to a child. In fact, it may be the only gift the child receives.

So, plan to pack quality items that will last, and don't forget to make it FUN! To find out more go to www.samaritanpurse.org.

—**Bonnie Watkins**
(631) 615-2409

September Birthdays

Sept 1 Terry Ryam

Sept 17 Cailin Rogers

Sept 20 Renee Jaymes Schwartz

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

September 2023

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

United Methodist Connection At Work For Maui

When news came about the devastating wildfires on the Hawaiian island of Maui, ReNew United Methodist Church knew it had to help. ReNew, in South Pasadena, California, began meeting three years ago and only became a chartered United Methodist church in June.

It might have deferred to larger, more established churches, but the 45 charter members dug deep for Maui: They collected more than \$5,000.

Our congregation gave incredibly generously, especially for the size of our ministry," said the Rev. Sam Park, ReNew's pastor.

The United Methodist Church of the Pines in Jasper, Texas, was chartered on April 23 with 73 members and consists of people who chose to remain United Methodist after their church disaffiliated.

At that church, too, the plight of Maui prompted a sizeable special offering, a collection of \$2,035 on Aug. 20. "Our hearts went out to them," said the Rev. Jerry Neff, the church's pastor.

Those two churches stand out because of their youth, but they are hardly alone.

Many United Methodist congregations and some conferences have made special fundraising appeals for Maui, reflecting the severity of the overall situation — and the fact that Lahaina United Methodist

Church's sanctuary and the homes of most members were lost to the fires.

Getting overall totals for giving to the United Methodist Committee on Relief and the California-Pacific Conference's target-

ed efforts for Maui will take a while, but the early United Methodist response has lifted the spirits of Pastor John Crewe, who leads the Lahaina church.

"It's given me the assurance that we'll be able to rebuild," he said, noting that his church has already received more than \$75,000 in relief and recovery donations through its website appeal.

UMCOR, which has made an initial \$10,000 solidarity grant for work on Maui, also commented on the rush of donations.

"UMCOR is grateful for the ways in which individuals, churches and conferences have shared updates and collected offerings within their communities in the aftermath of the Maui wildfires," said Katherine (Katie) Hills Uzoka, director of international disaster response. "The funds will allow UMCOR to continue supporting local response and recovery efforts."

On Aug. 8, wildfires essentially destroyed the historic west Maui coastal town of Lahaina. At least 115 people were killed, and many others remain unaccounted for.

Though no one from Lahaina United Methodist died, members have friends who did. And Crewe estimat-



Lahaina United Methodist Church
Maui, Hawaii

ed that about 75% of the church's families have lost their homes.

Among them is Rosalyn "Roz" Baker, a former Hawaii state senator who played electric piano for Lahaina United Methodist's services. She was glad to be able to strum a borrowed ukulele in an Aug. 20 service that Crewe led in a condominium center's community room.

"Even in all the stress, there are bright spots," said Baker, who has found temporary lodging on the island. "It's nice to see our congregation in particular has come together and is going to be doing whatever is necessary to rebuild."

Ala Lani United Methodist is about a 30-minute drive from Lahaina in Kahului. A few members there live in Lahaina and lost homes. But mostly, Ala Lani members have been balancing grief at their neighboring community's loss of life and property with trying to help in any way possible.

"Tessie Layugan, the lay leader of Ala Lani, had many relatives and friends who lived in Lahaina and lost their homes," said the Rev. SonHye Kim, senior pastor of Ala Lani. "Tessie took 13 people, from a 1-year-old to an 80-year-old grandma, in her house instead of sending them to shelters.

Church members provided them with clothing, food and other necessities.”

Ala Lani members also served food to first responders and — with help from children’s ministry director Joy Kim of Aiea Korean United Methodist Church — raised the money to buy school uniform T-shirts for about 100 children from Lahaina who will now be attending Kahului Elementary.

Ala Lani’s administrator, Tina Draper, has been of crucial help to Crewe as he’s ministered to Lahaina members. Draper has fielded calls from concerned people all over the U.S.

“She listened to their stories of their connections with Lahaina UMC,” Kim said.

Kailua United Methodist, on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu, has had members offer condos they own on Maui to displaced persons. The church has raised more than \$10,000 for relief and recovery.

“Given that we’re so close to Maui, the devastation weighs heavy on all our hearts,” said the Rev Brian Belting, pastor.

Beyond Hawaii, United Methodist churches — including some of the largest, such as St. Luke’s United Methodist in Indianapolis and Resurrection Church in Leawood, Kansas — have been quick to give.

St. Luke’s announced a Maui-focused donation of \$10,000 to UMCOR. Resurrection gave \$20,000 to the California-Pacific Conference fund.

“Our congregation has been praying for those who lost loved ones, homes and businesses in the devas-

tating fires in Maui,” said the Rev. Adam Hamilton, Resurrection’s senior pastor. “We are waiting to see how else we can help in the recovery and rebuilding.”

First United Methodist Church of Lompoc, California, is among the small churches that have taken special offerings.

“Since we live in California, we are very aware of the widespread destruction of wildfires,” said the Rev. Terry Fisher, co-pastor.

The Rev. John Nash of First United Methodist Church, in Los Alamos, New Mexico, said many of his members recall May 10, 2000, when the Cerro Grande fire destroyed more than 235 homes in their community.

Nash said his church can identify with Lahaina, and quickly took a special offering for UMCOR. He noted that the power of United Methodist giving has been evident in New Mexico, where a \$2 million UMCOR grant is helping with recovery from fires in the northern part of the state.

Many U.S. conferences have asked churches and individuals to contribute to relief efforts in Maui. At least two conferences — Louisiana and Western North Carolina — have made donations of \$10,000 to the California-Pacific Conference’s fund.

“The direct gift from the Western North Carolina Conference for Maui is alongside the contributions of our people through UMCOR,” said Bishop Ken Carter, who leads the conference.

He added: “Bishops and their treasurers are often aware of needs

in the aftermath of disasters — displaced clergy and their families, local churches unable to receive Sunday offerings, members who have lost employment, the need to pay salaries of staff persons, such as youth directors, worship leaders and musicians. I have been blessed to serve conferences who have been both recipient and giver. This is the often hidden but profound strength of our connection.”

Carter said that he’s served on denominational panels through the years with the Rev. Tom Choi, superintendent of the Hawaii District, and has respect and admiration as well for California-Pacific Conference Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank.

“This is also the connection,” Carter said.

Judy Cramer lives now on Oahu, where she attends Parker United Methodist Church in Kaneohe, but she grew up in Lahaina and lost her family home there in the wildfires. She and her brother were staying at the house on Aug. 8, and had a harrowing evacuation.

Cramer is back on Oahu and dealing with a range of emotions, but one is gratitude for United Methodists and others who have been trying to help.

“People have been so generous and so kind,” she said. “Prayers have helped tremendously.”

One of Cramer’s prayers is for staying power in the response.

“It’s going to be a long, long haul.”

—Sam Hodges, UMNS

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Dr. Sheldon takes advantage of his congregation's lack of knowledge of the Greek language.

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 22.
Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

'... and compassion for all.'

I'd like to see us add one word to our beloved Pledge of Allegiance. Let it say, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty, justice and *compassion* for all."

In all my 99 years of living I have never seen our country so completely splintered and so downright mean in its social discourse. The growth of social media has added tinder to a fire already burning.

The two major forces of politics and religion are both embedded in the problem. Families sometimes hesitate to hold a family gathering and some school boards have asked armed police to be present at their meetings for safety and security. My lifelong denomination, The United Methodist Church, is in worldwide disarray and confusion over LGBTQ issues.

I suggest that adding the word "compassion" to our flag pledge would implant a spirit, an attitude and an action into the hearts and minds of all who recite it. Millions of school children would recite the pledge each school morning, as I did 90 years ago. Teachers would begin to explain the new word and relate it to classroom and playground issues. Parents would become learners with their children. Service clubs and others would weekly ponder the word "compassion" and how it might relate to their daily lives.

It was my reading of the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama and writer Karen Armstrong that triggered my interest in this issue.

The Dalai Lama wrote, "Our basic human nature is compassionate. The problem is that children go to schools where they are not taught to nurture these deeper human values, so their basic human potential becomes dormant. When we relate to others from the place of compassion it goes to the first level, the human level, not the secondary level of difference. Then you can even have compassion on your enemy."

Armstrong points out that "the Golden Rule" — "Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you" — is the common name given to compassion, but that all 10 of the world's great religions have identical statements as a central part of their faith. Hinduism, for example says, "... do not to others which if done to thee would cause thee pain." Sikhism says, "... as thou deemest thyself, so deem others. Then thou shalt become a partner in heaven."

And our founder, John Wesley, in his sermon, *On Zeal*, reminded Methodists of the necessity of showing compassion if they wished to experience compassion from God. "If you have not 'compassion on your fellow-servants,' neither will your Lord have pity on you," he wrote.

Imagine a community, a nation, a world, where compassion in both creed and deed is the norm of life. Let us officially place it in our flag pledge, and let us celebrate that on July 4, 2026, the day we celebrate our 250th anniversary as a country.

—the Rev. Mel West, UMNS

West is a retired United Methodist pastor in Columbia, Missouri.

A Prayer For Compassion

The Bible tells us that being compassionate is important. Yet we all know that there are times when compassion isn't at the forefront of our priorities. However, we should never walk away from our compassion. It's part of what allows us to connect to others. Here is a prayer that asks God to make us more compassionate in our daily lives:

Lord, thank you for all you do for me. Thank you for your provisions in my life. You have given me so much that in some ways I feel spoiled by you. I feel comforted and well cared for by you. I cannot imagine my life in any other way. You have blessed me beyond what I could have imagined, in spite of me not deserving all these blessings. I thank you for that.

That is why I am on my knees before you today. Sometimes I feel like I take my privilege for granted, and I know that I need to do more for those that don't have what I have in my life. I know there are those that don't have a roof over their heads. I know that there are those seeking out jobs and live in fear of losing everything. There are poor and disabled. There are lonely people and desperate people that are all in need of my compassion.

Yet sometimes I forget about them. Lord, I come before you today to ask you for a reminder that I cannot just dismiss the poor and downtrodden of the world. You ask us to care for our fellow man. You ask that we care for widows and orphans.

Continued on Page 8

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Compassion (From Page 7)

You tell us throughout Your Word about compassion and that there are those in such great need of our help that we should not ignore them. And yet I feel blind at times. I get so wrapped up in my own life that those people become easy to dismiss... almost invisible.

So Lord, please open my eyes. Please let me see those around me that are in need of my compassion. Compel me to listen to them, to hear their needs. Give me the heart to be interested in their troubles and provide for me the means to help them. I want to be compassionate. I want to be like you that had so much compassion for the world that you sacrificed your Son on a cross for us. I want to have that kind of heart for the world that I will do all I can to be a voice for

the oppressed, a giver to the poor, and encouragement for the disabled.

And Lord, let me be the voice of reason to those around me, calling on them to show their compassion, too. Let me be an example of You to them. Let me be the light that they see so that You come through. When we see someone in need, lay that person on my heart. Open the hearts of those around me to create a better world by providing for those that cannot care for themselves.

Lord, I desire so much to be compassionate. I want to be aware of those in need. I want to have the means to help. Let me give to those



who are not as privileged as I am. Give me the confidence in my actions so that I can give back. Let me be open to my imagination so that the creativity I may need can flow easily and not be suppressed by doubt. Let me be what others need, Lord. This is all I ask. Use me as a vessel of compassion to a world in need.

In your Holy Name, Amen.

—Kelli Mahoney, learnreligions.com