



February 2018

Volume 76-No. 86

A Message From The Pastor's Desk



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God: everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." - 1 John 4:7

We all need the encouragement of a community that loves. For most of us, this love comes through the fellowship of a Christian congregation in which the love of people reflects the love of God.

Women and men who are not Christians often have a sharp eye out for those of us who are known as followers of Christ. These men and women know what goes on in our churches. If we are unfriendly and unkind to one another, they know it. If we live lovingly and peacefully with each other, they can sense it. According to the words of the song, "They'll know we are Christians by our love."

One of the things which make people stop and ponder is when they hear a Christian, who has experienced some difficult or trying times say with sincerity, "My church family was there for me." As Christians, the way we love one another is not only a way of blessing one another, but it is a way of being a positive witness to others also.



Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. The early Christians modeled this love for us in that they met the needs of the whole community (Acts 2:44-45). We, too, are called to care for and to express our concerns for others in ways that reflect God's love for us.

Do we have family members, friends, co-workers, or neighbors who are not part of our church circle or fellowship? How about those people in our society who are forgotten or marginalized? Remember, they are part of the world which God loves, and we are called to love them as well.

May God fill us with his love and enable us to love, "not in words or speech, but in truth and action."

Yours in Christ,

St. Clair A. Samuel



A Worship Moment

by Jean Howell

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.”
- Psalm 51:10*

Once again, we Christians enter the church season of Lent. On the days before Ash Wednesday, many of us spend much time in revelry and feasting. Then, during the next 40 days, we fast and repent! On Ash Wednesday, many follow the practice of wearing ashes displayed on our foreheads to make known our penitence to others. We are also saying to them that we are sinners!

It takes courage, doesn't it, to admit to our peers that we are sinners. To make our repentance known to God, however, takes much more than this outward symbol. We must not only acknowledge to Him that we are sinners, but must confess those sins and truly repent of them, and change our words, thoughts and actions. Then He will cleanse us and make us new persons. The ashes on our foreheads are in the sign of a cross, reminding us of our redemption via the cross of Christ. Of course, we can never earn the redemption and salvation offered there. We can only accept it as God's gift of love.

Let us use this solemn season to search our hearts honestly, to seek to better know the Lord we profess, and to follow Him more closely so that the coming celebration of Easter may be more beautiful and meaningful than ever.

Note: The late Jean Howell was a long-time member and friend of the United Methodist Church of Hempstead, and inspired many in the congregation with her thoughtful insights. She wrote “A Worship Moment” as a regular column for the newsletter. Jean will be always be remembered by the congregation for her beautiful words and giving nature.





HFB: Growing Together in Faith, Fellowship, and Love

Happy New Year to everyone! The Hempstead Fellowship Brunch (HFB) ministry began the new year with a New Year's Day Brunch, as well as its monthly brunch meeting, both open to all in the community.

The Jan. 27th HFB was well-attended by guests who enjoyed a wonderful meal of chicken and side dishes, as well as refreshments and desserts, prepared by HFB committee members. The Rotary Club of Hicksville South was also on hand to assist, and many items of clothing were donated and distributed to many in need. Thank you to all who volunteered.



Photos, courtesy of Linda Gomes.





HFB Provides Hot Meals to Many In Our Community





Sunshine Column

Birthday List - Happy Birthday!



Patrick Thomson
Hugh Brown
Daniella Johnson
Celeste Walwyn
Jean Bearak
Louise Josephson
Alexis Redman
Chelsea Redman
Xavyer Thomson
Meda Hill
Dorothy Zondag
Miriam Harris
Paulette Brown
Marilyn Harris
Shirley Brown
Jackie Morgan

February 3rd
February 4th
February 5th
February 6th
February 9th
February 10th
February 10th
February 10th
February 11th
February 12th
February 13th
February 14th
February 16th
February 17th
February 18th
February 18th

Ruth Robinson
Roger Eastman
Shari Bailey
Norman Brown
Daniella Dwyer
Clifford Brown
Natalie Moran
Xavier Gooding
Stephen Samuel
Jon Lee

February 20th
February 21st
February 23rd
February 24th
February 24th
February 26th
February 26th
February 26th
February 28th
February 29th

For we are his
workmanship,
created in Christ
Jesus for good
works, which
God prepared
beforehand,
that we should
walk in them.
EPHESIANS 2:10

Happy
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!

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 Feb. 17th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed in March 2018. 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)



Poetic Reflections

MY SHOPPING LIST



Heaven's
Grocery
Store

It was time again for me to shop –
At Heaven's Grocery store
I went down on my knees in prayer
As I had often done before
I wrote my list of Faithful things
That I needed, daily to live by
Then as I shopped, I filled my basket
Often stopping to give a sigh

I knew I needed lots of **FAITH**
The Ingredient of all Christian things
HOPE for what I cannot see
PATIENCE to wait for what life brings
I searched for **LOVE**, high upon a shelf
This I thought would be within Myself
Then **PEACE**, with **JOY** was presented right then
I snatched them both up – A real Godsend
As I looked around, I wondered –
Where would **ENDURANCE** be?
Wouldn't you know! I spotted it!
Right next to **STRENGTH**, how did I not see?

Basket seem full, I then rise up
Checking on what I had found
The **HOLY SPIRIT** intervened with –
Where is **MERCY**? Surely that should abound!
I packed a lot, then asked for **GRACE**
FORGIVENESS too; as these were free
With **THANKS** I ended my shopping
I received a **BLESSING** as I got off my knees.

Janice Wellington
Jan. - 2018



February Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Confirmation class, 8:45 am	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Confirmation class, 8:45 am	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday Happy Valentines's Day!	15	16	17 Trustees, 10 am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Hempstead Fellowship Brunch, 11-2 pm Finance Committee, 10 am
25 Confirmation class, 8:45 am	26 Church Council, 7:30 pm	27	28			
 Lenten Calendar						

February 14 at 7:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Service
 Lenten Suppers and Sponsors - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Lenten Reflections - 8:00 pm - 8:30 pm

February 21 - Worship
 February 28 - UMW & UM Men
 March 7 - Mission & Finance
 March 14 - Hispanic Ministry & Choir
 March 21 - Trustees & SPPR

March 25 at 10:00 am - Palm Sunday Service
 March 29 at 7:30 pm - Holy Thursday Service with Communion & Stripping of the Altar
 March 30 at 12 Noon - Good Friday Service UM Cluster #1 at the UMC of Uniondale
 April 1 at 6:30 am - Easter Sunrise Service organized by the Sunday School
 April 1 at 10:00 am - Easter Sunday Service (English) with Communion in the Sanctuary
 April 1 at 12:30 pm - Easter Sunday Service (Spanish) with Communion in the Chapel

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

February 2018 Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



In 2017, \$293.57 was collected through Gratitude/Advent boxes turned in by members of the congregation. The money is used to help pay the church's expenses, but the more important benefit is the thoughts of the church, or perhaps a short prayer, as you put coins in the box each day. We all praise God on Sunday, but remember God is with us all week. The gratitude boxes are in a basket in the narthex - help yourself and the church.

On January 14th, there was a special collection for Human Relations Sunday. We raised \$293 to assist those most in need of a helping hand.

The United Methodist Women will be meeting Saturday, February 10th at 11:30; bring a sandwich lunch, as beverages and dessert will be provided, followed with a program. All women are invited. Future meetings will be on the third Saturday every month except July and August. This is a change from the Tuesday meetings to be more inclusive of the women of the church. We look forward to seeing you there to share in food, fun and fellowship.

Each week, the sick and shut-in are printed in the

bulletin and we are asked to keep them in our prayers. Take it a step further. If you haven't seen someone in church, give a call, send a card. That extra bit of love so helps in the healing process. Also, in reverse, if you are in need, let your church family know. Call the Pastor or church office. If you are not in church, people may assume you are on vacation, or because of the weather. Here is another thought - if someone you know is missing on Sunday, give them a call to let them know they were missed.

Discretionary Funds: Money the Pastor has to use for those in need; this can be from the congregation or those who come to the door. It is the Pastor's discretion, he does not report to anyone who has received this help. (He does give a general report but never includes names). In 2017, \$600 was drawn from this account for use. The money comes from the collection plates as you go to communion and direct donations. These funds make it possible for the Church through the Pastor to carry on the work Christ commanded.

Be kind to animals, be kind to trees,
Be kind to the earth and everything on it,
Be kind to children and one another,
...and God will be kind to you.
And thats a promise!
Signed, GOD

From Best Friends Magazine, Jan./Feb. 2008