



The Parish News

United Methodist Church of Hempstead
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December 2019

Volume 76-No. 924

A Message from the Pastor's Desk



Dear Members and Friends,

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) NRSV

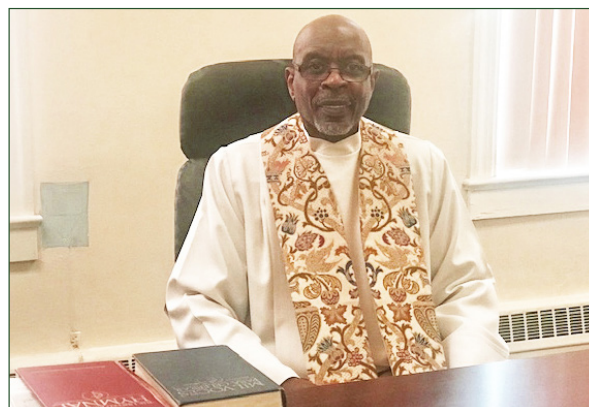
We are in the season of Advent and only a few days away from Christmas--the season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. This most wonderful time of the year is about God fulfilling his promises by allowing His Son to become human like us and live among us.

Eugene Peterson in The Message Bible simplifies the above passage for us: "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish." (John 1:14)

As we prepare for Christmas, may we find moments for quiet meditation and reflection on the One who connects us to God and makes our celebrations possible--Jesus Christ our Lord. May he find a home in each of our hearts and bless us and our families this time and always.

A cordial invitation is extended to everyone to worship with us during the Advent and Christmas seasons, on the following days:

Sunday, December 8 (Acolytes' Consecration at 10:00 a.m.)



Sunday, December 15 (Christmas Pageant at 10:00 a.m.)

Sunday, December 22 (Joint Service of Lessons and Carols at 10:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve Candle Lighting at 7:30 p.m.)

Sunday, December 29 (First Sunday after Christmas 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Spanish)

Tuesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve/Watch Night Service at 10:30 p.m.)

Sunday, January 5, 2020 (Epiphany/Covenant Sunday at 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., Spanish)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you, your family, and all of your loved ones!

Yours in Christ,

St. Clair A. Samuel



Harvest Sunday

Harvest Sunday, held this year on November 24th, is an annual event at the UMC of Hempstead. Together, the congregation gives thanks for the food grown on the land, and gives praise to God for providing the natural bounty that springs from the earth.

The Sanctuary was decorated beautifully with baskets of produce from the land. The service included prayers, songs of praise, and fellowship; everyone had the opportunity to come to the altar and was given a gift of fruit and vegetables to bring home.

Liz Johnson, chairperson of the Harvest committee, organizes the event each year and goes above and beyond to ensure it is a meaningful and memorable occasion for all.



***“Oh, give thanks to the Lord for
He is good; For His loving kindness
is everlasting.” - Psalm 107:1***



Photos, courtesy of Linda Gomes.



November 24, 2019



HARVEST SUNDAY





Sunshine Column

Birthday List - Happy Birthday!



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

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



Happy December Birthday!

If your name is not on this list, please contact Mary Johnson or Karen Bonnet in the church office.

Hempstead Fellowship Brunch: Nov. 23rd

The Hempstead Fellowship Brunch held on November 23rd was a festive occasion with a Thanksgiving feast that consisted of turkey, ham, macaroni and cheese, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, desserts, and plenty of other food and refreshments, prepared and donated by volunteers of the church. The committee was able to provide delicious home-made meals to 161 people from the community. Rev. Elizabeth Williams presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Quddus Mohammed of the Rotary Club of Hicksville South for the group's generous support and outstanding volunteer efforts. After the presentation, Rev. Samuel led the group in prayer.





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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 the end of August. The next *Parish News* will be distributed in December 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



UMW Church Fair




The **UMW annual Church Fair** was held on Nov. 9th, 2019. The festive event had something for everyone, including beautiful Christmas crafts and cards, fresh vegetables, jewelry, houseware items, pecans and cheese, home-made baked goods, and a coffee room with bagels, coffee and tea. Volunteers from the congregation were on hand to assist at the fair. The UMW raised \$2,100.





December Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 Bible Study, 7:30 pm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Bible Study, 7:30 pm	12	13	14
15 Christmas Pageant, 10 am	16	17	18 Bible Study, 7:30 pm	19	20	21 Hempstead Fellowship Brunch, 11 am-1 pm
22 Lessons and Carols, 10 am	23	24 Christmas Eve service, 7:30 pm	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve service, 10:30 pm				

Advent, Christmas and New Year's Eve Worship Dates

Advent: Sunday, December 8th (Acolytes' Consecration) - 10:00 am
 Sunday, December 15th (Christmas Pageant) - 10:00 am
 Sunday, December 23rd (Joint Service of Lessons & Carols) - 10:00 am

Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24th - 7:30 pm

First Sunday after Christmas: December 29th - 10:00 am (English) 12:30 pm (Spanish)

New Year's Eve: Tuesday, December 31st - 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 2019 Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



Church World Service: On November 17th, \$552 was collected for blankets for Church World Service. This will give 55+ people, after experiencing a disaster in their life, a blanket hug from us. What a blessing.

Pajamas for Safe Center: Twenty-four pairs of new pajamas were donated in November for the women at Safe Center. Thank you for your generosity.

Advent Boxes are available again this year in the Narthex. When you come home from shopping this season, put your loose change in the box. The money raised is used to support the ministries of the church. The boxes can be returned at any time and given to an usher. Pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters (bills too) add up and help us to continue the church's work.

Christmas Card Tree: Once again, you have the opportunity to send greetings to your church family through a donation to Brooklyn Methodist Hospital's Red Stocking Campaign. No one is turned away when they come to the hospital and the funds raised through Red Stocking provide new socks, underwear, etc. to those in need. Come to the Christmas Card Tree during coffee hour; make a donation and your name will go on the tree which will be displayed in the Narthex. A list of donors, sending greetings, will be in the bulletin and Parish News. This is a way of ensuring everyone in the church gets your good wishes (and you can reduce the number of cards you send).

White Christmas: On Sunday, December, 15th, the church will be celebrating White Christmas. The congregation is asked to bring wrapped toys labeled boy or girl, and age; the toys will be given to families in need. Every child should have a package or two to open Christmas morning. As you shop this season, please pick up an extra toy or two to bring on the 15th; they will be collected at the altar during service.

Homemade Cookies: On Monday, December 16th, 10am, the UMW will be packing homemade cookies for our shut-ins and staff. If you can't make it to help pack, cookies may be brought to church Sunday the 15th. A variety of cookies make the gifts special, so if you can provide a batch of homemade cookies—what a blessing. Thank you.

Christmas Luncheon: The UMW Christmas Luncheon is on Saturday, December 21, 2019 at the Pompei Restaurant in West Hempstead. A day of fellowship and good food. Reservations, \$35, will be taken during coffee hour on December 8th & 15th. Plan to join the fun.

Little Things Matter

*A breath to sing or to pray
A little time given from your day
An extended hand to the needy
Which often says "I care"
A phone call, a greeting card
A coin dropped in a beggar's cup
A thank you, a loving smile
May touch a heart to wake it up*

*The Widow's mite, the Publican's prayer
One Leper returning to give thanks without fear
five loaves, two fish, one mouth to feed
Five thousand benefitted when given to their need
A little oil, a cup of meal, to bake a cake for two
A last morsel, first shared with a stranger
Lasted longer than any of them knew
Just a staff to Moses as plain as can be
Instrumental in parting the waters of the Red Sea*

*One touch of the hem of Jesus' garment
Brought healing so one continued to live
We too can touch others with kindness
Thankfulness, faith, hope and love
We we, out of our "little," - Give!*

"Give and it shall be given unto you!" - Luke 6:38

References: Mark 12:42, Luke 18:13, Luke 17:15,
Matthew 14:17, 21, 1 Kings 17:12
Exodus 14:16, Matthew 9:19

Janice Wellington - November 2019