

The Carriage Stone

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, NY.

The English Church

July / August 2025



"The Carriage Stone" is the Newsletter of
The New Hempstead Presbyterian Church

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Sunday, August 24

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*“Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine...
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting --
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.”*

-Excerpt from Mary’s Oliver’s Wild Geese



As I look back upon the many conversations I’ve had as a pastor, I am moved beyond words to have been part of people’s confidences at the most vulnerable of times as well as during intimate celebrations. Many of these experiences could be described as pastoral care and many have been. The challenge with the term, for me, is that it implies that only the pastor can offer pastoral care. And while I do have special education and training in the area, and while I do feel blessed and privileged to be a part of people’s lives, I sometimes worry that others miss out or shy away from participating in this ministry because it sounds daunting.

Pastoral care, however, is not solely for the pastor. Many deacons, elders, church members, hospital staff have also been in situations where a pastoral response, whether referred to in this way or not, was necessary and they were the right person present at the right time. As frightening as this can seem, with the angels I proclaim: “Do not be afraid!”

I’m the first to admit I’ve made a few mistakes in the name of love throughout these years but that is not the point. The whole idea of caring for one another is about presence. It’s not about fixing; it’s not about saying the right or wrong things...it is about showing up.

Still, there are skills that can be learned. It is my hope to share some insights into this mysterious world of pastoral care in a workshop I’ll be giving on a Saturday morning this fall. It is open to all, and I would encourage you to pray about it and consider attending.

Now lest you think you are not the pastoral care type let me tempt you. The topics we will be discussing and the skills acquired will help in all aspects of one’s life...active listening, the importance of silence, creating a safe space, what not to say...can help us in all our relationships...

I love how the late poet Mary Oliver describes it “Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.” Keep an eye out for more information...Multiple offerings will be available depending on the interest. In the meantime, I am here to listen and love...



Spring Tag Sale

Our Spring Tag sale took place on Saturday, June 28. Although there was a bit of drizzle early in the day, by the time we opened it was a beautiful day for selling and fellowship.

Thanks to all who helped out!



Musical Picnic

From Terry Lucas

Save the date, July 19, for the much-anticipated annual musical picnic to be held on the beautiful grounds of NHPC. Once again, our own talented musicians and friends will provide a variety of musical numbers which will not only lift your spirits but also get your feet to stomping and your hands to clapping.

Bring the family, bring a friend, and bring a side dish to share. Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be provided. The music begins at 4PM and extends until 8PM. Set up time, including food, will be from 3-3:30 in Murchison Hall. A sign-up sheet will be in the Colonial Room so please sign up so that the Fellowship Committee can plan and prepare for this very special event.





Fellowship Tour of Union Church

We are having a Fellowship Adventure to view the stained-glass windows of Marc Chagall and Henri Matisse on Saturday, August 2 at the Union Church of Pocantico Hills

Join us as we tour the beautiful windows at Union Church of Pocantico Hills given by the Historic Hudson Valley Society.

We will meet at the church at 11:15 and carpool to the church. The cost is \$10. Please sign up and give payment to Nancy Jacobs by July 20. There is ample parking and it is handicap accessible.

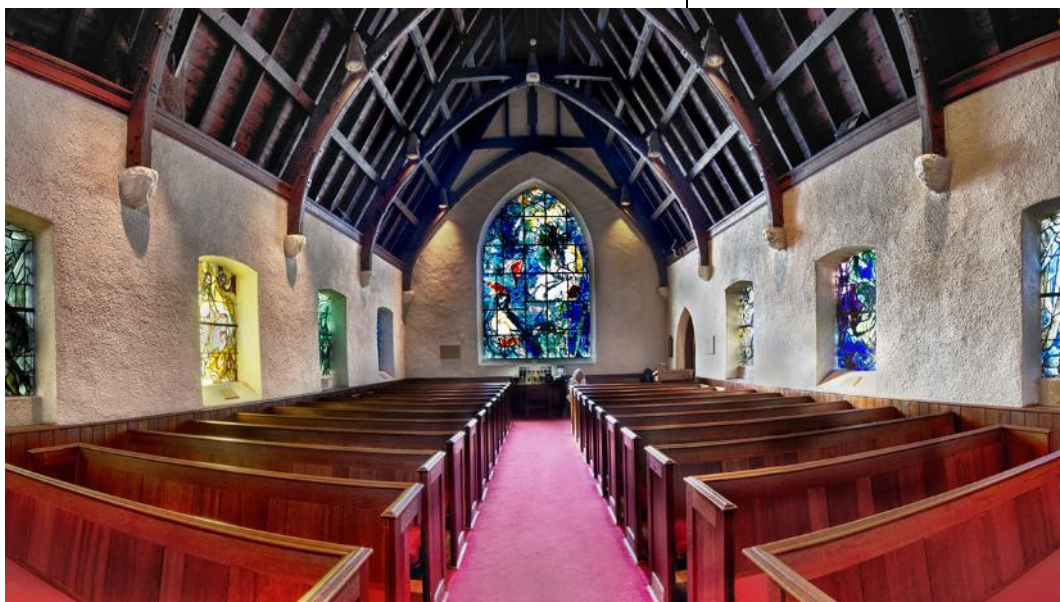
The tour is approximately 30 minutes. We plan to have lunch in Tarrytown following the tour.

For more information see the link below or contact pastor Angela or Nancy Jacobs.

<https://hudsonvalley.org/article/union-church-of-pocantico-hills-virtual-tour/>

Daycare Center Graduation

Congratulations, Smarty Pants Class of 2025! The daycare center in Murchison Hall held their graduation program on June 27, to a full house of happy parents, grandparents, family and friends. We wish these graduates all the best as they move on to kindergarten in the fall.





Pentecost Offering

From the Mission Committee

The Mission Committee is very happy to report that we raised \$2,600 for the Pentecost Offering, which is going to the MLK Multi-Purpose Center in Spring Valley. Many thanks to all of you for your contributions. The Center, like many other places, is concerned about federal funds being cut to SNAP and other food support programs. They do not yet know if they will have the grant money to continue the monthly food distribution program that we support. Ours is a nice check but does not come close to replacing the possible loss of federal funds. So, we ask one more thing of you for the MLK Center, and that is to keep them in your prayers.

The next mission project on the calendar is the School Supplies drive. Once again, we will be collecting backpacks and school supplies for the local schools in the East Ramapo district. Delivery is scheduled for the end of August, and we'll start talking about that and provide a list of supplies later in the month of July. Stay tuned!



Summer Solstice

From Mark Zacheis

On June 20 NHPC held a Labyrinth Walk in Murchison Hall, to celebrate the summer solstice. We partnered with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Rockland, who has a portable labyrinth. We received background and instruction, and then we walked it as the sun went down. A labyrinth is not a maze. It is but one path with a fixed beginning and end. In our context, walking the labyrinth is paired with meditation. Historically one walked the labyrinth as a way to symbolize a lengthy and challenging pathway an individual must take to converse with God.



Family Game Day

From Susan Truss

Kids Matter at NHPC and what better way to say so than to gather together on a truly warm Sunday afternoon and play games with parents/grandparents/aunties, act silly, enjoy snacks, and enjoy each other's company? On June 22, several kids and many adults participated and had a great time playing games such as corn hole, bean bag toss, fishing in "Lake Ontario!" (thanks for naming it, Maxim), egg-on-a-spoon relays & more! Lots of laughter filled Murchison – especially when the adults played musical chairs or kids got their fishing poles tangled! Kids & adults wandered over to the snack table for snacks & drinks and before returning to favorite games once again.

Thank you to all the many adults who came to set up, guide folks through the various games, serve snacks, and clean up! And especially to Pastor Angela who led us in a rousing round of the Hokey Pokey before Pauline Mattis invited everyone to our next event and closed in prayer. Be on the lookout for our next kids event!

