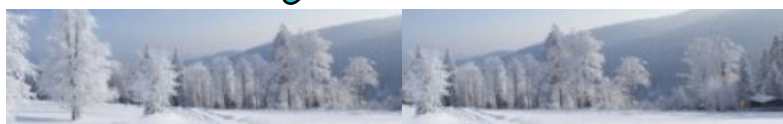




January 2018

Volume 76-No. 85

A Message From The Pastor's Desk



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new'." Revelation 21:5a

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The year 2018 has arrived. We give thanks to Almighty God for watching over us and seeing us through the past year. The mere fact that we are alive suggests that there is hope. This hope is based on the promises that God himself has pledged to all who will put their trust in him.

The simple thought that God makes everything new is very profound. He promises newness of life. And the closer we live to him and his will for our lives, the more we are able to draw upon his power and enact the changes he desires in and for our lives.

By his Word and through the Holy Spirit, God works to accomplish his will to bring about those changes in our lives and in order to meet us at the points of our needs. We can bring our needs to him, and we can expect to receive his help.

Sometimes, a new year may not bring with it feelings of joy or excitement. But God is still with us. He who makes all things new is available to us. He wants us to have assurance that no matter how much evil and suffering we see, he will continue to make all things new.



While we have no clue what this year holds for us, we can rest assured that the One who holds the future will guide us by the hand. Let us strive to walk in the ways of Christ and commit ourselves to work together to make his church a better place for everyone.

May our Lord and Savior grant us the fullness of his grace this year; may we discover and enjoy his peace in the midst of our trying and painful moments; and may we remember his promise, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Best wishes for a blessed New Year!

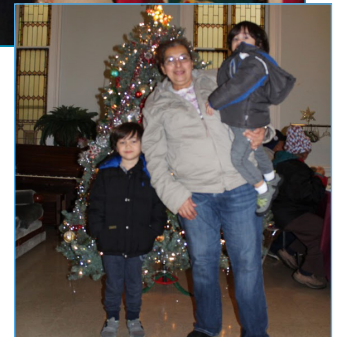
Yours in Christ,

St. Clair A. Samuel



Hempstead Fellowship Brunch Celebrates the Holidays in Style

The HFB was a festive event with more than 120 people attending on Dec. 23rd to share a home-made holiday dinner in the spirit of the holidays. Mayor Don Ryan joined the group to spread Christmas cheer. He is pictured with Ruth Robinson and her committee volunteers.



Photos,
courtesy
of Linda
Gomes.





UMW Christmas Luncheon



The UMW organized their annual Christmas luncheon held at Pompei's in West Hempstead on Dec. 11th. Everyone had a wonderful time!





A Festive Event on December 11th





Sunshine Column

Birthday List - Happy Birthday!



Eileen Bailey	January 6th
Daniel Nwatu	January 10th
Lauren Koplitz...	January 10th
Houghland Green	January 12th
Denise Edwards	January 13th
Alexis Nwatu	January 17th
Murielle Bernadotte	January 18th
Vahhon McCullers	January 18th
Bianca Bailey	January 21st
Winston Robinson	January 22nd



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 Jan. 17th.

The next *Parish News* will be distributed in February 2018. Your church-related articles and photos are welcome.

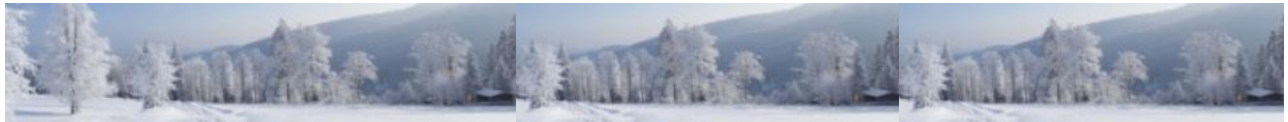
If you are new to the church and wish to become a member, please see Pastor.

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)



UMW Christmas Cookie Exchange

The Christmas cookie exchange has been a staple in the church community that has brought cheer to many. Every year during the holiday season, the ladies of the UMW bake home-made cookies and share their scrumptious treasures with others. This holiday tradition began many years ago—since the UMC of Hempstead opened its doors, and it continues to be enjoyed by the congregation.



Pictured above (L-R): Miriam Harris, Jackie Morgan, Jean Bearak, and Janice LaLumia, as they prepare the cookies for distribution.

Long Island Council of Churches and UMC of Hempstead Collect Toys During the Holidays



Together with the support of the congregation and friends, the UMW organized a toy collection in December. The toys are given to families who would not be able to buy toys for their children. After the toys are collected they are brought to the Long Island Council of Churches who distributes them to families in the community. This year, 108 toys were collected. **Many thanks to everyone who donated and distributed toys to ensure these families had a merry Christmas!**

Pictured (L-R): Yolanda Murray of the LICC, Karen Bonnet, Mary Johnson, Jackie Morgan, Jean Bearak, Rubia Rivas, Janice LaLumia, and Miriam Harris.



January Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day Brunch	2	2	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Confirmation Class, 8:45 am	22 Church Council, 7:30 pm	23	24	25	26	27 HFB, 11-1 pm
28 Confirmation class, 8:45 am	29	30	31			

Red Stocking Campaign

Christmas Seasons Greetings and a Happy, Healthy 2018 from...

Rubia Rivas
Jean Bearak
Dot Zondag
Carol Allen
Miriam Harris
Margaret Foo
Rev. Elizabeth Williams
Daniella, Ryan & Nicole Dwyer
Catherine Bahr
Pauline Lewis
Winston Robinson
Pearl Miles-Lee
Elnora Brevard
Patrick & Christine Thomson
Diane Clarke

Joseph Angus
Grace Brammer
Janice LaLumia
Marcia & Duncan Chase
Brenda Samuel
Karen Lettsome
Julia Ross
Bentley & Eileen Bailey
Candace Bahr
Cynthia Hutchinson
Alexis & Chelsea Redman
Kevin Gray
David Reid
Charmaine Feilds
Pat Scholz

*A total of \$525 was donated to the Methodist Hospital's
Red Stocking campaign to bring these greetings.*



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



January 2018 Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



NEED: Mushroom containers. After service on Sunday, the altar flowers are given to the donor or delivered to shutins. Needless to say, since the brass containers cannot be given out, something is needed to transport the flowers and the mushroom containers are the right size. Please give any you may have (or any containers that size) to Julia Ross. Thank you.

Our thanks to Shari Bailey (Sunday School superintendent) and Kevin Gray (music director) for the lovely service on December 17th. The children did a wonderful job and the music was outstanding—the choir, the men's anthem and Nicole Dwyer on the violin. It was also the day we donate toys for children in need; 110 gifts were delivered to the Long Island Council of Churches to help make Christmas merrier for those who would do without. Thank you to the congregation for making this happen.

Thank you to all who donated to the Christmas Card tree. Not only are you wishing your church family happy holidays, your contribution is forwarded to Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, to help provide services to the needy. No one is ever turned away. What a precious gift to give.

Human Relations Sunday: January 14, 2018
Please come prepared

Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called "the least of these." Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People such as:

- An immigrant teenager in Texas' poorest county, being recruited by a local gang.
 - A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas.
 - An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work.
- Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that's what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus we established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God's children to realize their potential.

Will You Support the Ministry of Christ Among Those on the Margins?



Heartfelt thanks to my wonderful Hempstead Fellowship Brunch Committee who contributed so much of their time and care this year to ensure the brunch is a special time for the people in the community who attend each month. I could not do it without all of you. I am also grateful to everyone who made monetary and food donations during the year; your help and assistance ensure we continue to provide warm, delicious meals and fellowship to those who need it most. I am looking forward to another successful year with all of you. Have a happy, healthy and blessed New Year.

- Ruth Robinson