



# The Carriage Stone

December 2024

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

The perfect gift.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.

 CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 22



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

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Sunday, January 19

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*31 Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' 32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.*

*Matthew 6:31-34*

“Yes and”. This direction is the first rule of improvisation. Someone sets up a situation, no matter how absurd, and the next person’s response is to accept the proposition and then expand upon it.

For example, if I say, “Freeze I’m a superhero,” and you say, “no you’re not you are the pastor,” our improvised scene has ground to a halt. But if I say, “Freeze, I’m a superhero” and you say, “that may be true, but your superpower is your ability to eat lasagna seven days a week!” Then we have AGREED I am truly a superhero...and in fact my superpower is the ability to eat a lot of lasagna.

Sometimes our ability to respond “yes and” is hindered by what may be happening in our life. Especially if we are experiencing a difficult time. All we see are the challenges and we can easily become blinded to the good. AND being able to see the joy even in the midst of sorrow is the key to grateful living.

When the emergency room nurses experienced a tragic event, I was there to acknowledge the sadness of what happened AND I helped them to identify the ways they made a difficult time somewhat more bearable for the family. This simple ritual became a weekly time together we called: Thorns AND Roses.

So here goes: I am so stressed by my move: all the unpacking I still have to do AND I am thankful, as I settle into the Manse for all those who worked on the renovations to make the Manse a home for me.

I am a bit nervous as I begin a new ministry AND I am so thankful for the opportunity to be your pastor...

See how it works? November is all about gratitude and it can be the beginning to living a grateful life. I think this was the heart of Jesus’ message. Of course, he understood that basic needs were important AND he understood perspective. Gratitude is the key to a spiritual life. To live a grateful life, we first acknowledge the challenges and remember there is a bigger picture. There is more to us, to our lives than the difficulties we are experiencing. This is not a “count your blessings” sort of thing. It is the recognition that there is always an AND...

I hope you will try it as we move into the season of giving thanks and the time the hopeful anticipation of Advent.

Blessings AND Thanks,





# Advent Schedule

Advent comes to us! Help us prepare for the celebration of the Christ child!

**December 1** We decorate the sanctuary—stay after church for a bit and help. Hearty soups and cider will be served!

**December 8** We will dedicate prayer cards which we will hang on the Christmas tree in the sanctuary.

**December 24** Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols will begin at 8 PM with special music throughout.

Come, let us adore Him!



## New Ramp into Colonial Room

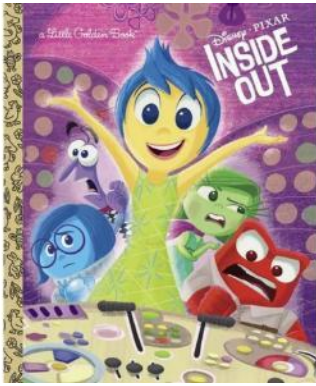
We have a new handicapped ramp leading into the Colonial Room. Unlike those in the past, this one is made of Trex, a man-made low-maintenance material that will not warp. Thank you to Barbara Zacheis for designing and building our new ramp.



## Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving will never be complete without our church's Thanksgiving Basket food drive. The Mission Committee is pleased to report that through your generosity, we were able to deliver sixty-two Thanksgiving dinner baskets of food to those in need. Our church has been doing this mission project for over 45 years now and the need is still strong. This year's recipients include the Smarty Pants daycare program, the Martin Luther King Center in Spring Valley, and some of our friends in Haverstraw. Again, thank you to all who contributed and to those who helped sort, pack, and deliver.





## Inside Out on November 16

From the Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee recently sponsored the family oriented animated movie, Inside Out. Approximately twenty guests, plus one child, enjoyed this coming-of-age Pixar film exploring the emotions of Riley, the main character, as she navigates through a difficult time after relocating to a new city, a new home and a new school.

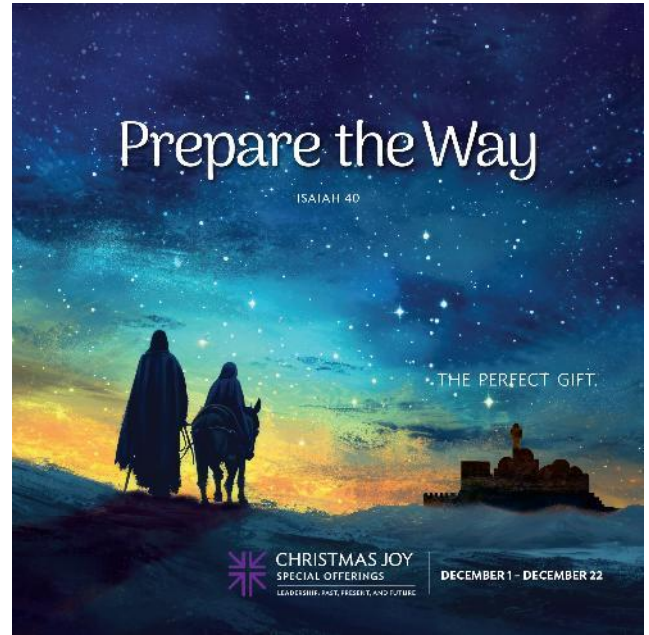
The audience was most responsive judging from the laughter and applause while relaxing with ice cream sundaes, snacks and cold refreshments.

Stay tuned! Inside Out has a sequel coming to your church soon.



## Morning Music Club

Our sanctuary hosted the Morning Music Club's Fall Concert on November 2. Albert Ahlf, on piano, brought his friends on bass and drums and provided us with an hour of jazz and blues, from Count Basie to Frank Sinatra. If you missed it, we will be hosting another MMC concert in the spring.



## Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and our future leaders of the church.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.