

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

THE COURAGE TO STAND

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 And Jesus replied to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for others].' 40 The whole Law and the [writings of the] Prophets depend on these two commandments." Matthew 22:36-40 NIV

Writing in the aftermath of World War II, Elton Trueblood looked back to those few brave German Christians who had the courage to oppose Adolph Hitler. When so many others went along or simply kept silent, a few, a courageous handful, would not go along with the majority. Trueblood asked the question, "What made these people different? Why did they say no when everyone else said yes?" His answer was simple: "They had the First Commandment." That made all the difference. When you have the First Commandment, when you take it seriously as a way of life, you find **the courage to stand** against the crowd.

In the twenty-second chapter of Matthew, an expert of the law from among the Pharisees asks Jesus one last question in order to test him. He asked, "Which commandment in the law is greatest?" Jesus' answer is classic. Loving God is the first thing, the most important thing. But, with it comes a corollary: to love God means that you also love God's people. The ancient rabbis put it in similar terms: "**What is hateful to you do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole Law.**"

For many, it seems that Christianity comes down to the "Golden Rule" of love your neighbor as yourself. The command to love your neighbor is actually found in the Hebrew text, Leviticus 19:18. Yet, not many verses later, we find the command to love the alien (stranger) as ourselves in Leviticus 19:34: "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; **you shall love the stranger as yourself.**"

We currently live in an increasingly polarized political climate. We are encouraged to choose sides based on political affiliations, social and cultural categories, racial and ethnic identities. God calls us to LOVE. Love God, neighbor, and stranger. While this love of neighbor and stranger could become a new moralism, it might help us also see how the Church can rise above partisan politics and simply show God's love for all people. Churches and individuals hearing the call to "see other people as God sees them," might find that **neighbor and stranger are not such different categories after all.**

One last story:

It was a bitterly cold evening in Northern Virginia many years ago. The old man's beard was glazed by winter's frost as he waited for a ride across the river. He heard a brigade of men on horses coming around the bend. He let the first one pass him without any effort to get his attention.

Then another passed by, and another. Finally, the last rider neared, and the old man caught the rider's eye and said, "Sir, would you mind giving an old man a ride to the other side?" The rider said, "Sure, thing. Hop aboard." Seeing the old man unable to lift his half-frozen body onto the horse, the horseman dismounted and helped the old man onto the horse.

The horseman not only took the old man across the river but to his destination which was just a few miles away. As they neared the man's home the horseman was curious and he asked, "Sir, I noticed that you let several other riders pass by without making an effort to get a ride. Then I came up and you immediately asked me for a ride. I'm curious why on such a bitterly cold night that you would wait and ask the last rider. What if I had refused and left you there?"

The old man replied, "I've been around these parts for some time. I reckon I know people pretty good. I looked into the eyes of the other riders and immediately saw there was no concern for my situation. It would have been useless even to ask them for a ride. But when I looked into your eyes, kindness and compassion were there. I knew that your gentle spirit would welcome the opportunity to help me in my time of need."

Those heartwarming comments touched the horseman. "I'm most grateful for what you have said," he told the old man. "May I never get too busy in my own affairs that I fail to respond to the needs of others with kindness and compassion." With that, Thomas Jefferson turned his horse around and made his way back to the White House.

LOVE IS EVIDENT! YOU CAN'T HIDE IT! IT SHOWS!
It is the courage to stand...

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's May 28th and the day is warm. It's been pretty hot earlier this week with temperatures yesterday reaching 91degrees. I like summer as most of you all probably do. What I really like is the change of seasons throughout the year. Given the fact that just two weeks ago we had snow on the ground, shows you that living here in the North Country is always exciting.

Things are opening up now. Businesses are starting to get back in action albeit somewhat of a lower level of expectation at the present. I just read an interesting article about other parts of the country that have opened up earlier with no significant rise of new cases of Covid-19. This tells me that the future looks promising for the comeback that we all hope for. I know we can't go back to the old "normal" at this time, but we can adapt to the "new normal" with a fair degree of optimism.

I look forward to a meeting this evening to discuss the future of Harrisena's worship services and how exactly we will approach that day when we can congregate at our beloved church facilities to honor God in a way that makes us feel even more comfortable. For now, I give kudos to Rev. Natalie for her brave actions to put our worship services online. She did this all on her own and she has done a great job of it for sure. She calls us to check on our well being. She administers to our need to hear the word of God. She was directing traffic at the recent chicken barbecue that Hal and Deanna Payne organized almost entirely on their own. Kudos to the Paynes for their initiative. Nice job!!! All things considered, I think we have a lot to be thankful for and a lot to look forward to.

Last month I wrote about how hard it is to overcome our fears. This month I would like to convey to all of you the idea of working together to do just that. Fear can be completely crippling, especially when we stare into the darkness of the unknown. I'm writing to tell all of you that the future is looking pretty good now. Let's not forget to use common sense in our quest to get back to the way things used to be. We still have to be vigilant with this virus, but I believe anything is possible as long as we approach things in an intelligent manner. That includes Sunday services as well. It will still be a while before things feel somewhat normal, but with the ideas that will come out of tonight's meeting, and the others that will undoubtedly follow we can all help by adopting a can-do attitude in our approach to the new normal.

I will miss the hugs and the hand-shakes initially, but I think we will all experience the uplifting feeling of our Harrisena family getting back together for worship at church in the not-so-distant future. Let's take it slow and be mindful of the need to be safe. Let's replace our anxieties with optimism and our forebodings with certainty. We can do this. We just need to approach it cautiously but with a positive attitude.

For those of us who have been pretty much relegated to staying home for the past few months and have become comfortable in the security of it I would say to you that one small positive thought in the morning can change your entire day.

"Nothing steals God's glory more than worrying believers who are driven through life by fear."
- Louie Giglio

God Bless us all.

Peter Pepe



Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Who are the fathers in your life?

On June 21st we will celebrate Father's Day 2020. In addition to honoring our Father in Heaven, this is a chance to honor the men who have been father figures for us here on Earth. Whether we can physically give them a hug or not, this is an excellent opportunity for us to show our love and appreciation for our biological fathers, but for all who have fathered us throughout our lives. Please take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all those caring men in your life today AND to share the story of those who are no longer with us. Let this be your outreach for the month of June!

Honor and Encourage Our Graduates

What a year it has been for our graduates! As they celebrate their accomplishments, they may also mourn the loss of time-honored traditions: senior proms, senior trips, spring sports, musicals, concerts and even a live graduation ceremony. They face uncertainty and unexpected challenges. Please remind them that they are loved, cared for and not alone. Please remind them that others of generations past have faced challenges, perhaps not the same, but just as daunting at the time. Please remind them that God has given them all the strength, creativity and resources they will need to rise above these challenges to make the world a better place. Let this be your outreach for the month of June!

Please Continue to Share Your Updates

While our weekly worship services are taking place on FACEBOOK LIVE and phone conference calls, 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



**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
WINNER***WINNER*** CHICKEN DINNER**

As of Sunday, May 31st the profit for the May 23rd BBQ is over

   *****\$2000*****   

This gives us great enthusiasm for our next scheduled BBQ on July 18th.

That's not that far away

OUR TOP SELLERS WERE:

1. Bonnie Nadiq
2. Shirley Harney
3. Mary Alice Clickner

Think about it, all you have to do is:

1. Reach out and invite someone.
2. EAT.

CAN IT REALLY GET ANY EASIER???

Thank you and God bless all the willing members who were so eager to help. Looking forward to working with you under the direction of Dizzy Dave on July 18th.

GOD IS GOOD TO HARRISENA!!!

REJOICE, AGAIN REJOICE!

Deanna

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Have you ever wondered who are the people responsible for Harrisena financial affairs? According to the HCC Bylaws, the Financial Officers are the Financial Secretary, Cheryl Straut and Treasurers Bonnie Nadig and Ken Zacharias. Their duties are to deal with the day to day financial affairs of Harrisena and to report monthly to the Church Council. Cheryl, however, is the only person that has access to pledge records.

Harrisena also has a Finance Committee. It is composed of the three member Financial Team as well as, Dr. Natalie Wimberly, President of the Council, Peter Pepe and Head Trustee, Hal Payne. The duties of this committee are to develop a sound financial plan for Harrisena Community Church that includes short term and long term strategies.

The Financial Officers would like to note that thanks to the hard work of several members of the church community, the chicken barbeque catered by Dizzy Dave on May 23rd earned a \$2032 net profit. In addition to the sale of approximately 250 dinners, several people made generous donations.

As of May 26th, 43% of the fiscal pledges have been met. May 26th constitutes 40.4% of the fiscal year. This indicates that pledges are on target. A portion of this collection includes pledges paid in full for the year. Thank you for your continued financial commitment and faithfulness to Harrisena Church.

However, we are still facing a deficit proposed budget for 2020 as we await the awarding of Ross Grant money. Harrisena is fortunate to have a savings account that can be used for deficit spending, but deficit budgets cannot be supported by a savings account forever. Now is the time to begin making plans for the future of Harrisena Community Church. The Finance Committee will begin meeting in the very near future to examine various alternatives and strategies needed to develop a strong financial plan.

Anyone with questions or suggestions, please contact a member of the Finance Committee.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Please forward your pledges and offerings through **ONLINE GIVING @ harrisena.org** or mail them to *Harrisena Community Church, 1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804*. We will get through this time together. Thank you! *HCC Finance Committee*



Membership Committee

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Although we cannot meet as a congregation by sitting next to each other in a pew, please know we are virtually enjoying prayers together on Wednesdays at noon, scriptures and time together on Saturdays, services on Sundays, and meetings via zoom and conference calls. We are ringing our church bells and honking horns, making masks and meals, plus checking on one another in support of each other. Our Sunday School children have displayed positive messages in front of our church and enjoy zoom meetings on Sundays. All this shows how connected we are at Harrisena Community Church as a congregation and to our community. If you are thinking about joining our special Church family, I encourage you to contact Rev. Wimberly or myself. As a very wise woman once shared with us, God says: "We can do this." The more the merrier, so please join us.

For Membership Committee
Bonnie Nadig



Making masks (Bill Loeb)



Making Friday Dinners (Sue O, MaryAlice C, GG B)





MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Missions and Fellowship Committees plus some friends have been busy on Fridays making **meals for our church members and friends**. We have made **105 meals** as of April 17th. It has been a lot of fun and it's a great way to keep in touch with our members and friends. **If you or if you can think of anyone that would like a meal and a friendly visit, please let Mary Alice or Susan Ogden know.** We want to thank all who have donated to this church project.

We give monthly **support to The Open Door and Family Services. We made an extra donation of \$500.00 to Family Services, since we cannot provide them with food donations.**

We provided 30 turkey dinners to Open Door. We continue to support our three international teenagers.

Reminder, your Harrisena Family is always there for you.

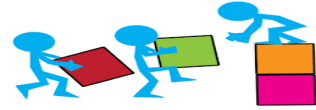
Mission Committee

We are still accepting FOOD DONATIONS for **FAMILY SERVICES. *These donations can be left at the front door of the Ed. Building. Open the front door and place them in the entrance between the 1st and 2nd door. Thank you so much!***

Most needed: applesauce, baking items {flour, sugar, cake & frosting mixes}; oatmeal; raisins; cereals; baby food (**no glass**, please); pasta; tomato sauce; canned meats/vegetables/beans; peanut butter; macaroni & cheese; instant puddings; and soups.

Personal items are also needed: feminine items, toothpaste, deodorant, toothbrushes, soap, etc.

WORKING TOGETHER MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On Sundays at 12:30 PM, meet us on **GOOGLE HANGOUT** for our Children's Message and time of fellowship. **THANK YOU TO ALL THE FRONTLINE WORKERS, ESSENTIAL WORKERS, MOMS, DADS, TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, LEADERS! THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY! *CE and kids***



June 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Prayer Together @12 noon on Conference Call & PARKING LOT gathering@ 7PM	5	6 Weekly email blast & SATURDAY MEDITATION @ 3:00 PM on FACEBOOK LIVE
7 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service on Facebook Live! & Conference call in & Meeting in the Church Parking Lot @ 7PM	8	9	10	11 Prayer Together @12PM on Conference Call & Church Council @ 7PM	12	13 Weekly email blast & SATURDAY MEDITATION @ 3:00 PM on FACEBOOK LIVE
14 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service on Facebook Live! & Conference call in & Meeting in the Church Parking Lot @ 7PM	15	16	17	18 Prayer Together @12 noon on Conference Call & PARKING LOT gathering@ 7PM	19	20 Weekly email blast & SATURDAY MEDITATION @ 3:00 PM on FACEBOOK LIVE
21 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service on Facebook Live! & Conference call in & Meeting in the Church Parking Lot @ 7PM	22	23 Harbinger articles due for June	24	25 Prayer Together @12 noon on Conference Call & PARKING LOT gathering@ 7PM	26	27 Weekly email blast & SATURDAY MEDITATION @ 3:00 PM on FACEBOOK LIVE
28 9:30 am Sunday Worship Service on Facebook Live! & Conference call in & Meeting in the Church Parking Lot @ 7PM	29	30				

Our SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 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.

Until it is safe for us to gather again in the Harrisena Church building.

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.

JUNE Birthdays:

5) Joanne Beck; 8) Nancy Wilder; 9) Hilary Cartier-Brown; 21) Heidi Helffrich; 26) Lynn Ogden, Deanna Payne; 27) Roger Smith, Kyla Wilson; 28) Melissa Ferrie-Healy; 30) LaMont Robinson.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – June 2020

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

Nancy Cathers – Assisted Living, MD
Jane Christensen – Champlain Valley Senior Living, Willsboro, NY
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
Lillian McDonnell – Glens Falls Center
James Nobile - The Landing of Queensbury
Geoffrey Stewart – Westchester Trauma Center

At Home

Maria Berg – Mother of Nicole Robinson
Celine & Bob Boulé – Daughter/Son-in-law of Brandy & Wally Madon
Lee Ann Clark – Daughter of Murial Clark
Jill Coleman – Friend of Suzanne Cartier
Kathleen Dumont – Niece of Brandy Madon
Colin Fuller – Son of Patti Girard
Rev. Patti Girard – Friend of Harrisena
Theodore Gusek – father of Tim Gusek
Nancy Hoover – Member of Harrisena
Randy Huber – Husband of Cindy Huber
Fabiola Jabaut – Mother of Steve Jabaut
Douglas Jones – Son-in-law of Art Norton
Thomas Kerschner – Relative of Allan Ferrie
Teagan Klingenburg – Student of Melissa Ferrie-Healy
Diane Lawson – Friend of Sue & Peter Cartier
Carmen LeFebvre – Friend of Peg McArthur
Wendy Leyonmark – Sister of Cindy Huber
Philip Nadig – Member of Harrisena
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Diane Parry – Cousin of Griffith Parry
Richard Smith – Member, husband of Donna D. Smith
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Melanie Swinton – Friend of Sue Ogden

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Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Family & Friends of

Members and Friends in the Military

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

Andrew Bigelow (*Army*), son of Karen Bigelow—serving stateside

Derek Dumas—stateside

Michael Gusek (*Patriot Missile Battery*), son of Kathleen & Tim Gusek – serving in Middle East

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

