

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Genesis 1:1-3 NIV

The words found in the first chapter of Genesis are majestic and beautiful. These verses remind us that the world as we know it is created out of formless matter and out of the watery abyss that lies below the earth according to the cosmological worldview of the biblical writers. *When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was wild and waste, utter darkness covered the deep, and the Spirit of God was brooding over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light!' And there was light.* These words tell a story not about creation ex nihilo (creation out of nothing) but about creation out of a world that is wild and waste, formless and void. WOW! This is exciting. We are witnessing God create and recreate. In this we find hope.

Remember the words from the book of Jeremiah that speak about the potter and the clay, *"But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him"* (Jeremiah 18:4 NIV). In this passage, the Potter took the clay and made it again, something new.

I reflect on this today as I look at our world. I wonder if God is making this world, you, and me new again. I wonder if, as in Genesis 1, God is calling light again into being in the world and in us. In the Bible, light has always symbolized holiness, goodness, knowledge, wisdom, grace, hope, and God's revelation. And yet, today we see, what I would call *a confusion* about the call to humility, justice and truth. I wonder. Do we now find these virtues of humility, justice and truth of equal value to arrogance, injustice and dishonesty?

In 1958, Thomas Merton, an American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, social activist, and scholar of comparative religion had a unique experience. It is the known as the "Fourth and Walnut Epiphany" of Thomas Merton. Here is an excerpt from his writings about this experience:

"In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world, the world of renunciation and supposed holiness. ... This sense of liberation from an illusory difference was such a relief and such a joy to me that I almost laughed out loud. ... I have the immense joy of being man, a member of a race in which God Himself became incarnate. As if the sorrows and stupidities of the

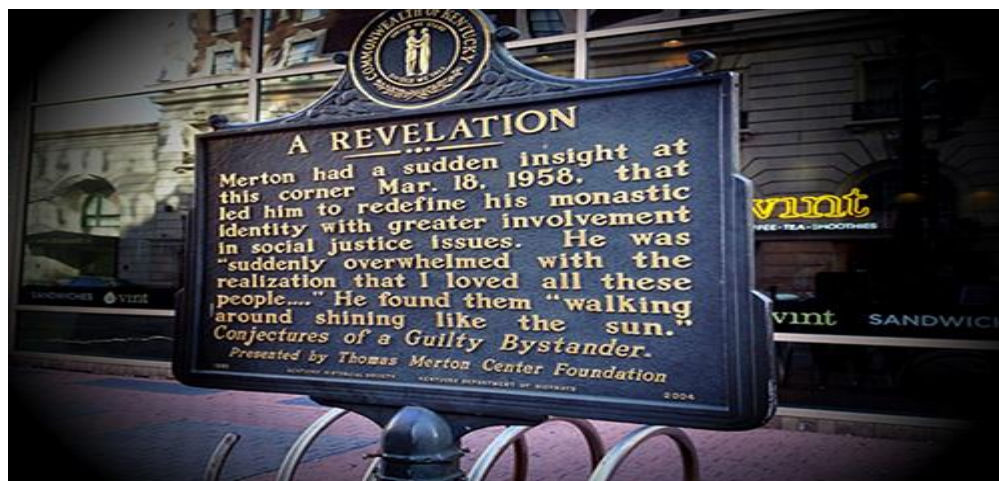
human condition could overwhelm me, now I realize what we all are. And if only everybody could realize this! But it cannot be explained. There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.”

I urge you to read this whole piece when you have the opportunity. It is amazing. Merton begins with these words, but he continues to dig deeper and deeper into his own soul. He peels back layers and layers of the human condition. He seems to intentionally struggle against the comfort of his success as a professional in order to rescue himself from the entanglement and ease of public admiration. Merton discovers joy in the simple complexities of being a member of the human race.

The more he ponders human nature, the more he realizes that truly seeing the beauty in creation is something that “cannot be seen, only believed and understood by a peculiar gift.” He says, “It is in everybody, and if we could see it we would see these billions of points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely.” I wonder, if here in 2020, amidst this pandemic and movements for social justice, God is making something new again. Selah

In Christ’s service with you.

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly



He was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him, shall not perish but shall have everlasting life. God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but so the world would be saved through him.” John 3:16-17 NIV

Finance

As of June 30th we are half- way through our budget year. Income for the first half of the year is \$48,000 of which \$22,000 was from pledges. Income from memorials and non-pledged offerings included in income was significantly higher than expected. We recently also received an additional \$42,000 from the Ross Grant. Therefore total income for the first half of the year was \$90,000 (\$48,000 + \$42,000). The second half of the 2020 budget year should bring an additional \$26,000 in pledged income (congregation pledged \$48,000 for the year). Total estimated income \$90,000 + \$26,000 = \$116,000 for 2020.

Expenses appear to be “on target” for 2020. The proposed budget estimated total Expenses of \$130,000 for all of 2020. Our actual expenses for the first half of 2020 were \$65,000 or doubling that amount would be \$130,000 for the year. Total Projected Expenses of \$130,000 minus Total Projected Income of \$116,000 would leave a Projected Budget Deficit of \$14,000 for 2020. This would be a significant improvement over the \$40,000 deficit of 2019.

Once again Ross Grant money for 2020 has provided significant financial support to Harrisena Community Church. We requested \$55,210. \$40,000 of this request was for Operations (Harrisena expenses). We received \$42,000 from the Ross grant. Since we did not receive the full amount of our request, what projects will be financed by the Ross Grant is in the process of being determined by the trustees.

Summer and early Fall contributions historically fall off. Harrisena members and friends please continue supporting your church through your faithful giving during these unusual times. Contributions may be mailed to Harrisena Community Church, 1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury NY 12804, att: Financial Secretary.

Harrisena Financial Officers,
Bonnie Nadig
Cheryl Straut
Ken Zacharias



Annual Chicken BBQ
Saturday, July 18th, 4-7 PM



1/2 BBQ chicken
Corn on the cob
Coleslaw
Rolls

Drive Thru and Pre-sale ONLY -
Call 518 681-2602 for Reservations!

Harrisena Community Church
1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury
(1/2 mile north of Route 149)
(518) 792-1902



Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Let's Save Some Lives!

On **August 24th at 1-6 PM** we all have the opportunity to roll up our sleeves and help save lives! Harrisena Community Church will be proudly partnering with the American Red Cross for our first ever **SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE**. Each pint of blood we collect can help save up to three lives and will likely touch the lives of many more. This is a great way for us to make an impact on people in our community and across the country. Let's show those folks just how much one small church (with a very big heart) can do.

There will be many ways to help - something for everyone!

- We will need greeters and canteen workers on August 24th
- We will need help with set-up and clean-up on August 24th
- We will need cooks and bakers to help feed and our volunteers
- We will need EVERYONE to post information about our Blood Drive on their social networks!
- We will need BLOOD. 😊 Healthy individuals are able to donate blood once every 8 weeks. Since our last blood drive was in January 2020, anyone who donated then should be able to donate in August, as well.

Anyone who would like to help in ANY WAY should please contact Melissa Ferrie-Healy as soon as possible.

The Red Cross is counting on us – let's show them we are still a dynamic force in our community!

Summertime Connections

Summertime is traditionally a time for family VACATIONS. School is out, and we finally have time to travel to fun, exciting, relaxing places across the country – perhaps, even around the world. With current travel restrictions in place, these visits may not be possible this summer. **Be a “pen pal” to someone you know by writing letters and sending pictures to someone you know who lives somewhere else.** If you'd like to connect in a more modern way, there's always Facetime – perhaps in the form of a virtual field trip. We have so many wonderful places right here in our own backyard! God has truly blessed us with so many natural wonders! Why not share those with friends and family who may not be able to visit this year? And perhaps, if they are able, your friends and family members across the country could reciprocate. 😊

Please Continue to Share Your Updates

While our weekly worship services are taking place on FACEBOOK LIVE and phone conference calls – even in the church parking lot - we encourage you 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!

HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH HAVE YOU SEEN US LATELY?



FRONT LAWN (weeding, trimming, new mulch, planting of flowers, etc.)

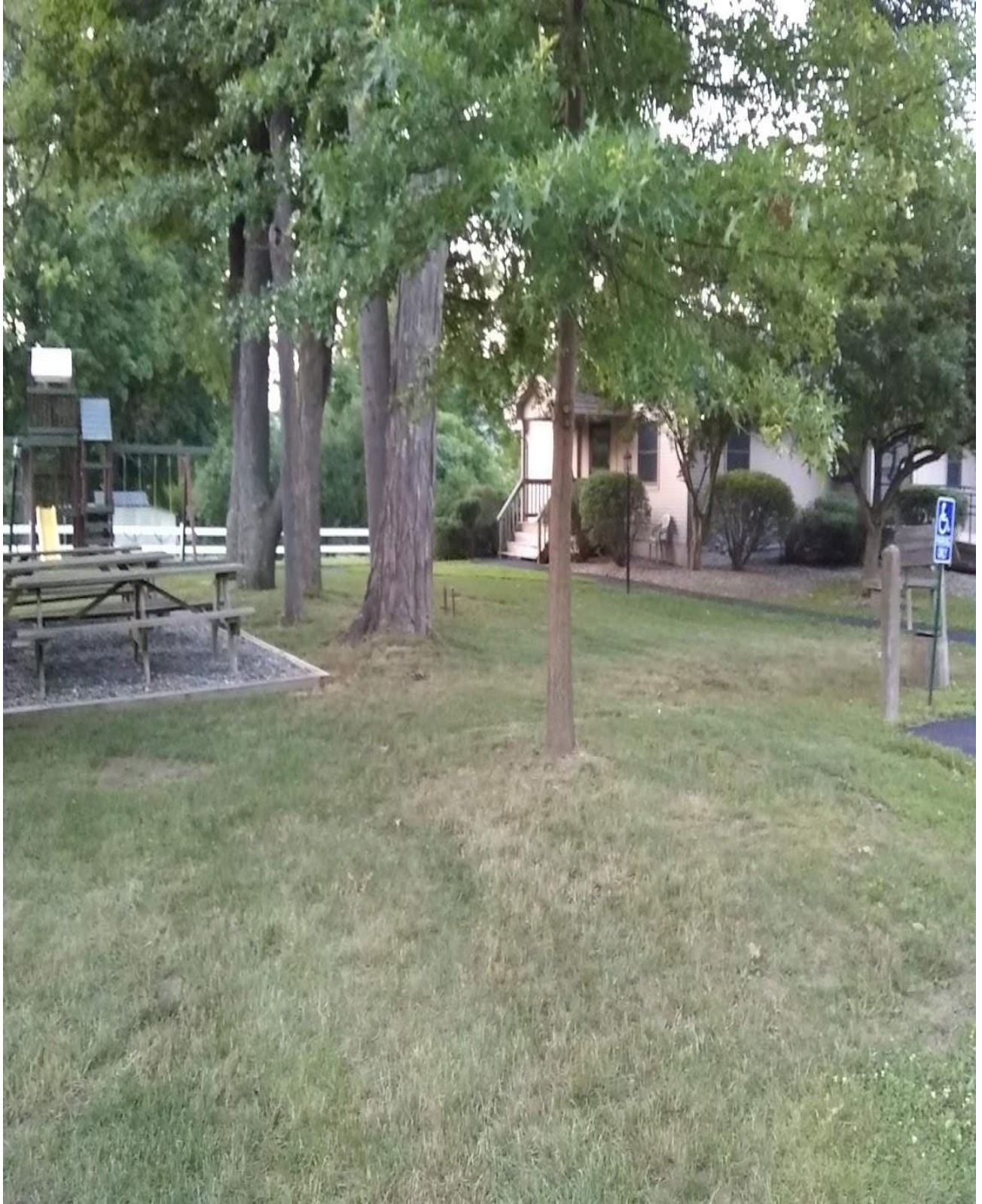
THE CREW



Robert Kellogg and Crew



OOPS! I MISSED THE REST OF THE CREW...



**TREES TRIMMED AND LAWN MOWED
THANKS TO STEVE GREEN AND ROBERT KELLOGG!**



MORE WEEDING AND FENCE REPAIR



**NEW LIGHTS IN THE PARKING LOT
THANK YOU TO ROBERT KELLOGG!**

JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Prayer Together @12 noon AA @7:30	2 Prayer Together @12 noon	3	4 Weekly email blast
5 9:30 am Facebook Live! & Conference call in	6	7 Prayer Together @12 noon	8 Prayer Together @12 noon/ AA@7:30	9 Prayer Together @12 noon	10	11 Weekly email blast
12 9:30 am Facebook Live! & Conference call in	13	14 Prayer Together @12 noon	15 Prayer Together @12 noon AA @7:30	16 Prayer Together @12 noon Council Mtg @7 on PM/Conf. call	17	18 Weekly email blast Chicken BBQ
19 9:30 am Facebook Live! & Conference call in	20	21 Prayer Together @12 noon	22 Prayer Together @12 noon AA @7:30	23 Prayer Together @12 noon	24 Harbinger articles due for August	25 Weekly email blast
26 9:30 am Facebook Live! & Conference call in	27	28 Prayer Together @12 noon	29 Prayer Together @12 noon AA @7:30	30 Prayer Together @12 noon	31	

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.

Remember, 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.

JULY Birthdays:

3) Jane Gould-Badger; 9) Hal Payne; 12) Jennifer Ferris; 14) David Aust; 18) Kylie Lipinski; 20) Larissa Gusek, Brenda Ferrie; 21) Richard Smith; 28) Violet Brown; 29) Cheryl Pagano, Janet Richard.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – July 2020

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

Ron Armstrong – Home of the Good Shepherd, S. Glens Falls
Collin Fuller – Nursing Home
Lillian McDonnell – Glens Falls Center
Jim Nobile – The Landing
Gordon Wallace, Sr. – Glens Falls Hospital
Nancy Wilson – Glens Falls Hospital

HOME/HOSPITAL (HOSPICE*)

Sally Busted	Ann Dougher	Kathleen Dumont
Beth Hinckle	Teagan Klingenburg	Diane Lawson
Amy Ledford-Austin	McKenzie Monroe	Charles Nassivera*
Jerrod Ogden	Tom St. Clair	Lynn Sawyer
Donna Skoll	Edward Thompson	Heather Waldenstrom
Kenny Wendell		

HOME

Robert Boule'	Christine Burke	Peter Caswell
Pattie Chapman	Ruth Daggs	Kimberly Deeken
Ken Eshilmen	Abigail Evans	Shaelyn Fitzgerald
Rev. Patti Girard	Jim Harney	Jane Lis
Pami Maack	Robert Marshall	Frank Munoff
Phil Nadig	Art Norton	Marilyn Pagliuco
Diane Parry	Mac Petrequin	Carmen Rivera
Anne Rizzi	Kieara Robinson	Marie Scarselletta
Susan Shoemaker	Phyllis Straut	Renee Straut
Kay Tokarz	Linda Tripp	Andrea Wilson

*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Families and Friends of **Richard C. Smith** and **Howard Payne** who died this past week.*

Richard was a long-time member of Harrisena Church; and Howard was the father of member Hal Payne.

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* – Middle East
Gary Hogan, USA
Joseph Hubbard, *Army* – stateside
Corey Ledgerwood, *Army* - Afghanistan
Wes McQueen, *USAF* – stateside
Tony Mitchell, *USAF*
Tyler Monroe, *USAF*
Breanna Moore, *USAF* – stateside
Griffith Parry, *West Point Military Academy*
James Pearson, *USAF*
Philip Riccio, *Army* – stateside
Brian Schneider, *Army* – Afghanistan
Kelly Thompson, *US Health Service*
Dan Urband, *USNG* – Afghanistan
Mark Wilson, *USNG/Spcl Forces* – stateside
Braden Stormer – stateside

Andrew Bigelow and Peter Ruscitti are retired from their Military Careers!

