

MLK observances, a global feast quilts on the wall and family

More than 300 people filled First Presbyterian Church's social center for the first Around the World in 60 Minutes Food and Drink Festival. Booths hosted by church members and local restaurants offered samples of food from 18 countries. An information-packed 22-page "passport" enriched the experience with notes including the demographics, history and fun facts about each country.

In addition to food and drink representative of the country, the teams of hosts decorated their booths with creative adornments such as handmade palm trees at the Philippines table, a vine-covered archway for Italy, and a clothesline of children's garb for Vietnam.

Many hosts displayed personal photographs or albums. Church member Peter McPherson, born and raised in Scotland, prepared several foods for the Scotland booth, including a versatile stew called rumbledethumps. His version included potatoes, turnips and cabbage. Co-host Christy Wilson, whose maternal grandparents both emigrated from Scotland, made shortbread cookies and displayed a photo book from a recent family trip to Scotland.

Proceeds from the event benefited the FPC Immigration Fund and coincidentally fell on the second anniversary of the ICE detention of church member Roby Sanger, the inspiration for the fund.

FPC now stands ready for the next immigration challenge, whether the immigrant is a member of the church or not.

"Words matter." That was the theme of the 2020 Martin Luther King Jr. Day message at New Hope Baptist Church on the afternoon of Jan. 19.

Nearly a dozen area clergy members participated in the 21st annual community celebration of King's life and message.

Metuchen clergy included Rev. Dr. Anna Thomas of Centenary United Methodist Church with the opening greetings; Father Edmund Zelle



– to Kira Cudjoe of New Hope, who works with children in the church and aspires to become a kindergarten teacher, and to Joshua Bhujbal of Centenary, who sings in the choir and plans to pursue a degree in the music business.

Bishop Nikolaos Brown of Ignite Church in Fords then began his message, saying the rhyme many know from childhood – "Sticks and stones may hurt my bones, but words will never hurt me" – is a lie, and words must be used responsibly to speak out against division and prejudice.

After quoting from King's familiar "I Have a Dream" speech, Brown said, "We won't be free until we check our words."

Mitzvah Day has been celebrated with acts of service on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in Metuchen each year for over a decade. The day has been observed in various locations and has settled into the ample space of First Presbyterian Church's social hall for the past few years, a space large enough to handle the growing cadre of volunteers.

Members of Congregation Neve Shalom, the Hadassah Medical Organization, First Presbyterian Church

and others col event.

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Strauser wil throughout the from time to March 30. The brary hours, 10 to Thursday, 1 and Saturday, a

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Are you experiencing...

- Back Pain
- Neck Pain

- Tendonitis/Burs
- Pregnancy
- Blood Pressure