



The Carriage Stone

August 2020

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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What I've Learned Since March 12, 2020

On March 12, 2020, the Session had an emergency meeting to discuss the latest news—the SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes COVID-19. That was our last in person meeting. We've not held worship in the sanctuary since.

The last 4 ½ months have been unlike any other time I've lived through, and I'm thinking that's probably true for you as well. I have tried to be intentional about meditating on what I have learned during this time. Here are some thoughts.

- We are a resilient congregation. We switched from in-person worship to online only immediately. (We were ahead of the curve due to new AV equipment and the dedication of Barbara Zacheis.) We've needed to tweak a few things, but within a couple of weeks, we were running well. Lois Anderson has continued her creative musical worship leadership.
- The Session stepped up immediately, canceling all in-person gatherings. As we move toward re-opening, we are keeping up with the latest information from New York State, the CDC, and Hudson River Presbytery. We now offer hybrid worship—both on-line and in person on the Great Lawn. Most of my clergy colleagues agree that hybrid worship is here to stay.
- The Board of Deacons also continued their pastoral care with phone calls to their flocks, notes, e-mails, and one on-line coffee hour.
- Bible Study, on Sundays continues at 11:30 on line. If you would like to join, let me or Jane Craig Sebok know—we'll make sure you are on the Zoom invite list!
- The Race and White Privilege reading group will meet on the Great Lawn, weather permitting, Wednesday, August 12 at 7:30 PM. We will be reading Ibram X. Kendi's book, *How to Be Anti-Racist*.

- Even during a pandemic, our congregation continues to grow! Patricia Grace Crockett was baptized July 18, and Alan Orion Chalfin will be baptized on August 7. Of necessity, these are small (family only, with 1 session member) celebrations of the Sacrament. In addition, I will be running a Zoom class in September for those who are interested in joining our congregation.

I've learned things about myself, as well. Once again, my heart is catching up to what my head knows: I control virtually nothing in this life! When the Session decided to hold off on in person worship, I honestly thought we'd be back in a month. We weren't.

I didn't think I would catch COVID-19. Howard and I both did. And I didn't think my dad would die from it. He did. And we still haven't been able to celebrate his life as a congregation. But God has brought me—us—through to this moment. And God will continue to lead us, even if there is the predicted "second wave" of this disease.

I've learned that being is at least as important as doing, and that God works in quietness.

I've learned that there are always people to help me out with my technological challenges (thank you Barbara and Jane).

And as a minister member of Hudson River Presbytery, my commitment to a connectional Church has been strengthened. Our Presbytery has been supportive of its congregations and clergy these last several months, and I am so very grateful.

So, what have YOU learned these last few months?

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lori".



An Appeal from our Friends at Proyecto Faro....

Help us keep our food program going

The pandemic has hit immigrants very hard. Those with no safety net or have lost work or, to feed their families, are forced to go to work, risking contracting and spreading the virus. In April, we began a food relief program to support about 200 families each week. Many of our immigrant volunteers are unemployed but committed to helping their community.

Unfortunately, our source of food is no longer able to provide us with anything.

Therefore, we greatly need financial



contributions to continue to provide food relief. Any size gift helps! (Donations are tax deductible through our fiscal sponsor, New Hempstead Presbyterian Church [Us!].)

You can donate through the online form you use to

donate to the church. **Be sure to enter your contribution in the box labeled “Proyecto Faro”** when you donate online and add **“Food Program”** in the notes section. Select a one-time gift or a recurring donation.

Checks made out to New Hempstead Presbyterian Church with **“Proyecto Faro Food Program”** in the memo can be mailed to:

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church
484 New Hempstead Rd.
New City, NY 10956

We also need volunteers to solicit food donations from markets to do food drives in their networks. Please be in touch if you

can help: proyectofarorockland@gmail.com
or (845)-293-2091.

Together, we can transform Rockland into a community where all residents are safe and have their needs met.

Support Stony Point Center.... and get Fresh, Organically-Grown Food!

The COVID pandemic has been particularly hard on our friends at Stony Point Center. To ensure safety, the Center was closed for an extended period, which in turn forced the lay-off of 40 of their 49 full and part-time staff members. But their farm operations continued through it all!

As the Center re-opens safely, they are now able to open a Farm Stand to offer their fresh, organically-grown produce for purchase to the community. Every Thursday starting July 23 from 4-7 PM, you can support our friends at Stony Point Center and buy fresh organic produce and baked goods. See Farm Stand details in the attached flyer. Be prepared to wear a mask and socially-distance!

4 P.M. - 7 P.M.
EVERY
THURSDAY
STARTING
JULY 23

the
farmstand
at Stony Point Center

Organically-grown seasonal
produce from our farm!
Homemade goodies
from our kitchen!

mask and
social distancing
required

STONY
POINT
CENTER

17 Cricketown Road Stony Point, New York 10980

for more info: www.stonypointcenter.org/food-and-farm/farm
or email Farmer Will at wsummers@stonypointcenter.org

The Bible and Social Justice

How does the Bible call us to seek social justice? How is our social activism informed by our faith?

For anyone interested in exploring these questions, the [Center & Library for the Bible and Social Justice](#), based at Stony Point Center, is hosting a [series of online discussions](#) exploring the interface of biblical scholarship and social activism. Through this series of scholar-activist encounters, we can come to a deeper understanding of how Scripture is at work in the world today.

The series is offered free, online via Zoom. See the flyer for dates, times and featured speakers. To register for one or all of these enlightening discussions or to learn more about the Center & Library for the Bible and Social Justice, visit them online at clbsj.org.

The [August encounter](#) is subtitled “How do activism and scholarship contribute to our understanding of Scripture in the world today?”

In this session, Activist theologian Ched Myers and Applied Theatre Professor Mauricio Tafur Salgado will discuss their work to create capacity for movement-building through arts, documentation and scholarship, and the way this work has shaped and been shaped by their faith. [Advance registration is required](#).

[“[Raised Fist with Pencil](#)” by YeshaiMishal is used under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.]

Scholar-Activist Encounters

The Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice invites you to join us online each third Thursday at 4:30pm Pacific Time / 7:30pm Eastern Time for an interactive dialogue exploring the interfaces between scholarship and activism.

How do these ways of being contribute to our understanding of Scripture in the world today? Let's come together to learn from each other.

Calendar:

- > [July 16](#): Amy Dalton and Charo Ureña
- > [August 20](#): Ched Myers and Mauricio Salgado
- > [September 17](#): Norman Gottwald and Sphynx Eben
- > [October 15](#): Traci West and Nicholas Johnson

Online via Zoom

Advance registration required.

For more details and to register, visit

bit.ly/clbsj-encounters

Co-sponsored by the Community of Living Traditions.

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Thank You from Soup Angels of Nyack

“Dear New Hempstead Church:

Thank you so very much for donating to Soup Angels. With increasing numbers of guests receiving “to go” meals, currently over 150 per day, we know that your gift will go a long way toward ensuring our ability to offer meals through this fall and winter season. Together

we will assist a lot of people.

*Warmly,
Kathie Rife
Soup Angels”*



The gofundme campaign has ended, but you can still send a check to:

Soup Angels
P.O. Box 565
Nyack, NY 10960

Mission Committee

The mission committee’s virtual meeting scheduled for July 28 hit some technical difficulties. If you are interested in the mission of NHPC, send Janine Kallé an email and she will send you an invite to the next meeting.



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Millennial Corner

For her column this month, Nora has sent her photos of the baptism of Patricia Grace Crockett, daughter of Jarrod and Katline Crockett. Great-grandparents are our beloved Percy and Pat Crockett. She was baptized on July 18 in the church with a socially-distanced ceremony. God continues to add to God’s kingdom even during these difficult times.

