



The Carriage Stone

March 2016

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, NY. *The English Church*



**KEEP
CALM
AND
LIVE
LENT**



“The Carriage Stone” is the Newsletter of
The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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A Different Lent

As I write this, we are in the Third week of Lent—that time of walking through the wilderness with Jesus, preparing for His passion (suffering), death and resurrection. You’ve probably noticed some differences in our worship services. This is intentional. It’s helpful for us spiritually to move out of our Sunday morning “comfort zone”.

So far, we have had a guided meditation, and a time of studying various art media with an eye to where we might find God if we came upon the scene in the wilderness. There will be some other, less traditional forms of worship, but none too frightening, I promise!

Mark your calendars NOW for a special worship service featuring the Spring Valley Inspirational Dancers. These young people bear witness to what God in Christ has done for them through dance. They performed at the Martin Luther King Day celebrations in January, and have performed in many local churches. Kryste and I watched them rehearse in our sanctuary and were both so moved. Their energy and presence will truly move you.

We will return to our traditional “sermon time” on Palm Sunday, followed by our Palm Sunday Potluck luncheon in Murchison Hall. I pray we all continue to keep a holy Lent.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori" with a flourish underneath.

Thank you from Church World Service

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your remarkable donation to Church World Service in support of our efforts to the resettlement of refugees in the northern New Jersey area, which we appreciate more than ever in these challenging times.

We have seen both the resilience and the resolve of the women, men and children we assist. And we have been deeply moved by the generosity of people like you, who give hope and opportunity to people in need, here in the U.S. and around the world.

Thank you again on behalf of Church World Service.

Sincerely,

Mahmoud Mahmoud
Director of Church World Service New Jersey

Rev. John L. McCullough
President and CEO

Members Speak out for the Homeless

Mary Wollstonecraft said, "It is Justice, not charity that is wanting in this world."

For years, the New Hempstead Presbyterian Church and its members have provided charity for the homeless of Rockland County, often through Helping Hands of Rockland County, and will do so again in March. Recently, two of our members have spoken out for Justice for the Homeless, through the Journal News. The letter is available through a posting on the Mission page at nhpchurch.org which takes you to Laura Metallo-Bidon's letter to the editor (printed Sunday, February 21), describing her view of the injustice of the county's response. In addition to the letter, the short video provides background information and shows scenes from our recent Safe Haven hosting and another member speaking out.

From Laura Metallo-Bidon's letter,

Our faith tradition calls us to care for the needy in our midst, and we have been blessed with resources to do that.

But we, like many others in the faith community, are rapidly running out of space to accommodate the growing numbers, and the cost of feeding 40-plus individuals will soon become too great for our small congregation to absorb.

What is local government's responsibility to meet this growing need? Rockland County has no emergency shelter for homeless adults. It's time for the county to step up and find a sustainable way to provide safe shelter for our homeless neighbors.

Josh Fox Film Screening

There is a screening of the new Josh Fox film,

How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can't Change,

at 6:30 on Monday, March 14 at Manhattanville College, 2900 Purchase St, Purchase, NY.

This is the first screening of the new film in the NY metropolitan region. Josh Fox will lead a Q&A after the screening of the film. The event is free and open to the public. There is a voluntary suggested donation of \$10, which will help local communities' battles against fossil fuel infrastructure. Doors open at 6 PM and the film will begin at 6:30.

Please RSVP to svandolsen@gmail.com or discuss with Sylvia Miller.

The writer and director of Emmy-winning and Oscar nominated "Gasland I & II" continues his interrogation of the fossil fuel industry in his new film, "How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can't Change." This film presents a message of hope and creative possibility despite devastating climate change.

Our Special Offerings 2016

Based on last year's Mission Survey and other feedback from our congregation, this year's Special Offerings are being re-structured to benefit local causes as well as missions of the Presbyterian Church (USA):

- **One Great Hour of Sharing** is back this year! 100% of your gift will go to PC(USA) missions—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Programs and Self-Development of People. **Received Easter Sunday, 2016.**
- **Pentecost Offering**—100% of this offering will go to a local organization assisting at-risk youth. Congregation will select the organization. **Received May 2016.**
- **Peacemaking Offering** – 100% of this offering will go to a local peacemaking/ social justice organization selected by the congregation. **Received Oct. 2016.**
- **Christmas Joy Offering** – 100% of your gift will go to PC(USA) missions: Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Racial/Ethnic Leadership Development **Received December 2016.**

For more than fifty years, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need through supporting One Great Hour of Sharing. The hundreds of millions of dollars Presbyterians have given over the last half century have enabled a powerful witness to the love of the One who came that all might have life more abundantly.



Give to "One Great Hour of Sharing" Easter Sunday, 2016

Your gifts support:

Disaster Relief: through your giving, OGHS helps those affected by disaster to pick up the pieces



Hunger Relief: with your help, OGHS funds feeding programs all over the world.



Self-Development of People: with your help, men and women are able to provide for their families.



Spring is Coming!!!

From Nancy Jacobs

Seeking helpers who:

- 1) Are patient, gentle, and nurturing
- 2) Are eager for Springtime
- 3) Love nature
- 4) Have verdant opposable digits (green thumbs) or even "latent" talent!

I am ordering a number of plants and seeds for the church cutting garden, and need volunteers to assist in the winter indoor planting of some of the seeds. They are all "annuals," so I expect a long blooming period. They will not survive the following winter. If we have had fun, we can do it again next year!

Here are the flowers for which I have purchased seeds.

Vulgare Dill



Salvia - Bonfire

Sunflower - Giant Gray Stripe



Golden Margerite



Salvia - Blue Angel



Snapdragon - Tall Deluxe Mixture

"Be not afraid":

1. You won't have sole responsibility of a variety. I hope that several people will plant the same flowers. That will increase likelihood that some will sprout and survive until planting them outdoors.
2. I will provide in-person instruction... Unless you don't want me to.
3. Seeds are cheap. Don't worry that I have spent my life savings and all will die.
4. If you have major jitters, you can sprout the later-sown types.
5. If you want to try to sprout only enough for a couple pots, that's just fine. We can work together on deciding what you can do. Three small plants can be transplanted to the church garden in a cluster that will thrive in the Spring.
6. Discuss your concerns with me. I really think we can work things out.

To express your interest, please see me during coffee hour, phone my home and leave a message (845 354-4829), or pop me an email at IWantToPlant@outlook.com. If you call or email, please tell me how to contact you.