



The Carriage Stone

April 2022

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

Holy Week



“The Carriage Stone” is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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Returning to What Feels More Normal

If you were present at worship Sunday (March 20), you noticed that things feel a lot more like they did in “The Before.” Masks are off (except for singing the hymns); the offering and Prayer Request cards are back. The hymnals and bibles are back in the pews. The Lay Leader is back—and that will take your pastor some time to get used to! For 2 years, I’ve done the entire service, and I can’t tell you how good it feels to share the leading of worship.

Passing of the Peace, with shoulder touches or fist bumps and words of peace, has returned.

The choir has returned—the first rehearsal was Thursday, March 24 at 8 PM. I am grateful to Lois for keeping music an integral part of our Worship with her own beautiful music selections, and with the volunteers who have worked with her, playing their instruments.

Communion will continue to be in the individual cups for a while.

The acrylic barriers at the front and the barriers in the balcony will remain in place. Ventilation measures will continue.

We will be back to our Palm Sunday luncheon in Murchison hall immediately after worship, with some changes. Please make sure your covered dish is literally covered! We will have servers to place the food on your plate.

Holy Week services are as follows:

- Palm Sunday, April 10 at 11 AM, with Luncheon to follow
- Maundy Thursday with Eucharist 8 PM
- Good Friday—Joint service with Germonds. (Time and place to be announced)
- Easter Sunday—No early service or breakfast.
- Easter Worship Service at 11:00

Of course, if need be, we are ready to ‘turn on a dime’ to keep the congregation and Worship leaders safe.

Let’s pray that we are moving from Pandemic COVID to Endemic COVID—a less dangerous time for all.

As always, if you are able to be vaccinated and boosted, please do so.





This past Sunday was the choir’s first time since March of 2020. I hope the service was as meaningful for you as it was for the choir.

If you have considered singing with us, perhaps this is the time to join. We meet Thursdays at 8 PM and are starting new music for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. All voice parts are welcome and you do not have to be an expert at reading music to sing with us.

Palm Sunday Luncheon

Hallelujah! This year, we will be enjoying a Palm Sunday Luncheon together once again. As in the past, it will be in Murchison Hall, after the Sunday morning church service on April 10. In keeping with both our HOPE and our health-conservative tendencies, we will be making a few changes, in order to stay healthy.



Please bring COVERED dishes: that is, casserole dishes with covers. Have food in them. 😊The eaters will be served by a team of servers. A server will serve the drinks.

It seems like it has been SOOO long since we have eaten a meal with each other. Let’s enjoy each other’s company again! There is a sign-up sheet in the Colonial Room!



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Great American Cleanup

Spring has arrived and it's time for the Great American Cleanup! In our area, the event is sponsored by Keep Rockland Beautiful, and NHPC will once again host a community cleanup event. We have our event scheduled for Saturday April 9 from 9 AM until noon, with a rain date of April 23. If you've driven along New Hempstead Road near the church recently, you can see that our local roadways definitely need some love.

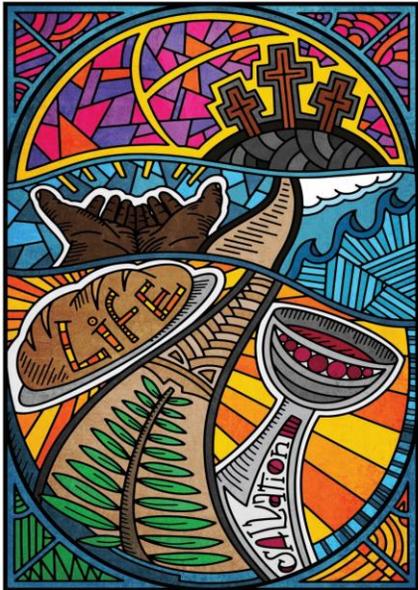
Keep Rockland Beautiful will provide all materials needed for the cleanup, but we suggest bringing your own gloves and some water. The cleanup is also a great way for teens and youth to gain 3 hours of community service time. There will be flyers in the Colonial Room (in English, Spanish and Creole) that advertise our event, so please take them to post in your neighborhood and get more people involved. To join our cleanup, please register at the [Keep Rockland Beautiful website](#). This year we will also allow registration on the day of the cleanup if you simply show up, but pre-registration is preferred. Hope to see you all then!



Called to Repair the Breach

A Lenten Study of the Revised Common Lectionary

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



Illustrated Ministry LLC

Once Great Hour of Sharing is April 17. How befitting it is on Easter day. This year, our goal is to purchase a garden well for an underprivileged community: that goal is \$1500. Donate whatever you can. God gives to those, who give freely.

Millennial Corner

From Nora Asamoah

Ever found yourself in a position, where someone is just mean, condescending, or petty to you? Then you want to retaliate in the same manner but realize the Grace of God is upon you. So, you pray for them instead? I have. Although sometimes I might muster a word or two under my breath, catch myself and then pray some more.

There are times you feel that grace upon you. When God's amazing grace is upon you, it feels like peace, a blanket of unspeakable joy, an aura of light etc. Everywhere you walk, everyone you speak to, it feels peaceful, no matter what it is going on around you. We are officially two years in COVID pandemic, we have all agreed it is here to stay; we have built our lives around it and moving on. Despite all this, I want you to embrace that grace, share it with one another.

Pray for others just because. I have learned over the years that people project what they are experiencing. You never know what one is going through. So, when someone is mean to you, ask God to touch their heart. Your prayer might be exactly what they need.

Ephesians 2: 8 tells us, "For by Grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God." As we celebrate Easter, let us be reminded of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross but most importantly, what we have been given by that sacrifice. On the cross, we received Forgiveness, Grace, and Favor. Have a Blessed Easter!



Tutors Needed

The Martin Luther King Jr. Center is in need of tutors to work with students in their after school program. Located at 110 Bethune Blvd in Spring Valley, the program is there to help children in assistance in reading and math, and help with their homework. The children, up to grade 6 also benefit from the structure and care of the program, which runs Mondays through Fridays from 3:15 PM to 6:00 PM. Tutor applicants are screened and fingerprinted. The staff is vaccinated and masks are worn. This is a good opportunity for retired teachers and others to make an investment in the children of our community and to make a difference in their lives. If interested please contact Nancy Jacobs for more information about how to begin.





Fellowship Event

Eleven of our congregation enjoyed together the presentation “Nature’s Best Hope” (by Doug Tallamy) on Saturday February 26 in Murchison Hall.

We were surprised to learn about native caterpillars, and their link to the future survival of humans. We were interested in learning of the concept of the Homegrown National Park. We were glad and relieved to hear what small steps we could make as individuals to promote the survival of humanity.

During our discussion time, we talked about ideas like:

- choosing a native tree sapling to substitute for a non-native tree in our yard or on our property 🌲
- adding native plants to our landscaping and gardens, 🌸
- placing a bucket of water with straw (or hay) and a mosquito dunk in our yard * in order to fight mosquitos instead of spraying pesticides,
- planting a small garden of native plants (with a sign indicating they are native plants to support the ecosystem),
- planting a skirt of ferns or other native plants around the large trees in our yards,
- using yellow LED lights and motion sensors in our night-time security lights, 🌌
- planting “Keystone Plants” - the native plants that support the most pollinators and caterpillars (many support the specialist bees too). 🐛

- Decreasing the amount of “lawn” we have, and adding some native plants

Internet links to more information, including HomegrownNationalPark.org were presented. The internet has sites on which we can learn what plants are native and important according to our zip codes.

If you missed the presentation, it is [available on YouTube](#)

Of course, this video won’t include our interesting discussion, but

Keep a look out in the church newsletter for follow up activities associated with nature.

Nancy Jacobs, Fellowship Committee chair, and NHPC Gardens co-chair

*if you are interested in doing this, I can start you off with some straw and a mosquito dunk - contact me once you have found a bucket.

