

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

When I was a little girl around 5 years of age, I suffered with bronchitis. I remember lying in bed, unable to go to school or play outside. The energy that normally flowed through my body, the intense curiosity of my mind, and the limitless joy of my heart were dulled by this dis-ease. My parents took me to see the doctor, and I was given medication, but I knew I needed something more. So, I prayed. I asked God to “make me well” and I promised to “be good.” My plea to God was one of sincere desire and longing to be healthy and to be whole. Then, I would go to sleep and when I woke up, I was “well.” Mind you, this is how I understood it at the age of 5. **I prayed** to God and **God answered**. It was as simple as that.

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (II Chronicles 7:14 NIV)

II Chronicles 7:14 is a familiar Hebrew scripture. It is God’s response to **Solomon’s prayer** for Israel. Israel had been waiting since God brought them out of Egypt to have a permanent home where the presence of God would dwell among the people. As noted in II Chronicles, that day had come. The Levites carried the Ark of the Covenant and placed it in the Holy of Holies, the inner sanctuary of the temple and immediately, the temple was filled with a cloud, the presence of God. All Israel had been called by Solomon to dedicate the temple with prayer and feasting. After years of preparation by David followed by years of building by Solomon, the temple was finished. So, **Solomon knelt down on the bronze platform and raised his hands to heaven and prayed.**

Solomon’s prayer in II Chronicles 6:12-42 is one of the great prayers we find in scripture. Solomon begins by speaking of **God as the Divine Promise Keeper** who shows immeasurable mercy. He then acknowledges that God is not confined by human hands to this temple. As Solomon continues to pray, we realize that he wants God to hear the prayers of the people, not so they can be delivered from their enemies or that they can prosper as a nation or any other number of reasons. Solomon’s hope is in God!!! He asks God to hear their prayers and forgive their sins. **Solomon desires the people to be in right relationship with God.** In his vast wisdom, Solomon envisions a day when Israel will turn away from the Lord and follow other gods and suffer the consequences. Solomon asks if God will **hear from heaven**, forgive their sin, and heal their land. Solomon pleads with God seven times to **“hear from heaven”**. God responds to Solomon, *“I will hear from heaven.”*

Now, as I reflect on the prayer I prayed at 5 years of age, I have come to understand that prayer doesn’t align God to us, it aligns us to God. Prayer doesn’t connect us to solutions; it connects us to God.

Let us pray together:

*Most gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
We humble ourselves before you today. We, as a community of faith at Harrisena
Community Church, align with and connect to Your will. We continue to ask that You hear*

from heaven as we pray for our church, our community, our world, and ourselves, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

In Christ’s service with you.

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly

If you are curious,

here are the seven times in II Chronicles 6 that Solomon asks God to hear from heaven:

Hear from Your dwelling place, from heaven; hear and forgive (verse 21).

Then **hear from heaven** and act and judge Your servants (verse 23).

Then **hear from heaven** and forgive the sin of Your people Israel (verse 25).

Then **hear from heaven Your dwelling place**, and forgive (verses 29-30).

Then **hear from heaven, from Your dwelling place**, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You (verse 33).

Then **hear from heaven** their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause (verse 35).

Then hear from heaven, from Your dwelling place, their prayer, and supplications, and maintain their cause and forgive Your people who have sinned against You (verse 39).



President's Message

Submitted by Doris O'Rourke

On September 13th we had our first Council meeting for the 2022-2023 year. Each committee was given a packet of forms prepared by our church secretary, Sue Urrico. Committees broke into singular groups to set their goals for the coming year and to choose a chairperson. The packet also included our annual calendar. We had a chance to review events and dates and make any appropriate changes.

We were given the **date of September 21st to close on the sale of the property bordered by Clements Road.** When this was first discussed by the Trustees a few years ago, it was determined that the funds would be **restricted for CAPITAL REPAIRS.** Any general repairs are included in our yearly budgets.

Thank you to all who attended our Council meeting and thanks to Sue Urrico for her hard work putting the packets together.

Membership

Submitted by Cheryl Straut

The Committee has met, on an average, twice a month this year, including the summer months.

The **directory and birthday list have been revised and edited.** We have been communicating revisions to Sue Urrico, who has updated her master copy. The committee has a page of edits that we plan to share with the congregation once we feel confident that most of the errors are corrected. We felt we should give it time after people return from summer vacations.

On August 4, Matthew and Kayla Romanowski were inducted as new members. The committee purchased a framed photo of the church (by Robert Tucker) and a few small gifts (trinkets), which the committee members donated. We are tracking our contributions for the purpose of financial records.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna Gelder-Bigelow, Brandy Madon, Sean Loonan, Cheryl Straut

Women's Association

The Women's Association had their first meeting on Sept. 15th.

We discussed ideas for future programs. Phyllis Straut volunteered to ask **Bill Loeb if he would speak about his work with the Red Cross**. Happily he agreed and a date will be set that fits his schedule.

We also talked about hosting the **Candlelight Communion potluck dinner** now that the pandemic seems to be behind us. This lovely event traditionally takes place on the **first Monday evening of December**. We will discuss this in more detail during our October meeting.

Thanks to Shirley Harney for bringing the dessert. Hope to see you all in October!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Special Services:

- **World Communion Sunday** – October 3rd at 9:30 a.m.
- **Pastor Appreciation Sunday** – October 16th at 9:30 a.m.
- **Five-Year Anniversary Celebration** – October 16th at 4:30 p.m.

Banners to "Fall" in Love With

Thank you to **Phyllis Straut** for creating our lovely autumn banners. These were lovingly designed by her granddaughter, **Kayla Monroe**. Be on the lookout for MORE colorful banners in the weeks to come!

Five-Year Anniversary Celebration

Rev. Dr. Natalie C. Wimberly has begun her 5th year of working in partnership with Harrisena Community Church. This is an accomplishment worth celebrating! Like a marriage, this partnership has come with its ups and downs, but the fact remains that we are still together through our efforts and the blessing of God. We would like to honor that union with a Five-Year Anniversary Celebration on Sunday October 16th at 4:30 p.m. There will be a worship service in the Sanctuary followed by a light reception in Robinson Hall.

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Since 1992, October has been observed as Clergy Appreciation Month. In past years, parishioners have recognized our pastoral leadership in their own quiet way. This year, we would like to start a tradition of intentionally showing our appreciation for our pastor's efforts to lead our church. Technically, National Clergy Appreciation Sunday is October 9th, but we have opted to observe Pastor Appreciation Sunday on October 16th, since this will allow us more time

to put together some special surprises for Rev. Natalie. **Please contact Christine Burke ASAP with any creative ideas to honor our pastor.** (We already have quite a few ideas of your own, but the more, the merrier!)

Still Looking for Scripture Readers

Is God calling YOU to join the ranks of Scripture readers at Harrisena? If you are on the fence about signing up, just remember all the great things God was able to do through Moses, who was initially reluctant to serve as God's spokesperson. **Christine Burke has graciously offered to help anyone with a desire to approach the lectern with CONFIDENCE and SKILL.** *We would love to hear God's word spoken through YOUR voice!*

Please let us know if you would be interested in joining us or assisting us in any way: ushering, serving Communion, reading Scriptures, creating a banner and/or sharing fresh flowers.

We welcome and encourage your feedback!

Worship Committee Members: *Christine Burke, Melissa Ferrie-Healy, Jodi Loonan & Phyllis Straut.*

Christian Ed Fun! 🥰 Sponsored by the Sunday School"

A 4-foot Christmas Tree has been secured **to decorate for Prospect School's "Festival of Trees"**. This is the 3rd year that the Harrisena Youth have decorated a tree for Prospect Schools Fund Raiser, *"The Festival of Trees"*.

We plan to meet **Saturday, October 22, 4 pm, at Harrisena Fellowship Hall** to decorate the tree. ***Our theme is "Stars and Woodland Creatures"***. We will accept any donated decorations. Children of all ages, (1 to 92) are invited to help. Of course there will be 🍕 pizza.

"Tree Decorating and Pizza Party":

There will also be a sign up list, and if you'd like to bring a pot luck item to go with the pizza, please indicate when you sign up.

RSVP: 🥰 (518) 681-2602

🥰 **Festival of Trees. November 25, 26 & 27**

🥰 Tree has to be delivered November 20th



Apple FESTIVAL

JOIN US For –

**SILENT AUCTION,
CRAFT VENDORS,
BASKET AUCTION,
BAKE SALE,
LUNCH
AND MUCH MORE!!**

**Saturday, October 15th in Robinson Hall
10 AM – 3 PM**

At Harrisena Community Church on 1616 Ridge Road

Contact: *Shirley Harney (518) 832-7306*

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

to

A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE TO GOD AND COMMUNITY

Rev. Dr. Natalie C. Wimberly and Harrisena Community Church

Celebrate five years together in ministry.

Our Theme: Heal Our Land

*“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14
ESV)*

DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2022

TIME: 4:30 P.M.

**LOCATION: HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH
1616 RIDGE ROAD
QUEENSBURY, NY 12804**

RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW!

RSVP BY OCTOBER 14TH at Harrisenachurch@gmail.com or Pam Loeb at pamelajloeb@gmail.com.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE 16TH!

OCTOBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Sunday Morning Worship @9:30 am	3	4	5 Bible Study/Lectio Divina at HCC @ 12:30 p.m. AA @7:30	6 Conversations @ 10:30	7	8
9 Sunday Worship @9:30 am	10	11 Council @7	12 Bible Study/Lectio Divina at HCC @ 12:30 p.m. AA @7:30	13 Conversations @ 10:30	14	15 Apple Festival 10-3
16 Pastor Appreciation Sunday Worship @9:30 Five-Year Anniversary Celebration@ 4:30 p.m.	17	18	19 Bible Study/Lectio Divina at HCC @ 12:30 p.m. AA @7:30	20 Women's Assoc. Mtg @12	21	22
23 Sunday Morning Worship @9:30 am	24	25	26 Bible Study/Lectio Divina at HCC @ 12:30 p.m. AA @7:30	27 Conversations @ 10:30	28	29
30 Reformation Sunday Morning Worship @9:30 am	31 Halloween					

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP @ 9:30 a.m.
in the Harrisena Community Church sanctuary and conference call-in at 1-313-209- 8800. The ID# is 796-8500, then press #.
Also, join our worship service via livestream at Harrisena.org.
Click on the link to the livestream of the service.

October Birthdays: 3) Heather VanDyke; 9) Aleana Martin; 10) Valerie McGilpin; 11) Ashley Stauches; 18) William Loeb; 25) Diane Matthews; 29) Bonnie Nadig

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 – October 2022

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

In Facilities

Linda Kennedy – Fort Hudson
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
Manu Malkani – The Terraces
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
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Doloras Van Detta – Friend of Marie Scarselletta

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*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Families & Friends of **Margaret M. Stewart** and **Patty Chapman** who died this past month. Maggie was a long-time Harrisena Member; and Patty was the mother-in-law of David Farbaniec.*



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

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

Kaleb Parker (Army), grandson of Dr. Wimberly – serving in Germany

Todd Payne (Army), cousin of the Payne family - serving stateside

Griffith Parry (Army), nephew of Grif Parry – serving in Poland

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

Michael Gusek, son of Kathleen & Tim Gusek is safely Home!

