



# The Carriage Stone

March 2024

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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*“Easter comes...we shall no longer look for him among the dead. He calls to us to follow, to believe in our hearts that the people of this world will someday love one another. Really love one another...On Easter morning, let us in chorus sing:*

*‘This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it!’*

*And then with Mary, let us run to tell the others: We have seen Jesus!*

*-Ann Weems*

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For some, Easter is all about God’s victory over death. It was for me when I was a child. My beliefs went something like this: Before Jesus, when we died there was nothing. Now because of Jesus, when we die we have eternal life. I still believe this to be true, but for me, at least now in my life, it does not matter as much. It once comforted me but now I find it too limiting. Is this really all there was to Jesus?

Over the years, I have come to believe that it is Jesus’ life that matters as much as his death and resurrection. Now, I believe that as Christians, it is our call to live THIS life here on earth following the way of Christ. If resurrection means anything it means that the life of radical love, Jesus embodied; the vision for humanity he lived and died for, remains alive and well and we, 2000 years later, can choose to be a part of Resurrection Living. We can be Resurrection People.


Resurrection People, who live **this** life to the fullest recognizing that it is a precious gift. It does not mean we wait around for the time after death when our “real” life begins. We are called to make heaven a reality here on earth: loving as Jesus loves us, embodying mercy and forgiveness, caring for the least among us and advocating for systemic change in a world that keeps some people in the margins. As Resurrection people, we strive for this heaven here on earth because we are a community that recognizes the precious gift of life in another, from the least to the greatest. We recognize the humanity of all people, even those with whom we disagree.

Resurrection Life informs our living as people who follow the way of the Risen Christ, not a dead hero, but a living Savior who appears whenever we experience new life in places in the world and in our lives where death tries to have the final word.

Resurrection Living is possibility, not probability living. It is the life of faith that proclaims the Light and Life of Christ in a broken and wound world.

Easter Blessings,

Pastor Angela



# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## Lenten and Holy Week Services

From the Worship Committee

Here are highlights you can look forward to as we travel through lent and into the Easter Season:

**Healing Harpist:** Sunday March 3  
During worship. Jan Valentine, guest harpist will provide special music.

We will also celebrate the Eucharist that Sunday.

**Palm Sunday:** March 24  
There will be a potluck Luncheon in Murchison Hall after Service.

**Maundy Thursday:** March 28  
Service at **8 PM**. Tenebrae Service with seven scripture readings. We will celebrate the Eucharist as part of the service.

**Good Friday:** March 29  
Joint service with Germonds will be held at NHPC at **8 PM** - combined choirs.

**Easter Services:** March 31  
**8 AM** in Murchison Hall followed by a pancake breakfast served by men of the church.  
**11 AM** with Eucharist followed by an Easter Egg hunt for the children after worship.



There are two ways you can participate in our new NHPC Photo Directory:

--Sign up on March 3rd for a time slot to have your photo taken in the **Colonial Room on Saturday, March 9th** OR

--Email a recent photo (jpeg) of you or your family to Susan Truss at:  
billsusantruss@gmail.com  
on or before March 18.

**Palm  
Sunday**

**Luncheon**



**Palm Sunday  
Luncheon**

The Fellowship Committee and Deacons will be hosting the traditional Palm Sunday luncheon immediately after the Sunday service on March 24.

**Please Sign Up** to bring a covered dish, cut and ready to serve. As usual, we don't have the facilities to either store or cook (unless you wish to use the Murchison Hall microwave for a minute or two), so bring something you can bring straight to the serving tables. Bring family and friends to the service and the luncheon.

## Community Cleanup



Save the date: Saturday, April 20 for the Keep Rockland Beautiful community cleanup kicking off at the church at 9 AM. More details coming as we get closer.



### The Manse

From Mark Zacheis

If you attended the Annual Meeting on February 11 then you heard about our plans to rejuvenate the manse for the new minister. Other than fixing things that broke, little was done to the manse during Lori and Howard's eighteen years there to refresh it. Now is our opportunity to do so.

Session has approved a program that includes updating the electrical system, replacing the appliances, replacing the kitchen cabinet doors, repairing a chimney leak, replacing the furnace, replacing the laundry room floor, remodeling the master bathroom, painting the entire interior, and assorted other projects. Session has also approved funds to pay for the work, but not enough for us to pay outsiders to do all of the work. Some will need to be done by us.

We've already started on some of the work. We've pulled up the old laundry room floor, laid

a sub-floor, and are in the process of laying a new laminate waterproof floor. The kitchen cabinets have been scrubbed clean inside, in preparation for new cabinet doors.



The kitchen and laundry room walls have been scrubbed clean in preparation for new paint. Wall spackling is underway. Exclusive electrical circuits for the microwave and the refrigerator are being installed. All of the work so far has been done by us, volunteering our time. Many thanks to Pam, Kyle, Chris, Bill, Susan, Angela, Ed, Nancy, Barbara and Mark for their free labor.

The project is being managed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee; thanks to Kyle, Chris, Fred, Kristen, Pam, and Mark for their leadership.

There will be more projects in the days ahead. The current schedule is for volunteers each Saturday plus some days during the week. Someone will be working in there most days for the foreseeable future. When we are in need of volunteers, we will make an announcement in church. If you would like to volunteer for something in particular, please let a committee member know. There is always something to do.



We will be providing an update in each Carriage Stone until the project is complete.





### **You've Helped Someone Stay Warm....**

Thank You from the Mission Committee

On Saturday, February 10, members of our church distributed over 260 winter socks, hats, gloves, and blankets to individuals and families in need in Spring Valley. Just in time for the major snowstorm that arrived a few days later.

Thank you to everyone who donated to this project. Through your generosity, you've helped someone stay warm in Spring Valley. It may seem a small thing, but a little warmth can go a long way.

Thanks also to the folks at the Salvation Army and our church neighbors at Gracepoint Gospel Fellowship and Risen King Alliance Church, who were also present in this street ministry.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

The theme of this year's One Great Hour of Sharing special offering is "Repairing the Breach, Fixing What's Broken"

In Isaiah 58, God, through the voice of the prophet, calls us to be repairers of the breach — and by repairing the breach, we will, by God's grace, be led into a new season of justice, freedom and peace.

*"Is not this the fast that I choose:*

*to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?*

*Is it not to share your bread with  
the hungry, and bring the homeless  
poor into your house; when you see  
the naked, to cover them, and not to  
hide yourself from your own kin?*

*You shall raise up the foundations  
of many generations; you shall be  
called the repairer of the breach, the  
restorer of streets to live in."*

*—Isaiah 58*

