



# The Parish News

United Methodist Church of Hempstead  
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March 2019

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## A Message From the Pastor's Desk



*"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness where for forty days he was tempted by the devil." (Luke 4:1-2, NRSV)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Once more, we are about to enter the period of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 6) and ends on Holy Saturday (April 20). This is a time for reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter--the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The number forty is significant in the Holy Scriptures. The most notable reference is Jesus' forty days of temptation in the wilderness which is a reflection of the forty days Moses spent on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:18). During the forty days of Lent Christians recall or relive Jesus' journey in the wilderness and his sacrifice on the cross of Calvary. Christian churches that observe Lent use it as a time for self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting, and self-denial.

Today, only a small number of people fast for the entire period of Lent, although some maintain the practice on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting can be a special time of renewing our relationship with God. It is a way for us to pay more attention to the voice of God. Also, it is a way of disciplining ourselves so that when temptations arise in our lives, we are able to say no to our cravings and desires.

According to Sarah Phillips, "Lent offers us an opportunity to come to terms with the human condition we spend the



rest of the year running from and it brings our need for a Savior to the forefront. Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday comes, and eventually Easter, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to experience the overflowing grace God has to offer."

My prayer is that as we journey through this season of Lent we will enter the season of Easter with an increased appreciation for what God has done and continues to do in our lives.

Yours in Christ,

St. Clair A. Samuel

Phillips, Sarah. "Lent 101: "Honoring the Sacrifices of Jesus," 20 Mar. 2006, [www.Crosswalk.com](http://www.Crosswalk.com). Accessed 26 Feb. 2019.





# February Hempstead Fellowship Brunch



February 23, 2019





United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

## Join Us At the United Methodist Women's Annual Brunch Sat., March 16, 10 am - 1 pm

### Social Hall of the UMC of Hempstead

*Guest Speaker: Amanda Furcall, Executive Director of  
Friends of Hempstead Plains*

*Delicious entrees, desserts, fruit, salads, hot and cold beverages*

*Please bring a non-perishable food item  
for our food pantry. Bring a guest!*



### Save the Dates!

- *Annual Luncheon: June 15, 2019 at Davenport Press in Westbury, 12-3 pm (Cost is \$35). Please sign up during Coffee Hour.*
- *Trip to Sight and Sound in PA to see new production of "Jesus" followed by an Amish buffet lunch.*
- *Join in our next discussion at our April gathering!*

The United Methodist Church of Hempstead • 40 Washington Street • Hempstead, NY 11550  
Telephone: 516-485-6363 • [www.umchempstead.org](http://www.umchempstead.org) • Rev. St. Clair A. Samuel





# Sunshine Column



## Birthday List - March 2018

George Knight	March 8th
Irma Alleyne-Mahabir	March 8th
Maxine Knight	March 11th
Paul Ross	March 12th
Kimberly Johnson	March 13th
Beatrice Nwatu	March 14th
Jade Page	March 14th
Linda Gomes	March 15th
Charlene Pierre-Louis	March 17th
Glenston Bucknor	March 19th
Sheila Smith	March 20th
Janice LaLumia	March 20th
Nadine Samuels	March 31st
Errol Foo	March 31st

Birthday  
Blessings to  
all



March

*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](mailto:hempsteadumc@gmail.com), or drop them off in the church office by March 16th. The next *Parish News* will be distributed in April 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



# UMC of Hempstead UMW Gathering

## February 16, 2019



### MISSION OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The entire program and organization of United Methodist Women focuses on mission. UMW mission initiatives include:

- Providing opportunities to grow spiritually
- Equipping women & girls to be leaders
- Providing transformative educational experiences
- Organizing for growth & flexibility
- Working for justice through service & advocacy

From its beginning, United Methodist Women has focused on ministries with women, children, and youth.

A special emphasis of United Methodist Women is children, because women care for children. If children are raised with safety, security, food, shelter, education, and basic human rights, these children will grow to be loving and secure adults. United Methodist Women believe deeply in responding to Jesus' mandate to "care for the least of these."

United Methodist Women also work with youth organizations globally and with programs and projects that support and empower youth.



*Pictured, left: The United Methodist Women met recently to plan for future missions and events to help women and youth.*





## Lent and Easter Schedules

**March 6th** - Ash Wednesday, service at 7:30 pm

**March 13th** - Lenten Supper, 7 pm  
(UMW and UM Men)

**March 20th** - Lenten Supper, 7 pm  
(Worship, Evangelism, and Ushers)

**March 27th** - Lenten Supper, 7 pm  
(Missions and Finance)

**March 31st** - UMCOR Sunday

**April 3rd** - Lenten Supper, 7 pm  
(Trustees and SPPR)

**April 10th** - Lenten Supper, 7 pm  
(Hispanic Ministry and Choir)

**April 14th** - Passion/Palm Sunday, service, 10 am

**April 18th** - Maundy Thursday, 7:30 pm joint  
service with Communion and foot-washing

**April 19th** - Good Friday Cluster #1 Service

**April 20th** - Holy Saturday

**April 21st** - Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 am  
Easter Sunday Service in English, 10 am  
Easter Sunday Service in Spanish, 12:30 pm

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## A Worship Moment


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

Once again we Christians enter the church season of Lent. On the days preceding 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 penitance 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. - Jean Howell

*Note: Jean Howell was a member of the UMC of Hempstead for many years until her passing in April 2014. A dedicated lady who was active in church activities, she was also a caring, spiritual person who made a positive impact on many people in the congregation and within her family. She wrote her inspirational “A Worship Moment” articles for the congregation to enjoy.*



# March Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Lenten dinner 7:00 pm	7	8	9 Evangelism, 12 Noon
10	11	12	13 Lenten dinner, 7:00 pm Reflections, 8 pm	14	15	16 Trustees, 10:00 am UMW Brunch 10:00 am
17 UMM, 8:30 am Women's Day Service, 10 am 	18	19 Finance, 7:30 pm	20 Lenten dinner, 7:00 pm Reflections, 8 pm	21	22	23 Hempstead Fellowship Brunch, 11am-1pm
24	25 Church Council, 7:30 pm	26	27 Lenten dinner, 7:00 pm Reflections, 8 pm	28	29	30
31						

Be JOYFUL in *hope*,  
PATIENT in *affliction*,  
FAITHFUL in *prayer*.

ROMANS 12:12

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
The United Methodist Church of Hempstead  
"Parish News" at 40 Washington Street,  
Hempstead, NY 11550

The Parish News (USPS 421-140 )  
The United Methodist Church of Hempstead,  
40 Washington Street, Hempstead, NY 11550  
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March 2019 Editor and Art Director: Karen Bonnet



**All Women Are Invited:** March 16th, 10am, Annual Sisterhood Brunch. Invitations have been forwarded to 14 women's groups, and you are also invited to join in the fellowship. The guest speaker will be Amanda Furcall, executive director of The Friends of Hempstead Plains. Admission is one can/box of food to help feed the hungry in our area.

**March 31st is UMCOR Sunday:** It's an opportunity for United Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. The United Methodist Committee on Relief provides disaster relief and supplies, disaster risk reduction, sustainability and humanitarian development. All administration costs for UMCOR are paid by the UMC Conference. Every dollar donated is used for those in need.

**Women's Day Celebration is Sunday, March 17th:** The women will be leading the service, and the guest preacher will be Rev. Janet Porcsner. The color of the day is white with purple accessories. It is a time to celebrate the women for all they do for the church.

### **Lenten Suppers: 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10**

It is a tradition in our church to observe Lent with Wednesday evening pot luck suppers at 7pm. It is a fun time of fellowship and good food – you can bring the whole family. Everyone is asked to bring a dish; it can be product of your kitchen to share your favorite dish, or you can stop by the store to pick up something to bring. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Some nights we end up with all salads, or all cold dishes, or all meat, but mostly we end up with a nice balance. It is always an adventure. After supper, at 8pm, there is a short program — everyone is home by 9 pm, in time to get ready for work or school the next day.

**2019 Church World Service Health Kit Campaign begins March 10th:** There will be a basket during coffee hour to collect items needed to assemble the kits. Each kit includes various toiletries. These items are packed in gallon storage bags on Monday, April 15th (help needed). Last year 136 kits were completed - how generous everyone was! Please help again with this year's campaign.

*Thank you*



**CWS**

2019 Church World Service  
Health Kit Campaign

The Church World Service campaign will begin on Sunday, March 10, 2019 and extend through Sunday, April 14, 2019.

Health kits provide the basic necessities in responding to the natural disasters and emergency situations here in the United States 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 listed below:



- 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. Or, if you prefer, a donation of \$20.00 will allow Church World Service to provide a health kit.

Packing day will be Monday, April 15, 2019. We need volunteers to put the kits together.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT