



The Carriage Stone

March 2025

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



LENT



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

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“It’s very difficult to talk about sin...sin is that moment where I choose an orientation and even though I know it is not true I live it out. Sin is when you know that it is wrong and you still do it. We have to face this crisis of freedom...

We can no longer base our morality on external actions of goodness.

It’s no longer good enough simply to be good people.”

-Br. Don Bisson

Let’s be honest. No one likes to talk about sin. We prefer to use tamer words like woundedness or brokenness. Somehow this seems easier to digest. And I get it. We who follow Reformed Theology are trying to move away from words that John Calvin liked to embrace like referring to people as depraved souls...I’m paraphrasing here but basically this is what he thought of humans.

Yet, while I don’t agree with the notion that we are a totally depraved species, there is some wisdom in his teachings. In the first chapter of *The Institutes of Religion*, Calvin wrote that *“Without knowledge of self, there is no knowledge of God and without knowledge of God, there is no knowledge of self.”* This is not “ego” knowledge, but knowledge stripped away of our personas, attachments and illusions...we humble ourselves before the Divine and know ourselves as creatures before the Creator with all our flaws. AND it is also knowing our potential: knowing our True Selves, the Self, created in God’s image.

We are invited during Lent to make space in our lives for God so that we can come face to face with the parts of ourselves we withhold from God, the parts of our lives that we choose to live in opposition to God’s love and the ways we collude with the evil around us.

Why must we do this? As Br. Don wrote, it is no longer good enough to be good people. We live in a time when good people are silent in the face of injustice and in the face of discrimination and prejudice. And, we cannot speak truth to power unless we first take the log out of our own eye...

Lent is all about introspection not about beating ourselves up or feeling guilty about our less than perfect selves. “There is no sense of sin without the sense of sin forgiven” my seminary professor would say. We confess so that we can move forward, and not remain paralyzed by guilt.

As we go deeper into the season that begins with contemplating our mortality on Ash Wednesday, we continue to look at the ways we need to repent, or truer to the meaning of the word: to change our minds and turn our lives around. It’s a time to think about what is working in our lives and what isn’t. It is as my spiritual director, Br. Don Bisson, always says: a time to take “a long loving look at the real.” During these forty days of Lent, let’s allow ourselves to fully be known by God.

Blessings this Lenten Season



Ash Wednesday

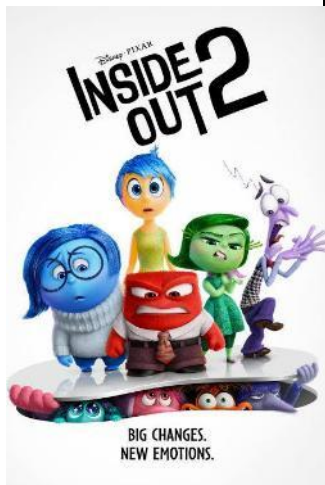
Please join us for a Day of Reflection & Ritual at 4 PM on Ash Wednesday, March 5.

Movie Afternoon

From Nancy Jacobs

On Saturday, February 22 at 2 PM a number of us watched the movie INSIDE OUT 2, drank punch, decorated and ate a cupcake (or 2) together.

The post-movie discussion enhanced my sense of community, and the notion that there are people here who support me in life's challenges.



Punch Recipe

From Pam Fink

People seemed to like the punch at Angela's reception, so here's the recipe:

Easy Punch (for 20 people)

64oz cran-mango juice (or cran-raspberry)

64oz ginger ale

32oz pineapple juice

1 can frozen lemonade

Optional lemon or lime slices, raspberries

Serve chilled, add ice cubes to punch bowl

Pastor Angela's Installation

From Pam Fink

On January 26 – a brisk winter day – the Reverend Angela Maddalone was installed as the full-time minister at our church. The Installation was a beautiful service, full of music and inspirational messages. Members of the congregation as well as invited guests took part in the service.

The old church sanctuary really looked beautiful as the late afternoon sun streamed through the windows.



Following a wonderful horn solo prelude of “Amazing Grace”/ “Deep River” by Barbara Zacheis, Pauline



Mattis gave a summary of the Pastoral Nominating Committee activities that led us to this day. The committee worked months to identify a suitable candidate, but the best person for the job, Pastor Angela, was already among us.



With the Presbytery Committee on Ministry's blessing, our Pastoral Nominating Committee offered the position to Pastor Angela and she said “Yes!!” The congregation whole-heartedly approved hiring Pastor Angela, so that brought us to the final step, the formal Installation of Reverend Angela Maddalone as Pastor of NHPC.



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Other members of our Pastoral Nominating Committee took part in the Installation. Mark Zacheis and Susan Truss offered prayers during the service, and Karen Martin introduced Pastor Angela prior to her formal installation.

The Reverend Lindley DeGarmo, the Moderator of the Hudson River Presbytery, served as the

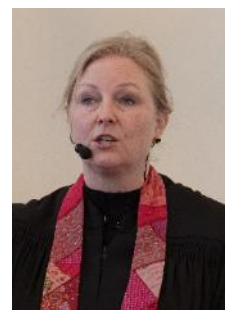


Moderator for the Installation service. He had the important job of running the actual Installation, with sentences of Scripture, and a statement on the ministry of the church. He also asked the all-important Constitutional Questions to the Candidate. After all the Q and A was done, he declared that Pastor Angela was officially installed as our minister and called everyone to welcome her.



Pastor Angela's partner, John Mansfield, read a scripture passage from Isaiah (43:1-4a) that reminds us to have no fear because the Lord is with us.

Reverend Abby Huff delivered a sermon, “Get Out of the Boat,” that encouraged us to trust in Jesus and have faith when life becomes stormy.





And what would a service be like without music? The choir performed a rousing rendition of “Yes Lord Yes” joined by guest tenor, Chester Martin. Chester also performed a solo during the



Offering entitled “Were I the Perfect Child of God.”

Elder William Pfaff introduced the Offering, which will be directed toward the



Scholarship Fund of the Presbytery to prepare new ministers.



Dorinda Violante gave the Charge to our newly installed minister, and Reverend



Debra North gave the Charge to the congregation.

As her first official act as the newly installed minister of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, Pastor Angela gave the Benediction. Our congregation has been so blessed to have found the right person to lead us forward, and we hope to have Pastor Angela with us for a loooooong time.



Installation

From Terry Lucas

January 26 was an eventful and joyous day of celebration for the congregation of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church. Upon the completion of the service of installation of The Reverend Angela Maddalone, members, family, friends and invited guests made their way over to Murchison Hall for a festive and delicious celebratory meal. Guests were treated to an array of appetizers and beverages followed by a buffet meal featuring a variety of specialty dishes. A beautiful sheet cake, cookies and fruit were served to complete the meal.

Much love and appreciation to all who made this event possible, most especially to the Pastoral Search Committee for bringing us Pastor Angela. To all of those who helped to plan the evening, set up, decorate and clean up, many thanks for your hard work. The room looked beautiful with white linen cloths and fresh floral arrangements. Welcome Pastor Angela! We look forward to celebrating many more special occasions with you.

