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The United Methodist Church of Hempstead  
"Parish News" at 40 Washington Street,  
Hempstead, NY 11550  
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The Parish News (USPS 421-140 )  
The United Methodist Church of Hempstead,  
40 Washington Street, Hempstead, NY 11550  
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April 2015 / Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



## IN THE WIND (A Hidden Message)

Have you ever wondered why we can see, feel  
and interact with most elements?  
The Sun supplies us with heat and light by day  
Through its radiant rays of light  
Much beauty can be seen in a sunset  
Or in a bright and Starry night

Too much Rain or Snow brings destruction  
To lives as well as our homes  
Excess heat or  
cold weather  
Plays havoc on our  
bodies, especially  
our bones

Then there's the  
"Wind" - What a  
mystery!  
It's the element  
we can't see  
We feel its calm or  
power



We hear it whistle or howl  
We witness its presence when the  
Trees sway - At times so powerful  
They seem to "Bow"  
We embrace its coolness -  
On a hot summer's day  
As it moves in, around and about us  
It can uproot trees where it sees fit  
Yet there's no existing without it

Can we then  
liken the "Wind" to the  
"Holy Spirit"  
Working in, among and through us?  
Correcting us when we do wrong  
Lifting us up when we feel down  
Creating an "Intimate Connection"  
Pure, Soothing, Hidden,  
Undefined  
Yet not seen by any Human eye

J. Wellington / March 2015



APRIL 2015

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## REFLECTIONS: A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



The long-awaited spring is finally here, and with it the hope of resurrection. For those of us who live in the West, Easter is celebrated in spring time when life begins its comeback after a hefty winter. Nature with its magnificent, enchanting and colorful scenery of blossoming flowers, trees dressed with abundant green leaves, grass fighting to gain back its natural state, and the distinct singing of the birds remind us that resurrection is about life and joy. In April and May, other signs will also point to this resurrection experience, as flea markets, garage sales, confirmations, graduations, and proms show us that resurrection is about life in community and celebration.

But before all of this can gain any meaningful spiritual sense in our pilgrimage toward Easter, first we have to begin walking the Lenten journey. Here at the Hempstead Church, the Lenten suppers and reflections on Wednesday evenings have helped to shape this, still in progress at the time of this writing. Wrapped in enriching, nutritious, and abundant evening meals, we have allowed the Beatitudes and Stations of the Cross to guide us during five weeks of food and reflection. At the moment of this writing, we are getting ready to engage in the last stage of this significant pilgrimage, also known as Holy Week. I will tell you more about this in our next issue.

I am glad to have been invited to the United Methodist Women's Annual Continental Breakfast on March 14. It was an not only honor to have offered the invocation and blessing for the food and then indulged my appetite with so many desserts, but I also had the opportunity to chat with some our members, as well as members of my former parish in Franklin Square. When I left, the guest speaker, the Rev. Louise Stowe-Johns from the First United Methodist Church in Amityville, was addressing a crowd of about 50 plus women from several Methodist churches. Great event!

Finally, the eight children who have been taking the confirmation classes are approaching the last part of their formation process for confirmation. At the end of this process, they will have finished a one or two paragraph faith statement that will be shared with the congregation at the confirmation service in April. I hope all of you will make an effort to be present and support them in this important stage in their lives.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Rafael Garcia





# Sunshine Column

APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Candace Bahr  
Ann Corrie  
Tashana Samuels  
Cathy Schuyler  
Marcia King  
Tileyah Williams  
Jennie Connolly  
Hazel Gooding  
Martha Wright  
Wayne Redman  
Rubia Rivas  
Mary Canty  
Leslie Bobb  
Ava Daley  
Samuel Minto  
Ryan Dwyer  
Stephanie Brown  
Jordan McCullers  
Robert Corrie  
Edward Angus  
Claude Pierre-Louis



April 1st  
April 2nd  
April 6th  
April 6th  
April 8th  
April 14th  
April 14th  
April 15th  
April 15th  
April 17th  
April 18th  
April 20th  
April 20th  
April 22nd  
April 23rd  
April 25th  
April 29th  
April 29th  
April 29th  
April 30th  
April 30th



# CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST - MARCH 14TH



## 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](mailto:hempsteadumc@gmail.com), or drop them off in the church office by May 14th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed by the last week of April. Thank you!

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

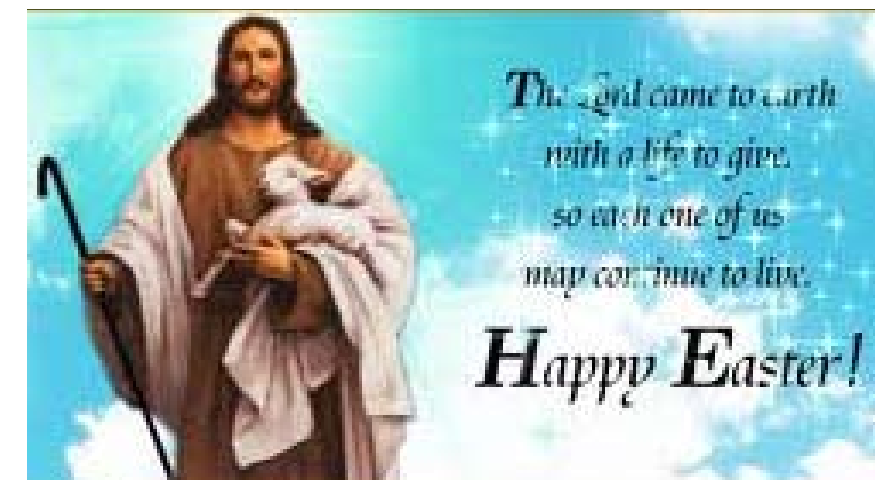
## CHURCH SCHEDULE

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)







## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

At the UMW Continental Breakfast, Pastor Rafael Garcia gave the opening prayer and the blessing of the food. Our guest speaker, Rev. Louise Stowe-Johns, First Methodist Church of Amityville, spoke on women's health with an emphasis on exercise. She involved the attendees in a moderate exercise and continued to speak on issues dealing with the importance of taking care of your body and mind. Rev. Stowe-Johns' message was well-received by attendees, and there were individuals who attested to the benefit of exercise in their life. At the

conclusion of Rev. Stowe-Johns' presentation, she informed us that she will be retiring in June and moving to Virginia. She will be sorely missed and she was well wished on her upcoming retirement. We thank Ms. Grace Brammer for taking pictures at the event; we are also grateful to those who brought cans and boxed food to be distributed to the Long Island Food Bank. Kudos to the UMW who prepared the delicious food served at the breakfast. We concluded with a prayer and wished everyone a safe journey home.

- Jackie Morgan



Photos, courtesy of Grace Brammer.



## April Calendar - Save the Dates

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Good Friday Service, 12 Noon - 3 pm	4 Holy Saturday
5 Easter Sunrise service, 6:30 a.m Chapel  Easter Sunday Worship Service, 10 a.m.	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	13	14	15	16	17 Youth Fellowship	18 Board of Trustees, 9:00 a.m.
19 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	20 Committee on Finance, 7:30 p.m.	21	22	23	24	25
26 Bible Study, 8:30 a.m.	27 Church Council, 7:30 p.m.	28	29	30		

## Notes and News

- ⇒ If you have an article to share for our next issue, please send it to Karen (with a photo) in the Church office or email it to: [hempsteadumc@gmail.com](mailto:hempsteadumc@gmail.com). Thank you!
- ⇒ You will now be able to view events/important dates on our church calendar by visiting [www.umchempstead.org](http://www.umchempstead.org); open the site and click on the link for Calendar/Events.





## BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATES OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

This year, our church family celebrated Black History month on Sunday, February 22nd with a memorable worship service presided by **Rev. Dr. Derrick Lewis Noble** of NYAC.

Rev. Noble gave an inspirational sermon that focused on Black History heroes and others who impacted the past and paved the way for a better future. Highlights from the afternoon included entertainment by the talented dancers from Calvary Tabernacle Church, as well as the singers from the Calvary Tabernacle Choir.

*Photos, courtesy of Chrystelle Gooding.*

