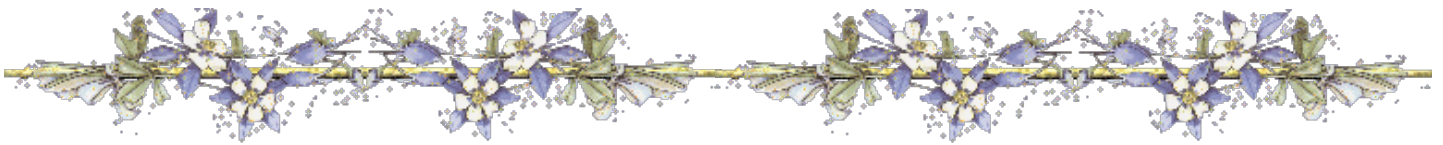




APRIL 2016

VOLUME 76-NO. 68

## REFLECTIONS: A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR



Easter is now upon us and with it the wonderful mystery of the force of life that sprouts in spring-time, expressing in all its magnificent forms, shapes, colors, manifestations, and the undeniable presence of sacredness and reverence. But it also reminds us that life never gives up; it is always seeking to expand and ready to accept the challenge of death by being transformed again into beautiful life. In this, we Christians have a breathtaking image, a powerful metaphor of what the resurrection experience meant for the first Christian communities, and for those who have continued to build on that experience of the resurrected Christ over the centuries—which now includes us at Hempstead.

I witnessed some sparks of resurrection life when we got together during the Lenten suppers. I heard laughs and saw smiles; I also noticed faces expressing thanksgiving for the meals and fellowship. Some of us indulged not just with desserts but also with companionship built on story sharing and listening. I learned from those with whom I had the opportunity to chat that life is a constant struggle for all of us. Recognizing how much we have received as an expression of gratitude gives us the strength to move on and be faithful to the journey of helping to build God's kingdom. Yes! Indeed! Those Wednesdays were long days; full days of working and driving and commuting, but also days promising a deeper faith built on loving and caring relationships in Christ.

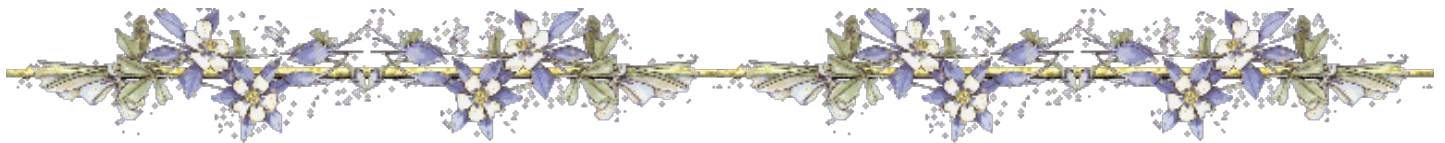
I perceived something similar at the Easter Egg Hunt. It was not just about giving food or toys or gifts to children but about creating a sacred and recreational

space for so many alienated families in our community: mothers and fathers who also have to overcome so many obstacles just to make it in life. I was glad to see the caring effort of those who organized the event, cooked, served, cleaned, supervised, painted children's faces, amused them with their customs, took pictures, and did so many other things, all of them inspired by divine love and by the belief that each human being deserves respect because each one of us is a reflection of God's image. Indeed, it demanded a lot of work and time but our greatest reward was to witness so many children and parents coming all together and having good quality time together as a family, right before our own eyes.

I cannot end these thoughts without expressing my gratitude for the experiences of the International Women's Day celebration, our Hempstead Fellowship Brunch, and Easter Sunday. When our celebrations and ministry help us to move to a higher level of consciousness of what the promise of abundant life means, our life purpose becomes clearer and our faith journey meaningful. Indeed, this puts us in the path of spiritual growth.

I hope we can continue to build on these experiences that I think bring us closer as friends, as brothers and sister in Christ, and as a community of believers working collectively to expand life wherever we are present—and certainly closer to the God of our friend, brother, and companion, Jesus Christ. Happy Easter!

Grace and Peace,  
*Rev. Rafael García*



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2016

**I**nternational Women's Day is a global effort that celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women around the world.

In honor of the ladies in our congregation, **Mr. Anthony Zemkus**, guest speaker from the Safe Center LI, delivered a well-received sermon during the March 6th Worship Service.



*Pictured above, right (L-R): Rev. Rafael Garcia, Anthony Zemkus of the Safe Center L.I., and Wayne Redman. Pictured above, left, (L-R): Rev. Rafael Garcia, and Anthony Zemkus.*

*Photos, courtesy of Grace Brammer*



## 2016 Church World Service Health Kit Campaign

The **Church World Service** campaign has begun and will extend through Sunday, April 17, 2016. Health kits provide the basic necessities in responding to the natural disasters and emergency situations here in the U.S. and around the world. A table and basket will be placed in the gym on Sundays for the deposit of your items and contributions. Items to be included are:

- One hand towel • One washcloth
- One comb • One nail clipper • One bath size bar of soap
- One toothbrush • Ten Band-aids

Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure. Processing/shipping is \$2.00. If you prefer, a donation of \$20.00 will allow CWS to provide a health kit. Packing day is on Monday, April 18, 2016. We need volunteers to put the kits together.

**Thank you for your continued support!**



# April Calendar

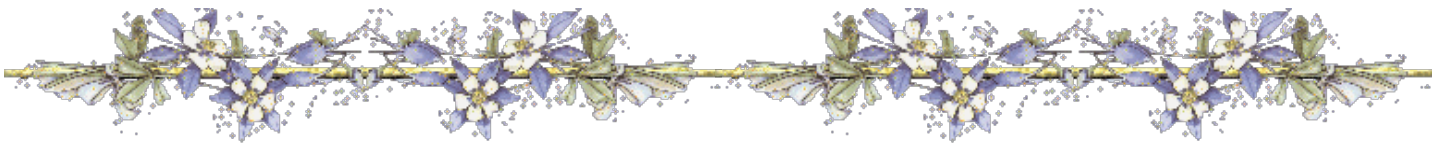
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED.	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Youth Ministries Gathering, 12 Noon  Bible Study, 8:30 am	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 <b>Native American Ministries Sunday</b>  Bible Study, 8:30 am	11	12 UMW Exec. Board and Lunch meeting, 10:30 am - 2 pm	13	14	15	16
17 Bible Study 8:30 am	18 Finance Committee 7:30 pm	19	20	21	22	23 <b>Hempstead Fellowship Brunch,</b> 11 am
24 Bible Study, 8:30 am	25	26	27	28	29	30 <b>Scholarship Dinner,</b> 6 pm - 9pm in the Gym

## Did You Know?

**Talking Books:** Launched in 1933 and sponsored by the Library of Congress, the National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) is a national network of cooperating libraries that distribute recorded books to people with vision loss.

These books are loaned and mailed **free of charge**, and are played on machines provided by the NLS program. The books come in special containers that are mailed back free of charge. Talking Books can also be downloaded from the Braille and Audio Reading Download website (BARD) for play on the Digital Talking Book Player via a USB thumb drive or on portable players compatible with the NLS format. To apply for this service, call (800) 424-8567, go to the NLS website, or visit your local library.





## UMW ANNUAL BRUNCH-A MEMORABLE EVENT!

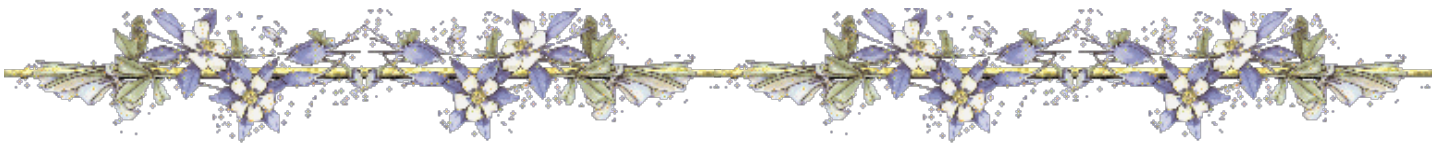


The UMW Annual Brunch was held on Saturday, March 14th. More than 50 people from the congregation and other churches attended this event. Guests enjoyed a lovely meal, prepared by members of the UMW.

After the meal, **Jackie Morgan**, president of the UMW at UMC of Hempstead, introduced guest speaker, **Victoria Roberts**, MSW, CASAC-T, who gave an informative and inspirational presentation that included her own trials and eventual triumph over addiction.

Ms. Roberts also spoke about how and where people in crisis can get help from various organizations, including the Women's Opportunity Rehabilitation Center (WORC).





## UMW ANNUAL BRUNCH-MARCH 12, 2016



# EASTER EGG HUNT-FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

I am so happy to report that our 9th Annual Easter Egg Hunt, held on Saturday, March 19th was a big success!! This success is all due to the many wonderful members of our church family who volunteered their time and efforts into the event. You are all simply awesome. So I am sending a great big "THANK YOU" to all of you for being so wonderful and giving.

Special thanks go to the following angels for donating candy, donating money, stuffing eggs, cooking and serving pancakes and bacon, setting up and breaking down, monitoring kids, making announcements, helping at the raffle drawing, face painting, crafting, bunny hop race, and photography:

Wayne Redman, Patrick Thomson, Margaret Foo, Bentley and Eileen Bailey, Elvia Reynolds, Bibi Boucicaut, Kevin Gray, Hoan and William Cates, Shirley Brown, Claude Gooding, Chrystelle Gooding, and her friends, Evan and Seabrook, Juliet Martin (and friend), Zoe Gomes, Nalani Mason, Wendy Persaud-Tyler, Petal Scantlebury, Amanda and her friend Jordan Tullock, Stevie and James Scantlebury, Jon Lee, Grace Brammer, Karen Bonnet, Malcolm Hall, Jadea Fields, Brandy Watson, Jackie Morgan, Sheila Smith, Joe Angus, Aldith Swaby, Shirley Brown, Charlene Pierre-Louis, Diane Clarke, Cathy Bahr, the McCullers, Helen Clarke, Gem Lilly, Janice LaLumia, Dani Dwyer, Elvia Reynolds, Winsome Green, Liz Johnson.

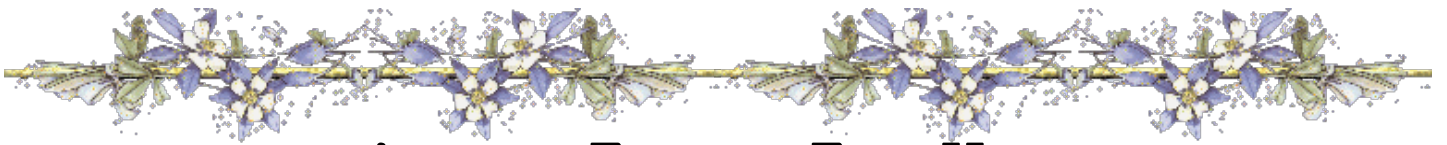
I would be remiss if I did not give a big thank you to the members of the Evangelism Committee: Royston Bailey – the best Easter Bunny in the land, (lol), Janice Wellington, always there whenever I need her, Kathy Aikens, committee secretary extraordinaire, Marilyn Aitcheson, ever helpful, and Marcia King, treasurer, stretching a dollar to bursting. We make a great team, thanks so much!

Last, but not least by any means, it meant so much to have Pastor Garcia there for the entire event. There is just such a special feeling when you not only have the moral support of the pastor, but to have him there in person is awesome. Kevin Gray, you're the best Bro!

As we close the door on this our 2016 event, I am grateful for my church family. I look forward to continuing to work with you all for the growth and strengthening of our church. God bless!

Much love and blessings,  
*Pearl Miles-Lee*  
 Chair, Evangelism Ministry





# AT THE EASTER EGG HUNT CANDY, GAMES, FOOD AND MORE!



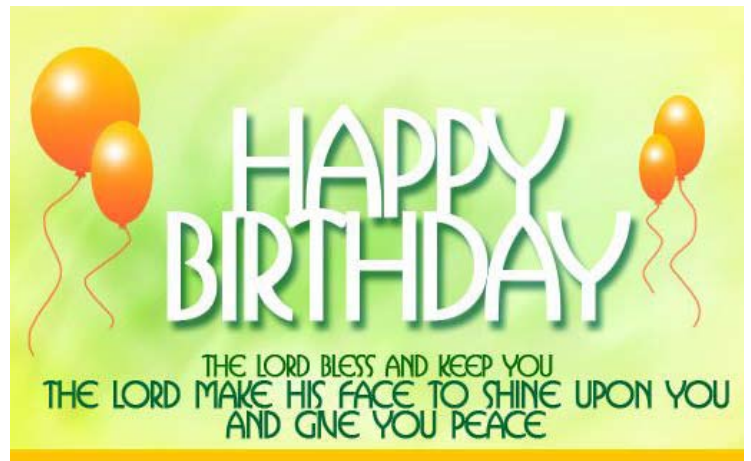


# Sunshine Column

## APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Candace Bahr	April 1st
Ann Corrie	April 2nd
Tashana Samuels	April 6th
Cathy Schuyler	April 6th
Marcia King	April 8th
Jennie Connolly	April 14th
Hazel Gooding	April 15th
Martha Wright	April 15th
Wayne Redman	April 17th
Rubia Rivas	April 18th
Mary Canty	April 20th
Leslie Bobb	April 20th
Ava Daley	April 22nd
Samuel Minto	April 23rd
Ryan Dwyer	April 25th
Stephanie Brown	April 29th
Jordan McCullers	April 29th
Edward Angus	April 30th
Claude Pierre-Louis	April 30th
Rose Walker	April 30th



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

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

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)



# The United Methodist Scholarship Committee Scholarship Dinner

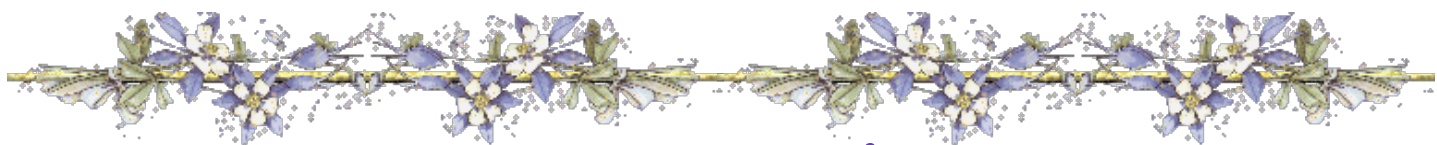
Saturday, April 30, 2016 ~ 6 pm to 9 pm



**Tickets**  
**\$20.00 - Adults**  
**\$10.00 - Children 12 years and under**  
Tickets may be purchased from Karen Benjamin, Lucy Brew, Charlene Brown, Daniella Dwyer, Linda Gomes, Hazel Gooding, Michelle McCullers, and Shari Bailey

Donations of prepared dishes  
are welcome  
For suggested menu items, a menu and  
sign-up sheet will be posted in the gym  
after service

The United Methodist Church of Hempstead  
40 Washington Street ~ Hempstead, NY 11550  
Office: 516-485-6363 Email: [hempsteadumc@gmail.com](mailto:hempsteadumc@gmail.com)  
Rev. Rafael Garcia, Pastor



## Easter Associates

With what do we associate Easter?  
Is it the 'EASTER BUNNY' sometimes standing  
straight and tall?

The 'INSPIRATION' it gives to children whether they are big or small

Is it the 'EASTER EGG'? - Milk chocolate so sweet  
The pretty 'CLOTHES' in which we adorn ourselves

Or the 'EASTER DAY' itself that represent  
special treats

A rewarding 'FANFARE of MUSIC' -  
Given to this special time and 'SERVICE'  
Which always speak of the 'RESURRECTION' --

Of our 'LORD and SAVIOR'.... JESUS  
With Him (Jesus) we can associate 'VICTORY'  
And 'TRIUMPH' over the 'GRAVE'  
Yes! Jesus Christ is 'RISEN' - He brings 'SALVATION'  
To the lost, the underprivileged and the brave

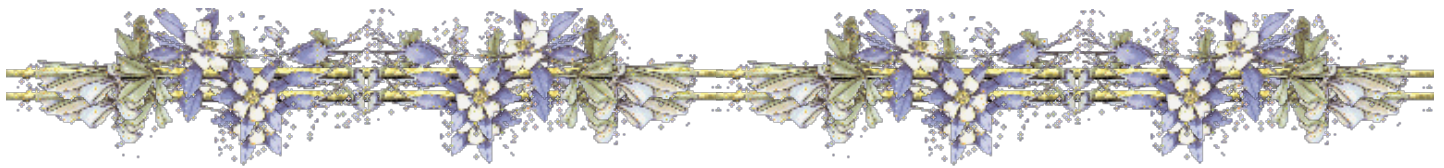
\*\*\*\*\* HAPPY EASTER! \*\*\*\*\*

J. Wellington • March /2016



### HEMPSTEAD FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH BRINGS MANY TOGETHER ON HOLY SATURDAY





## EASTER SUNDAY AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HEMPSTEAD



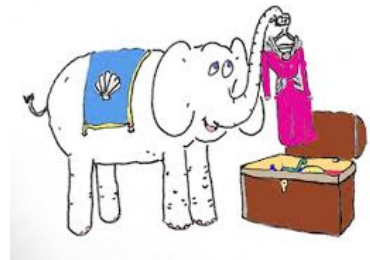
*Photos, courtesy of  
Kevin Gray,  
Choir Director*

## SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

**Saturday, May 7th ~ 9 - 2 pm**

**United Methodist Church of Hempstead  
40 Washington Street ~ Hempstead ~ NY  
516-485-6363**

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



*Spring is always a great time to clean out your closets - Your junk is someone else's gems! We are in need of volunteers to help out during the event. Please contact Catherine Bahr at 516-798-2103.  
Thank you!*



POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
The United Methodist Church of Hempstead  
"Parish News" at 40 Washington Street,  
Hempstead, NY 11550  
*Dated Material - Please Do Not Hold*

The Parish News (USPS 421-140 )  
The United Methodist Church of Hempstead,  
40 Washington Street, Hempstead, NY 11550  
Telephone: 516-485-6363 Fax: 516-485-4803

April 2016 / Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



***The Earth is a gift from God,*** and it is our responsibility as good stewards, to respect and take care of his gifts. The Native Americans believed it was each one's responsibility to maintain and preserve the land for the next seven generations. Not a bad idea! Now it is our responsibility. Before you "trash" anything (be it plastic, paper, aluminum, or whatever), think about how your acts will affect future generations. Recycling is important! We are a GREEN church.

***Some Sunday before or after service*** take a few minutes to read the front of the hymnal, page vii, "Directions for Singing" by John Wesley 1761. Remember to sing joyfully. And speaking of singing, perhaps the choir is the place for you. Rehearsals are on Thursday. Some of the benefits are: you never have to worry about what to wear; you have reserved seats; you can see who is in church without having to turn around; you will have the opportunity to use your voice to praise our Lord, and witness to His love and grace in song. Speak to Kevin or any choir member to learn more.

***Lenten Folders:*** By now, each of us have received our Lenten folders. If you have not already done so, please send in your Lenten donation to the church. Thank you and many blessings to all.

***Native American Sunday - 4/10/16:*** Through Native American Ministries Sunday, the UMC is able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they can do: authentically worship and serve Jesus. There are many Native Americans in our church community, including, Cherokee, Shinnecock, Creek, and the Arapahoe tribes.



***Pajamas Needed:*** The United Methodist Women are collecting pajamas during the month of April and requests the congregation to participate. The pajamas will be given to the Safe Center LI, where victims of domestic abuse go, sometimes leaving their homes with only the clothes on their backs. Pajamas, besides being used as sleepwear, can also be used as loungewear during the day. There will be a collection box in the narthex; please remember these women as you shop. All sizes needed.