



The Carriage Stone

July 2021

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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Ah, heat and humidity. And time for a glass of iced tea and a good book. Here are some of my faves from the last year.

THE SECRET CHORD, by Geraldine Brooks.

This is a retelling of the story of King David (as it is found in I and II Samuel). Brooks, a Pulitzer prize winner, makes the characters (several of whom are minor in the Scriptural story) come alive.

DUSK, NIGHT, DAWN, by Anne Lamott.

One of my favorite authors, Lamott's new book focuses on facing life's often dark scariness with hope, confidence, and humor. A favorite quote:

When the soul is functioning properly, it tugs on your pant leg to slow down, but otherwise it observes, mostly quietly, but sometimes with its mouth hanging open and a wiggly fascination and sometimes with outright bliss. (p. 30)

The thought of my soul tugging on my pant leg to get my attention makes me laugh, right up until I realize it does just that.

THE HOUSE IN THE CERULEAN SEA, by T.J. Klune.

A magical story about magic children who are shut away in "special schools" to make them more normal. The titular house is run by a man who treats them with love, affection, and dignity. All of them—even the 10-year-old Antichrist. Really.

IT'S NOT YOUR MONEY, by Tosha Silver.

A bit new-agey, but an excellent way to think about the fact that our money isn't ours—it's God's. And God always provides our every need.

THE CHILDREN RETURN, by Martin Walker.

(Indeed, any of Walker's Inspector Bruno Novels). This series takes place in the Dordogne, in south-western France, and the locales and cuisine form a wonderful part of the stories. A dead undercover agent, an autistic boy kidnapped and sent to train as an Islamic terrorist, and descriptions of wonderful meals make this a great summer mystery.

Happy reading!

Summer Worship Schedule

As we were last summer, we will be Worshiping outdoors whenever the weather permits. This allows us to enjoy the good weather and have more flexibility as we Worship safely together.

All of the protocol requirements are available [on the website](#), but here is a summary. Special thanks to the Worship committee and the reopening committee for keeping up with the CDC and NY state guidelines.

For outdoor services:

- People who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 do not require a mask or social distancing. We will rely on the honor system to assess vaccination status
- Unvaccinated people or those not fully vaccinated must continue to wear masks and must maintain 6 feet of distance between each other. Fully vaccinated individuals may also choose to mask and social distance. Chairs will be available at a variety of distances to accommodate all
- Congregants may speak the responses and prayers. (and say **Amen!** as the spirit moves you)
- While a soloist (Sue) will continue to



perform the hymns, people may sing outdoors if they are wearing their masks

- Communion elements will be offered as individually wrapped/sealed items
- As the summer progresses, we hope to start a fellowship time with refreshments served by fellowship team members
- Streaming will continue on YouTube

When inclement weather forces us back indoors:

- Similar to outdoor protocols, fully vaccinated people are not required to wear a mask or to socially distance, but they may if they prefer. People who are not fully vaccinated must continue to wear masks and must maintain 6 feet of distance between each other
- Congregants may speak the responses and prayers
- Bibles and hymnals will be available for indoor services
- **The congregation will not be singing indoors**
- Streaming will continue on YouTube



Pentecost Offering Delivered

From Karen Martin

Just a note to let you and our whole team know our gift arrived in God's divine time! On behalf of all of you, on Friday, June 18, I delivered the Pentecost offering to the Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center. All together, we raised \$2000 as part of our continuing support of their programs.

Nathan Mungin shared he was being awarded a special commendation Saturday while at the same time the village was not releasing MLKMPC budget monies. His comment: "Words will not put children in camp!"

He expressed deep appreciation for our continued commitment.



Millennial Corner

From Nora Asamoah

¹Then Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies for I delight in your deliverance. ²There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God"
- 1 Samuel 2: 1-2

We all know Hannah's story. How she cried to the Lord to give her a child and making a promise to give him back to God. What always surprises me about Hannah's prayer is how she starts in the first two verses; she exalts God. For someone who seems to be in sorrow about her barrenness, she is full of praise. How often do we participate in a prayer of petition and just ask God for what we are seeking without first praising Him? I know I have done this many times: I get so caught up in my petition, all I do is ask.

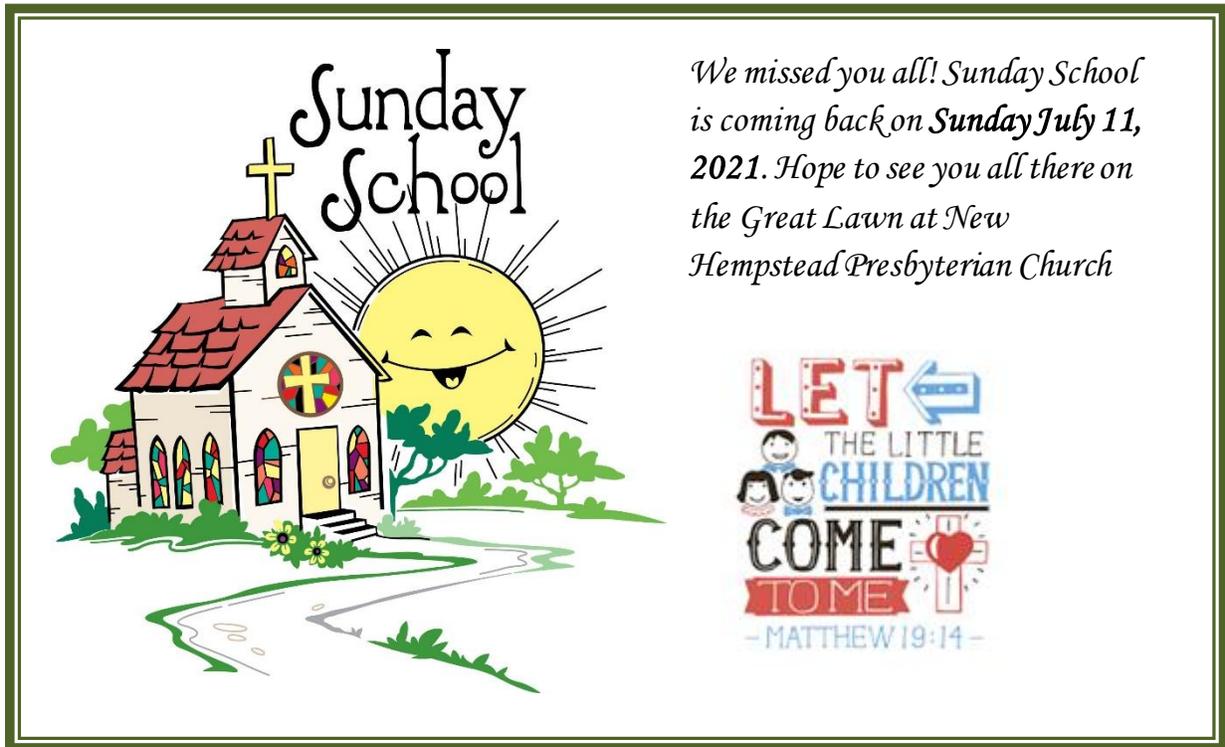
I do not know about you but each sentence simply fills my heart. I am filled with so much joy and praise despite what I am going through, that "**my horn is lifted high**". Because I sing songs of praise, "**my mouth boasts over my enemies**" and through that I'm "**delivered**". My God, my Lord is the only "**rock**" that centers me, the only One that when I lean on, I will never wavier.

I do not know what you are going through, but I want to remind you that with God be your side, with God in front of you, with God behind you, with God within you, there is absolutely, NOTHING that you cannot do. Whatever struggles, you are currently going through; just shout it to the Lord. Most of the time, a song of praise is all you need.

*There is no
Holy One like
the LORD,
there is no
ROCK
like our God.*



1 Samuel 2:2



*We missed you all! Sunday School is coming back on **Sunday July 11, 2021**. Hope to see you all there on the Great Lawn at New Hempstead Presbyterian Church*

A Morning of Blessed Weather and Companionship

From Nancy Jacobs & the Fellowship Committee

The first outdoor Fellowship event of 2021, “A Walk in the Park”, took place on Saturday, June 5. Seven of us met in the south parking lot of Eugene Levy Park, and commenced a walk around the “short loop”, the pond. Those of us previously concerned that we couldn’t walk far, decided that we could indeed walk quite a bit more. We chatted and talked on the paved trails in the sun and the shade, then sat down together at a double picnic table, where we drank our beverages and shared our snacks. It was lovely!





Soup Angels Update

From Bob Philhower

Soup Angels adapted to the pandemic by serving hot meals for take-out to anyone who asked. We never missed a scheduled meal.

Now we are looking to reopen the sit down service in the next few months. There is a small committee working on the logistics of how to seat the expanded number of guests and how to accommodate those guests who would still prefer take-out. In addition, our growing food pantry role needs to be considered. Perhaps we will seat people in multiple shifts.

One thing that is certain, though, is that we will need more volunteers. Without the Nyack street fairs to renew our volunteer pool, we have not made up for the normal attrition. During the pandemic, we kept teams small for safety, but as we move back to table service we will need more people.

Please consider whether you can help us.

One option would be to join Pam Fink, Silvia Miller (emeritus), Howard Whitehouse and Elaine and me on our Monday team. We work around eight Mondays per year, starting around 4 PM and going until around 7 PM. If that does not fit your schedule or you have more time to give, another option would be to join the floater pool. If a team needs help on a Monday or

Wednesday, an email message goes out to the floater pool a few days beforehand. The first few to respond back join the regular team that day.

If you are curious, talk to Pam, Silvia, Howard or me to learn what is involved.

P.S. if you would prefer to make a financial contribution, we could use your help. The elimination of street fair fundraising combined with the need to purchase a thousand take-out containers a month has drained our reserves.

