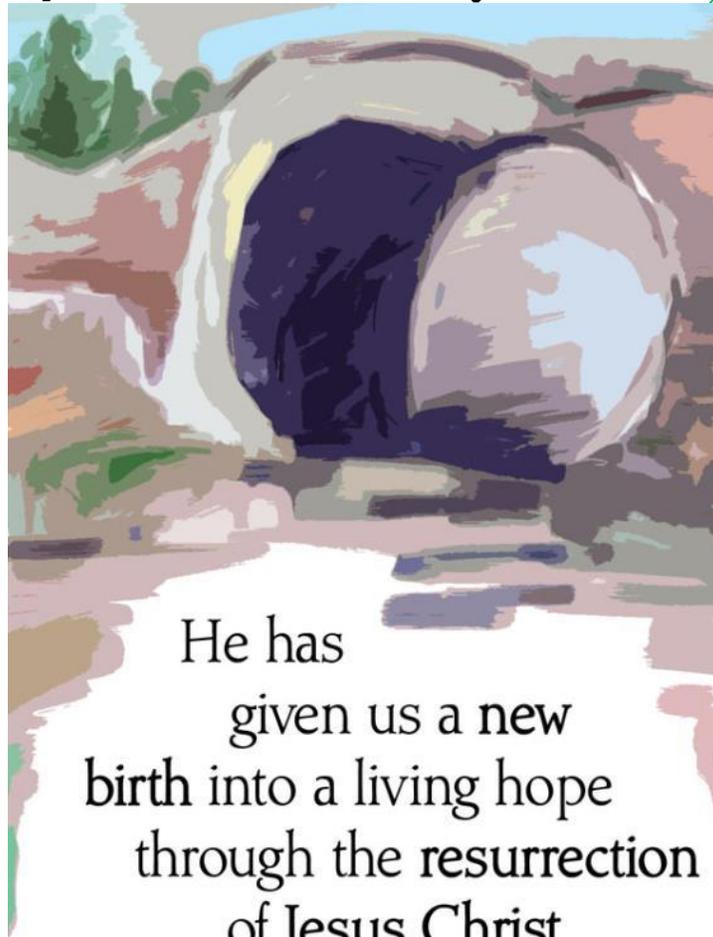




# The Carriage Stone

May 2020

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



He has  
given us a new  
birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ  
from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NRSV



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

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Easter was very different for us all this year. It was the first year in 15 that I did not lead us all in worship—at least not in person, and not for our usual two services. In addition, my beloved Daddy passed to the fullness of God's presence on Saturday morning.

It is certainly a time to ponder Resurrection. My heart tells me that we will not get back to "normal". And that may not be a bad thing. When I was in seminary, we were taught that there was a difference between resurrection and revivification. Resurrection is all new-- "A new heaven and a new earth" as Revelation 21 tells us. Revivification is coming back to this old life, as when Elijah raised the son of the widow of Nain.

I believe that, in addition to the resurrection at the end of time, we also can see signs of it here and now. Resurrection is also when we open our hearts to God's newness, to new ways of doing things.

We are experiencing new ways of worshiping, new ways of being in community utilizing social media, new ways of showing our love for one another (Thanks to all who have brought us food and groceries!)

Here are some of my favorite thoughts on resurrection by the poet Wendell Berry, from his poem **Manifesto: The Mad Farmer's Liberation Front**.

*Give your approval to all you cannot  
understand. Praise ignorance, for what man  
has not encountered he has not destroyed.  
Ask the questions that have no answers.  
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.  
Say that your main crop is the forest  
that you did not plant,  
that you will not live to harvest.*

.....

*Swear allegiance  
to what is nighest your thoughts.  
As soon as the generals and the politicians  
can predict the motions of your mind,  
lose it. Leave it as a sign  
to mark the false trail, the way  
you didn't go. Be like the fox  
who makes more tracks than necessary,  
some in the wrong direction.  
Practice resurrection*

May we practice resurrection this Eastertide.



## The Work of the Church Continues...

From Laura Bidon

We all long for the day to come soon when we can worship in-person together again. But until that time, you can be confident that the work of our church continues. Here is just one example...

Proceeds from the Deacon's "**Change in the Jar**" program (you know, those little gifts you put in the jar at Coffee Hour over the past months) have recently been donated to the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Multipurpose Center in Spring Valley**, specifically to help feed local families in need.

Here is an update from the MLK Center, explaining how our gift was used:

*"Due to the COVID-19 crisis, on Tuesday, 4/14/20, the Center hosted another large food distribution event. We received much needed support from the Rockland community and wanted to update everyone on the outcome. Through donations, we were able to re-stock our pantry after March's event left it bare. By doing so, **Tuesday's event enabled us to***

***serve over 230 Rockland families.** The event only ended because we ran out of food."*

*"The Center would like to send thanks to all the volunteers, donors and staff that helped make our latest food distribution possible and while at this moment we will not list everyone individually, we did want to highlight that Lowes Nanuet, has been integral by loaning us the shopping carts that have allowed the food distribution process to go smoothly. Each cart is filled with 40+ items of quality, nourishing food."*

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church is proud to be part of this effort to ensure that everyone in our community has the food they need, especially during this time of COVID crisis. Thanks be to God that we have the resources to help. Keep the MLK Center in your prayers, as they continue to meet the needs of families in our community.

[Since we are not able to deposit coins in the jar, if you wish to support the MLK Multipurpose Center directly in their food pantry efforts you can find information on their website: <https://www.mlkmpc.org/help-support-our-mission> ]

## Tag-Sale Time-Out!

From Barbara Zacheis

As we continue to safely distance ourselves from one another, it only makes sense that the Tag Sale we usually hold in June go on hiatus. As such, we ask that people refrain from giving us any donations or leaving anything outside of the barn with the tag sale in mind. We really don't have the space right now, so feel free to donate to Goodwill or the Salvation Army or sell on Craig's List. Donations of the proceeds of anything sold are always welcome, so if you sell something you would have given to the tag sale; feel free to donate proceeds to the church with "fundraising" in the memo line. And remember to keep in touch with your church family!



## Special Music

Lois Anderson will be live streaming "**Piano Prayers from the Sanctuary**", a time of meditative piano music on Friday, April 24 at 7 PM. This performance will be carried on our YouTube channel.



### **From the Deacons: "Pray at 8:00"**

The world needs our prayers, now more than ever.

Especially during this time when we can't pray together in-person, the Deacons are asking everyone to "**Pray at 8**"

Wherever you are, **at 8 AM and 8 PM every day**, take a few moments to pause, reflect and pray, knowing that your sisters and brothers from NHPC are doing the same.

Pray for everyone listed in the church bulletin, and for everyone on the Prayer Chain. Pray for your family, and your church family. Pray for everyone in our community, our country and the world. Pray for our leaders. And pray for yourself, and know that others are praying for you, too.

Pray for everyone in your heart, and know that your sisters and brothers from NHPC are praying along with you, and that the Lord is listening. Praise the Lord, and witness the power of prayer!

### **The Great American Cleanup**

Last month, we suggested you save the date of May 2 for the Great American Cleanup. I hope you used pencil on your calendar. Keep Rockland Beautiful has cancelled the cleanup for May 2, due to risks associated with being in large groups. I suppose that just means more trash for next year!



## Millennial Corner

Nora Asamoah

*The Lord Almighty is with us  
— Psalm 46:11*

During the forty days of Lent, I read the 40 Daily Devotionals for Lent by First 15. Each daily devotional was amazing. I learned a lot, meditated a lot and read the Word many times. At the end of each devotional would be a little paragraph to get you through the day. The paragraph below stood out the most to me. It has been a difficult few weeks for everyone. In our own ways, we are grieving; whether it is the loss of a loved one, jobs, unable to socialize etc. We all have been affected, but brothers and sisters, we need to take heart that we are not alone, the same God that led the Israelites from Egypt, delivered Daniel from the lion's den and gave His only son for our salvation, will deliver us from this pandemic as well. Stay safe and blessed!

***How incredible is the heart of God that he would choose to share with us his own strength!***

***Your God cares for you so deeply that he desires to work closely and effectively in your life***

***The very strength that formed the mountains, parted the seas and sustains every living thing is available to you today.***

***Rest in God's promise that he is not distant.***

***You have a strong God who loves you and is for you.***

***Live today experiencing the peace and power of God's strength made strong in your weakness.***