

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

*For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6-7 NIV*

As we position these words from the Book of Isaiah in its political, historical, literary, and geographical location, it gives witness to its meaning for us. When we look beyond the level of foretelling or prophesy, especially when it comes to the expectations of the coming Christ, we are reminded of the divine in-breaking of love. In other words, we realize that Isaiah is not only heard as proof of the fulfillment of God's promises but as testimony to this aspect of God that is at the heart of who God is? It is the realization that God is not just about future plans but present promises here and now. In the midst of that which creates despair and darkness, God's light shines as that which is the fulfillment of all that we need and everything that we wish could be.

During this Advent and Christmas Seasons, when candles burn bright to witness to the God's light that shines in all of our darkness, we are reminded that this is not just a temporary claim, but a reminder of God with us – past, present, and future. When the candles are extinguished, the lights put away, and the decorations stored until next year, this promise is indeed what we will need. The promise and present of God remains...

May you be blessed this Holy Season and may you recognize the Holy in each and every day...

In Christ's service with you.

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

God blesses Harrisena with so much!

It is with great joy that I share that we began our in-person services again in November, for worshipers in our Sanctuary, at the Education Building and maintained our web-based services on Facebook Live. Yippee!

My thanks to everyone who stepped up and lovingly gave their time and treasure to help us all stay safe while creating a familiar and heartwarming worship experience for those who needed to gather in person. Once again, we showed that ministering to the needs of each member of our congregation is central to who we are as a church family.

“At Harrisena, we believe diversity is a blessing.”

You will recognize this statement as the first stated value on our bulletin. At our Council meeting, we spent over half our time together discussing what this value meant to each of us. We overcame the limitations of our simple teleconference technology and had a meaningful discussion of how this value affects our lives and our faith. I took two powerful thoughts away with me from this conversation. The first thought, it was our commitment to diversity of all kinds that attracted many to Harrisena. Second thought is that everyone wanted to belong and participate in a church that welcomed human beings of all kinds, backgrounds and belief systems. Yes, this is Harrisena.

The harder question, how do we practice this value in our faith lives. What do you think?

“We believe that the message Jesus of Nazareth brought to humankind is as relevant today as it was 2,000+ years ago.”

John Chapter 3, Verse 16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

At the December council meeting, we will discuss our second stated value. This well-known scripture I quote above is one part of a lesson Jesus gives to Nicodemus, a teacher in the Jewish faith. Certainly, the message contained in this scripture should be relevant to us today. For me, it is remarkable that Nicodemus, a teacher and assumedly an older gentleman who likely spent his lifetime studying the Bible to gain an understanding of God’s word, discovers there are basic tenants of his faith he does not comprehend when he seeks out Jesus. Doesn’t this suggest that we, even though many of us have been walking in our faith for decades, stand to learn important lessons by seeking out Jesus and engaging in a conversation?

I think it is going to be a wonderful Council Meeting.

January Council Meeting Value Focus:

We believe that this message is one of healing and transforming love that breaks down barriers—a message of welcome, inclusion, equality, respect, forgiveness, and care for all people and the earth.

JOIN US!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

**DECEMBER 20TH – THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY WILL SPONSOR A LIVE NATIVITY IN FRONT OF THE HARRISENA SANCTUARY FROM 11 AM – NOON.
Plan to drive through...**



CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Due to the increase in numbers in Warren County and in the USA, we are inviting you to light the church parking lot with luminaries from 5 PM until 9 PM. You can pick up your luminary bag, sand, and candle in the parking lot. Put Make your luminary and place it on the lawn.

Help us remind this community and the world of the light of God that came to us on Christmas...Jesus the Christ, the Light of the world!

THIS LIGHT STILL DISPELS DARKNESS!



FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Team would like to thank the congregation for their support of the proposed budget. Now is the time to prayerfully consider pledging for 2021. Our pledge as your financial team is to continue to carefully monitor expenses, find ways to cut costs where possible and continue to be diligent in all aspects of the financial life of Harrisena Community Church. Please take the time to fill out and turn in your pledge form below, as soon as possible. We would like to have as many pledge commitments in before the end of 2020. Pledge envelopes are available and will be distributed to those pledging.

Thank you so much for your faith, trust and love for our church.

Your Financial Team

2021 Pledge to Harrisena Community Church
Please complete all information on the pledge card.

PRINT Name(s):

 First Last

 First Last

After prayerful consideration, I/we have committed to pledge as follows:

Pledge Giving Schedule (Select one below)	Giving Amount (Per Schedule Selected)	Total Annual Pledge
Weekly		(x52)
Monthly		(x12)
Quarterly		(x4)
Semiannually		(x2)
Annually		(x1)
Other		

Do you wish to have Pledge Envelopes?: Yes _____ No _____

Printed Email Address: _____

Printed Mailing Address: _____
Street Address

 City State Zip

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

Thank you for your gracious financial support of our beloved church. Mail pledge forms to **Harrisena Community Church, 1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804** cc: *Finance Officers*. For questions, please contact co-treasurers Bonnie .Nadig & Ken Zacharias or financial secretary, Cheryl Straut.

Shhhh...

An anonymous donor has offered to take everyone who makes a 2021 pledge out for a PRIME RIB DINNER at the end of January.

So, after you make your pledge, send your name to harrisenachurch@gmail.com. We don't need your pledge information, just your name!!!



THANK YOU TO THE ANONYMOUS DONOR

and

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO PLEDGE FOR FY2021!!!!

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH!

HANGING OF THE GREENS (Images of HOPE)



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Although the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall have largely been closed, the Missions Committee has been busy.

Missions has **continued to fund** (with help from Treasurer, Bonnie Nadig) our three international children through **Plan International** with a \$366 yearly donation. Monthly donations of \$100 are sent to **Family Services Association** and the **Open Door**. Recently a \$500 check was sent to **Hudson Falls Primary School** to help fund their Back Pack Program. Our newest project is to assist **Family Service Association** with help for needy families during the holiday season via a \$500 donation.

In addition, **you can help us with this program for FSA by buying items for children**. We need clothes for girls and boys of assorted sizes. You can buy pants, shirts, dresses, sweaters, socks, underwear, hats, mittens and pajamas and bring them to HCC. If you are reluctant to go shopping due to COVID you can help by donating money and members of the Missions Committee will do the shopping. Let's make sure the children of families serviced through FSA have a wonderful Christmas. (More details in the bulletin.)

Mission Committee Members: Sandy Chambers, Mary Alice Clickner, Pam Loeb, and Susan Ogden *thank you for your support. (Please contact Susan Ogden with any questions at 518-792-8851 H or 518-260-5337 C.)*

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Due to current circumstances, the Flower committee has decided **NOT to do the MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS THIS CHRISTMAS**. Instead, the committee is asking for **monetary donations to purchase some greenery for the platform that can be used to enhance the sanctuary throughout the year**.

If you are interested in making a donation, *In Memory* or *In Honor of a Loved One* contact Phyllis Straut (518) 793-5669 no later than December 20th.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE - Christmas Cards 2020

We've been working with a great group of volunteers on operation.....




To participate, everyone is asked to send (1) Christmas Card to:




Donna Gelder-Bigelow , 5 Ryder Ave., S. Glens Falls 12803


Donna makes 85 copies to be delivered to our members.
You send 1 card. How easy is that?


1. Thank you to Donna for copying all the cards. 

2. To the many Volunteers who "Cut & Fold" 

"Thanks you!"

3. A big thank you to the Volunteers who will deliver the bag of cards to your home. 

Please be an Angel  and send a card to Donna before December 8th.
(address above)

We all want to hear from you. 

Call Deanna Payne at 518-681-2602 with questions or to volunteer!



HANGING OF THE GREENS (Images of Joy)



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Merry Christmas to all!

The board of Trustees is working continually through-out the Christmas Season to ensure the wellbeing and future of Harrisena. There are Christmas projects and events announced in this issue of the Harbinger for all to participate.

2020 has been a great year for Harrisena, the Lord has shown us His Favor. Praise the Lord.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Winter Blood Drive: Coming SOON!

Our **WINTER blood drive** will be held on Friday **January 29th at 12 – 5:30 PM**. We're hoping to build on the success of our summer blood drive, during which we achieved 140% of our goal!! Thank you to Pam Loeb for agreeing to work with me. Our prep work will begin at the end of the month. Please let one of us know ASAP if you would like to volunteer!

December Outreach Ideas:

How many days of Advent? How many days of Christmas? How many cards will you send out this month? There are SO MANY people feeling alone and isolated at this time! **Cards are a great way to remind these folks about God's "Invisible Strings of Love."** And if you happen to be one of those lonely people yourself, writing to others can be a great way to refocus and reconnect. Need cards? Let us know! Need stamps? Let us know! Need addresses? WE CAN HELP!

Opportunities for outreach ABOUND! Carpe diem!

Please Continue to Share Your Updates

Please let us know of any names/situations you would like added to our Prayer Concerns and Long-Term Prayer lists. In addition to contacting the church office, please contact a member of Outreach Committee. (See below.) Thank you!

As always, we welcome and encourage your feedback...

Outreach Committee Members: Melissa Ferrie-Healy (518-792-4709 or mlfmusic@yahoo.com) & Peggy McArthur (518-793-2377 or peggymcarthur48@gmail.com).

Many hands make light work! Please let us know if you'd be interested in joining us or assisting in any way, especially writing cards for the holiday season.

HANGING OF THE GREENS (Images of LOVE)



HANGING OF THE GREENS (Images of Peace...)



THANK YOU...

**Hal and Deanna Payne, Shelly Durkee, Phil and Bonnie Nadig, Sean Loonan!!!
Kyla, Kenzie, Caleigh, Wallace, Aleana, and Ajani!**

December 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 AA @7:30	3 Living Res. Group 9-2; Conversations 9:30-11: Prayer Together @12 noon	4 Living Resource Group 9-2	5 Weekly email blast & Saturday Meditation @3 pm on Facebook Live
6 9:30 am Sunday Worship on Facebook Live! & Conf. call in.	7	8 Council Mtg on Zoom @7 PM	9 AA@7:30	10 Living Res. Group 9-2; Conversations 9:30-11: Prayer Together @12 noon	11 Living Resource Group 9-2	12 Weekly email blast & Saturday Meditation @3 pm on Facebook Live
13 9:30 am Sunday Worship on Facebook Live! & Conf. call in.	14	15	16 AA @7:30	17 Living Res. Group 9-2 Prayer Together @12 noon	18 Living Resource Group 9-2	19 Weekly email blast & Saturday Meditation @3 pm on FB Live
20 9:30 am Sunday Worship on Facebook Live! & Conference call in. LIVE NATIVITY@ 11 AM- NOON	21	22	23 AA @7:30	24 Living Res. Group 9-2; HCC FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 5-9 PM	25 Christmas Day MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 Weekly email blast & Saturday Meditation @3 pm on Facebook Live
27 9:30 am Sunday Worship on Facebook Live! & Conference call in.	28 <i>Harbinger articles due for January</i>	29	30 AA @7:30	31 Living Res. Group 9-2 Prayer Together @12 noon		

Our SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE will continue at 9:30 AM on Facebook Live and by Conference CALL-IN at: 1) Dial+1 (313) 209-8800; 2) Enter Conference ID 796-8500 and press the pound key.

WE ARE THE CHURCH!
The church is not a building,
the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place,
the church is a people.

December Birthdays

2) Allan Ferrie; 4) Marian Philo; 5) Patricia Girard; 6) Judy Barcy; 11) Brian Walker; 14) Tatum Chase; 15) Doug Irving; 18) Erik Robinson; 19) Peter Cartier, Robin Dutcher; 20) Susan Urrico; 22) Wally Madon; 24) Cindy Farbaniec, Dodi Robinson.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – December 2020

Please remember the following members and friends who need our prayers of love and encouragement.

Nancy Cathers – Nursing Home, Maryland
Diane DeMass – Glens Falls Hospital
Colin Fuller – Slate Valley Nursing Home
Theodore Gusek- Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga
Linda Kennedy – Fort Hudson Health Services
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
James Nobile - The Landing of Queensbury

At Home

Laura Avent – Member of Harrisena
Maria Berg – Mother of Nicole Robinson
Celine & Bob Boulé – Daughter/Son-in-law of Brandy & Wally Madon
Lee Ann Clark – Daughter of Murial Clark
Kathleen Dumont – Niece of Brandy Madon
Abigail Evans – Daughter of Bob & Cheryl Evans
Rev. Patti Girard – Friend of Harrisena
Randy Huber – Husband of Cindy Huber
Fabiola Jabaut – Mother of Steve Jabaut
Douglas Jones – Son-in-law of Art Norton
Teagan Klingenburg – Student of Melissa Ferrie-Healy
Carmen LeFebvre – Friend of Peg McArthur
Wendy Leyonmark – Sister of Cindy Huber
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Diane Parry – Cousin of Griffith Parry
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Melanie Swinton – Friend of Sue Ogden
Doloras VanDetta – Friend of Marie Scarselletta

~

*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Family & Friends **Patricia Thonus**, friend of the Straut family.*

Members and Friends in the Military

Please **update the status of anyone you know on this list as soon as information is available.**

Derek Dumas—stateside

Michael Gusek (*Patriot Missile Battery*), son of Kathleen & Tim Gusek – serving at Fort Hood, TX

Joseph Hubbard (*Army*) – stateside

Corey Ledgerwood (*Army*) -serving in Afghanistan

Wes McQueen, nephew of Dodi/Rev. Robinson- serving stateside

Tony Mitchell (*USAF*) - serving in Afghanistan.

Tyler Monroe (*USAF*), son of Cheryl Pagano – serving at Sheppard AFB

Griffith Parry (*West Point Military Academy*), relative of Griffith Parry

James Pearson (*USAF*)

Phillip Riccio (*Army*), son of Phyllis Riccio -serving stateside

Brian Schneider (*Army*) – serving in Afghanistan

Kelly Thompson (*US Health Svc*)

Daniel Urband (*USAF*), grandson of Alice Urband—serving stateside

Mark Wilson (*Army Spcl Forces/Reserves*), husband of Andrea—serving stateside

Braden Stormer – serving stateside

