



The Parish News

United Methodist Church of Hempstead
40 Washington Street Hempstead, NY 11550
Phone: (516) 485-6363 Email: hempsteadumc@gmail.com
Web: www.umchempstead.org



December 2018

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A Message From The Pastor's Desk



"Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come..." (Revelation 1:4b)

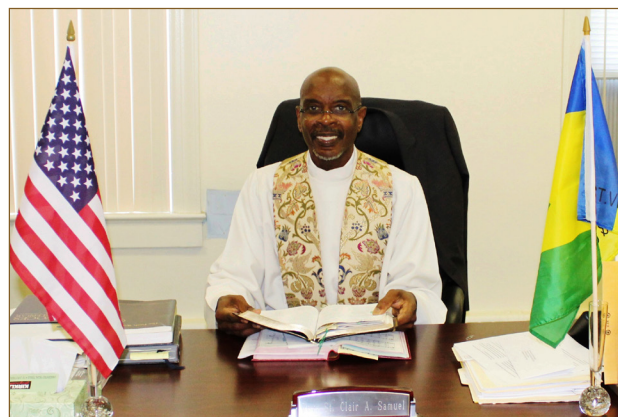
Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We are on the heels of the Advent season—a time of waiting and preparing for the Christ Child to come into our lives anew. Many Christians celebrate Advent not only by thanking God for the First Coming of Christ to earth as a baby, but also for his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit, and in preparation for, and in anticipation of, his Final Coming at the end of time.

Advent is intended to be a season of prayer, fasting and repentance much like Lent. Advent was considered to be a very serious time of the year, and the first two weeks were almost like a period of mourning. On the third Sunday of Advent, Christians began to be more joyful with the expectation of Christmas.

During this season, we prepare our homes for families and guests; we decorate; we cook special meals, and we attend parties nearly everywhere. Before we know it, preparation for what is certainly the happiest time of the year seems to become increasingly elaborate and demanding. For some of us, it is very difficult to focus on the meaning of the Coming of Christ.

We may place blame on the secular world which began the celebration of the Christmas season before Thanksgiving Day and continues it for days and weeks after. The same world has taken over the celebration of our Savior's birth.



One of the things we love about Christmas is how it brings families and loved ones together. But Christmas can be a painful time for those whose relationships have been broken.

What is your relationship with Jesus like right now, at this time of the year? I pray that you would seek a new encounter with him during this Advent and Christmas season. Begin with him right where you are. And make room for him in your heart, your life, and your plans.

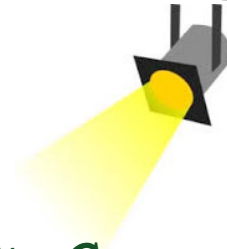
In all the hustle and bustle of the season, may we take time for Jesus and express our gratitude for his great love.

Yours in Christ,

St. Clair A. Samuel



In the Spotlight



The NYAC Bishop's Laity Convocation was held on Nov. 17, 2018 at the Tarrytown House Estate on the Hudson. The event featured a continental breakfast, Worship and Plenary, and Communion meditation; and welcomed Speaker and Author, Rev. Sue Nilson Kibby who gave an inspirational presentation. Royston Bailey and Thomas Pollock of the UMC of Hempstead had the opportunity to attend.

"It was one of the best presentations I have ever seen," said Royston. "The focus was on how prayer can turn a church from small to large — it was so powerful. I was very impressed."



Pictured above (L-R): Thomas Pollock, Rev. Sue Nilson Kibby, and Royston Bailey.



Pictured: Communion service and meditation at the Laity Convocation.

NYAC Laity Convocation



Pictured above (L-R): Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton and Royston Bailey.



Pictured (L-R): Benjamin Nelson and Roena Littlejohn.

Photos, courtesy of Royston Bailey.



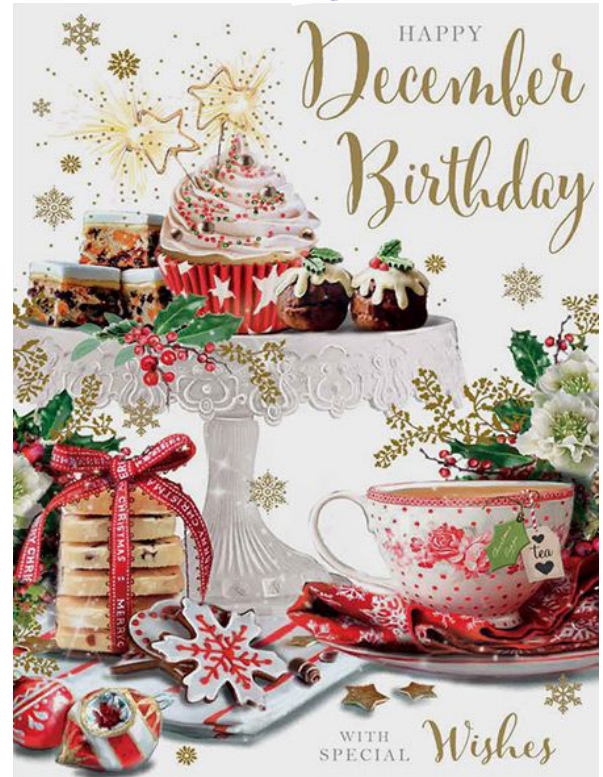
Sunshine Column

Birthday List - December 2018



Lance Koplitz
Christine Thomson
Frederick Draudt
Grace Brammer
Claudia Byam
James Scantlebury
Jonathan McCullers
Raymond Gomes
Nicole Clarke
Natasha Davidson
Rick Edwards

December 2nd
December 10th
December 7th
December 10th
December 12th
December 16th
December 17th
December 20th
December 22nd
December 24th
December 29th



If your name is not on this list, please contact Mary Johnson or Karen Bonnet 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 December 16th. The next *Parish News* will be distributed in January 2019. 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
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Morning Worship
(Social Hour to Follow)

Sunday: Service in Spanish, 12:30 PM
Wednesday: Bible Study, 7:30 PM
Thursday: Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM



Church Fair-2018





A Thanksgiving Feast at the Hempstead Fellowship Brunch



On November 17th, a Thanksgiving luncheon was prepared and cooked by Ruth Robinson and volunteers from the HFB committee. It was a wonderful occasion, with the traditional turkey, ham, and all the trimmings to make it a memorable meal for the guests. Volunteers were on hand from the church community and the Rotary Club of Hicksville South to serve all who attended. Kudos to the volunteers for the time and fellowship they provided to ensure everyone had a good time.





Harvest Sunday November 17, 2018



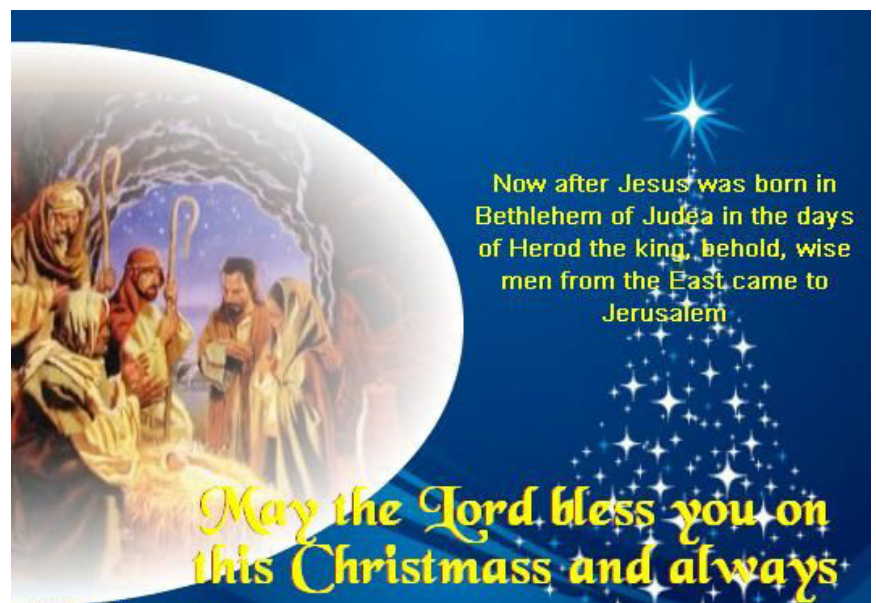
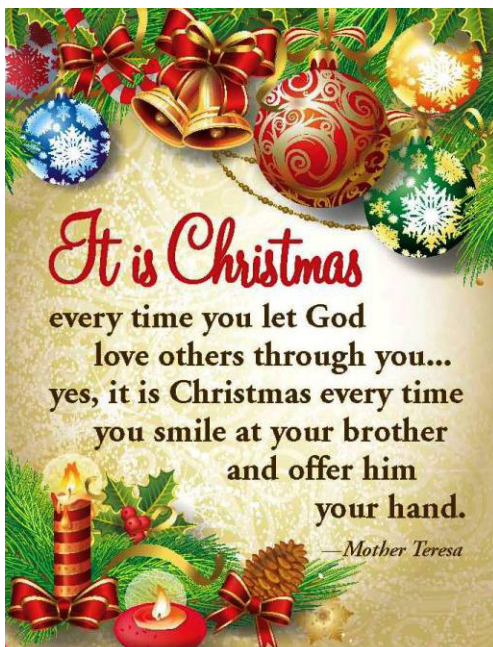
Harvest Sunday was a beautiful celebration of giving back to the congregation. For the occasion, the church was decorated with nature's bounty by Elizabeth Johnson and her committee; it looked both appetizing and beautiful. Everyone enjoyed the meaningful message that this day represented.





December Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Finance meeting (Budget), 7:30 pm	12	13	14	15 Trustees, 10am
16 Sunday School Christmas Pageant, 10 am	17 Church Council, 7:30 pm	18	19	20	21	22 Hempstead Fellowship Brunch, 11am-1pm
23 Lessons and Carols, 10 am	24 Christmas Eve Service, 7:30 pm	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29
30	31 Watch Night Service, 10:30 pm					



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The United Methodist Church of Hempstead,
40 Washington Street, Hempstead, NY 11550
Telephone: 516-485-6363 Fax: 516-485-4803



December 2018 Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



In the September issue of the *Parish News*, people were invited to save and submit to the church their cancelled stamps from the mail (container on the table in the Narthex). These stamps are forwarded to Alliance Stamp Ministry, and sold. The money is used to support preparation, publication and distribution of a Spanish language curriculum for Sunday Schools. Since 1972 to this year, one million dollars has been raised. All this from cancelled stamps - can you believe? With the receiving of Christmas cards, this is a reminder to please save the cancelled stamps.

The United Methodist Women are sponsoring their annual Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 15th, at Pompei Restaurant. Reservations are being taken during coffee hour; the cost is \$30. It is an occasion of good food and fellowship. Please plan to join the fun.

Christmas Card Tree: Once again everyone is given the opportunity to send greetings to their church family through a donation to the Red Stocking Campaign. How it works: figure the amount you would spend on cards, stamps, etc., bring it to the tree during coffee hour, and your name will be placed on the tree, and listed in the bulletin and Parish News. The campaign is sponsored by the Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. They never turn a person away from the ER, no matter their ability to pay. The money goes to provide necessities to those most in need. Please give generously.

On December 16th, the UMW will be packing home-made cookies for our shut-ins and staff. If you would like to participate, cookies are needed. While you are baking for the holidays, make an extra batch and bring them (labeled) to church on the 15th and leave them in the gym kitchen. They all make wonderful gifts; we give as a reminder of the thoughts and prayers that come with the cookies. Even if you usually don't bake for the holiday, this is a chance to turn on some Christmas music, your oven, and have down time from your busy schedule.

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR): In September/October we collected \$725 for the victims of hurricane Florence. Since that time, it seems every week there is another disaster around the world. And now we see

the horror of the California fires. UMCOR is there (as well as for all disasters). All administration costs by UMCOR are paid by the Church, therefore every dollar received in donations is used for the victims. PLEASE – when a disaster happens that hurts your heart, GIVE. Use the pew envelopes, indicate it for UMCOR and give what you can. Perhaps you can make this a monthly donation. No amount is too small nor too large. Most of all, pray for the victims.

On December 15th, the Sunday School will present us with a Christmas program - always a joy! It has been a tradition in this church for the congregation to bring new toys wrapped and labeled (boy or girl, and child's age). These toys are delivered to the Long Island Council of Churches to be distributed to families in need. There are many families in the area who have trouble paying rent or putting food on the table and have no extra for the extravagance of toys. All children deserve the thrill of having a package on Christmas morning. Let's all help make sure this can happen.

For those who have signed up for the April trip to Sight & Sound to see "Jesus," the second installment of \$50 is due this month. Please see Elizabeth Williams or Jean Bearak during coffee hour.

Advent coin boxes have been distributed. When you go shopping, put your change in the box. The money is used to support the ministries of the church. If you did not receive an Advent box or need another, there is a basket with extra boxes in the Narthex, so please help yourself.

On Sunday, December 23rd, we will be honored to hear a service of "Lessons and Carols" directed by Kevin Gray. How blessed we are to have Kevin as part of our family. This is a service no one should miss. You will leave with the Christmas Spirit in your heart that will last. "Tis' the reason for the season."

Acolytes are needed: We are looking for more students to become acolytes because three of our students are graduating. Any parent with a child age 12 to 18 who is interested in more information, please call Dani Dwyer at 516-404-9648, or email her at: skygirl1989@aol.com.

