



The Carriage Stone

November 2023

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

Giving Thanks



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of

The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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Gratitude

It's the season of giving thanks, and as I prepare to leave New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, I want to share with you all some of what I am grateful for in these last 18 years.

- Loving community
- Mutual support
- Meaningful worship services with excellent music
- A Session that takes its leadership role seriously
- Deacons who are quick to respond when there is a congregational need.
- Lively Bible studies
- Deep dives into cultural issues, such as LGBTQ and Critical Race Theory
- Delicious food and warm fellowship
- Mission which has consistently reached out to those in need (El Projecto Faro; survivors of Superstorm Sandy; People to People; Helping Hands; the Martin Luther King Jr. Multicultural center; presence at the Rockland Pride Parade—and the list goes on!)
- Little Free Library
- Did I mention Fellowship and Food?

Mostly, I am grateful to God for bringing us together for all these years of ministry. This congregation will always have such a special place in my heart.

Thanksgiving Blessings,



Mission list

From Bob Philhower

Lori's list of mission activities reminded me that we used to have a list of mission activities on our website. Here is what that list looked like along with a couple of more recent items. (Sorry to those who were missed.)

1. Youth Group Food Drive to benefit the food pantry of People to People of Rockland County
2. El Proyecto Faro
3. Presence at the Rockland Pride Parade
4. Hats, gloves, scarves through Salvation Army canteen
5. School supplies for Summit Park Elementary
6. Adopting families for Christmas
7. Keep Rockland Beautiful
8. Helping Hands of Rockland County – hosting the homeless in our fellowship hall, preparing hygiene kits and serving meals to safe haven clients
9. School supplies, food, special offerings and volunteer time to benefit the children of the Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center in Spring Valley
10. Little Free Library
11. Climate march in NYC
12. "Walk to Feed the Need", sponsored by Germonds Presbyterian Church, to benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Meals on Wheels of Rockland County, Interfaith Breakfast Program in Spring Valley, and the food pantry of People to People of Rockland County
13. Thanksgiving Baskets to local missions and individuals in need
14. Pajama Program – Rockland County Chapter, providing pajamas and books to homeless children
15. Warm clothing for day laborers in Rockland County
16. Ramapo High School Multicultural Club, to benefit Young Haitian Refugees
17. Ramapo High School Martin Luther King Jr. day celebration
18. College Care Packages for youth away at College
19. "Gift Angels for Seniors" program of Rockland Home Aides
20. Peru Pilgrimage and Partnership with the people of La Oroya, Peru
21. Supplies for families in need at Rockland Center for Safety and Change
22. Hygiene Kits for Victims of Natural Disaster through Church World Services
23. Soup Angels – support and volunteers
24. Red Hands Peace Project, to create awareness of the use of children as soldiers in armed conflict
25. Peace Prayer Board to emphasize our role as peacemakers during A Season of Peace
26. Habitat for Humanity – Hosting the local office, raising money and helping with projects
27. Presbyterian Prison Ministry
28. Historical tours of our church
29. Adoption of the Matthew 25 principles
30. Hi-Tor Animal Shelter (change in the jar)
31. "I See Colors" Books for Haiti (change in the jar)
32. Rockland Interfaith Breakfast Program (change in the jar)
33. Helping Hands (change in the jar)

34. Rockland Center for Safety and Change (change in the jar)
35. People to People of Rockland County (change in the jar)
36. Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center (change in the jar)
37. Golden Stitchers (change in the jar)
38. House Rabbit Society (change in the jar)
39. One Great Hour of Sharing – sharing resources with people in need around the world through programs providing disaster assistance, hunger relief, and self-development of people; including in-kind donations
40. Pentecost Offering - supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults at the local and national level;
41. Peacemaking Offering – gifts are used to advocate peace and justice around the world;
42. Christmas Joy Offering – supports students at racial ethnic schools and colleges, and supports the needs of families who have devoted their lives to the mission of the PC(USA).
43. St. George Syrian Orthodox Church
44. Meals on Wheels of Rockland County
45. We welcome members of the recovering community who use our facilities and have included them in activities

Fellowship Pub Quiz

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church will be offering a trivia contest in the mold of the traditional British “pub quiz” – teams, rounds of questions on selected topics, refreshments, not too serious – on Saturday, November 11 beginning promptly at 2 PM.

Prizes are likely to be of the most minor value, and not always for correct answers.

Be certain to SIGN UP (call Nancy Jacobs) Join us! Plan to bring friends and family.

Advent is Coming

Advent starts December 3, which is not that far away. It is also our final church season with Pastor Lori.



As is our tradition, we decorate the church on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3. Refreshments are served and we all have a great time making our Sanctuary festive.

On December 10, we will dedicate our prayer cards and use them to decorate the Sanctuary tree.

New Church Website

From Communications Committee

We have a new sleek modern church website.

Inspired by your answers to the Holy Cow survey and the discussions of the Holy Cow committee, the communications committee worked with a professional web designer on a new website design. Mark Zacheis took the lead in negotiating the contract and overseeing the work. The committee met almost continuously through email reviewing images of proposed web pages and making changes to wording and pictures.

Please look at the results: nhpchurch.org

Of course, you are viewing this newsletter now as part of the new website!



Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving Day is fast approaching, and you know what that means; it means that it is time for the Thanksgiving baskets food drive. In a tradition dating back decades our church family shares the bounty that is theirs with others not quite so fortunate. We intend to put together baskets of food, each of which is sufficient to feed a family a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. Our goal this year is to provide fifty baskets for local families that otherwise might go without on Thanksgiving Day.

Attached in here is the shopping list of what goes into a Thanksgiving basket. We ask that you take the list with you so you will have it during your next visit to the grocery store, pick up everything on the list, put it in one bag (reusable bag is preferred), and bring it with you the next time that you come to church. The final collection day is Sunday, November 12, and you can bring your baskets in sooner if you like; but

no later than the church service that day. We will be sending people to the grocery store during that week following November 12 so your contribution must be in by that date.

Do save your turkeys and loaves of bread to bring for the following Sunday, November 19 and please not before.

If you would like to contribute but do not wish to do your own shopping, you may donate the cost of a Thanksgiving basket and we will go shopping for you. We suggest a donation of \$45 for each basket. Mark your check or envelope Thanksgiving Baskets and place it in the collection plate. Alternatively, you can mail a check to the church or use the QR code and donate to the Mission Fund.

If you are unable to provide a full basket then contribute what you can from the list. All contributions are welcome. And if you know of a family that can use a Thanksgiving basket, please contact Mark so that we can get them on our list.

There will be a signup sheet with the greeters each Sunday. Kindly sign up with them so that we can get a sense of the number of baskets we will be receiving and how much shopping we will have to be doing. Or call or e-mail the church office.

Thank you.





Recipe for a Happy Thanksgiving Meal:

- Turkey
- Stuffing mix
- Mac and Cheese (2 boxes)
- Condensed Milk (1 can)
- Gravy
- Canned vegetables (2-4 cans)
- Canned sweet potatoes/yams
- Corn bread mix
- Cake/brownie mix
- Cake frosting
- Applesauce
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Soup (2 cans)
- Loaf of bread

Be sure to bring your “baskets” to church on Sunday, November 12 so that we can distribute them before Thanksgiving. (Turkey/Bread on 19th)

THANK YOU!

Stewardship

Pledge season is upon us, that time of the year when we make a new commitment to this church for the coming year, in both financial terms and in terms of time and talents. A financial pledge helps us be systematic in our giving to the church, and it lets our congregation know of your support. More important, it is a covenant of faith between you and God. It means that the church is a priority in your life.

For those of you who do not pledge, we encourage you to do so. For those of you who already do, thank you.

Pledge Sunday is November 5. Pledge cards will be mailed to your home the week prior. Please think about what you would like to pledge for 2024, fill out the cards, and bring them to church that day.



Stewardship Drive