

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.
2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV

I read a story recently about a minister and President Lincoln. The story goes like this: A clergyman from New York, during a call on President Lincoln at the White House, said: "I have not come to ask any favors of you, Mr. President; I have only come to say that the loyal people of the North are sustaining you and will continue to do so. We are giving you all that we have, the lives of our sons as well as our confidence and our prayers. You must know that no boy's father or mother ever kneels in prayer these days without asking God to give you strength and wisdom."

His eyes brimming with tears, Mr. Lincoln replied: "But for those prayers, I should have faltered and perhaps failed long ago. Tell every father and mother you know to keep on praying, and I will keep on fighting, for I know God is on our side."

As the clergyman started to leave the room, Mr. Lincoln held him by the hands and said: "I suppose I may consider this as sort of a pastoral call?"

"Yes," replied the clergyman.

"Out in our country," replied Lincoln, "when a parson makes a pastoral call, it was always the custom for the folks to ask him to lead in prayer, and I should like to ask you to pray with me today. Pray that I may have the strength and the wisdom."

The two men knelt side by side, and the clergyman offered the most fervent plea to Almighty God that ever fell from his lips. As they arose, the President clasped his visitor's hand and remarked in a satisfied sort of way: "I feel better."

For most of us, encouragement makes us feel better. Encouragement provides the emotional fuel that enables people to hold longer, reach farther and dig deeper than previously believed possible. The word encourage means to inspire with courage, spirit, or hope. Even leaders need encouragement.

The second letter to Timothy written by the Apostle Paul is a letter of encouragement. Paul writes to this young pastor who had been ministering to the church at Ephesus for four years. Timothy had been a faithful servant to Paul. He had ministered alongside Paul during the second and third missionary journeys when he had traveled to places such as Troas, Philippi, and Corinth. Paul wrote the second letter to Timothy to provide him encouragement and fortitude in the face of difficulties and trials.

Paul writes this letter a letter of encouragement from a dark and damp Roman prison cell. Mind you, this is Paul. His circumstances rarely deter him from his ministry. He

is a man with a purpose. He is a man on a mission. Remember, this is Paul, the Apostle!

Paul started out as one of Christianity's most zealous enemies. So zealous and devout that persecuting Christians was the natural way for him to show his devotion...*until* Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus. After this encounter with Jesus, everything changed for Paul. He became one of the gospel's most ardent messengers. He traveled tirelessly through the ancient world, taking the message of salvation to the Gentiles. Now we meet him after many years of ministry at the end of his life. Paul is in prison.

Had Paul's goal in life been an existence filled with pleasure and void of pain, then his imprisonment would have been a tragedy. He would have written, "Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out to be a giant detour in my plan for my life." But Paul had a greater purpose for living than peace and prosperity. He had dedicated his life to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible. And it was through the lens of that grand purpose that he viewed every circumstance in his life, including his suffering. Robert Jeffress

Paul moves beyond his own situation to encourage Timothy and to encourage us today. During these days of COVID-19, we must be encouraged to keep going, to continue our journey of life, love and faith. We must remember who we are and whose we are. We must remember our identity in Christ and our purpose in the Gospel. We must hold tightly to our faith by investing in one another through prayer and practical actions. We must envision a future of health and overall well-being. We must fight the good fight together! In doing this, we can also carry forward the reality of hope by praying for others and for ourselves, reading the Holy Bible, social distancing (6 ft), washing our hands, staying home as much as possible, wearing masks when we are out, frequently disinfecting surfaces, and keeping in touch with family, friends and neighbors through phone calls and/or social media. **BE ENCOURAGED!!! WE CAN DO THIS TOGETHER! WE ARE NOT ALONE!**

The LORD bless you and keep you: The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen and amen. (Numbers 6:24-26 RSV)

Shalom

Dr. N. C. Wimberly



GOD has given us....
POWER
LOVE
SOUND MIND

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a difference a month makes...

Four short weeks ago we seemed to be on a roll. Things were looking up and we were making progress on many of our goals at Harrisena.

All of a sudden out of the blue we are hunkered down at home. Hopefully all of us have made it through the shortages of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, canned goods, and of all the other essentials needed for staying home to avoid the possibility of contracting the dreaded coronavirus. Our world has been turned upside down as we contemplate a future without Sunday services at the sanctuary. No Sunday fellowship — no social visits — practicing social distancing with no more hand shakes or hugs. That is what I miss the most. Being with my church family and giving hugs and handshakes to all the folks that I look forward to seeing every Sunday.

On top of all of this we now say goodbye to a dear friend that has been a vital part of Harrisena Church for more years than most of us can imagine. Bob Straut transitioned from this life to the next on Thursday, March 26 and it leaves a big hole in our hearts to have to say goodbye for now. Bob's spirit is part of the essence of Harrisena. Now he is free of suffering and joins the rest of our Harrisena family who live eternally with our Lord in heaven. For a few years Lori and I played pinochle with Bob and Phyllis on Friday nights. It was something we all looked forward to because we would share dinner together, then play the first of a few games before we would partake in dessert. Those were great times that we will remember fondly. I will always remember Bob as a true gentleman who always had a smile to share.

Looking forward is a mystery at best. If you watch the news all day you already know the predictions for returning to normalcy are completely up in the air. So the best we can do is take it one day at a time. I've decided that this experience at home is a perfect time to meditate and try to center myself once again so that I can focus on what God has in mind for us. At the very least it helps me to appreciate all of the wonderful gifts I have been given throughout my life. Like all of you, I have so much to be thankful for.

I will always remember what my mother said to me on the day that my father passed away. She found me sitting alone on the back steps crying my heart out while trying to come to grips with everything. The birds were singing and neighborhood children were playing and laughing. I thought it was such a harsh contrast to what I was feeling. She said to me: "Life can be cruel sometimes, but it does go on." Less than a year later my 1st son was born and I don't think I could have imagined how much joy had filled my heart. Over the years I've experienced that same kind of joy with a second son and five beautiful granddaughters. I often think of my father's favorite saying and I can hear him today saying those three words: "Life is sweet."

I guess we just have to experience these trying times to be able to appreciate the gifts that we have been given. I sincerely pray that all of you will experience the sweetness in

life once again soon. Give your worries to God. Concentrate on the important things.

God Bless you all,
Peter Pepe



OUTREACH COMMITTEE
Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Outreach on PAUSE

Hmm... How do we carry on an outreach ministry within the restrictions of “social distancing?” It’s a challenge, to be sure! But the need for this ministry is greater than ever. In addition to our “regulars,” let’s consider the following:

- Families who have lost their income and are struggling to make ends meet
- Parents who are suddenly responsible for overseeing their children’s “remote learning” assignments and scheduling – while perhaps, if they are fortunate enough to be able to do this, trying to work from home themselves
- Seniors who are lonely, but unable to accept visitors due to health risks
- Small business owners who have had to close their doors and/or re-think their service delivery plan
- Health care workers who put their lives – as well as their families’ lives – at risk by caring for those who are infected with covid-19
- “Essential” workers at nursing homes, grocery stores, pharmacies, hardware stores, construction, mail and delivery services, public works, emergency response and care, law enforcement – and so many others...

How many of our church members fit this description? How many of our neighbors fit this description? How many throughout the community fit this description? And more importantly, what can we do to give them hope?

- Send a note, perhaps enclosing a check or gift card, if you can afford it
- Make a phone call (a VIRTUAL phone call, if possible!)
- Shop locally and responsibly (stay home if you’re sick!)

- Post positive messages on social media
- Pray, pray, pray, pray, pray!

As our 40 days of Lent transition to Easter, let us not lose this opportunity to share the gift of hope, even in the midst of daunting challenges. For just as surely as Christ rose on Easter morning, we will see the positive impact our actions, made in His name.

Updates on PAUSE

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!

Easter Cards

Thank you to Shirley Harney for assisting with our Easter card writing! ☺

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.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Please forward your pledges and offerings to ***Harrisena Community Church, 1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804.*** We will get through this time together. Thank you! *HCC Finance Committee: Bonnie Nadig, Ken Zacharius, and Cheryl Pagano*

ONLINE PAYMENT CAPABILITIES COMING SOON!



Membership Committee

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Please welcome one of our newest members to Harrisena Community Church, **Bob Kellogg**.

Bob was born and raised in Queensbury. He has been married to his wife, Ella, for 27 years. Bob and Ella have a daughter, Megan, who is 24 and also lives in Queensbury. Bob met Ella when he was in the Navy stationed in Guam. Bob is the owner of Warren Tire and enjoys his free time doing most anything outdoors in nature. One of Bob's most enjoyable pastimes is running with Megan and hiking with his bulldog, Dozer.

Welcome Bob! We extend to you the gift of fellowship and faith in Christ's name, the blessing of hope, and the peace of God's love now and always. We look forward to seeing you and working with you as a member of Harrisena Community Church.



MISSIONS 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.

We continue to support Open Door. They have a need for meals on the some weekends. The Missions committee and volunteers have provided packaged meals to support them.



**The MISSIONS AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEES
HAVE TEAMED UP!!!**

We are providing meals for HCC members and friends. If you would like a packaged meal on Fridays, call Sue Ogden. **Special thanks to Sue and Chuck Ogden, Bill and Pam Loeb, Hal and Deanna Payne, Mary Alice Clickner, Nancy Willet** and all those who have contributed to this ministry with your prayers, time and financial resources.

If you would like to make donations, please contact the office by phone or email at harrisenachurch@gmail.com or send monetary donations to: **Harrisena Community Church, 1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804. THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We miss seeing you! Sooo...on Sundays at 12 noon, meet us on ZOOM for our Children's Message and time of fellowship. Also, watch your mail for your Easter Surprise! See you soon!

CE



A MESSAGE FROM DORIS O'ROURKE

Dear Harrisena Family,

My thanks for all the caring emails and messages and cards and especially your prayers for me, our family, and my son, Steve. Your prayers and mine were answered. Stephen felt a change come over him. He did not want to leave his life on earth but he bravely carried forth.

Gratefully,
Doris



**HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH
APRIL 2020**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 PRAYER TOGETHER @ 12 noon	3	4 Weekly email BLAST!
5 Palm Sunday 9:30 am FACEBOOK LIVE! And Conference Call in	6	7 PRAYER TOGETHER @ 12 noon	8 PRAYER TOGETHER @ 12 noon	9 PRAYER TOGETHER @ 12 noon HOLY THURSDAY	10 GOOD FRIDAY	11 Weekly email BLAST! PRAYER VIGIL
12 EASTER SERVICES: SUNRISE 6:30 am parking lot in cars & 9:30 am FACEBOOK LIVE!		14 PRAYER TOGETHER @ 12 noon Council Meeting@7:00 pm: Conference Call	15 PRAYER TOGETHER @ 12 noon	16 PRAYER TOGETHER @ 12 noon	17	18 Weekly email BLAST!
19 SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 AM FACEBOOK LIVE! And Conference Call-In	20	21 PRAYER TOGETHER @ 12 noon	22 PRAYER TOGETHER @ 12 noon	23 PRAYER TOGETHER @ 12 noon	24 Harbinger Articles Due for May	25 Weekly email BLAST!
26 SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 AM FACEBOOK LIVE! And Conference call-IN	27	28 PRAYER TOGETHER @ 12 noon	29 PRAYER TOGETHER @ 12 noon	30 PRAYER TOGETHER @ 12 noon		

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.
- 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.**

April Birthdays:

- 1) Carolyn Curren; 7) Katherine Gould, Lauren Gould, Donna Smith;
8) Jeremy Carte; 9) Lori Carte; 14) Ken Zacharias; 15) Doug Helffrich, Jr.,
Kathy Herold; 16) David Michaels; 17) Julian Barthold; 20) April Beasley-
Irving; 23) Blake McComsey; 25) Ralph Wilson; 26) Anne Kingsley,
Sean Robinson; 30) Elizabeth Gusek, Mac Petrequin.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – April 2020

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

In Facilities

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
McCane Family – Relatives of Bob & Phyllis Straut
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

Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Family & Friends of Robert (Bob) Straut, Sr., Jean Trudel, June Armstrong, Emil Lindstrand, Scott Fraser, Grace Clough, Jane Henshaw, Caroline Parisi and Stephen O'Rourke who died this past month. Jean, June & Emil were friends of Sue & Peter Cartier; Scott was a member and beloved by Christine Burke; Grace, was the mother of member, Linda Higgins; Jane was a long-time friend of Joanne Beck; Caroline was a friend of Bonnie & Phil Nadig; and Stephen was the son of Doris O'Rourke.

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

