

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

HOPE FOR THE JOURNEY

I am so excited about this new church year! A new church year signifies a time of hope. It points us to times when conscious attention is given to the mysterious power and presence of God in our lives and in the world. ***These are days filled with hope.***

Hope is commonly used to mean a wish. Its strength is the strength of the person's desire. In the Bible, hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised. In this way, ***hopes foundation and strength is in God's faithfulness.***

In times of uncertainty and fear, the 43rd chapter of the Book of Isaiah, urges us to be alert for the signs of God's continued presence, working to sustain and redeem even to this day. The people of God are in exile. Their past a trail of broken dreams, disappointments, shame and horror, their present filled with the constant ache for home. Imagine then, consumed with the past and present, there was little mental or emotional energy to think about the future. In the midst of this, God sends a message to the people through the Prophet Isaiah. ***"Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"*** (Isaiah 43:18-19) ***There is hope!***

The prophet is not content to have the people wax nostalgic about the "good old days." It is not on the past as *the past* that the prophet wants the people to concentrate. The prophet aims to **create an imaginative space in the minds of the people so that their conception of the past can transform their understanding of the present and, thus, the future: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"** In a seemingly hopeless situation, the prophet calls on the people not to lose heart but to look with anticipation for the signs of God's approaching redemption, for the "new thing" that is coming. God was doing a new thing for Israel and God is doing a new thing today for us.

This is hope. Audacious. Unbridled. Expansive. Fulsome. Hope leans fully into the future with the conviction of what God can and will do for God's people. The power and goodness of God working boldly and intentionally in the life of God's people. There is no challenge too hard, no obstacle too great, no body of water too wide, no desert too dry to keep God from creating or recreating the necessary conditions for God's people to flourish and all of creation to give honor and praise to God. ***God is doing a new thing!***

This is a wonderful and very necessary word for the Church to hear today when there is so much change and upheaval. Inside the struggles of social and political unrest, food

and housing insecurity, immigration politics, and the threat of another season of disease and death, God is at work. God is still making roadways in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ***God is still doing extraordinary, unimaginable, and seemingly impossible work in all of our struggles.*** Just as this announcement inspired hope for the Jews in exile so many thousands of years ago, may it inspire hope in us, too. God is preparing the world to be a place for all human beings to live, flourish, and to walk and talk with God. This is the ultimate redemptive work of God in the world.

The character of our God has not changed. God's grace and power have sustained us in the past, will see us through the present, and guide us into the future. Therefore, our faith journey is always filled with hope trusting in God.

...In the trust of old love, cultivation shows
a dark and graceful wilderness
at its heart.

Wild in that wilderness, we roam
the distances of our faith;
safe beyond the bounds
of what we know.

O love, open.

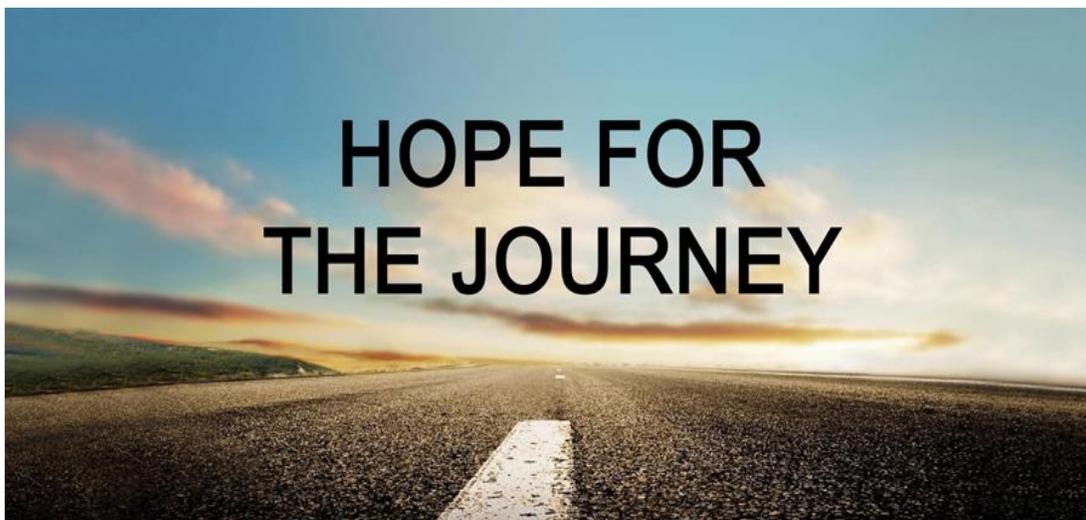
Show me my country.

Take me home.

(Wendell Berry "The Homecoming")

In Christ's service with you.

Shalom,
Dr. Natalie C. Wimberly





Worship Committee

WORSHIP COMMITTEE – August/September

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Happy New Year!

As students and teachers begin a new year at school, we will begin a new year at Harrisena with our **Rally Day service and celebration** on **September 10th**. During our worship service, we will formally install our new church officers and committee members. We will then head over to Robinson Hall to enjoy a delicious potluck brunch and some fun Harrisena trivia games. We also have a special “Bingo” challenge for members to work on throughout the year. Details will be revealed at Rally Day 2023!

Later this month, our Jewish brethren will observe their own New Year’s celebrations. **Rosh Hashanah**, the Jewish New Year, marks the start of the Jewish High Holy Days. During the time between Rosh Hashanah and **Yom Kippur**, The Day of Atonement, our Jewish brothers and sisters will be spending time in prayer, personal reflection and fasting, as they begin a new year in faith; *something we could all benefit from as we begin our New Year together!*

Coming Soon: Beautiful New Banners and Fall Flowers!

We have been busy creating new banners to grace the walls of our Sanctuary. Our first will be revealed on Rally Day. It will feature one of Rev. Natalie’s favorite words: *Shalom!*

Later this fall, we hope to reveal our Communion banner. Eventually, we will create a sister banner to the *Shalom* banner: *Come Holy Spirit.*

And, as summer transitions to fall, we will change our wreaths and flowers to match the colors of our new season. *(Thank you, Diane!)*

Remember, We Can ALWAYS USE HELP...

- Reading Scripture*
- Ushering/Greeting
- Decorating our Sanctuary
- Leading the congregation in song
- Sharing special music

* *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 with YOUR voice!*

Sign-up sheets are located outside Robinson Hall, in the Education Building.

2023-2024 Worship Committee Members: *Christine Burke, Melissa Ferrie-Healy, and Diane Henderson. We are here to serve God, Christ, and our parish!*

We welcome and encourage your constructive feedback.



THE MINISTRY OF FELLOWSHIP

Shelley Durkee, Ron Henderson and Pam Loeb

The Fellowship Team has partnered with Fundraising, Outreach and Worship to work on several events.

During the Chicken BBQ the Fellowship Committee and helpers set up Robinson Hall so that people could come inside to enjoy the chicken dinners. Some folks called ahead to reserve a table and a good time was had by all. **Many of HCC members baked desserts** that were served to the attendees of the BBQ. Beverages including water, iced tea, lemonade, coffee and tea were provided. Donations totaling \$58 were left at the dessert table.





The **Blood Drive on Friday, August 18, 2023 was a success.** Thirty five donors came to donate blood. The donors were able to enjoy some homemade desserts baked by Cheryl Evans, Shirley Harney and Sandra Chambers. The Red Cross Blood Drawers were served a lunch of tacos and chocolate chip pie. They were very grateful for the lunch and said they wanted to come back to work at HCC in January. **Thanks to Bob Evans, Melissa Ferrie-Healy, Pam and Bill Loeb and Pat Zacharias** for volunteering at the blood drive.



On Rally Day, Sunday, September 10, 2023 we will be having a Pot Luck Brunch. There is a sign-up sheet in Robinson Hall. **Bring breakfast or lunch items and join us as we begin the new Church year at HCC.**



At the last meeting of the Finance Committee, we discussed the need to develop a strategic plan for the next 12-months, 2- years and 5-years. This strategic plan would include working with our congregation and community to reduce our expenses and increase our income. We are determined to see Harrisena move into the future with a stable financial plan. We welcome suggestions from the congregation that help us meet this goal.

Harrisena has many great projects taking place that help us meet our financial responsibilities. Members of Harrisena have been bringing their empty cans & bottles to Rocket Recycling. They tell the clerk they wish to donate their refund to HCC. Then a Harrisena Financial Officer will periodically pick up a check from Rocket Recycling. To date we have received over \$1000 for our return of empties. Also, our recent Chicken BBQ resulted in a profit of over \$1300. A big thank you to everyone who supported this project.

The Ross Grant gave us \$34,000. This is less than the previous year. The Ross people had indicated that the size of their Grants mirror the economy of the year. The amount of their grant was expected. We are thankful for any amount received.

The Finance team has also been purchasing "CD's" now that the interest rates have risen. The monies from the sale of the land are invested at about 4% using the "ladder" approach of variable lengths of investment. Also, CD's were purchased from our Savings account at Glens Falls National at 5.25% for 9 months, when they offered this special rate for a limited time. These are just some of the ways we are attempting to raise income for Harrisena.

Our financial efforts have been beneficial, but we predict some possible challenges in the future. Despite our efforts we have continually needed to remove money from our Savings account in order to pay our bills. As of August 2022, our Savings account balance was \$172,000. A year later, as of August 2023, our Savings account balance is \$140,000. This is a deficit of \$32,000/year. If we continue at this pace, Harrisena's

Savings account will reach a \$0 balance in 4 to 5 years. The only monies left would be money held by Harrisena committees and land sale money...BUT we are planning!

One strategy for decreasing our budget deficit is by raising an additional \$4000 for 2023. We can do this over the next four months (September, October, November, December). If 20 people donated \$200 each, we would reach our goal. Additional donations and suggestions are welcome! To contribute to this special project, please write on your check "**Harrisena Supporter**" or place money in an envelope with "**Harrisena Supporter**" written on it. The Finance Committee will announce the progress of this project each month.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to HCC through your pledges and other donations and contributions. Every effort is greatly appreciated!

Finance Committee:

Bonnie Nadig

Bill Loeb

Sue Ogden

Janet Wilson

Rev. Natalie Wimberly

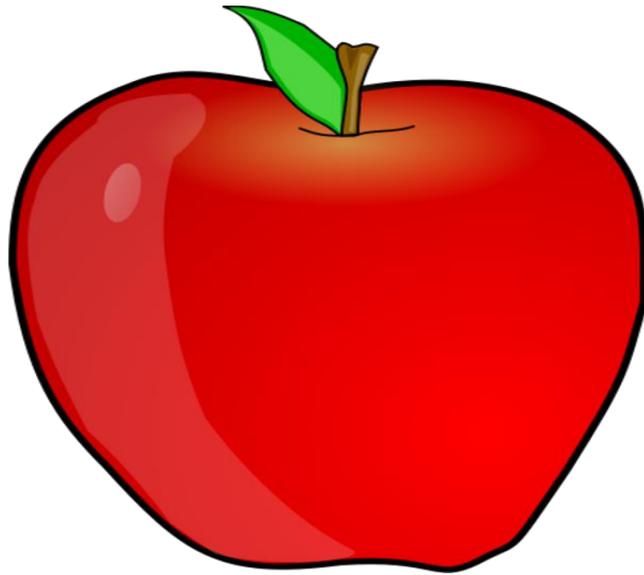
Ken Zacharias

A FINANCIAL GOAL MET



Ron and Diane Henderson are members of the Harrisena Community Church. The Hendersons set a personal goal to raise \$1000 this year (2023) to benefit HCC. They reached this goal on August 28th with their can/bottle collections and donations. Even though they have reached their goal, they are still collecting cans and bottles.

THANK YOU, RON AND DIANE!



APPLE FESTIVAL

**Saturday, September 30th, Robinson Hall
10 AM – 3 PM**

Join us for:

Silent Auction, Lunch, Craft Vendors,

Basket Auction, Bake Sale and Much More!

Harrisena Church
1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804

Office #518 792-1902



UPCOMING EVENT DATES

- September 10: RALLY DAY at HCC**
 - September 12: First Council Meeting 7 pm**
 - September 30: Apple Festival 10:00 to 3:00**
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Another Successful Summer Blood Drive

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Thank you to everyone who helped with our **Summer Blood Drive** on **August 18th**. The Red Cross volunteers were grateful for the lunch of tacos they were served, and the donors appreciated the delicious home-baked treats we provided. We have a number of “regulars” who really look forward to enjoying our Harrisena hospitality while collecting (and donating) blood at our bi-annual blood drives.

We registered 35 donors for 39 possible slots and collected 30 pints of blood! **Thank you to those who baked treats for our canteen, prepared lunch for our volunteers, greeted and registered our donors, and helped with set-up and clean-up.** *A special thank you to those who were able to donate blood, as well.*

**SAVE THE DATE (and your blood) for our WINTER BLOOD DRIVE:
Friday January 26th from 12-5:30 p.m.**

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 5:30 am Prayer	2 5:30 am Prayer
3 5:30 am Prayer Holy Communion Worship @9:30	4 5:30 am Prayer Labor Day	5 5:30 am Prayer; Conversations @1	6 5:30 am Prayer AA @7:30	7 5:30 am Prayer	8 5:30 am Prayer	9 5:30 am Prayer
10 5:30 am Prayer RALLY DAY Sunday/ Worship @ 9:30 – Installation Svc	11 5:30 am Prayer	12 5:30 am Prayer; Conversations @1 Council @7	13 5:30 am Prayer AA@7:30	14 5:30 am Prayer	15 Friday Night Meal Prep.	16 5:30 am Prayer
17 5:30 am Prayer Worship @9:30	18 5:30 am Prayer	19 5:30 am Prayer Conversations @1	20 5:30 am Prayer; AA@7:30	21 5:30 am Prayer	22 Friday Night Meal Prep.	23 5:30 am Prayer
24 5:30 am Prayer Worship @ 9:30	25 5:30 am Prayer	26 5:30 am Prayer Conversations @1	27 5:30 am Prayer; AA@7:30	28 5:30 am Prayer	29 Friday Night Meal Prep.	30 5:30 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.

September Birthdays: 5) Bruce Lipinski, Lydia Thrall; 8) Steven Greene; 9) William Resse; 12) Doug Helffrich; 20) Evan Lipinski; 21) Michael Healy; 28) Noel Granger, Jane McLaughlin, Lynsey Urrico; 29) Nicole Nadig-MacDermid

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 – September 2023

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 – 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
Robert Marshall – Friend of the Straut family
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Marie Scarselletta - Friend of the Straut family
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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*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Families & Friends who lost Loved Ones these past months: **Linda Kennedy**, friend of Susan Ogden; **and Dave Meehan**, friend of Ken & Pat Zacharias.*



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 , son of Kathleen & Tim Gusek – stateside at Ft. Hood, TX

Joseph Hubbard (*Army*) – stateside

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 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

