

# The Carriage Stone

April 2025

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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# FROM THE PASTOR

*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*

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. This may or may not be true (I certainly hope so). But for me, at least now in my life, it does not matter. It once comforted me but now I find it too limiting. Is this really all there was to Jesus, Emmanuel, God-With-Us?

Over the years I have come to believe that it is Jesus’ life that matters most or at the very least 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 I, 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: speaking truth to power, caring for the least among us and advocating for systemic change in a system 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 wounded world.

Blessings,





# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## Holy Week

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

### Palm Sunday: April 13

There will be a potluck Luncheon in Murchison Hall after Service.

### Maundy Thursday: April 17

Service at 8 PM. We will celebrate the Eucharist as part of the service.

### Good Friday: April 18

We will have a Tenebrae Service at Germonds at 8 PM with combined choirs.

### Easter Sunday: April 20

**8 AM** in Murchison Hall, followed by a pancake breakfast served by men of the church.

**11 AM** with Communion and special music, followed by an Easter Egg hunt for the children after worship.

## Palm Sunday Luncheon

From Nancy Jacobs

The Fellowship Committee and Deacons will be hosting the traditional Palm Sunday luncheon immediately after the Sunday service on April 13.

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. We'll need volunteers to help set up and clean up.

Bring family and friends to the service and the luncheon.



## Church Clean Up Day

From Mark Zacheis

Our church is holding a clean up day on April 5, from 9 AM to noon. It has been some years since we've held one and the church building shows it.

The focus of the day is to clean the church building interior, the woodwork and windows, the pews, wipe down the walls, polish the piano and the brass, do some touch up painting, clean the kitchenette, and clean the Colonial Room carpet. Something for everyone.

And when noon arrives the Fellowship Committee is providing pizza for lunch.

There is a signup sheet in the Colonial Room, or you can speak to Mark. We'd like to know you're coming so we can plan supplies. Come even if you don't sign up; do wear work clothes and bring your rubber gloves. We will provide the tools and supplies.





## Keep Rockland Beautiful

From Mark Zacheis

Spring Time means clean up time and not just our own yards. NHPC is once again hosting a spring cleanup of New Hempstead Road. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 3 from 9 AM to noon and plan to meet at the church building for instructions at 9 AM.



We will be picking up roadside trash on New Hempstead Road, from Route 45 east to the entrance to the Palisades Parkway, plus Old Schoolhouse Road where it crosses next to the church.

This event is hosted by NHPC through the Keep Rockland

Beautiful program, managed by the county. It is a community event open to anyone, member or not. There will be people from the church there and people from the community.

It is wise to wear work clothes and to bring work gloves. We will provide you with a reflective safety vest, trash grabbers, and garbage bags. All you have to do is



pick up the trash with the grabber and put it into a bag. Easy.

And if you happen to find KiRBy the Knome, you'll win a fabulous prize. This is an opportunity to give back to our community. We anticipate a sunny, dry day and about 60 degrees, perfect weather for an outdoor activity. Water and granola bars will be provided.

If you would like to participate then you will need to register. Go to <http://www.keeprocklandbeautiful.org> and follow the easy instructions.

- On the toolbar is a Volunteer dropdown, then Clean Up campaigns, then SPRING: Great American Cleanup.
- Click here and scroll down to the bottom of the page. There is a green Join-A-Cleanup button (just above the picture of KiRBy, Karen, and our team from last year).
- That takes you to Community Clean Up and at the bottom click the Select a Community Cleanup Event arrow.
- Scroll down to the New Hempstead Community Cleanup 5/3/2025 and fill in the requested information.

Sound complicated? It isn't but Mark will be in the coffee hour with his computer following the April 30 church service and can help you sign up.







## One Great Hour of Sharing

From Mark Zacheis

This year's One Great Hour of Sharing theme is "Repairing the Breach" (Isaiah 58), "providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed". Your Mission Committee team has been thinking about the numerous natural disasters in recent memory, from the fires in California to the floods in North Carolina and Tennessee, to now the fires in North Carolina. Given the close tie in between these events and the OGHS theme, we've decided to designate our gifts to the Presbyterian Church Disaster Relief program. Over the past few years, we've bought things from the Presbyterian Church giving catalog, things like water systems and farm bundles. This year our focus shifts to providing support after natural disasters. Committee members will be talking about this offering during the four weeks leading up to and including Easter.

Our goal is to raise \$2,000. If you would like to make a contribution there are envelopes in the pew racks and you can go online to give as well. Choose the Mission option and mark it OGHS.

## Light Meditations

From Pam Fink

Thank you to Lili Grady for sharing her photography exhibition with a group of us. The event was quickly arranged by Nancy Jacobs following Ed Garcia's message concerning Lili's retirement from the Rockland Community College Art Department. On Friday March 28, seven of us met at the church to carpool to RCC. We wandered around a gallery to view Lili's photography and poetry she associated with those photos. She answered our various questions, giving us the opportunity to get to know her and each other better. It's what "fellowship" is all about, I believe.

