



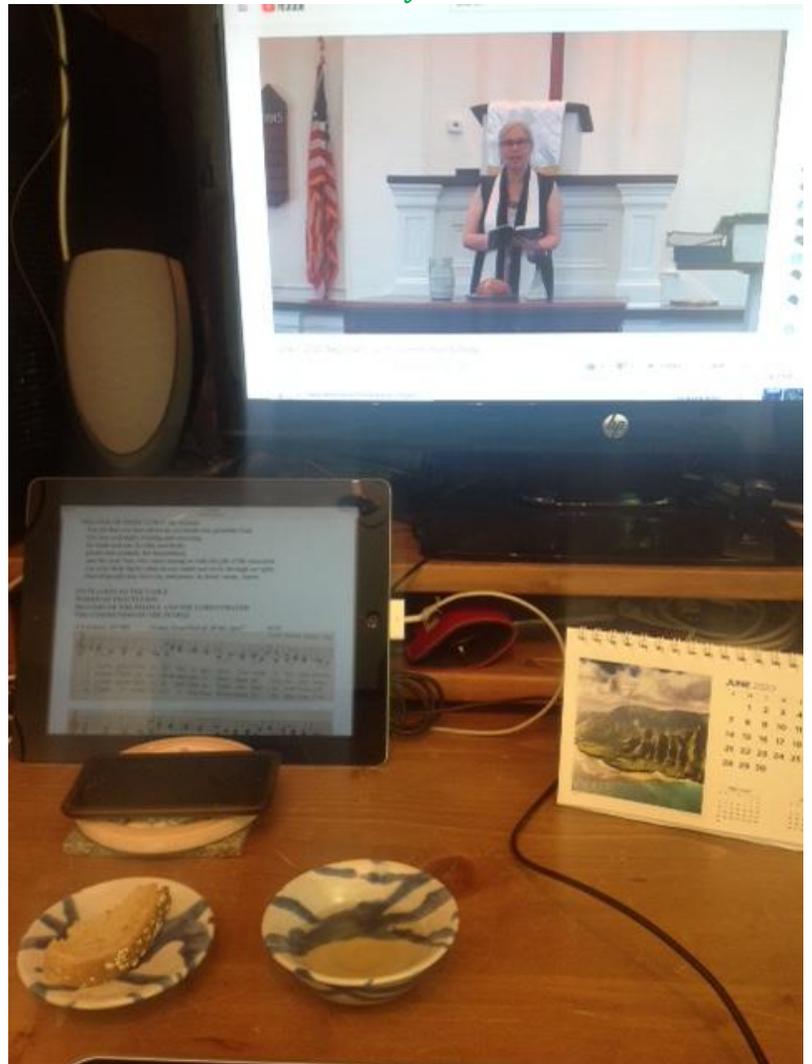
The Carriage Stone

July 2020

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

**Sunday, July 5
is
Communion
Sunday**

**Have your
elements
ready to
participate**



Thanks to Nancy Jacobs for the photo



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

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Reopening— Slowly, but Surely

At its stated meeting Wednesday, June 17, 2020, the Session appointed a committee to begin the task of planning to reopen New Hempstead Presbyterian for worship. That committee met Monday, June 22 to begin this work, using New York Forward safety guidelines and guidance from the PC, USA and Hudson River Presbytery. And worship will look very different than it did on March 8 of this year.

We will begin worshipping outdoors—weather permitting, on July 12 at 9:55 AM on the Great Lawn of the church (in the shade!). You will notice even more changes than just the open air.

Let's get the really bad news out of the way first: **There will be no singing.** I know. It breaks my heart, too. But singing projects aerosolized droplets into the air—even with masks. These droplets are the primary ways in which the virus is spread. So, hymns will be played, but you must pray them in your heart, not with your voice. In addition, Lois will continue to play her beautiful selections of worshipful music on a keyboard.

Other changes you will see—even in the open air.

- When you park, you will be asked to begin the maintenance of social distancing—at least 6 feet apart for anyone else, other than those in your family group. Please maintain at least 6 feet between you and those outside your household for the duration of worship.
- Everyone must wear masks. No exceptions. This is the most effective way to prevent the spread of CoVid-19. We will have disposable masks for any who may have forgotten theirs. (Please make sure you cover your nose as well as your mouth.)
- Ushers will be trained to ask you a series of questions regarding your health before you take a seat. We may take your temperature with a contactless thermometer.
- There will be hand sanitizers and ushers to remind you to take a squirt and rub it into your hands before you take a seat, and as you leave worship.
- An usher, who will be wearing gloves, will hand you a bulletin.
- There will be trash receptacles for your used masks and bulletins.
- You will be asked not to congregate with friends. I know this is hard—we've been apart for so long. But it is still not safe to converse, hug, shake hands, and do all those things we did “back in the old days” before the pandemic.
- The building will be open for restroom use only. The restrooms and the Colonial room (which you must go through to get to the restrooms) will be sanitized before and after worship.
- There will be no Lay Leader—I will preside over the entire service.
- There will be a bowl for offering at the table with the hand sanitizer and bulletins. We will not pass an offering plate. You can continue to mail your pledges and offerings to the Church, or use the QR code that will continue to be in the bulletin.

- For purposes of contact tracing, (should anyone test positive over the coming week) we will take a picture of the congregation. That way, we can contact you should someone have exposed the gathering to CoVid-19. The photos will **NOT** be published in any way, shape, or form, and will be deleted in a timely manner.
- Church leadership will be keeping an eye on the weather. Should we be unable to worship outside:
 - 1) service will still be live-streamed at 9:55 AM, and
 - 2) we will utilize several means of communication to spread the word: E-mail, Facebook, a message on the church answering machine (845-354-2379), and perhaps Deacons' flock calls will get the word out. We will not meet that Sunday.
- We will continue to broadcast worship on our YouTube channel (New Hempstead Presbyterian Church).
- Communion in person will be discontinued until such time as it is deemed safe again. On the first Sunday of the month, there will be a virtual Communion service on the YouTube channel. You are invited to share the Eucharist in this manner.

Last but certainly not least—*if you do not yet feel comfortable returning to in-person worship for any reason---STAY HOME!!* We are not taking attendance. We love each other, we don't judge one another, and we want Worship to be worshipful, not a source of fear and anxiety for folks who, for any reason, are not yet comfortable gathering with others. You can still worship with us virtually, on line. Virtual worship is here to stay!

This pandemic has been hard on all—so many lives have been lost, so many folks have been sick; the economic effects will be felt for a while to come. Your Church leadership wants to make a return to worship as safe as it can be. The Christian faith understands the greatest commandments to be these: Love God will all you have, and love your neighbor as you love yourself. We have kept these commandments in mind as we prepare to resume in-person worship. As circumstances change, we will adjust our policies.

Did you notice that Pastor Lori twice said 9:55 AM ... yes, NHPC is on our summer Worship schedule, now through Sunday, September 6.





From the Deacons

Help Soup Angels Feed Our Community

Soup Angels of Nyack provides free, nutritious, homemade meals to anyone who is hungry, no questions asked. Among their guests are elderly persons seeking a meal and companionship, the working poor and their families, and those who are homeless.

They are an all-volunteer organization well known to New Hempstead Presbyterian Church: Bob & Elaine Philhower are loyal Soup Angels volunteers, as are several other members of our congregation. We know first-hand that Soup Angels is doing God's work in our community.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Soup Angels has and will continue to serve dinner every Monday and Wednesday via curbside pick-up.



Packaging meals in recyclable containers and paper bags has meant that nearly 40% of their food budget has gone to these unforeseen expenses.

Soup Angels needs our help now, to cover these unforeseen costs and to account for the loss of donations typically received from other sources (such as street fairs, which have been cancelled due to the pandemic). Their goal is to raise \$10,000 to cover the remainder of 2020.

As an added incentive, a generous benefactor has offered to provide a matching gift to double donations up to \$10,000.



The Deacons of NHPC have already donated \$250 to this effort. We encourage you to make an additional donation if you're able. Please give now at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-nyack-soup-angels-feed-our-community> to help fight hunger one bowl at a time.

Millennial Corner

Nora Asamoah

*Love one another as I have loved you.
- John 13:34*

We have all heard the phrase “Love conquers all”. Now more than ever, this needs to be true. Our world is changing faster than we can imagine. Events from these past weeks have been heartbreaking. These have sparked a lot of emotions in everyone (good or bad). Many of us have been asking ourselves, how can we help? How can we break down years of systemic racism? How can we make a better future for the next generation? It is going to take a lot of work to do but I hope at the top is love. Love drives away fear (fear sometimes turns to hate). Love brings joy. Love brings happiness. When you have love, you feel like you are on top of the world. As Christians, we have conditional love from God. After all, as Genesis 1:27 states

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them...”

So if we are God’s children and he loves us all despite our flaws, why can’t we love each other? I have a proposition for each of you. Everyday challenge yourself to show more love to yourself and those around.

Support Local Businesses....

Buy Locally-Made Hand Sanitizer!

Laura Bidon

Urban Electric Power, located at the Pfizer campus in Pearl River, is a New York-based company committed to sustainable and renewable energy sources. They manufacture high-capacity, rechargeable and inexpensive batteries, made from earth-



abundant and safe materials, to power homes and businesses.

During the COVID-19 crisis, Urban Electric Power has converted a portion of their business to make quality hand sanitizer for essential personnel and others in need throughout the community. **It is FDA approved, 70% alcohol by volume and locally manufactured. It's clean, simple, and dries instantly.** You can order online, and it is available for local pick up or delivery.



Urban Electric Power has already provided much-needed sanitizer to frontline workers at Rockland County’s Department of Social Services and Helping Hands, among other local organizations.

Check out Urban Electric Power at <https://www.urbanelectricpower.com/hand-sanitizer> if you are in need of hand sanitizer or know of a business or organization that is looking to support local businesses.

[Do you know of other local businesses you would like to support as New York reopens for business? Let us know, and we can feature them here!]

Eliane’s Caribbean Cuisine

Bob Philhower

A local, black-owned business that Elaine and I have been supporting is **Eliane’s Caribbean Cuisine** on King’s Highway in Valley Cottage. The food is delicious and fresh. And, since it is walkable from our house, it is a great idea for a work-from-home lunch. The menu changes, daily, so call Eliane at 845-589-0979 to see what she has cooked up.

Update- NHPC Race and White Privilege Book Discussion Group

From Claudette Green

After a long hiatus due to COVID-19, the group met on Thursday, June 11 via Zoom.

As always, our facilitator Pastor Lori opened with prayer. The discussion was divided into three distinct, but overlapping parts: How we are doing mentally, what we have been doing, and our reactions to the new crisis of police brutality and protests.

The mental health check revealed bewilderment, fear, concerns, questions, hope, cautious optimism, strength, and resolve, among many emotions. We acknowledged the need to reach out to each other for support during this difficult and unprecedented time.

We are working remotely, discovering new activities, preparing for retirement, rearranging our home after a loss, reading, and writing. We are creative and resourceful, adjusting to a new normal. We talked about family and friends and how they are faring during the pandemic, and expressed gratitude that most are well.

A few of us struggled to define or name the current moment in which police brutality of mostly unarmed Black citizens has ignited protests on international and historic levels. To deal with a social crisis amid a health crisis has left most of us overwhelmed. Some listened and offered suggestions. Pastor Lori pointed out that this situation is like an apocalypse or an “uncovering” of many of society’s ills. Transformation needs to follow. Several have attended protests and/or contributed to organizations in an effort to be a part of the solution. As believers in social justice, we felt that prayer and action need to coalesce.

We are resuming our regular meetings on the second Wednesday of every month. Our next meeting is Wednesday, July 8 at 7:30 PM. Barring rain, please join us in

front of the church, with lawn chairs for social distancing, and protest signs (optional). Bring book suggestions also.

Some of our previous book selections have been:

- [Becoming](#), by Michelle Obama
- [Friday Black](#), by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah (a Rockland County native)
- [White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism](#) by Robin DiAngelo
- Octavia Butler’s [Parable of the Sower](#)
- [Between the World and Me](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- [The New Jim Crow](#) by Michelle Alexander
- Naomi Jackson’s [The Star Side of Bird Hill](#).

Congratulations to Hamadi and Lauren on their Wedding May 31

