

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

LOOK TO GOD

The story of the Exodus is the greatest Old Testament foreshadowing of the gospel of Jesus the Christ. In Exodus 12, the people of Israel are miraculously released from slavery and led out of Egypt by Moses. And by Exodus 14, **Israel is encamped by the Red Sea**, in a vulnerable and probably puzzling position. **God has purposefully instructed Moses** to lead Israel there.

There, the Israelites panicked. They were confused. **There they were when Pharaoh's army showed up and pinned them all against the sea.** They were afraid. It looked like they would experience death by sword or death by drowning. There they believed they would perish. So, they focused their anxiety, fear, and anger on Moses. The people said to Moses, *"Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?"*(Exodus 14:11).

The people of Israel were trapped. They saw no way out and no way through this situation. They could only see the water in front of them and the army behind them. **They could not see God.**

But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm." (Exodus 14: 13-14 NLT)

Moses is saying: *Fear ye not, stand still — make yourselves to stand.* Let not your hearts fail, or sink, or stagger, through unbelief: but with quiet minds look up to God. *The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace — You shall contribute nothing to the victory, neither by your words nor by your deeds."*

It is quite interesting that Moses, the meekest man above all men on the earth (Numbers 12:3) does not enter into the panic or fear or anger. He answers them through the eyes of faith. He does not chastise them. He comforts them. He rests in the peace and presence of God. Moses' response is with an admirable presence of mind, not in the least disconcerted or disheartened, either by the approach of Pharaoh, or the trembling of Israel. **Moses offers them a divine reset**, he refocuses their murmurings by calmly encouraging them to take heart and **trust in God. WOW!**

Have you ever felt like you were in a dire situation where it seemed that you had no place to go, no way out...or through? Maybe, just maybe, this is exactly where you need

to be. Maybe, just maybe when we find ourselves deeply discouraged, it is possible that these very limitations and adversities serve to cultivate in us strong, courageous, and liberating faith. These places offer opportunities for transformation, for hope, and most importantly, for us to see God. **Moses points the people to God.**

Where is God in your life today? Have you looked to your own understanding to “figure things out” or have you allowed God to show you “the way through”? I am often reminded that our ways are not God’s ways, nor our thoughts God’s thoughts. **Our greatest victories come when we seek our answers from God, not ourselves – when we put our trust in God.**

Are you just a little curious about what God has planned for you, for your life? Are you interested in finding out what God has planned for Harrisena Community Church? Great! **Do not let your hearts fail, or sink, or stagger, through unbelief: but with a quiet mind and a trusting heart look up to God.** You shall contribute nothing to the victory, neither by your words nor by your deeds. **God will do it!** Hallelujah! Amen.

In Christ’s service with you.
Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly



AND



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday we, as families and friends of Harrisena Church, have a lot to be thankful for. **We have a beautiful and historical church to gather in and worship God. Robinson Hall provides a friendly place for us, and the community, to gather and enjoy ourselves.** Most of all we can be thankful for the people who make Harrisena the "*Friendly Little Stone Church on the Ridge.*"

The month of **November is very important to the future of our church. It is when we are asked to financially help support our church.** Our Financial Officers have worked very hard to provide us with a proposed budget. The Church Council has approved this budget and now it is up to us to vote and hopefully approve it. Once we approve a budget, the work will begin – for it is up to us to make it successful.

In closing, I want you all to know that I am thankful for all the support you have given me as your president. Also this Thanksgiving, Chuck and I are very thankful for all your prayers and the many ways you have shown concern for us in the last few months.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and happy Thanksgiving!
Susan Ogden



WORSHIP COMMITTEE - NOVEMBER

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

An Attitude of Gratitude

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, gratitude is defined as “*the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.*” As Thanksgiving approaches, it’s only natural for us to think of the many blessings in our lives. But we often overlook the second half of this definition: “*readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.*” For every blessing that comes our way, there are multiple opportunities for us to return kindness. As we count our blessings this month, let’s also keep track of our kindness!

Take Time to Thank a Vet

How many veterans do you know personally? Perhaps a father, mother, grandparent, aunt, uncle, son, daughter, cousin, friend, neighbor, colleague... How many veterans do you NOTICE in passing, as you’re going about your busy day? Veteran’s Day presents an opportunity for us to intentionally honor the brave men and women who have chosen to serve and defend our country. Please take the time to thank *all* the veterans you know and notice – it’s a chance to practice that “attitude of gratitude!”

Look for the Light – Advent is Coming Soon!

As the daylight hours grow shorter and the nights seem longer, it’s a sure sign that Advent is fast approaching! This is the season we prepare to welcome the LIGHT of Christ to shine forth in our dark world. This year, the liturgical anticipation begins on December 3rd. Next month, we will share more details regarding our favorite Advent. In the meantime, please plan to join us – along with family and friends - on Christmas Eve (December 24th) for our regular 9:30 a.m. worship service AS WELL AS our Candlelight Communion Service that evening, at 7:00 p.m.

Would you and your family (or a friend) like to share a simple reading (provided by Rev. Natalie) and light the Advent candles at one of our Advent Sunday worship services – or on Christmas Eve? *Look for the sign-up sheet in the Education Building, outside Robinson Hall.*

Christmas Poinsettia order forms are available below!

As always, we welcome your participation and encourage your feedback!

Worship Committee Members: *Christine Burke, Melissa Ferrie-Healy & Diane Henderson.*

TIME TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS!!

I would like to ORDER ___ Poinsettia(s) at \$15 each. Please list as follows:
IN MEMORY of

OR

IN HONOR of

Name _____

Phone # _____ /Cell # _____

Please make all checks payable to ***HARRISENA FLOWER FUND***,
c/o Harrisena Community Church, 1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804

ALL Orders must be into the office by TUESDAY, December 19th!!



MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

When dropping off last month's food contribution to the Warren County Family Services, they mentioned that there is a growing population of homeless people in our area. **They suggested for the months ahead we collect canned vegetables, fruits, meats and pasta meals in flip-top cans. We suggest also plastic spoons and some easy to operate can openers.**

We will continue our monthly **support of Open Door and will start donating for the next four months to their Code Blue program.**

Thank you for your continuing donations to helping our families and our community families in need.

Missions Committee: *Mary Alice Clickner, Pat Zacharias, Susan Ogden*



FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Dear Family and Friends,

If you are reading this letter, you have a connection to Harrisena Community Church and may be aware we are now in our "**stewardship season.**" Our proposed budget has been mailed, emailed and handed out at Council and Church. **The budget will be voted on at the November 12, 2023 Annual Meeting following the church service which begins at 9:30 a.m.**

Please consider the following:

- We have created a realistic annual budget. This has been reviewed and approved by Council.
- We have made our congregation aware that we have more expenses than income and thus are tapping into our savings account.
- Financial Officers have purchased CDs to get extra income and sought best practices in paying our bills.
- Our secretary and organist have not had a recent raise, although they both deserve it.
- Our pastor has not asked for a raise since she began her tenure here at Harrisena.
- We have held fundraising events and programs to generate additional income.

- Committee members, our pastor and church officers pay for many expenses out of their pockets.
- We reach far beyond our community with our video technology in use and have gained new folks as a result.

This year, we are going to simply incorporate our “Harrisena Supporter” ideas into the Stewardship campaign. If you can, for example, give up a Starbuck’s Coffee or other nonessential, put that money aside for Harrisena by placing the donation in an envelope marked “Harrisena Supporter.” Envelopes are also available in the basket at the back of the sanctuary for this purpose. So far, we have collected over \$2500 toward our goal of \$4000 by the end of December. If we all give a little more than our pledge or ordinary donations, we will cut back on our deficit and continue to go forward.

Let’s simply do our best to give more, whenever possible, so our beloved church continues to spread the good news of God’s love for us all.
Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Financial Officers: *Ken Zacharias, Bonnie Nadig, Janet Wilson*

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE FORM 2023

**Harrisena Community Church
1616 Ridge Road
Queensbury, NY 12804**

With a grateful heart for God’s boundless generosity and as an expression of my Christian Stewardship, I make this commitment for Harrisena Church and the ministry of the congregation.

MY/OUR commitment is:

WEEKLY \$ _____ MONTHLY \$ _____ ANNUALLY \$ _____ OTHER \$ _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ This is a first-time pledge

_____ I am also interested in pledging time and skills

_____ This represents an increase in pledge over last year

***Do you wish to have Pledge Envelopes? Yes _____ NO _____**

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Shelley Durkee, Ron Henderson and Pam Loeb

The October "Out To Eat" at The Tavern was very well attended by 20 folks. If you missed it, you have a chance to join HCC friends on **Thursday, November 16th at 5:30**. This "Out To Eat" event will take place at Thai Siam Restaurant located at 14 Maple Street, Glens Falls. **There is a sign-up sheet in the Ed Building. We hope many of you will be able to join in the fun!**

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION REPORT

Submitted by Doris O'Rourke

The **Women's Annual Communion Brunch** will be celebrated this year on **Saturday, December 2nd at 10 am**. This moving, and all women event, gives us a time to reflect and join with other women to share in fellowship and good food!

Please bring a dish to pass, a friend to share the event with, and your own table settings.

We have also started a new tradition of each of us **bringing a \$5 gift bag** gift to share as well!



HARBINGER PUBLICATION: If you would like to help collect articles, develop, and publish the HCC Harbinger, please contact Rev. Natalie. We could use your help!!!!

FRIDAY MEALS: If you would like to lend a hand preparing and delivering meals on Fridays, please contact Sue Ogden.

READERS: If you would like to read the scriptures on Sunday morning, please contact Melissa Ferrie-Healy or Christine Burke.

FELLOWSHIP: If you would like to share some of your delicious favorite desserts, cheese and crackers, fruits, or brunch items, please sign up in Robinson Hall on the table near the entrance and/or contact one of the Fellowship Committee Members: Ron Henderson, Pam Loeb or Shelley Durkee.

THANK YOU!

NOVEMBER2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			15:30 am Prayer 7:30- AA	25:30 am Prayer	35:30 am Prayer: Mission Meal prep.	45:30 am Prayer
55:30 am PrayerWorship @9:30	65:30 am Prayer	75:30 am Prayer; 1- Conversation	85:30 am Prayer AA @7:30	95:30 am Prayer	105:30 am Prayer: MissionMe al Prep.	115:30 am Prayer
12 5:30 am Prayer Worship @ 9:30– HCC ANNUAL MEETING	135:30 am Prayer	145:30 am Prayer; 1- Conversation Council @7	155:30 am Prayer AA @7:30	165:30 am Prayer	175:30 am PrayerMissi on Night Meal Prep.	185:30 am Prayer
195:30 am PrayerWorship @9:30	205:30 am Prayer	215:30 am Prayer; 1- Conversation	225:30 am Prayer; AA @7:30	235:30 am Prayer Thanksgi ving Day	245:30 am PrayerMissi on Meal prep.	255:30 am Prayer
26 5:30 am PrayerWorship@ 9:30	275:30 am Prayer	285:30 am Prayer; 1- Conversation	295:30 am Prayer; AA @7:30	305:30 am Prayer		

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP@ 9:30 a.m. in the Harrisena Community Church sanctuary. You can also join our worship service via livestream at Harrisena.org. Click on the **FACEBOOK** link at the top right-hand side of the website to the livestream of the service.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

7) Laura Avent, Kristen Shahay-Mootz; 11) Carl Avent, Peter Pepe; 12) Sydney Parry; 20) Danielle Brown, Rachel Straut, Lynn Bishop; 23) Jeffrey Cartier, Patrick Resse; 24) Timothy Gusek; 29) Kristi Helffrich-Chen.

CELEBRATION FRIDAYS!! Send your special events and celebrations to the church office for our **CELEBRATION FRIDAY** email publication. This is our way of sharing the blessings of God with each other as we live filled with gratitude for all that God is doing in our lives.

Long-Term Prayer Requests–November

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

In Facilities

Cindy Farbaniec – Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga
Francis Howard – Health & Rehabilitation Center
Manu Malkani – Fort Hudson Health Center
Art Norton – Slate Valley Center
Marilyn Somerville – Coburn Village

At Home

Laura Avent – member of Harrisena
Celine & Bob Boulé – Daughter/Son-in-law of Brandy & Wally Madon
Kathleen Dumont – Niece of Brandy Madon
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
Wendy Leyonmark – Sister of Cindy Huber
Ann Malkani – Neighbor of Joanne Beck
Robert Marshall –Friend of the Straut family
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Charles (Chuck) Ogden - Member
Gay Smith - Member
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Fran Tucker – Mother of Robert Tucker
Doloras Van Detta – Friend of Marie Scarselletta

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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 Joseph Hubbard (Army) – stateside
Wes McQueen, nephew of Dodi/Rev. Robinson- serving stateside
Tony Mitchell (USAF) - serving in Afghanistan.
Kaleb Parker (Army), grandson of Rev. Dr. Wimberly – serving in Germany
Griffith Parry (West Point Military Academy), relative of Griffith Parry- serving in Poland
Todd Payne (Army), cousin of the Payne family - serving stateside
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

