



The Carriage Stone

November 2025

New Hempstead Presbyterian Church, New City, N.Y.



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

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"Giving has always been a mark of Christian commitment and discipleship. The ways in which a believer uses God's gifts of material goods, personal abilities, and time should reflect a faithful response to God's self-giving in Jesus Christ and Christ's call to minister to and share with others in the world." (Book of Order: W.5.5004)

I remember once in passing, telling a ruling elder that I was reading from the Book of Order before I went to bed, and she said, "We've got to get you a boyfriend."

Even though it may be dry at times, the inspirational words above illustrate how stewardship is more than our yearly monetary pledge to the church. It is a way of life as a follower of Jesus.

Stewardship takes many forms. It is lived out in:

- Living and telling the Good News;
- Striving with God in seeking justice and peace;
- Sharing the material resources we hold and giving them in service with authenticity and compassion; providing for future generations;
- Sharing in the life, worship, and mission of the congregation.

Both for the individual and for the community, stewardship is a joyful act for the sake of God's world.

When thinking about stewardship the other day I thought of Jesus' parable of the talents found in Matthew 25:14–30. I had always thought the parable was too hard on the servant who did nothing with the money kept under safe keeping for his employer. After all, if you read the parable the "master" never told his servants to do anything with the money under their care. Yet, I can also see the "master's" point. Haven't we all, at one time or another, watched people we cared about squander their gifts? Some people have recklessly lost money and some people have stopped using their talents out of fear or laziness.

One of the many things I am personally grateful for as your pastor, is the way we take our money and talents and make a real difference in our community. Without our time and donations many organizations would feel its loss. This is a mark of a viable ministry. I am so proud of what we do, and I am so grateful to be a part of this "Body of Christ" at New Hempstead.

And so now, along with our wonderful Stewardship Committee, I invite you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be a steward, how God is calling you to give of your monetary resources and your time. How God is calling you to respond to the grace and abundance you have been given so that your contribution will be multiplied and together we will hear the praise of Jesus: "Well done good and faithful servant."

Blessings and Love,

Wreath Making Event

From Susan Truss

Save the Date: Join us Sunday, December 7 from 3–5 PM to make your own Christmas Wreath! Details to follow!



Advent Decoration

From Barbara Zacheis

Faster than a shooting star: Advent quickly approaches! November 30, the first Sunday in Advent will be the day we decorate our Sanctuary for the coming season of Christ's Birthday! Please plan to stay after church for a light meal and light lifting. Many hands make light work!



Peace and Global Witness Offering Benefit Soup Angels

This fall's Peacemaking and Global Witness offering was designated to benefit Soup Angels in Nyack this year. Soup Angels is a no questions asked, sit-down restaurant setting, offering for those in need of a hot meal and some human decency. It operates on private donations only and without government support, serving dinner on Mondays and Wednesdays every day of the year. The staff are all volunteers, including some folks from our own congregation. The chefs often have day jobs in local restaurants. Your mission committee set a goal to raise \$2,500 this year and in fact, we reached and delivered a check for \$2,650. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this mission, and to those who offer their time to Soup Angels as well.

Thanksgiving Baskets

From Pam Fink

Thanksgiving Day is just around the corner; it's a time when we all give thanks for God's bounty and celebrate with a big Thanksgiving meal. But there are some folks in our local community whose Thanksgiving meal will consist of what meager offerings they can find at the local food pantries.

For decades, our congregation has opted to share the bounty God has given each of us by donating complete turkey dinner baskets to those in need in our local area. Last year, we prepared and delivered over 60 baskets to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center and to Smarty Pants Pre-School. Despite the higher cost of groceries, we hope to do the same or better this year, aiming for 67 baskets.

Every basket has the same contents, which are listed to the right.

There are two ways to donate a basket: First, take the shopping list and buy all of the items yourself. If you shop yourself, please buy/use one of the reusable grocery bags from the market to make your "basket". Please bring the dry goods to church on Sunday, November 16, and bring the turkey and bread on November 23; the baskets will be completed after worship that day.

Alternatively, donate money and we'll shop for you. The cash value of each basket has been set at \$45. Mark your check or envelope "Thanksgiving Baskets" and drop it in the collection plate or mail it to the church office. Alternatively, you can use the QR code on the church website and donate to the Mission Fund.

If you are unable to provide a full basket, then bring what you can from the list. All contributions are gratefully accepted. And if you know of a family who might be in need of a basket, please let Mark know so that we can put them on the list.

For those who donate money, we will be shopping during the week of November 17, and

on November 23. The completed baskets will be distributed on Monday, November 24. Kindly sign up in the Colonial Room to let us know how many baskets you wish to sponsor so that we have a sense of how many baskets to expect. If you wish to help with shopping, sorting, packing or delivering the baskets, please sign up in the Colonial Room. Thank you for sharing!



Recipe for a Happy Thanksgiving Meal:

- Turkey
- Stuffing mix
- Gravy
- Mac and Cheese (2 boxes)
- Canned vegetables (4 cans)
- Canned sweet potatoes/yams
- Corn bread mix
- Brownie mix
- Rice (2 pound bag)
- Red beans (1 pound bag)
- Applesauce
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Soup (2 cans)
- Loaf of bread

Be sure to bring dry goods to church on Sunday, November 16; bring the turkey and bread on November 23

THANK YOU!

Anti-Racism Training

On September 20, the Hudson River Presbytery presented a workshop on Anti-Racism Training in Murchison Hall. The workshop was organized by Edgar Hayes, a leader of the Presbytery's Racial Justice Team. Our very own Karen Martin, who is chair of the NHPC Mission Committee, is part of this team and helped in the planning of the workshop. Approximately 40 people from around the Presbytery were in attendance for the training.

Through the viewing of documentaries and different exercises, participants learned about the history and root causes of racism. It was a fascinating and enlightening look at what took place in our country, and even in our own backyard. New York had the dubious honor of being the colony that imported the most slaves between 1700–1774.

Members of the Mission Committee provided breakfast and lunch buffets for the attendees. They also did the set-up and clean-up for the event. Thanks to all for making it a successful day!



Diwali Fellowship Event

From Pastor Angela Maddalone

On Saturday, October 10 we gathered in the Colonial Room on a cloudy and drizzly day to learn about the Hindu festival of Diwali. In many ways it was a timely event since Diwali is known as the “Festival of Light”, and we needed to bring light to the dreary afternoon.

We were dazzled by colorful clothing and the enlightened presentation by Dr. Nomita Verma Pfaff. We learned some of the commonalities between our own faith and Hinduism and participated in a candle lighting ritual inviting light into our lives and our world. It culminated with the childhood joy of lighting sparklers! The food was great and so was the company and conversation!



