



# The Carriage Stone

May 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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*18 But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said,  
“You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me?  
Show me the coin used for paying the tax.”  
They brought him a denarius, and he asked them,  
“Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”  
“Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them,  
“So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”*

*Matthew 22:18-20*

After the election of the new pope, Robert Francis Prevost, Pope Leo XIV, many in our country were celebrating the fact that he was an American. I’m as patriotic as anyone else. I remember my glee when the USA Hockey team beat the team from the then, USSR, but when it comes to national pride and religion, I draw the line.

First of all, it’s important to understand that the new pope was not chosen because he was an American. He was chosen because of his commitment to Jesus. I may not know much about him yet, but his decision to work among the poor in Peru says a lot about his understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Secondly, in response to the criticism from some media that although he is American, he will not be putting American first, all I can say is: “Of course he won’t.” Being a Christian is not about putting any country or political ideology above any other. It is about putting GOD FIRST!

When asked by a teacher of the law what the greatest of all commandments was, Jesus replied,  
*“30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”[b] 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’[c] There is no commandment greater than these.” (Matthew 12:30-31).*

He never once spoke about the restoration of the Davidic Dynasty or the overthrow of the Roman Empire. He spoke about the kingdom of God, where the first will be last and the last will be first (Matthew 20:16).

Beloved, I disagree, theologically with many of the beliefs of my Roman Catholic sisters and brothers, however, I can agree that what we give to God and Caesar are not the same. At such as time as this, when Christian Nationalism has gained prominence, let us remember how all people and nations are the beloved children of God and let us pray to the Holy Spirit for the strength and courage to remain faithful to our one true Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Blessings and Joy,





## People To People

From Mark Zacheis

We made another delivery of food and funds to People to People at the end of April. To date this year, we've provided 175 pounds of food and \$2,315 in cash. Due to the federal government cutting funding of \$1 billion to food pantries, People to People is really feeling the pinch right now and our latest gifts were especially gratefully accepted. Please continue to contribute to this noble cause, through bringing food staples to church, through change in the jar, and through contributions in the offering.

## Spring Tag Sale

Our Spring tag sale is Saturday, June 14. Please mark your calendar and start collecting items to donate. This is always a fun event and a good way to get to know your church family.

If you can, please do not bring in your donations until Thursday before the sale. If you have too much to bring all at once, contact Syenni or Mark or Pam for access to the limited barn storage.

A sign-up sheet to volunteer will be coming soon!



## Tree Removal

From Mark Zacheis

Our old friend, the pine tree located just off the southeast corner of the church sanctuary, has been taken down. It was a sad day but necessary; she was leaning toward the building, was quite a bit taller than the building, and the upmost branches were reaching quite close to the steeple. For safety's sake of the building and the people in it, it was time. The stump remains for now.

## Reflections from Iona

During her recent trip to Iona, Pastor Angela sent us some reflection videos which are on the church website:

<https://nhpchurch.org/index.php/2025/04/07/greetings-from-iona/>



## Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt

From David Garcia and Mark Zacheis

Our thanks to the Pancake Warriors of the church, who prepared breakfast for those attending the early morning Easter service.

And special thanks to those who organized the annual egg hunt on the great lawn.



## Church Cleanup Day

From Pam Fink

On the morning of April 5, the church building was filled with the scents of polish, Windex and Mr. Clean. A group of about a dozen volunteers worked for three hours cleaning the sanctuary, Colonial Room and kitchen, and office areas in preparation for the Easter holiday.

Every volunteer was given a task, and every task was done well so that in the end, the rooms looked wonderful. As a reward for all the effort, the volunteers were treated to a lunchtime pizza party sponsored

by the Fellowship Committee. There was lots of conversation and laughter during lunch - what a great way to get to know one another better! Thanks to Mark Zacheis and Nancy Jacobs for organizing the day.











## Palm Sunday Luncheon

From Pam Fink

As is the church's tradition, the Palm Sunday service was followed by the Palm Sunday Luncheon. And in the same tradition, the serving tables overflowed with food. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped to make the day a success.

The worship service was led by Rev. Richard Witt, who also spoke to us during the luncheon about his work with Rural and Migrant Ministries. As we ate, we watched a video and listened to Rev. Witt speak about the challenges facing migrants working in New York state. He also provided suggestions as to how we all can help. This year's luncheon provided food for the body as well as food for thought, and it might be a great new tradition to start.

