



# The Carriage Stone

December 2020

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, N.Y. *The English Church*

Abounding in Grace and Joy



Christmas Joy Offering

© 2020 NHP Church, Inc.

Member, Independent and Provisional, a Member of the General Assembly, General Synod of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, 100 Montgomery Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202-1000



“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](mailto:office@nhpchurch.org)

**Web:** [nhpchurch.org](http://nhpchurch.org)

**Look for us on Facebook!**

**Administrative Assistant:** Kristen Rabeler

**Newsletter Editor:**

Robert Philhower

**Next Deadline:**

Sunday, January 24

**Submissions:** in my mailbox  
or e-mail to

[carriagestone@nhpchurch.org](mailto:carriagestone@nhpchurch.org)



## **Christmas in Unprecedented Times**

Many years ago, I read this quote from [William Temple](#), the archbishop of Canterbury in the mid-20th century. It seems appropriate to share it with you all this season. (I do not know the source of the quote).

Let us at all costs avoid the temptation to make Christmas a withdrawal from the stress and sorrow of life into a realm of unreal beauty. It was into the real world that Christ came, into the city where there was no room for him, and into a country where Herod, the murderer of innocents was king. He comes to us, not to shield us from the harshness of the world, but to give us the courage and strength to bear it; not to snatch us away by some miracle from the conflict of life, but to give us peace—his peace in our hearts, by which we may be calmly steadfast while the conflict rages, and be able to bring to the torn world the healing that is peace.

Advent and Christmas blessings to you all.



## **Rockland warming center for homeless opens, with COVID-19 safety guidelines**

(Reprinted from LoHud Journal News)

The Rockland County Warming Center for homeless single adults reopened Sunday, November 1 at the Dr. Robert L. Yeager Health Center in Pomona.

[Catholic Charities](#) will again be operating the warming center, which will be open from Nov. 1 through April 30.

The center will open each night regardless of the temperature and remain open during the day when the temperature, including wind chill, is 32 degrees or below.

The center offers showers and laundry facilities. Dinner and breakfast are provided for overnight guests and lunch is served during the day when the center is open. There is security onsite.

“The opening and operation of the Warming Center is particularly challenging this year,” Department of Social Services Commissioner Joan Silvestri said in a press release.

Silvestri said the facility has been modified and practices and protocols have been established to ensure adherence to state COVID-19 safety guidelines. All staff and guests will be screened (including temperature checks), wear masks and practice social distancing. Appropriate PPE will be made available to staff and guests, she said.

The center will open starting at 5 PM Sunday, November 1st. The locations and pickup times are listed below:

- Nyack - 4:25 PM and 8 PM at South Broadway and Burd Street (in front of the First Reformed Church of Nyack)
- Haverstraw - 5 PM and 6:20 PM at Village of Haverstraw Commuter parking lot (across from Village Hall)
- Spring Valley - 5:30 PM and 7:05 PM at the Spring Valley Parking lot west of Key Bank on Route 59 by Planet Fitness
- Pomona - Department of Social Services, 5 PM at 50 Sanatorium Road (at the bus shelter Monday-Friday only)

Anyone needing shelter can contact Catholic Charities at 845-942-5791 or 845-364-2346.



## **Blood Drive**

There will be a blood drive on Saturday, November 21 at the MLK multi-purpose center in Spring Valley. It will run from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. All blood types are welcome.

Register at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code: MLK



## Supporting Past, Present, and Future Leaders

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

**\$1.1 million in gifts from 2017** are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian Church workers in their times of need

**26 Countries** represented in the last 25 years at Presbyterian Pan American School

**98% of graduates** from Manual School go on to college

**84% of faculty** at Stillman College hold terminal degrees

## Thanksgiving Baskets

The tradition continues!!! We collected 50 Thanksgiving Baskets for local families in need, to be distributed via the Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center in Spring Valley. Holiday blessings to all!





## **Introducing Brian Frick – Leading the Stony Point Center Transition**

As we enter this period of discernment for Stony Point Center (SPC), we would like to introduce you to Brian Frick, Associate for Camp and Retreats of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Brian will be moving to SPC in December to begin the process of discerning a viable path forward for SPC while helping transition the Center to a focus on Retreat groups through at least 2021.



Frick hails from New Jersey and has served for twenty-five years in leadership at camp and retreat centers of the Presbyterian Church, USA, including working at three centers across the country. Most recently, he has served for the past eleven years as the Presbyterian Mission Agency National Staff for Camp and Retreats. In this role, Frick has interacted with the work and leadership of the 120 plus PC(USA) affiliated camp and retreat centers nationwide. The majority of his work has been focused on consulting in transitions as camp and retreat centers deal with changes in finances, usage, and governance.

“I am a firm believer in retreats being an essential part of healthy communities. We all

need time away to learn and grow together, and for our underlying assumptions to be continually challenged,” Frick shares. “SPC has such a rich history and has had a deep impact by inviting all of us to explore our calls to be active in social justice. That starts with Understanding and Welcome, both of which have been hallmarks of SPC hospitality.” Frick continues, “The successes both in mission and finances under the leadership of Rick and Kitty Ufford-Chase and their staff are to be celebrated. Without the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, SPC was on a markedly different trajectory. Now, we need to respond to the realities brought on by the virus’ impact on SPC, pull in our focus for 2021, and deeply investigate the path forward. Over the next six months, it will be my primary task to develop a viable plan to enable SPC to emerge from this period with purpose and vitality.”

Frick is looking forward to engaging in conversations and deep listening with all SPC constituents. “It is through hearing the joys of the past, and the hopes and desires for the future that we will be able to weave a sustainable path forward. I have no doubt that there is a robust and missionally important role for SPC to play long into the future. Though SPC has changed throughout the decades, I don’t believe that SPC is finished with us yet.”

Frick invites you to reach out during this time of discernment by emailing him at [Brian.Frick@PCUSA.org](mailto:Brian.Frick@PCUSA.org) or by calling SPC, 845-786-5674, after December 10, to speak with him directly.



## Millennial Corner

From Nora Asamoah

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”

– Deuteronomy 31:6

I just cannot believe 2020 is coming to an end. What a year it has been?! On January 1, 2020, I never imagined this was how the year was going to be. Between dealing with a pandemic, a divisive election, Black Lives Matter protests, wildfires in Australia, California and Colorado and many more. We all know someone who was infected with Covid-19 or even worse died from it. Some of us were lucky to have jobs either as essential workers or working from home. Some of us lost our jobs and facing the uncertainty of the future. Nonetheless, I count myself blessed. Why? I am alive!

As Christians, we are taught to rely on God through everything. If you are still alive today, then you are indeed blessed. Some days are better than others, but as someone once told me, “take it one day at a time. One moment at a time”. Do not forget to pray (praise, repent, ask, yield) in all times. May we all have joy as we celebrate the birth of our Savior! The holidays are a little different this year but the reason for the season still remains, Jesus Christ.

I leave you with this poem by [Maya Angelou](#). No matter what, we still rise because we are among God’s children.

### Still I Rise

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.

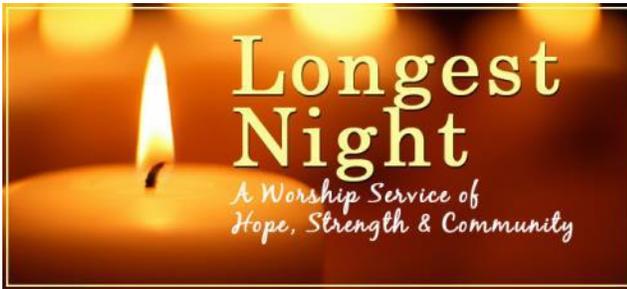
Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.  
Weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
Diggin' in my own back yard.

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?  
Does it come as a surprise  
That I dance like I've got diamonds  
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.  
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise.



## **Longest Night Service**

From Pastor Lori Knight-Whitehouse

We will hold a “Longest Night” Worship service on December 21 at 7:30 PM. Christmas isn’t always the joy-filled season that our culture wants to make it. This year, especially, has been so difficult for so many. This will be a time for those who would like to come to a less-festive, more meditative Christmas service to do so. We will have music, scripture, candlelight, and plenty of silence. Join us [in-person, masked](#), and socially distant in the Sanctuary (maximum of 24 people at the time of this writing), or on [our YouTube channel](#), if you prefer not to go out.

## **Technology Update**

From Barbara Zacheis

God Grants us Blessings, as does HRP! As we moved back to indoor worship, I realized we were in need of a few additional technology items, and was happy to find out from Casey Carbone at the Presbytery that we could access the balance of the Congregational Connection Grant we applied for in the Spring. The additional \$1200 was used to buy a second camera, some additional microphones and hardware for connecting to a computer for our [YouTube livestream](#). It's a lot to learn how to use, but each week I learn more and continue to tweak! Thanks go out to those who have given helpful feedback while worshipping from afar! We have successfully been able to enjoy anthems by the choir for two services in November and

hope to have more for the upcoming months, especially special music for Christmas. It would be good to have at least one A/V person-in-training once I have figured it all out and simplified the process, so please feel free to reach out if this interests you. Please be sure to tune in from home if you cannot yet worship with us in person! We miss so many of you, and it is so nice to see familiar faces of those of you able to be there on Sundays!

Praying we will all be together again soon,

Barbara

## **Healing a Divided Nation Post-Election**

PCUSA stated clerk, J. Herbert Nelson and Presbyterian Mission Agency Executive Director, Diane Moffett share their thoughts on moving forward. (5-minute video)

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2020/11/17/healing-divided-nation-post-election/>