



The Carriage Stone

February 2022

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

Holy Cow!

The C.A.T. survey is coming !

Congregational
Assessment
Tool



We need your voice!

This survey is your opportunity to share your experiences and priorities for our congregation.

If you subscribe to our website you will receive a web link to complete the assessment. Computers and paper copies will also be available at the church.

All of our worshippers are asked to participate.

MORE INFORMATION TO COME.



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

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Connectional Church

One of the things I hold most dear about the Presbyterian Church, USA, is that we are a connectional church. We are related to every other congregation in the denomination through a network of Presbyteries, Synods, and the General Assembly.

What this means in practice is that power is shared by our polity, *i.e.*: how we govern ourselves. I believe that the Holy Spirit works best when there are many voices through which She can express Herself. We function best when we are making decisions in community—there is less chance of any one person using power inappropriately.

Our connection character has come home to me in the last several months as we have been sharing our Race and White Privilege discussion group with a folks from the [Covenant Presbyterian Church \(PC, USA\) in Winston-Salem, NC](#). Our sharing in this conversation is one of the good things that have come out of the pandemic—we now all know how to use Zoom.

This Zoom partnership has come about because Covenant is the church that our brother Dennis Rouse joined when he retired to NC. Not only is he a member there, he has just been ordained as an Elder. (And he credits us at New Homestead for helping him get ready to say “Yes” to this call!)

Dennis shared with the good folks there how much he enjoyed our discussions, and they started one of their own. Then, they asked to join with us. We are engaging in deep conversations around issues of race and white supremacy, and beginning to talk about what to do with what we are learning.

(We are currently discussing [Staying Awake, by Tyler Sit](#)) Together, we are working out how to be a Matthew 25 community in our respective contexts, one in the North, and one in the South. But both members of the same denomination within the worldwide Body of Christ. Amen!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori" with a flourish underneath.



Warm up the Winter... A Note of Thanks!

From Laura Bidon & Syenni Lucas

On a bitterly cold Saturday morning, over 200 pairs of warm winter socks, gloves, hats, and blankets were distributed on behalf of our congregation to day laborers, homeless adults, and families in need throughout Spring Valley.

Your generous donations to our “**Warm Up the Winter**” drive made this possible.

Although the Salvation Army Food Truck program has temporarily suspended operations due to COVID concerns, on Saturday, January 22 the program’s director (Jim Waters) agreed to escort us throughout the Village to distribute our items. We wanted to make sure they got directly to the folks who need them, especially during this brutally cold stretch of weather we’ve been having.

Due to the generosity of your gifts, we were also able to donate a supply of winter items to be given to homeless men that the Salvation Army will be sheltering overnight in Spring Valley the weekend of January 22.



Here is a note of thanks from Jim Waters, the Director of the Salvation Army Food Truck program:

“Laura:

It was great being with Syenni Lucas and you this morning distributing the hats, gloves, socks, and blankets that the New Hempstead congregation provided.

Particularly on a day like today—with the temperature well below freezing—your gifts were a blessing. And the reaction and thankfulness of the guys and families that we served showed how much they appreciated your generosity.

I look forward to doing this together again during the 2022/23 holiday season.

God’s blessings of good health and happiness to you, Syenni, and the New Hempstead congregation.

---- Jim”

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our “**Warm up the Winter**” drive. We hope you enjoy these photos!





Holy Cow, It's a Survey!

By Jane Craig Sebok

Once there was a little church,
A Crossroads church, they say
Though everyone seemed happy,
The Elders felt dismay

“What if we don't understand,
Don't know what people think?
Though we believe the ship is sound,
It may be ready to sink.”

And so they asked for help,
For to serve the people now.
They looked and looked and looked
And looked, then found Holy Cow.

What is Holy Cow, you ask?
It's a miracle, they say.
Describes the people's wants and needs
In a very special way.

Tables and graphs will soon appear
From a survey known as CAT,
Which will show the leaders of your church
Where the congregation is at.

Fill out the survey, and the Elders will know
What you want to make the church flow.
Give us your insights, give us your brains,
So the church will soar where you want it to go.

By now, you should have received my email with a link to the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT). Those of you using paper copies should have received those as well.

If you have been attending services or watching on YouTube the last few weeks, you should know that the CAT is an instrument to assess many aspects of our congregation. These include: satisfaction, energy, priorities, resources, and organization climate. It will also tell us our strengths and weaknesses, so we can see where we need to improve.

If you have not completed the CAT yet, remember that it takes about 30 minutes, so set that time aside to complete it. You will have through February 13, but please do it as soon as possible. I will be announcing the numbers participating each week.

After that, it will only be a few weeks before we get the results. On Sunday, March 6, consultant Michelle Snyder will come to New Hempstead Presbyterian to show us the results and give us the interpretation. We will have our usual service, followed by soup and sandwiches in the Colonial Room, then the presentation. All are invited.



Congratulations are in order to Milagros and Nehemias Lorico who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December.

Know someone celebrating a milestone? Send birthday, anniversary, graduation, retirement, etc messages to carriagestone@nhpchurch.org so your church family can celebrate with you.

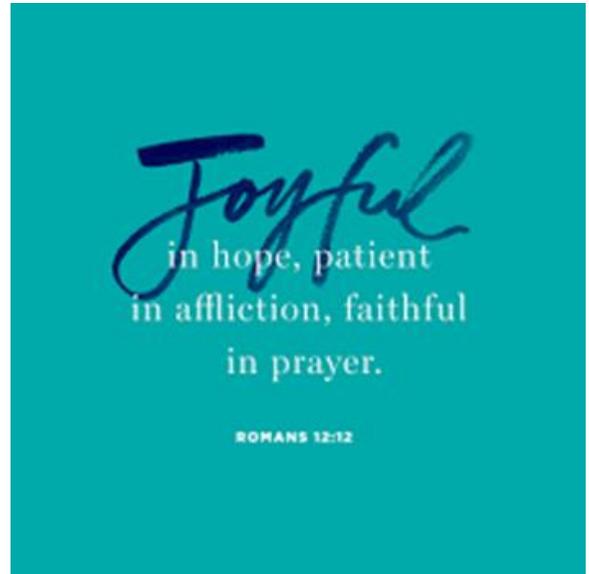


Nature's Best Hope

From Pam Fink for the Fellowship Committee

Attention all nature lovers! On February 26, the Fellowship Committee will present a video by conservation expert [Doug Tallamy](#) entitled "Nature's Best Hope." Tallamy's explanations of the specialized relationships among plants, insects, and animals are fascinating stories told with a good dose of humor. He encourages everyone to make a [commitment to conservation](#), starting with your own backyard, and presents easy ways to do it.

Meet us in Murchison Hall on Saturday, February 26 at 1:30 PM for the presentation. After the video, we will have time for some discussion. Snacks will also be provided. See you then!



Millennial Corner

Nora Asamoah

2022 here we go again! Entering year three of covid-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, we are joyful!
Joyful for God.
Joyful for life.
Joyful for family.
Joyful for friends.
Joyful for you.

No matter what we have going on in life, we need to hold on to our faith. As we start a new year with a new normal, let us make a promise to be more joyful, especially for the little things in life. No one knows what the year holds, but we have hope and prayer to get us through it. With God by our side and always watching over us, we can always be joyful.