

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

In the early 1970s, my older brothers were in high school. During that time, the schools in our hometown integrated. Although segregation in schools had been legally banned after the ruling of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, school segregation took de facto form. In our small town, our schools had remained segregated. Many of the adults agreed with the ruling and wanted to move forward. They had accepted this change and were working together with the Board of Education to bring it about, but it had taken time. Together this diverse group of adults decided that they didn't want the race wars in our town like they had seen all over this country. Even so, there were still others who were determined to keep the tradition of segregation, to keep things the way they had always been.

As these teachers and students began to work together, talk to each other, eat together, and learn together, they came to realize that they were more alike than different. Some became friends. They began to question why their lives had been designed with such separation and disharmony. The students decided to do something different. The schools had integrated, but not the churches. So, some of the white students invited some of their Black friends to church. My brothers and the other kids got permission from their parents and accepted the invitation to worship with their classmates. On that Sunday morning, my brothers and five other kids walked into the church. They were greeted by their friends. They were glad to see them, but the adults in the congregation were not. As these kids sat down to worship, half of the adults in the congregation, stood up, and walked out of the church.

This story raises so many questions for us even today. An article written in February of this year, 2022, suggests that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s decades-old criticism of the racial divide in the U.S. church still rings true. "It's been said that the most segregated hour in America is Sunday morning ... it's true," people of different races, ethnicities and cultures regularly work and socialize together. "And then on Sunday morning, we do this – we go our separate ways."

So, why do I raise this to our collective consciousness now? Why during this season of Lent 2022? I would suggest that the question is not why, but why not. Where does the Church (universal) stand in 2022? Where does Harrisena Community Church stand in 2022? Who is Harrisena Community Church in 2022? Why are we here? Will we commit to the mission God has given us to respond with soberness and love to a hurting people and to a hurting world?

"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 I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV)

Lent is a season of spiritual preparation before Easter. The goal of spiritual preparation and discipline is to strengthen our faith and develop a closer relationship with God so that we can live our lives in the fullness of holiness – to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We are called during this season to prepare our lives for the rest of our lives. Will we?

The opportunity to journey with Jesus to the cross is an immeasurable gift that we receive from God. We are there when he healed Lazarus and when the woman touches the hem of his garment. We are there when the blind man sees for the very first time. We are there when Jesus goes to the home of the chief tax collector, Zacchaeus. Amazing! Then, we hear the crowds mock Jesus. We watch as the authorities plot against him. We feel the tension in the air as the Pharisees and the teachers of the law listen to and watch Jesus' every move, listening to every word he says, not because they want to be transformed but because they want to get rid of him. As we listen closely, our hearts sink because we are there when Jesus feeds more than 5000 people. We even find ourselves in the crowds in Jerusalem and at Calvary.

We recognize our own voices in those of the religious authorities. We throw our palms and praise God with our "*hosannas*." Then days later, we shout "*crucify Him*." Why have we joined the crowds? Why are we there? Why are we here acting out these same narratives day after day? How do we continue to believe that these are ancient stories when they are our stories, told in our authentic voices, in real time and in our real lives.

It is my hope and prayer that we dig deep into our own hearts, our own minds, our own lives, and place what we discover before God. This is the challenge we face during this Lenten season as we continue our journey to the cross. If we meet this challenge, God has promised that we will hear from heaven and God will heal our land.

Pray this prayer with me:

Dear God,
Help!
Amen.

In Christ's service with you.

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly



A Message from the President

On March 9th Rev. Stefani met with the Council. We were asked the question "*what are we doing here*"?

Most of us would answer that we came to Harrisena to take part in worship of God, that we hope to find fellowship with others, and we would be able to join others in serving our community and beyond.

Harrisena has always had a mission of love, service and outreach. We have a strong foundation and an opportunity to build on it.

The **Council will meet with Rev. Stefani on April 9th to continue our journey.**

Doris O'Rourke



REV. STEFANI presented the HCC Church Council with five (5) commitments necessary to build a healthy congregation.

COMMITMENT 1: TO THE CHURCH MISSION

COMMITMENT 2: TO THE CHURCH COVENANT

COMMITMENT 3: TO BECOMING A HEALTHY CONGREGATION

**COMMITMENT 4: TO DEVELOP SUPPORTIVE AND RESPECTFUL
PASTOR/CONGREGATION RELATIONSHIPS**

COMMITMENT 5: TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A MINISTRY PLAN

WILL YOU COMMIT?

Women's Association

Women's Association held their meeting in Robinson Hall on March 17. **Discussion continued on the purchasing of a fireproof cabinet to store the church's historical documents.** A motion was made to make this purchase but it was **voted to investigate this further** before making a final decision. The same decision was made regarding the display case for the church's memorabilia.

A new mission statement was written and adopted as follows:

The Harrisena Women's Association provides a forum for women of all ages and backgrounds to meet and enjoy each other's company and to financially enhance the Harrisena Church experience.

The next meeting is April 21. Open to all Harrisena women and the surrounding community. Bring a friend. Hope to see many of you then.

Joanne

Membership

The Membership Committee continues to work on updating the church directory, as well as lists of HCC members, friends, and birthdays. If you have any updates of contact information, please pass it on to a member of the committee.

Blessings,

Donna Gelder-Bigelow Brandy Madon Cheryl Straut



The Scholarship Committee would like to announce the **availability of Scholarships for the 2022 Academic Year.** Students graduating from High School, as well as those presently enrolled in college are invited to apply.

Scholarships are reserved for Harrisena Church Members ONLY. (You may re-apply even if you have received a scholarship in the past.)

The Application Form can be found on our website: www.harrisena.org. ALL Applications are **due back by Friday, July 1st at 5 PM.**

SAVE THE DATE

**Junk In the Trunk/ Book Sale/ Bake Sale
Saturday, June 4th, 9am-3pm
\$20 per Vendor**

**Vendors – checks made out to “*Harrisena Community Church*”
c/o Shirley Harney, 1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804**

LET’S FILL THE PARKING LOT!

Sharing Love with Socks

This past fall, many of you contributed socks and money in support of **Ryan Healy’s Eagle Scout project**. His goal was to collect 10,000 pairs of socks to donate to the homeless and those in need. After careful research, Ryan chose to channel his donations through a not-for-profit organization based in Philadelphia: *The Joy of Sox* (<https://tjos.org/>) With your help, Ryan was able to mail 1,388 pairs of socks and purchase 3,120 additional pairs of socks to be delivered to *The Joy of Sox* last month. He purchased the additional socks through SOCKS’NBULK (<https://www.socksinbulk.com>), a company that donates a pair of socks for every pack of socks purchased. With 4,508 pairs delivered so far, Ryan is roughly halfway there!

Thanks again to all who helped support this project. Hopefully, Ryan’s initiative has raised awareness of the great need for this simple but essential item of clothing. *May you continue to share the love with socks!*



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

April 10: PALM/PASSION SUNDAY service @ 9:30 a.m.

April 14: MAUNDY THURSDAY service @ 7:00 p.m.
HCC sanctuary

April 15: GOOD FRIDAY service @ 7:00 p.m.
Hosted by Christian Leaders for Change at
Northway Christian Family Church,
37 Homer Avenue, Queensbury, NY 12804-2039

April 16 – April 17th at 6:30 a.m.: PRAYER VIGIL
Pray wherever you are for the church and the world.
Prayer for your neighbors, your enemies, and
yourself.

April 17: RESURRECTION SUNDAY (EASTER)
-SUNRISE Service @ 6:30 a.m. (parking lot)
-Worship Service @ 9:30 a.m. (HCC sanctuary)

Please have your Easter flower forms submitted soon (**deadline is 4/03**)!

Thanks to Women's Association, **Christine, and the Nadig/Wilson family** - 3 generations of women - for agreeing to work on banners for the Sanctuary. And, many thanks to **Phil Nadig for agreeing to serve as Head Usher!**

Please check the sign-up sheet for **Lenten service readings**, we still have some openings.

Kathleen

April 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Mission Meals Prepared	2
3 Communion @9:30 Air Band Practice 2-4	4	5 Air Band Practice 5-7	6 Lenten Bible Study @ 7 PM AA @7:30	7 Conversations@10:30	8 Mission Meals Prepared	9 Mediation with Rev. Stefani & Church Council
10 PALM SUNDAY Worship @9:30 Air Band Practice 2-4	11	12 COUNCIL @7	13 Lenten Bible Study @ 7 PM AA @7:30	14 Maundy Thursday Service 7 PM Conversations	15 Good Friday Service @ 7 PM Mission Meals	16 PRAYER VIGIL
17 RESURRECTION SUNDAY/EASTER SUNDAY: Sunrise Service @6:00 AM & Regular Worship @9:30 AM Air Band Practice 2-4	18	19 Air Band Practice 5-7	20 GFGC AA @7:30	21 Women's Assoc. Mtg/Lunch @12	22 Mission Meals Prepared	23
24 Worship @ 9:30 Air Band Practice 2-4	25	26 Air Band Practice 5-7	27 AA @7:30	28 Conversations@10:30	29 Mission Meals Prepared	30

JOIN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES IN PERSON OR ON FACEBOOK LIVE
at
HARRISENA LIVE or Harrisena.org

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;
20) April Beasley-Irving; 23) Blake McComsey; 25) Ralph Wilson; 26) Anne Kingsley;
30) Elizabeth Gusek, Mac Petrequin.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – April 2022

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

In Facilities

Cindy Farbaniec – The Terrace
Nancy Cathers – Assisted Living, MD
Maria Foss – Sunnyview Rehabilitation
Linda Kennedy – Fort Hudson
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
Manu Malkani – The Terrace
Art Norton – Slate Valley Center, Granville
Marilyn Somerville – Coburn Village, Rexford

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 – Friend of Joanne Beck
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Gay Smith – Member of Harrisena
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Doloras Van Detta – Friend of Marie Scarselletta

~

*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Family & Friends of: **Dave Rogers**, friend of Jane Fitzgerald who died this past month.*

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 (*Army*), 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 Dr. Wimberly – serving in Germany

Griffith Parry (*Army*), 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 Intelligence*), husband of Andrea—serving stateside

Braden Stormer – serving stateside

