



The Carriage Stone

April 2021

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



Holy Week



"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

Web: nhpchurch.org

Look for us on Facebook!

Administrative Assistant: Kristen Rabeler

Newsletter Editor:

Robert Philhower

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Submissions: in my mailbox
or e-mail to

carriagestone@nhpchurch.org



Thoughts a Year Later

A couple of Sundays ago marked the last time we were all together in worship. Who would have thought it? And yes, God is still good. **All the time.** Even as we've had folks get sick, had folks die, God has still been good to us. I hope that each of you have felt loved and cared for by my, and the congregation.

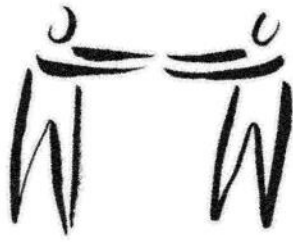
I've taken on the discipline of each day, looking for one good thing that has happened. These little things add up:

- Conversations with some of you.
- Warmer, sunny days
- Walks to the duck pond at Demarest Kill
- Zoom meetings (yes, even those) where I see some of you who aren't ready to return to in-person worship yet. (And yes, some of you have complained about "Zoom derriere spread". It's a thing, I assure you!)
- Notes from friends and members
- Time to learn to love cooking again!
- Discovering new mystery series, and rediscovering old favorite books
- Finding a wonderful devotional, Yes...And, by Richard Rohr
- A hot cup of coffee in the morning, and a hot cup of tea to keep me going mid-afternoon.

We have lost a lot this last year. But I have learned the truth of what Frederick Buechner's character Godric:

"What's lost is nothing to what's found, and all the death that ever was, set next to life, would scarcely fill a cup."

Easter blessings to you,



From the Deacons

Our Community Mourns...

From Laura Bidon for the Deacons

Our hearts and prayers are with everyone impacted by the tragic fire at the Evergreen Court Home for Adults in Spring Valley, which has taken the lives of at least one resident and one volunteer firefighter--Spring Valley's own Jared Lloyd. Mr. Lloyd leaves behind two young sons. Additionally, more than 100 at-risk residents have been re-located to other living arrangements throughout the community.

NHPC mourns with our community and especially sends our prayers to Firefighter Lloyd's two young sons. On behalf of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, the Deacons and the Mission Committee have joined together in making a financial donation to directly benefit Mr. Lloyd's family. May they know God's peace at this difficult time, and grow in the loving arms of their family and community.

Continued prayers and thanks to all our first responders—especially our volunteer firefighters. We pray that everything possible will be done to keep them safe, even as they risk their lives for our safety. Keep them and our grieving community in your prayers.

Pastor Lori is Changing Her E-mail Address

If you want to reach me via e-mail, please use the following address:

loriwhitehouse3460@nhpchurch.org

Please update your contacts. Thank you.



Food Pantry Donations

From Nora Asamoah for the Mission Committee

With the advent of virtual church services our food bank collection stopped. This is a shame because the need is still there, now stronger than ever during this time when so many people are out of work. Your Mission Committee wants to start this program up again and we're asking for donations of non-perishable food. Right now, the need for canned soup is particularly strong. Any donation is gratefully accepted of course, including monetary ones, which can be made by check or electronically by QR-code (mission fund). Please be generous in your support. You can donate your items in church on Saturday or Sunday mornings. Thank you for your gifts.



“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”.
2 Corinthians 9:7

This year the Mission Committee decided to use our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, to purchase a cow and two family of chickens to help families in need. Please give generously.

Help us meet our goal. Thank you!



Green Starts Here!
**GREAT AMERICAN
CLEANUP**

Great American Cleanup

From Pam Fink for the
Mission and Fellowship Committees

It's time for a cleanup of Rockland County roadways and waterways! As in years past, Keep Rockland Beautiful is encouraging communities to set a date for cleaning up trash and debris from local areas. NHPC will once again participate in the cleanup, selecting **May 1** as our event date with a rain date of **May 8**. The cleanup will be from 9am until noon. Our cleanup area will be along New Hempstead Road from Route 45 to the Palisades Parkway overpass, and along Schoolhouse Road from New Hempstead Road to the Town Hall.

Keep Rockland Beautiful will provide the supplies needed - bags, trash grabbers, safety vests – and masks and gloves will be available.



Since the pandemic is ongoing, COVID-19 safety protocols must still be followed, but all of our activities will be outdoors so social distancing will be easy.

We are looking for volunteers who want to be good stewards of our environment to help with this effort. To sign up for the cleanup,

1. Go to <https://keeprocklandbeautiful.org/clean-up-registration/>
2. Click on the “Join a Community Event” button
3. Look for the “**New Hempstead Community Cleanup**” in the dropdown menu.

If you have problems finding us on their website, please contact Pam Fink or the church office at office@nhpchurch.org asking to register. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, we cannot allow walk-in participants.

So join our crew and come have some fun!



[Has anyone else looked through the photos on their phone to see what was the last “normal” picture they took before COVID-19? Mine was taken in the Palisades mall of a banner advertising the 2020 Great American Cleanup and using that iconic photo above – Editor]





Book Share Event

From Nancy Jacobs, Chair
Fellowship Committee

What is a "Book Share"? If you enjoying reading books, and have a book which you really enjoyed, other readers want to know about it. What does this have to do with "fellowship"? As we discuss what we like about various books we read, we have the opportunity to get to know each other a bit better. So this is a structured opportunity to share something you liked with others who like you and want to share with you also.

The NHPC Fellowship Committee is planning such an event - via ZOOM - during the second half of April. You can attend and share with others about a book you enjoyed, or you can attend and listen to information about books that others have enjoyed (or both). If you let Nancy Jacobs (Elder, Fellowship Committee) know that you are interested (phone number is in the church directory), she will send you a survey in order to schedule the event at a time and on a date when most people can participate. You will also receive guidelines about how to "share" the book you liked. Giving away your books is NOT part of this event. It is simply a fun information sharing time.

The Fellowship Committee "tested" out this event amongst ourselves, and - as a consequence - I know more about my committee members, and have a list of books I want to read. I've already begun the first one, about a woman in Kentucky with a traveling library.

Call and leave a message on my answering machine. You will hear my husband's lovely baritone voice on the machine. That's your first reward for calling.

It'll be fun!

Millennial Corner

From Nora Asamoah

Our Muslim brothers and sisters have this saying,

"the stronger the faith, the harder the test, the greater the reward".

It is safe to say, we as Christians believe in this as well. Just like Job, David and even Jesus Christ, our faith is put to the test each and every-day. Sometimes our periods of trails/tests are so long, we wonder if our faith is still there.

As a millennial, I can attest to this. I was born in an age before and after technology/internet/social media. I know what hard work and easy work (thanks to technology) looks like. When I find myself during the test period, I question God. There have been times that I even get mad at Him. Why me? Haven't I done everything that you have asked of me? Haven't I been faithful to? Have I been a bad Christian? Nonetheless, I pick up my bible and then I am reminded of all those in the bible who went through dark times but were rewarded at the end. My mother deserves her own story in the bible, like so many, I have witness some of these trials she has and still going through. Yet she is filled with songs of praise and thanksgiving, her faith never wavier, regardless of what is thrown at her. Watching her makes me want to grow my faith and hold on to it, even when I feel like I am sinking.

As we celebrate Easter, let us be reminded that Jesus went through His own trails. Even on the cross, he asked God, "Why have you forsaken me"? Yet in the end, he rose again and sitting on the right hand of the Father. Let us be reminded that no matter how long or dark the test is, we will be rewarded in the end.

