

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. John 1:1-3 NIV

During this Season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ again. We become aware and alert to God's light that shines in all of our darkness. **The Creator enters creation, again!**

The Gospel of John proclaims Jesus as the preexistent and incarnate God revealed in human flesh. Therefore, Jesus is the source of all creation and is the source of all life. The word used for *life* here represents more than physical life. It speaks of full physical and spiritual life, the totality of life. **This is the life that God breathed into creation in the beginning.**

Jesus is the Son of God who is God the Son. Jesus is God's love and light in and for the world.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12 NIV

Jesus came to earth to shed the light of the God throughout the universe. This light shines in the darkness and darkness and evil cannot quench it. **Jesus is the shining Light that enlightens the darkened souls of humanity.** He is that **gentle, yet powerful Light**, that pours warmth into the chilled heart.

Dr. Howard Thurman penned some of the most beautiful words that make way for us to **invite the Light** in...to **embrace healing and hope**. He wrote:

***I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.***

Let us all light candles this Advent season as we embrace the gracious Light that streams eternal love into our lives and into this world.

In Christ's service with you.

Shalom

Dr. N. C. Wimberly

President's Message

Submitted by Doris O'Rourke

On Saturday morning, November 13th, Rev. George Stefani met with Council members to discuss ways that lead to better communication.

Rev. Stefani explained that our Bible has guidance on this subject in Matthew 7:3-5 *"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye', when all the time there is a plank in your own eye. You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."*

Now we have a foundation; communication with respect. We also heard to be HARD on issues and SOFT on people; that it takes twenty times for a message to be heard and understood; and that **communication consists of three parts:** speaking, listening to what was said, and what was not said.

Doing a wrap up after a discussion is also a useful tool.

Evaluate the pros and cons of each idea asking three things. Can it be managed? Who is the person responsible for the action and also who will document the completion of the action.

Rev. Stefani described how an Annual Report can further communication. We will be able to incorporate that suggestion using our end of the year committee reports that are submitted in June.

We all gained knowledge from this meeting and we appreciate Rev. Stefani sharing his time and experience with us.

Trustees

Submitted by Shelley Durkee

For the next few weeks the Board of Trustees will be providing information about the property owned by the church that we would like to sell.

After our members have all the information provided, we will take a vote of the congregation, on whether to sell or not

The proceeds from this sale (if approved) will be put into a special account to be used for maintenance of our church, properties and buildings in coming years.

Board of Trustees

*A big THANK YOU to **Bob Kellogg** for his help in handling our flood crisis in the church lounge on Sunday morning, and THANKS to **Ajani Wimbley** for his help so willingly given!

Women's Association

Our meeting wasn't held until Thurs. Nov 18th. We made plans for a **Christmas luncheon to be held on our regular meeting date of Dec. 16th at noon**. Each person will **bring a dish to share** and take their serving dish home for washing. This will reduce kitchen cleanup. We will bring **our own place settings also**. Sue Ogden offered to make the punch.

Marian Philo suggested a unique activity for us: **Each person will write out their favorite "saying" and wrap it as a gift**. The packages will be displayed on a table. Each person will have a chance to pick a package, either from the table or from someone who already picked. It sounds like it will be fun.

Looking forward to seeing everyone,
Doris O'Rourke

Membership Committee December Report

As an ongoing, long-term project, our committee is working to update and maintain our **Harrisena Church membership list**. We will be communicating with members who have not been in contact with the church in one way or another. The committee is reaching out to members who have been shut-ins, or have been unable to attend church for various reasons to assure them that their membership at Harrisena is for life.

Additionally, we will be **working to update the birthday recognition list**; to suggest visitor welcome events; and to promote membership opportunities.

Respectfully Submitted, Donna Gelder Bigelow, Brandy Maddon, Cheryl Straut

TREASURERS' REPORT

The Finance Committee would like **to thank the congregation for the votes of support for our 2022 budget**. Budgets are educated guesses about the future. It would be wonderful to present a balanced budget. This has not been accomplished at Harrisena for some time, but somehow we seem to manage to get our bills paid, salaries met and upkeep our campus. It is through the generous support of our friends and family that this happens. A sincere thank you for your faith and contributions.

On November 16, 2020, our savings account was \$185,730.41. As of November 16, 2021, the savings account **balance is \$187,080.78**. Last year our buildings were not used as much and our Committees did not spend as much as in the past due to Covid restrictions. As we hear every day in the news, inflation is an all time high and prices continue to rise. Having pledges made and kept up to date assures us we will continue to get through these difficult financial times. **If you have not already made a pledge, please consider it now.**

Thank you!

Your Financial Team: Ken Zacharias, Bonnie Nadig, Janet Wilson

WORSHIP COMMITTEE
Submitted by Kathleen Gusek

On Remembrance Sunday (11/14) our congregation had the opportunity to recognize loved ones who had passed since our pre-COVID Memorial Day Service. Well over 50 candles were lit in memory of named individuals. Thanks to Bob Tucker for including names and photographs (as submitted).

Hymnals and Bibles can soon be found in pews! (Hopefully by 11/21.)

The Offertory and Doxology are back! Thanks to Bob Tucker and Cheryl Straut for the gift of long-handled Catholic-style collection baskets to help keep everyone safe.

We have an exciting Advent Season to look forward to: Advent Readings, Hanging of the Greens, special music (?!), and some special surprises!

Please take note of the following dates:

- 11/28: **1st Sunday of Advent**
- 12/05: **2nd Sunday of Advent – Communion – Hanging of the Greens (Breakfast)**
- 12/12: **3rd Sunday of Advent -**
- 12/19: **4th Sunday of Advent – Sunday before Christmas**
- 12/24: **Christmas Eve Services at 6 PM and 9 PM**

Sign-up sheets are back! Please seek them out in the Sanctuary. Many hands make light work!

Worship Committee **will be looking for family and friends among us to lead the lighting of the Advent wreath candles each Sunday of Advent, as well as on Christmas Eve.** Anyone who is interested should please contact Reverend Natalie or a member of the Worship Committee (see below) so we can coordinate services.

As always, we welcome and encourage your feedback with regard to every aspect of the worship experience at Harrisena Community Church.

2021-2022 Worship Committee Members: *Melissa Ferrie-Healy, Phyllis Straut and Kathleen Gusek*

TIME TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA FOR CHRISTMAS!!

I would like to ORDER ___ Poinsettia(s) at \$12 each. Please list as follows:

IN MEMORY of _____
_____ OR

IN HONOR of _____

Name _____

Phone # _____

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 Sunday, December 12th!!



Remembrance List May 2020 to November 14, 2021

Ronald Armstrong

Carol Baebel

Maria Berg

Clark Bothfeld

Rev. Dr. Clayton Burgess

Peter Caswell

Jane Christensen

Ruth Daggs

Diane DeMass

Patricia Engwer

Abigail Evans

Philip J. Farbaniec

Scott Fraser

Collin Fuller

Alfred Gusek

Eric Gusek

Kevin Giambrone

John Hemglein

Jane Henshaw

Patricia Jones

Brian Kendrick

Joanne Kibling

Natalie Kibling

Bill Kuba

Eleanor Lewandowski

Wallace Loonan

Collette Long

Lillian McDonnell

Charles Nassivera

James Nobile

Stephen O'Rourke

Caroline Parisi

Diane Perry

Howard Payne

James J. Pouliot

Marlene Roethke

Richard Smith

Joseph Strang, Jr.

Robert Straut, Sr.

Melanie Swinton

Patricia Thonus

Charles Watkins

DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:30	2 Conversations@9:30; Pray Together at noon	3	4
5 Hanging of the Greens on Communion Sunday @9:30	6	7	8 AA @7:30	9 Conversations@9:30	10	11
12 Sunday Worship @9:30	13	14 Council @7	15 LGGC AA @7:30	16 Conversations@9:30; Women's Assoc. Mtg @12	17	18
19 Sunday Worship @9:30	20	21	22 AA @7:30	23 Conversations@9:30	24 Christmas Eve Worship @6 & 9	25 Christmas Day
26 Sunday Worship @9:30	27	28	29 AA @7:30	30 Conversations@9:30	31 Watch Night / New Year's Eve	

Our SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE will in person in the sanctuary and by Conference CALL-IN at: 1) Dial+1 (313) 209-8800; 2) Enter Conference ID 796-8500 and press the pound key.

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.

December Birthdays: 2) Allan Ferrie; 4) Marian Philo; 5) Patricia Girard; 6) Judy Barcy; 11) Brian Walker; 14) Tatum Chase; 15) Doug Irving; 19) Erik Robinson; 19) Peter Cartier, Robin Dutcher; 20) Brynne Chase, Susan Urrico; 22) Wally Madon; 24) Cindy Farbaniec, Dodi Robinson; 25) Barry Jones; 30) Stephanie Carte, Melissa Ferrie-Healy, Natalia Helffrich.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – December 2021

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

In Facilities

Nancy Cathers – Assisted Living, MD
Maria Foss –Sunnyview Rehabilitation, Schenectady
Theodore Gusek – Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga
Linda Kennedy – Fort Hudson
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
Manu Malkani – The Terraces
Art Norton – The Warren 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
Carmen LeFebvre – Friend of Peg McArthur
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 **Rev. Dr. Clayton Burgess, Philip J. Farbaniec** and **Bambi Greychek-Spenser** who died this month. Clayton was a member of Harrisena and a teacher to many; Phil was a long-time member of Harrisena; and Bambi was a friend of Sue & Peter Cartier.*



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 69th ADA BDE), 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

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

