



# The Carriage Stone

March 2019

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



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

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# FROM THE PASTOR

## Lent 2019

March 6, Ash Wednesday, is the first day of Lent 2019. We will begin Lent here at NHPC with a service with Eucharist and the Imposition of the Ashes. (Ashes are made by burning last year's palms from Palm Sunday, and the prayer intention cards from Advent. The last part is my own addition.)

Lent is often a time of “giving something up”: candy, alcohol, etc. Or it is a time of “taking up”: practicing kindness, spending more time in prayer.

Perhaps this Lent you might want to think about letting go of things that are unnecessary: worry, fear, short temper, procrastination. Once you spend 6 weeks letting go of these things, you may find that life is better without them.

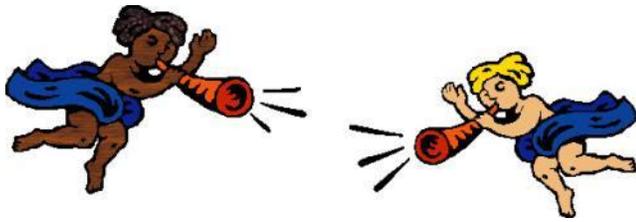
However you choose to move into this season of self-reflection, repentance, and drawing close to God, I hope you will make regular worship a part of the experience. I will be preaching a sermon series on what are called ‘Understandings of the Atonement’----or who we understand what was going on at the cross.

In addition, the Session has approved the celebration of the Eucharist every Sunday. No, this is not a “Roman Catholic only” thing—John Calvin wanted to celebrate Eucharist every Sunday. What a wonderful way to be strengthened for service in God’s world, by feasting weekly with our Lord.

May we keep a holy Lent.

Blessings,





## **A Different Way to Announce**

Rev. Dr. Lori Knight-Whitehouse

At its retreat in January, the Session discussed our announcement time before worship. We agreed that we are going on way too long, and was taking up too much time. (Occasionally, it has been 11:15 before we actually start the worship service!)

Worship is a time dedicated to God, and God alone. We shouldn't be distracted by a long period of housekeeping details beforehand.

Therefore, the Session has decided that we will no longer spend the time before worship with announcements. The lay leader will call your attention to these. (The exceptions to this are serious illness or hospitalization, birth, or death announcements). If you have an announcement, please make sure you get it to Kristen by Wednesday for inclusion in Sunday's bulletin. ([newhempstead@yahoo.org](mailto:newhempstead@yahoo.org)).

If you have a personal announcement (concert, exhibition, performance, etc.) there will be a time to make that at coffee hour.

In addition, please refrain from talking during the prelude from 10:55-11:00. This is a time to center ourselves in God's presence and to prepare for worship. Let's keep our focus on the God who loves us so much, and take time to bask in that love as we gather.



## **Our Talented Congregation**

Jane Craig Sebok  
Talented Congregant

For the month of March, we have one listing.

Remember to let me know when you have performances coming up, either at [janesebok20@gmail.com](mailto:janesebok20@gmail.com), or during coffee hour.

Here is the listing for March:

### **March 10, 3 PM – Jane Craig Sebok**

Rockland County Concert Band.  
Green Meadow Waldorf School  
307 Hungry Hollow Rd.  
Chestnut Ridge, NY

## **A Different Way of Sending Email**

Bob Philhower

Our current way of sending email from the church has some difficulties. Not the least of which is that only I can send messages to everyone, which causes some urgent messages to be delayed until I can get to my computer. (It does not work on my phone)

The Session has approved our using MailChimp, which is a commercial mail service (free to us until we hit 2000 members).

I would appreciate it if you would sign up for the newsletter on the church website:

[http://nhpchurch.org/info/?page\\_id=121](http://nhpchurch.org/info/?page_id=121)

I will be entering the names from the church directory once it is updated, but MailChimp will trust **us** more if people sign up themselves instead of my entering names in bulk.

Please fill in your name as well. People who worship with us or worshipped with us in the past are added to a second list to receive the more personal messages such as births, deaths, etc.