

The LINK



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PATCHOGUE

Since 1791

September 2024

Welcome Back, Church Family!

Welcome back from what I hope was a restful and refreshing summer! Whether you traveled, reconnected with family and friends, or simply enjoyed some quiet time, we are excited to gather once again as the Body of Christ.

As we move into the fall season, we are reminded of God's rhythm of renewal and growth. Just as the seasons change, so do we. Our time away has hopefully given us a renewed energy to come together, recommit to our faith, and continue the work God has called us to do.

We have much to look forward to in the coming months!

Sunday School will be starting up again soon, and we're launching new Bible studies. I encourage

you to explore the opportunities for fellowship and service.

Whether you've been a member for many years or are newer to our congregation, there's a place for you here.

As we re-engage with our community and ministries, let's remember that we are a family. Your presence matters, and your unique gifts enrich our church in countless ways.

If you ever need support or encouragement, don't hesitate to reach out. I'm always available for a chat, a prayer, or simply to listen.

Let's enter this new season with hearts full of gratitude and anticipation for what God has in store. I'm so glad to walk this journey with each of you.

Blessings to you all.

—Pastor Debbie

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Sept 1— Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

Sept. 8—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 125

Sept. 15—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 19

Sept. 22—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 1

Sept. 29—Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Psalm 124



Circle of Concern

Bereavement

Maritza Cruz on the death of her grandson.

The family of friends of **Prince Royale**. Special prayers for his son Amir. (John San Pablo)

Healing

James McClenahan who suffered a major heart attack . (Kathy Halliwell)

Damainion Lee Ewell, Sr. who has been sick and is currently in the hospital. (John San Pablo)

Laura Clifford as she recovers from surgery. (Diane Zimmerman)

Wendy Hollowell as she recovers in rehabilitation. (Betty Rice)

Sita Sall who has been diagnosed with a heart condition and is scheduled to have a medical procedure. (Pam Queen)

Concerns

Olivia, daughter of **Yvette** is leaving for college. She leaves her mother who being cared for in a long-term rehabilitation facility. (Barbara Lyons)

Continued Prayers

Teddy Connelly, Rita Bopp-Carroll, Roberta Altimeri Balvin, Edward Locke, Pastor's mother Mary, Eileen, Marion Lyons, Morton Blair, Yvette, Lynn Russo, Kathy Hollowell, Dennis Kelly, Rhoda Willis, Daisy Hill, Dolores, Suzanne Tierney, Kimberly Helfst

—Kathy Keating
Keats1002@gmail.com



Kenneth Brown Is New Music Director

Kenneth Glendon Brown, PhD was welcomed August 18 as the Music Director for the United Methodist Church of Patchogue. He succeeds Martha Campanile who retired in July.

He comes to us from the San Diego area where he was Associate Director of Music at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Coronado, CA.

As a composer/pianist, Kenneth's work is widely available on YouTube, Amazon Music, and other streaming services. Try asking Alexa to "play Kenneth Glendon Brown".

Born in Connecticut on Valentine's Day, 1992, Kenneth was raised in rural New England, and has played piano and composed music since early childhood.

Having studied at Temple University and UCLA, he holds a B.M., M.A. and PhD in music with studies in composition, piano, and conducting.

Kenneth's original music is performed across the country by renowned artists such as the Russian String Orchestra, Yarn/Wire, and the

Momenta String Quartet. His music has been described as "strongly imagined... rich in dreamy textures" by Alex Ross in the New Yorker.

Kenneth is an editorial and production coordinator at Carl Fischer Music, and his original keyboard compositions are soon to be published by The Lorenz Corporation.

Kenneth has served as a church pianist, organist and choral director since 2019.

—George Hoag

September Birthdays

Sept. 1 Terry Ryan

Sept. 17 Cailin Rogers

Sept. 20 Renee Jaymes Schwartz



United Methodist Church of Patchogue September 2024

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

Scholars Share Post-General Conference Hopes

The Rev. Dr. Hilde Marie Movafagh did not know what to expect when for the first time, she and about 50 other Norwegian United Methodists marched in Oslo's Pride Parade this year.

As the group stepped forward under the Cross and Flame, Movafagh was astonished to hear repeated shouts of "Yay, Methodists" erupting from the crowd. Two famous Norwegian comedians along the parade route also cheered on the churchgoers.

When the marchers reached the city center, Movafagh said, the event's announcers joined in the celebration, proclaiming that the United Methodist General Conference had just ended the denomination's decades-long bans on gay clergy and the officiation of same-sex weddings.

"They concluded with saying, 'Thank you, Methodists,' and you had thousands of people cheering for the Methodist Church," Movafagh recalled.

"I don't know about you. I've been a Methodist for 50 years. That's all my life. I have never, ever experienced a crowd of several thousand people cheering for my denomination."

Still amazed, Movafagh recounted her church's joyous reception as part of a discussion on diversity and inclusion at a gathering of the International Association of Methodist Schools, Colleges and Universities.

The association — best known as IAMSCU — drew about 100 scholars

and other leaders of Methodist-related institutions to a gathering Aug. 11-13 immediately before the ecumenical World Methodist Conference that brought together more than 1,000 representatives of Wesleyan-rooted denominations. Both events took place in the same hotel, Gothia Towers, in the city of Gothenburg, an important seaport on Sweden's west coast and the fifth-largest city in the Nordic countries.

Both events also included a large contingent of United Methodists. At the IAMSCU meeting especially, many were eager to discuss the developments at the recent General Conference and what those actions might mean for their denomination's future. Holding the two events consecutively made sense. For the people called Methodist, learning and worship always have gone hand in hand. After all, no less a wordsmith than hymn writer Charles Wesley urged: "Let us unite the two so long divided, knowledge and vital piety."

Dr. Amos Nascimento, IAMSCU's executive secretary and treasurer, said that for him and other scholars, "Being here helps us tell our story to the church."

The two gatherings also were truly international in scope with church leaders attending from six continents. Among the participants at both was the Rev. Charissa Suli, a Tongan native and the first person of color to serve as president of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Suli joined Movafagh on the IAMSCU panel to discuss the topic of diversity and inclusion.

In tackling what is a major source of discussion and at times controversy in both academia and the church, Suli said she found it important to draw upon the shared Methodist belief that God's grace is for all people.

"I love that John Wesley had once said that 'The world is my parish,'" she said. "This statement was not just a call to evangelize beyond the boundaries of church buildings but a profound recognition that every person is a child of God, deserving of dignity and respect and love."

Movafagh, an IAMSCU board member, is a theologian who has long worked to promote that Wesleyan understanding of the Christian faith. The rector — the equivalent of dean — of The Theological Seminary of The United Methodist Church in Oslo, Norway, also has long advocated for LGBTQ people to be treated with dignity and welcomed into all aspects of the life of the church.

But she acknowledged that even in Norway, which legalized same-sex marriage in 2009, the place of LGBTQ people remains a source of contention within the country's varied Christian bodies.

"This issue splits churches at the moment, and that makes people change their denominations," she said. "We see that go both ways. There are Methodists going over to more conservative denominations. Two of our churches became Pentecostal this summer. But we also have it the other way around with people from more conservative denominations considering becoming a Methodist."

Movafagh said she thinks seminaries should not remain silent when the

church experiences debate or even schism. Instead, she said seminaries have an obligation to share their theological work with the wider church.

After decades of seeing votes go the other way at General Conference on LGBTQ matters, she said, she and other like-minded Norwegian United Methodists are now reflecting on what it means to be in the new majority.

“It is the role of a majority, in any case, to make sure that the minority has space,” she said. “And now it was the former activists that have a position of making sure the conservatives can find their place in the church.”

She said she and other United Methodists want to create space for people of diverse theological perspectives and biblical understandings — but not at the expense of the well-being of the LGBTQ community.

“I think we should aim to be a better majority,” she said, “a majority that practices diversity, that defends the other people’s freedom of speech, as long as you do not do harm to anyone.”

The official theme of the IAMSCU meeting was “Community, Conciliation, and Connectionalism.” An overarching idea throughout the scholars’ conversations was their desire to move church relations from the exploitation of colonialism to the equality and mutuality of true connection.

That is the aspiration behind the proposal for regionalization — another change moved forward by General Conference and now heading to United Methodist annual conference voters. To come to fruition, the regionalization amendments to the denomination’s constitution will need at least

two-thirds of the total annual conference votes.

North Katanga Area Bishop Mande Muyombo, who leads United Methodists in parts of Congo and Tanzania, explained the regionalization plan and its long history during the IAMSCU meeting and later at the World Methodist Conference.

Muyombo is a scholar as well, previously serving as president of Kamina Methodist University in Congo. He is currently the chair of the Connectional Table, a United Methodist leadership body that helped develop the plan for regionalization. He oversees the largest United Methodist episcopal area, with more than 1 million members.

Under regionalization, The United Methodist Church in the U.S. and the central conferences in Africa, Philippines and Europe will each become regional conferences with the same authority to adapt certain parts of the Book of Discipline, the denomination’s policy book.

He noted that misinformation has spread equating regionalization with loosening restrictions around homosexuality, but that’s not true. Under regionalization, each region will be allowed to set its own policies around clergy qualifications and marriage rites.

Instead, he sees regionalization as a way of fulfilling Christ’s mandate in Matthew 28:18-20 to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

In short, regionalization will allow for greater missional effectiveness within the different countries and

cultures within The United Methodist Church.

“Regionalization creates relevance and equity across the church without privileging one region as the center of others as peripheries,” he said.

The Rev. Dr. Connie Semy P. Mella is another proponent of regionalization. She is a dean and professor at Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines. She also works with the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry in guiding theological education across the Philippines and Southeast Asia. She is a leader in the World Methodist Council.

She noted that many in the Philippines Central Conference have long championed what The United Methodist Church calls regionalization.

“For many years, we have been calling for affiliated autonomy, which is the essence of worldwide regionalization,” she told United Methodist News. “It stands for self-identity, contextualized polity and relevant ministry.”

The Rev. Dr. Roger Ireson, who helped found IAMSCU when he was the top executive of the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry, said it was the sense of connection across the Methodist family that made the association possible.

“Connectionalism is friendship,” said Ireson, who is now retired.

“I think when connectionalism is seen as more than just a system, but as the result of friendship with a goal of accomplishment, it can do great things.”

—Heather Hahn, UMNS



Mayer's
FLOWER COTTAGE

& Greenhouses

400 Medford Ave.
 Patchogue, NY 11772
 www.mayersflowercottage.com
 631-475-1779 • Fax 631-654-0720
 JEFFREY J. MAYER • LYNDIA L. MAYER

HOT BAGEL PLUS DELI

100% Boiled Bagel Store

57 South Ocean Ave., Patchogue | 631-475-4751

bay harbour
INSURANCE
 AGENCY, INC.

88 Waverly Ave.
 Patchogue, NY 11772

(631) 758-1550
 (631) 289-2176 Fax

Rick Braile, CIC
 Rick@Bayharbourgroup.com

T.J.'s HERO SHOP II
 508 East Main Street • Patchogue

289-5560

60 Washington Ave. Patchogue

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Buy a gift that speaks from the heart.

Visit our online store
creativeexpressionsgifts.com

"And God called the light daytime, and the darkness he called primetime."

campbell.

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 20
 Please email your copy to gbhoag@optonline.net.

What's Going On With the UMW/UWF?

In response to the title question, the answer is quite a lot.

During the past year, the unit has hosted the LIE district Spring meeting, organized and sponsored the farewell reception for our dear Martha Campanile, donated \$200 to a community resident in need of eye surgery as part of our Woman in Need program), donated \$300 to Wesley Dinners, gave a gift of \$200 to our graduating senior, Jack Ryan, and donated \$300 to a dear member who has been struggling with the aftermath of a terrible accident. Not to mention our pledge to mission of \$600.

Did you know that the coffee you drink during coffee hour is Fair Trade coffee? It's provided by the UMW/UWF.

If this sounds like bragging, well, perhaps it is a little. With an appropriate dash of humility thrown in.

Since 1872, women in our church have been organized to be a force for good, a way of expressing God's love in very tangible and compassionate ways.

From the Women's Foreign Mission Society to the present day United Methodist Women/ United Women in Faith, we have sought to carry out God's will through thought, word, and deed.

In the coming months, we will be spending the last weekend in September at Camp Quinipet, Shelter Island, at our annual retreat. The theme of the work shop is *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*. In addition, we will meet on October 19th, to plan for the

Holiday Tea, which will take place on November 16.

We will end out the year with a Wine and Cheese on December 8. Both of these last two events are fund raisers.

All women of all ages are welcome to attend meetings and all events, whether you attend regularly or occasionally. (Sorry, fellas.) Blessings,

—Barbara Becker

We Refuse To Be Enemies

I had already visited the Nassar family farm near Bethlehem several times, but this visit was different.

The Tent of Nations is an active farm on the Palestinian West Bank with olive groves and livestock while at the same time serving as a project for peace work in the Palestinian territories. The Nassars bring together people of different cultures as a way to build peace in the region. United Methodist Global Ministries has been a longtime partner.

The World Methodist Council recognized the Nassars for their commitment to peace and justice with the World Methodist Peace Award in 2018. Their commitment has carried a price, with the family subjected to violent attacks for their efforts.

The family bought this piece of land in 1916. The property was registered with the Ottomans, who ruled at the time. Even then, it was a testimony to the Christian presence in this part of the world and a commitment to peace among peoples and peace among religions.

"We refuse to be enemies" is the principle inscribed on a stone at the

entrance. After the death of their father in 1976, the brothers Daoud and Daher took over the farm.

In 1991, the farm was declared state land — that is, land under the administration of the Israeli occupation. Since then, the family has been fighting to keep it. In 2006, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that the Nassars could re-register their land. But to this day, after more than 30 years in the courts, they have not succeeded. There have been repeated delays on the part of the authorities and courts. The Civil Administration has canceled the last two hearings, one scheduled for last December and the other for this month.

And in all these years, the illegal settlements have advanced further and further toward the farm. The settlements are highly developed cities with complete urban infrastructure.

On this visit, I only met the two brothers. None of the many international volunteers who usually live and work there, no other family members, no farm workers. It was quiet and almost a little lonely — and then suddenly we heard the noise of construction machinery.

The machinery was right by the fence, just a few steps away from a tree that General Secretary Bishop Ivan Abrahams and President J.C. Park had planted a few years ago on behalf of the World Methodist Council.

The bulldozers were on their way to build a new road for people in local Israeli settlements that are internationally regarded as illegal.

Continued on Page 8

10 Church St., Patchogue, NY 11772

The Rev. Dr. Debbie San Pablo, Pastoral Minister
 Camille Flynn, Administrative Assistant
 Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-475-3132
 Email: PatchogueUMC@Yahoo.com
 Office Hours: Tues-Friday, 9 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
 Worship Video Livestreaming at PatchogueUMC.Org
 Previous services available.



Refuse Enemies (From Page 7)

The settlements have been growing on the hills around the farm for decades. The road will probably cut through the family's land in the future.

And what was different was that we heard the bombs exploding in the Gaza Strip, just 40 kilometers away. For the first time during a visit, Daoud explicitly asked that the international community, especially the Methodist community, publicly advocate for the farm to be preserved.

The family is subjected to many forms of intimidation and harassment. Access to their own land is repeatedly made difficult. Large blocks of stone have been dumped on the access road so that the farm can only

be reached via difficult detours. There has been destruction of farmland, theft of animals, even physical violence against the brothers. The settlers under the protection of the army are acting more and more unrestrained.

"We need your support now. Turn to your governments," Daoud said. "Registration must finally take place. The harassment by settlers and soldiers must stop."

It would be a great tragedy and loss if this sign of reconciliation and peace in the Holy Land were to be destroyed now, of all times.

The terrible Oct. 7 massacre by the Hamas militant group has dramatically changed the Holy Land. Violence and division characterize life in Israel and the Palestinian territories even more than before.

This makes places like the Tent of Nations, a tent where people refuse to be enemies, all the more important.

—Thomas Kemper, UMNS

A Prayer For Peace

Almighty God, I pray for peace in our world, where there is often conflict and strife. Bring an end to violence and injustice. Inspire leaders to work towards the well-being of all people. May your love and compassion prevail, uniting nations in a common pursuit of peace. Let your kingdom of peace reign on earth as it is in heaven. In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, I pray. Amen.

—Christianity.com