



# The Carriage Stone

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

September 2020



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

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## Late Summer Reading

My summer reading column seems to have shifted to late summer-early autumn the last couple of years. But with life out of whack, why not make time to read all year round? So, here are five of the many books I've enjoyed this year.

***Chasing the Divine in the Holy Land***, by Ruth Everhart. I read this to prepare for my pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine in February (the experience of which I still haven't been able to share with you.) Any trip—even a hike at Bear Mountain—can become a pilgrimage if approached in the right way. Stepping out of our clock-time and into Kairos, God's time, is the beginning of pilgrimage.

***The Summer Book***, by Tove Jansson. If the cartoon Moomins were a part of your childhood, here is a book by their creator. A lovely story about summers a young girl Sophia spends with her father and grandmother on an island in the Gulf of Finland. Not heavy on plot, but beautifully atmospheric.

Speaking of plot, ***A Whispered Name***, by William Brodrick, has it in spades. Set in a priory in England, the author asks questions about the nature of secrets, and wartime ethics. Father Anselm, the protagonist must wrestle with what his mentor did/didn't/was forced to do as a captain in the British Army during World War One.

***Searching for a God to Love*** by Chris Blake. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is struggling with wounds (spiritual or physical) inflicted in the name of God. Blake does an excellent job of showing how God may not be who we were taught by those who wounded our bodies or psyches. A great read for people who wonder if God is cruel or kind.

***Wild Mercy***, by Mirabai Starr. I read this last summer and was so entranced I am reading it again. Writing about women mystics from many faiths, Starr reminds us that the Ultimate Reality (God) has feminine as well as masculine characteristics. This book will illumine your journey with the Divine.

Happy reading!

[Most links this time are to bookshop.org, an online bookstore that supports independent booksellers. I learned about it from Ibram X. Kendi --Bob]

## Support Habitat of Rockland

As you may have heard, Habitat of Rockland (whose office is in Murchison Hall) recently obtained some land in Rockland with a house to renovate. We can all help by participating in this fundraiser.

Your donation will help build a house for a family in Rockland County!

- Washable 100% Cotton
- 3-Layer Fabric Face Masks
- Single mask - \$12
- 2 or more masks - \$10/mask each



### Music Notes

From Lois Anderson

“It’s tough to make predictions, especially about the future.” – Yogi Berra

Choir rehearsals will begin online this fall, starting Thursday, September 10, from 8 to 9 PM. This will be a chance to say hello and

work on new material. Choir members will receive a link to our Zoom rehearsal, and if you would like to join with us, email

[loisleeanderson@gmail.com](mailto:loisleeanderson@gmail.com) for the information. Online rehearsals mean that you may participate even if you are far away.

Choir members recently sent in their recorded parts for a video. We expect to have that assembled soon and ready to share with the congregation.

## **An Update from your Audio/Visual Non-Professional:**

Hello from a distance! I'd like to thank those of you who have expressed your appreciation and support for the continued connection of our Worship Services that have been livestreamed on our YouTube channel. I wanted to let you know that the improved audio is thanks to the Hudson River Presbytery Congregational Communications Grant we received. With that, we were able to purchase an accessory to our video camera we have been using since March 2019, which allows us extended battery capacity and the ability to plug in a USB microphone directly to the camera. We bought a good USB microphone, which provides better ambient audio for room pick-up than my cell phone or web-camera were providing. Thus the excellent pick-up of the organ! We now have a direct line from the mixer board that plugs into my iPad. This provides a feed into the camera directly from the microphones over Wi-Fi. The remainder of improvement came when I was brave enough to change the settings on the soundboard, for which I have no prior training! That helped a lot.

Another small amount of the grant was used to upgrade our computer to Windows 10 and purchase a piece of software with which I hope to assemble video of our choir members singing their parts of songs, by which they can sing together virtually. Hopefully our first project will be ready in early September.

Although we will continue to livestream all services, I'd like to encourage you to come to the church for a 10 AM outdoor service (11 AM after Labor Day) on any Sunday with good weather and see if you will be comfortable with the safety measures taken to allow us to worship together. If you are not sure you're ready, don't stay and just catch us [on our YouTube channel](#).

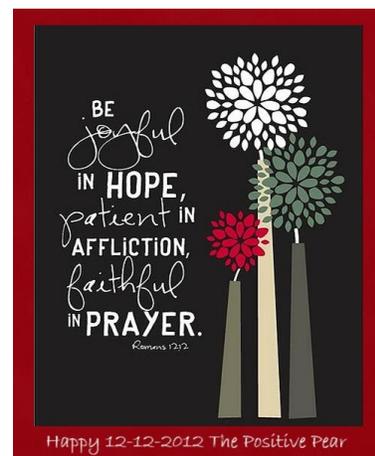
I'll be inside running the camera and audio. Maybe I'll see you after church!

Missing you all, Barbara Zacheis

## **Millennial Corner**

From Nora Asamoah

*"...rejoicing in hope,  
patient in tribulation,  
continuing steadfastly in  
prayer" Romans 12:12*



I recently finished an eight-day devotional "Waiting on God" by Charles F. Stanley. Each day, as I read, I was reminded of how God uses each and every one of us to do His work. For some of us, it might seem like we are waiting forever, but be reminded that as you wait for your prayers to be answered, you are been blessed. This pandemic has been devastating to a lot of people. Whether it is loss of job, loved ones, the uncertainty of what is to come, we need to remember we are not alone. This quote really spoke to me and I hope it brings you comfort as well.

*In every nation, there are people just like you, waiting for similar blessings and experiencing the same feelings.*

*In fact, throughout Scripture, there's not a man or woman whom*

*God used in a powerful way who didn't first face a long and difficult time of waiting.*

*So, don't despair...take it as the Father's special favor and guidance in your life.*

Brothers and sisters, we will get through this together.

## **Milkweed Garden**

Did you see our new milkweed garden between the parking lot and Old Schoolhouse Road? It provides food and habitat for Monarch butterflies who are experiencing severe habitat loss. Last Sunday, there was a Monarch caterpillar enjoying a meal.