



The Carriage Stone

April 2017

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



Holy Week



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of
The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

484 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY 10956

The Reverend Doctor Lori Knight-Whitehouse, Pastor

Office: (845) 354-2372

E-mail: office@nhpchurch.org

Web: nhpchurch.org

Look for us on Facebook!

Administrative Assistant: Kristen Rabeler

Newsletter Editor:

Robert Philhower

Next Deadline:

Sunday, April 23

Submissions: in my mailbox
or e-mail to

carriagestone@nhpchurch.org

Costly Grace



Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Romans 8: 1

As we near Easter, it is appropriate to think about God's grace—God's costly grace. We know that, in Christ, we now longer stand accused and condemned of our sin. And this is reason to rejoice, and respond.

God's grace is free. But it is not cheap. It cost the lifeblood of God's son, Jesus Christ. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor and martyr said,

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God."

Yes, we are to rejoice that in Christ God has conquered the powers of sin and death and Satan. We have been set free from prison! But, we have to walk out of the jailhouse doors. We are called to "a new quality of life within and through the Church" as the PC, USA Book of Order (our manual of polity) states. In the early church, folks were baptized at Easter, and given a new white robe to wear—the origin of new clothes and Easter bonnets.

It is a joy to claim the new life we are given. Says Bonhoeffer

Costly grace is the sanctuary of God; it has to be protected from the world, and not thrown to the dogs. It is therefore the living word, the Word of God, which he speaks as it pleases him. Costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus. It comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and the contrite heart. Grace is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."

May your Easter be joy-filled, and your response to God compel you into the world in that joy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori" followed by a stylized flourish.



LOCAL MISSIONS

Safe Haven

The Safe Haven Program, run by Helping Hands of Rockland County in partnership with local houses of worship, is entering the final month of the annual program that began in November. Once again this month, we will be hosting the homeless for three nights, April 18–20 (Tues-Thurs). If the weather warms up a bit, we were thinking of firing up the grill for a picnic-type dinner on one night!

We're looking for volunteers to help prepare meals, serve and clean up afterwards, which usually lasts from 7:30 PM until 9:30-9:45 PM. Additionally we need a male and a female volunteer to chaperone the guests overnight, between 9:45 PM and 7 AM. Air mattresses are provided. Finally, a volunteer to help with the shopping would be most appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet for Safe Haven volunteers in the Colonial Room. If you have any questions please see Pam Fink.

We encourage everyone able to participate in this very important mission activity to sign up for one (or more!) evenings or to serve as an overnight chaperone. If your schedule doesn't permit you to attend the Safe Haven nights, you can also help out by providing basic hygiene items that are always needed, or by making a cash donation to support NHPC efforts on behalf of the Safe Haven Program. It is truly amazing to see how much of a difference a little act of kindness can make.

HELPING HANDS HYGIENE KIT

Tooth Paste
Disposable Razor
Shaving Cream
Socks
Deodorant
Wash Cloth
Shampoo
Hand Soap
Tissues
Comb OR Brush
Lip Balm

Calling All Flower Arrangers

If you enjoy arranging flowers and might be willing to do so for a church service, please let Sue Rentz know. I am looking for people to fill in for Kristen Rabeler (who has been doing this job superbly for several years) when she is unable to do it. Thanks so much!



Facing Racism: A Vision of the Beloved Community

There are two meetings left of our Lenten conversations on white privilege and racism. We have been joining with folks from Palisades Presbyterian, alternating locations, in weekly Wednesday evening discussions.

Anyone is welcome to join for any session, even if you have not attended before.

Here is the schedule for remainder of the study. All meetings start at 7:30 PM

April 5 New Hempstead

April 12 Palisades

Palisades Presbyterian Church is at
117 Washington Spring Rd,
Palisades, NY 10964

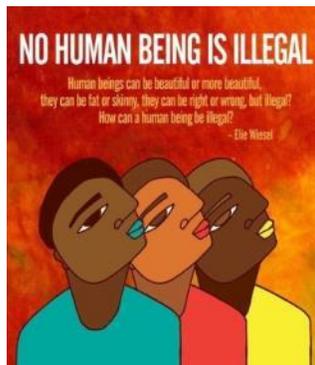


Supporting our Immigrant Neighbors

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church is proud to partner with other Presbyterian Churches of Rockland

County in a joint project to provide support for immigrants in our communities, and to lay the groundwork for a countywide immigration advocacy effort.

The goal of this pilot project is to hire a part-time, Spanish-speaking organizer to network with local organizations, organize legal clinics to offer concrete support, mobilize religious communities and



concerned individuals to provide rapid response to people in need, and to explore potential for a grassroots, immigrant-led coalition to expand support for immigrants in our county.

Following the highly successful Immigration Forum at Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church in February, this is a concrete next step, which has already received a promise of financial support from the Hudson River Presbytery. NHPC's contribution, along with other partner churches, will get the project off the ground. Members of the project will be visiting NHPC in May to speak to us about their work and share their progress with us. Watch for more details soon!

May Church Care Day

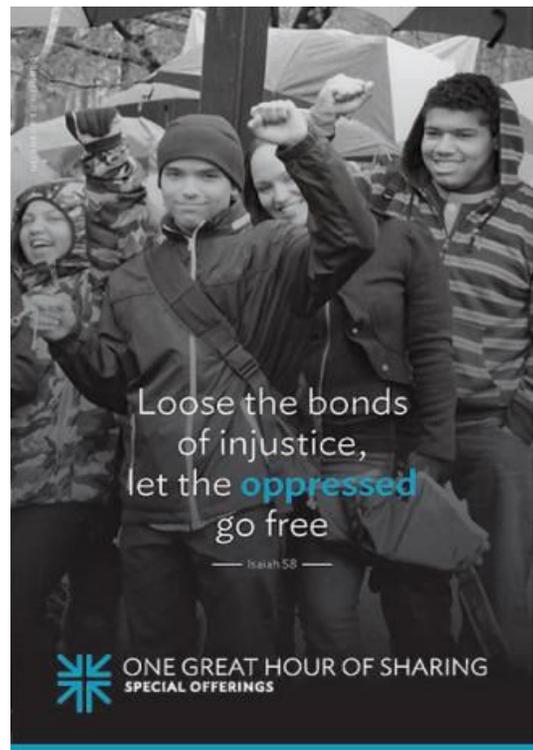
Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 6 from 9 AM to 12 noon will be the May church care day when we do our spring beautification.

Why give to "One Great Hour of Sharing?"

With your gift, you...

- Partner in projects like "Jobs Not Jails," which has already assisted over 7,000 people with access to jobs and educations as they establish new lives after prison, thus reducing the probability of repeat offenses.
- Share your bread with the hungry through programs that work creatively to address long-term care of the earth and to end hunger and poverty for the most vulnerable.
- Provide food, shelter and education to refugees fleeing the civil war in Syria, and helped rebuild 40 homes for those who wish to restore the Syria they love.

Please give generously to "One Great Hour of Sharing"





HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday **Sunday, April 9**

11 AM Worship

Noon Palm Sunday Luncheon

Maundy Thursday **Thursday, April 13**

8 PM Worship with Communion
(Choir to rehearse afterwards)

Good Friday **Friday, April 14**

8 PM Tenebrae Service

Easter Sunday **Sunday, April 16**

8 AM Sunrise Service in Murchison Hall

9 AM Full breakfast in Murchison Hall

11 AM Service of the Resurrection in Sanctuary

Noon Fellowship time