



THE PARISH NEWS



**UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH OF HEMPSTEAD**

40 Washington Street
Hempstead
New York, 11550
Phone: (516) 485-6363
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MARCH 2017

VOLUME 76-No. 77

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love." Psalm 51:1

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I greet you once more in the Holy name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In the early days of the Church, Lent was a time to prepare for baptisms which took place the day before Easter. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

Today, Lent is used as a time for study, personal and congregational worship, and spiritual renewal. We focus on what it means for Jesus Christ to take the journey to Jerusalem; the journey to the cross; the journey to death.

Lent causes us to reflect on those issues that are not always simple or easy. Things like our mortality and Christ's sacrifice for us. It is a season in which we



begin to realize how often we fall short of God's desires for our lives. Also, it is a time when we sit with the truth that, it is only by the grace of God that we are saved--a time when we regroup and learn even more about the importance of discipleship and the power of passion.

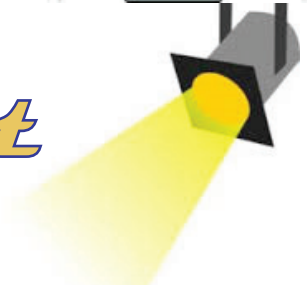
During Lent, we are called to be disciplined and deliberate in doing those things that help us to grow spiritually--prayer, fasting, reading scripture, helping the poor and needy, as well as doing other acts of kindness and mercy.

As we journey through this Holy Season, let us make it a time of reflection and remembrance of Christ's passion and death, what he desires to do in our lives and learning how to live in Christ and to celebrate His glorious and victorious resurrection.

Yours in His service,
St. Clair A. Samuel



In the Spotlight



Rubia Rivas has been a central figure at the United Methodist Church of Hempstead for more than 30 years. Congregants at the United Methodist Church know her as a hard worker and friendly lady with a smile for everyone - and someone who can be depended on day and night.

As for Rubia, a native of El Salvador, her greatest and fondest memories are associated with this church and in living in America. Prior to immigrating here at the age of 15 years, she grew up in El Salvador with five brothers and four sisters. Rubia has been a Hempstead resident for 40 years and the Custodian at the UMC of Hempstead for 30 years.

Rubia is happiest when she is with her family and shopping at the mall. "That's my hobby," said Rubia. She reflects on how lucky she is to have raised two beautiful girls, Karina, 36, and Karen, 32; and to nurture and love them, and her three grandchildren, Daniella, Jacob, and Alyssa.

When Rubia began working at the UMC of Hempstead 30 years ago, it was under the auspices of Rev. George Czar who was "like a father to me," she recalls. "He and his wife were wonderful." After Rev. Czar retired, she worked with five pastors in the following years, including Rev. Rick Edwards, Rev. Ralph Mueckenheim, Rev. Kirton Lashley, Rev. Barbara Mungin, Rev. Rafael Garcia, and presently for our current Pastor, Rev. St. Clair A. Samuel.

"I love it here in this church and this country," said Rubia. "I thank God that my girls grew up here and have a good life. I feel that God sent me here to find a job that has made me so happy all these years."

Rubia is also thankful for the people in this church community who she refers to as a "part of a big family."

Rubia Rivas



Celebrating
30 *Years*
Congratulations!



March Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Ash Wednesday service, 7:30 pm	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 UMW Annual Continental Breakfast, 9 am
12	13	14	15	16	 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18 Trustees meeting, 10 am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Finance meeting, 10 am Hempstead Fellowship Brunch, 11-1 pm
26	27 Church Council meeting, 7:30 pm	28 Judith Circle, Parlor, 12 Noon	29	30	31	



“Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.”
 - Mother Teresa
 (Mother Teresa was canonized last year and is now called Saint Teresa)



HEMPSTEAD FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH

JANUARY 28, 2017



Members of the Hicksville Rotary Club , Nilima Madan, Mohammed Quddus, Dave Sharma, Roopam Maini, Dr. Urmilesh Arya, Mukesh Modi and Kamlesh Mehta, volunteered at the Jan. 2017 HFB and did a superb job! Thank you for your help and generous donation to help this important ministry.



Pictured above, right (L-R): Ruth Robinson, and Wayne Redman.

Pictured, left (L-R): Brenda Samuel and Pauline Lewis.

Pictured, below: Guests who came to enjoy the brunch.





GOOD FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

FEBRUARY 25, 2017



Pictured above (L-R): Pauline Lewis, Ruth Robinson, members of the Hicksville Rotary Club, Jackie Morgan and Sarian Parker at the HFB on February 25, 2016.



Pictured above: Members of the Hicksville Rotary Club and Zoe Gomes. Pictured below (L-R): Chrystelle Gooding and Zoe Gomes.



Photos, courtesy of Linda Gomes.

Pictured, Right (L-R): Jonathan McCullers and Jordan McCullers.



Pictured (Right): Carol Allen provided blood pressure readings for guests.





REFLECTIONS: PAST AND PRESENT

A Worship Moment

“They took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’” - John 12:13

Once again we have turned the pages of our calendars through the cold days of winter, the solemn days of Lent and the first day of Spring, to find ourselves at the observance of Palm-Passion Sunday. We stand now at the threshold of Holy Week, a time when we and other Christians throughout the world will be called on to experience a gamut of conflicting emotions as we recall the last days in the life of our Lord. We will remember and share in the joy and excitement at the arrival of the promised Messiah, and join in the loud HOsannas! Then in the days that follow, we will be humbled at his servant-hood. We will be touched by the moments of the Last Supper, and feel grateful that even now, we too, are privileged to come to His table and partake of this holy sacrament. Next, we will anguish with Him in the garden, feel disbelief, disgust and dismay at His betrayal, his unjust trial, and the hypocrisy of the crowds. Hopefully, we will then feel heartbreak, pain and sorrow untold at the brutality and cruelty of His horrible crucifixion. We should also be filled with shame, sadness, and regret as we come face-to-face with the realization of our part in it all. And lastly, we will suffer that dreadful sense of loss and the sorrow that accompanies death. By the week’s end, hopefully, we will feel emotionally exhausted at remembering and reliving it all. It is only then that we will be able to experience the exquisite joy, and to fully comprehend the glorious promise of His Easter Resurrection!

Jean Howell
1920-2014

Note: Jean Howell was a long-time, active member of the UMC of Hempstead. She was a regular contributor of the article, “A Worship Moment.” Jean passed away three years ago but her words have timeless significance.

Hope For the Future

TO WHOM DOES THE FUTURE BELONG?
ON WHAT DO WE BUILD ITS SUCCESS?
SOMETIMES LIFE TAKES US WAY OF COURSE
PLANS, HOPES AND DREAMS ARE ANYONE'S
GUESS

HOPE BUILDS WITHIN OUR HEARTS
EVEN WHEN THE FUTURE LOOKS DIM
STRENGTH AND COURAGE FORCES THROUGH
SETTING A STANDARD FROM WHICH TO BEGIN
GOD'S LOVE SURROUNDS US – WAITING
AS WE WAIT FOR A REASON TO CARE
MANY WONDERFUL WORKS HAVE BEEN
FORGOTTEN
BECAUSE OF PEOPLE WHO JUST DIDN'T SHARE
HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE MUST INCLUDE -
BOLDNESS – TO GO FORWARD IN TIMES OF
TRIALS
DISCERNMENT - AS WE READ AND STUDY GOD'S
WORDS
FAITH – TO LOOK UP AND ACKNOWLEDGE -
THERE IS A GOD!
PATIENCE – AS WE LEARN TO LOVE AND SERVE
RECEIVE GOD'S LOVE – THEN SHARE IT
LOVE GOD, YOURSELF – THEN LOVE OTHERS
LEARN AND ACT ON GOD'S WORDS – THEN BE
A DISCIPLE
ASK, SEEK, KNOCK – ONLY GOD'S LOVE EN-
DURES FOREVER
REMEMBER:
WE CAN DO NOTHING WITHOUT GOD!
WITHOUT GOD WE ARE NOTHING!



J. Wellington
Feb. / 2017



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT HUMC





Sunshine Column

MARCH BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Wayne Hall	March 2nd
Kamla Rose	March 5th
George Knight	March 8th
Maxine Knight	March 11th
Paul Ross	March 12th
Kimberly Johnson	March 13th
Beatrice Nwatu	March 14th
Jade Page	March 14th
Linda Gomes	March 15th
Charlene Brown	March 17th
Glenston Bucknor	March 19th
Sheila Smith	March 20th
Janice LaLumia	March 20th
Cherie Brown	March 23rd
Nadine Samuels	March 31st
Errol Foo	March 31st



If your name is not on the list, please contact Mary Johnson, Karen Bonnet, or Lavern Thompson in the Church office.

PARISH NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please submit all information (articles, announcements, photos) about events, committee/ministries news, and other information that you can share with our church family to: hempsteadumc@gmail.com, or drop them off in the church office by March 19th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed in the first week of April. Your church-related articles and photos are welcome!

If you are new to the church and wish to become a member, please see Pastor.

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:30 AM Bible Study
 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
 10:00 AM Morning Worship
 (Social Hour to Follow)

After service, Sounds of Praise
 Choir Rehearsal
 (5-11 years old)

Sunday: Service in Spanish, 12:30 PM
 Thursday: 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
 Friday: 8:00 PM Youth Fellowship
 (Alternate Fridays)

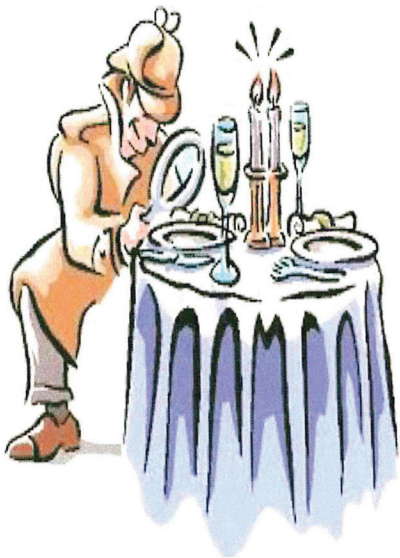
LENT



The United Methodist Church of Hempstead
Youth Ministry Dinner Theater
- Presents -

***The
Mysterious
Benefactor***

Friday, May 12, 2017, 7 p.m.



Café Flambé

***40 Washington Street
Hempstead, NY 11550
516-485-6363 RSVP***

Tickets \$20.00

Happy Birthday to the Ladies
of the UMW
Born in February!



Pictured above at the recent UMW meeting in February, four of the lovely ladies celebrated birthdays.

Happy birthday to: Jean Bearak, Jackie Morgan, Dot Zondag, and Miriam Harris.



Pictured (L-R): Jean Howell's family attended service at UMC of Hempstead during Black History Month in February. The family members are:

Michael, Kathy Aziz, Jack Howell, and Karen Howell.



LENTEN CALENDAR

Lenten Suppers and Sponsors - 7:00 to 8:00 pm
Lenten Reflections, 8:00 - 8:30 pm

- March 8 - UMW & UM Men
- March 15 - Sunday School, Youth Group, Scholarship Committee
- March 22 - Worship, Evangelism, Mission
- March 29 - Finance, Trustees, SPPR
- April 5 - Hispanic Group, Choir

Worship Services - Holy Week

- April 9 at 10:00 am - Palm Sunday Service - We will gather in the gymnasium for the distribution and consecration of Palms.
- April 13 at 7:30 pm - Holy Thursday Service with Communion and Representative foot-washing.
- April 14 at 12 Noon - Good Friday Service UM Cluster Group #1 at UMCH
- April 16 at 7 am - Easter Sunrise Service (English) in the Sanctuary
- April 16 at 12:30 pm - Easter Sunday Service (Spanish) in the Chapel





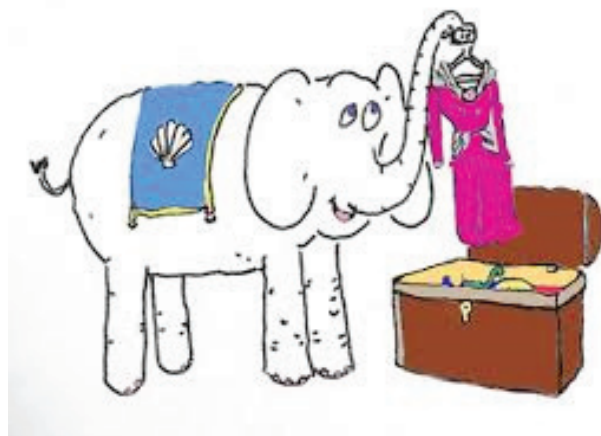
SPRING
RUMMAGE
SALE

Saturday, May 6th
9 - 2 pm

United Methodist Church of Hempstead
40 Washington Street ~ Hempstead ~ NY



- White Elephant Sale
- Baked Goods
- Clothing
- Furniture
- Toys
- Linens
- Jewelry
- And much more!



POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
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40 Washington Street, Hempstead, NY 11550
Telephone: 516-485-6363 Fax: 516-485-4803

March 2017 / Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



In January, the church received a 2016 Honor Certificate from Church World Service for the donation made in the fall for blankets.

During March, the UMW is asking your assistance in donating pajamas for the Safe Center. When women of abuse leave their situation they often leave with only the clothes on their backs. The pajamas not only provide sleepwear, but lounge wear during the day. All sizes are needed. This is a Christian call for help – let's do all we can.

March 26th is UMCOR Sunday: When You Give You Equip Christ's Body to Serve in His Name. That's because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded. When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded. When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded. And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond.

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR

Sunday. In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.

Once again this year we will be collecting items for Church World Service's Health Kits. Last year, 120 kits were assembled - congratulations! Collection will be held March 5th through April 16th during coffee hour. Keep a lookout for the flier in your bulletin with the list of items needed. Cash donations will also be accepted to purchase items needed to complete kits and for shipping.

