



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:5-8 NIV

There are more stories about the origin of Valentine's Day than one can count. The most popular among Christians is that of St. Valentine, a priest who secretly performed marriages when Emperor Claudius II reportedly forbade marriage (in an effort to ensure he had soldiers without family ties). Another story says that he was a Christian imprisoned for his faith and cured his jailer's daughter of blindness. The day before his execution (supposedly Feb. 14, 269), he sent a farewell message to the daughter signed "From your Valentine." By 1450, a valentine was the name of one's sweetheart. In 1533, it was a folded piece of paper. In 1610 "valentines" were gifts given to sweethearts. In the 1800s it again meant messages exchanged by couples. Whether either of these stories is true or not, the theme of love connects all of them in some way. This is an example of how stories can be transformed and be transformational through time and space.

I believe that 1 Corinthians 13 champions the power of transformational stories. To most people who have heard it, 1 Corinthians 13 is a declaration of love and unity. It is popular at wedding and shared between couples. Interestingly enough, when the Apostle Paul wrote this 13th chapter to the church in Corinth, he was writing in response to a situation that was far from the reality or celebration of love.

Paul declared love as the greatest power in a community even though the community he was writing to seemed to be lacking in this power. Therefore, he did not write this letter to affirm a standard already present in the community. He wrote it to introduce this community to a way of living and being necessary for its survival. Paul was teaching this church community to learn its way through the difference and disagreement they were experiencing in interpersonal relationships.

The church in Corinth was not a homogenous body. Quite the contrary. It was not a comfortable gathering where people fell into step with each other because they shared fundamentally similar lives, values, and experiences. It dismantled conventional social boundaries of ethnicity, gender, age, rank, status, and life situation. While most of its members were converted Gentiles, this body also includes Jews as well. In fact, some of the Jewish members had been former synagogue leaders. Unfortunately, this diversity yielded both benefits and challenges common for any social group. For example, discord and rivalry arose, members divided into contentious groups, and some took sides with some others resulting in a fragmented community, rather than a strong community enriched by difference/diversity.

Paul in his wisdom remained firm in his vision of God's beloved diverse community. He believed that God called this community to live love. God called this community church in

Corinth to be an example of how God could and can transform divisiveness into love. He would write to the Colossians, *“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”* -Colossians 3:14.

Love is a work to be done. It is the way of life. It is a way of living. It is the call to intentionally dress oneself up in love daily. In this way, we begin to understand that Paul’s words about love were not written to celebrate the unifying love already accomplished in the community. ***It was a call to action.*** It was not a tribute to what was. It was an intervention to instruct on what had not yet come to pass. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said it this way, *“We have before us the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of love into the veins of our civilization.”* This was Paul’s God given vision of the church.

This language that Paul uses here is not to be easily digested. The point was not to make its readers feel comfortable and affirmed in love. The point was to motivate ***a new action plan*** among the members that secured the community’s survival and concord into the future as the community of God’s people joined together in perfect love. **This is love work.**

This Valentine’s Day as we celebrate with candy and cards, let us also embrace this opportunity to begin to take up the work of love. This is our chance to further the legacy of love to bring about healing in a world that is broken. In order to do this work of love, we must rethink, regroup, and recommit to love, God’s way. Will you accept this call to action? Will love be the work of Harrisena Community Church? Will you love as you have been loved by God? Let’s do this LOVE WORK together!

In Christ’s service with you.

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly



Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

— Martin Luther King —

AZ QUOTES

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

1 Corinthians 13:6-7

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

“At Harrisena, we believe diversity is a blessing.”

&

“We believe that the message Jesus of Nazareth brought to humankind is as relevant today as it was 2,000+ years ago.”

&

“We believe that this message is one of healing and transforming love that breaks down barriers—a message of welcome, inclusion, equality, respect, forgiveness, and care for all people and the earth.”

Our fourth value statement

We believe that this message, rather than the particular institutions conveying it, forms the most enduring foundation for a life well lived—in other words, a life lived in the divine image.

God is One.

We cannot hide our thoughts from Him as He knows our hearts and minds.

We are never alone. God is with us always, even now, here in this moment, He is with us.

God is Light, and Light is more powerful than dark. We need not be afraid of the dark.

Harrisena Community Church’s future is bright. We need not fear the future. Why? Have we forgotten already?

For as long as I have been attending services at our Little Church upon the Hill, God has always provided what we needed, not only to survive, but to thrive. How do I know this, despite all that has happened, we are still here and in many ways our church is stronger than ever. God is not going to turn his back to us now.

Our congregation is diverse, and we embrace diversity of thought, faith, race and creed. It is hard at times. We all have much to learn about how to understand this diversity, to coexist in harmony and bring our vision into reality.

We strive to hear God's word through Christ. We know Christ brings truth into the world, now as always. We have much to learn about the Word of God.

We know and believe that Christ's Commandment to Love One Another is the most important element of our faith. We understand that this concept, Love, can be the bridge to heal all pain. We have a great deal to learn about this Love.

We all know the value of and have the desire to live in the Divine Image. We know that we can make a difference, to each other, to our community and in some small way, act as an example for the world. We have so much to learn about how to walk this path.

God has brought us to this moment. A moment when we can learn so much together.

Let's walk together into our bright future.

Jim



FINANCE REPORT

With the help of the Ross Grant, lower expenses due to COVID-19 and the financial commitment of parishioners to Harrisena, we finished the year 2020 with a surplus balance of approximately \$17,000. This is reflected in an increase of that amount in our savings account.

What about 2021? We will apply for Ross Grant money which is never a guarantee. To date there has been a decrease of pledgers and subsequently a decrease in anticipated pledge money. Thankfully, our Savings account money will be available to make up the deficit, but this is not a sound financial practice. So, to those who have already pledged and those who are not pledged but give regularly, thank you for your continued support of Harrisena. To those members who have yet to pledge, we thank you for your support in past years and hope that you will consider once again contributing to the financial well-being of Harrisena Community Church.

Your Finance Officers

Ken Zacharias, Bonnie Nadig, Cheryl Straut



OUTREACH COMMITTEE
Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Winter Blood Drive – a HUGE SUCCESS!

Our annual **Winter Blood Drive on January 29th was a HUGE SUCCESS!** A year ago, we were happy to register 19 donors. Over the summer, we raised the number to 35. This year, thanks to the tremendous efforts of Pam and Bill Loeb, we registered 59 donors! (*Unfortunately, there were not enough Red Cross volunteers to accommodate that number of donors, so we had to call and ask some folks to register elsewhere.*) At a time when blood supplies are desperately low, this gift of blood to our community is sure to make a positive difference. **Thanks to our 30 donors AND the volunteers** who helped make this Blood Drive possible:

Nancy Willett: taking temperatures and cleaning; **Robin Dutcher:** working the registration table; **Susan Ogden, Suzanne Cartier and Pam Loeb:** helping with food prep (chili and cornbread, sour cream, grated cheese, tortilla chips for toppings to serve staff, and individual packs of grapes and home baked cookies for our donors!) And **Melissa Ferrie-Healy:** various jobs to help with clean-up

Valentine Prayers

Who doesn't love finding a surprise Valentine card in their mailbox? Is God calling you to brighten someone's day by sending one of those cards? Take a moment to pray with Him. Does anyone's name come to mind? Perhaps a long list of names comes to mind! If you are able to write, you're able to send a note! If you're feeling creative, you can make your own Valentine cards. If not, you could just fold and cut paper into a heart shapes and write your message there. You could even skip the Valentine theme and send a simple note; an email; a text... It's the act of caring and gift of sharing your love that will make the difference. If you need help with cards or stamps, please let us know! Enjoy your Valentine outreach project!

Please Continue to Share Your Prayer Concern Updates

Please let us know of any names/situations you would like added to (or removed from) 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!

As always, we welcome and encourage your feedback...
Outreach Committee Members: Melissa Ferrie-Healy (518-792-4709 or mfmusic@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 us in any way, especially writing cards.

*Thanks to Shirley Harney for helping write cards

ASH WEDNESDAY

*Topic: ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION SERVICE
Time: Feb 17, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)*

JOIN US ON Zoom

<https://ministrelife.zoom.us/j/98236755231?pwd=bU4zRVdndFFVV1JWOENTL3ILNzFUdz09>

*Meeting ID: 982 3675 5231
Password: 551013*

*One tap mobile
+16465588656,,98236755231# US (New York)*

*Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 982 3675 5231
Password: 551013*

Find your local number: <https://ministrelife.zoom.us/u/adqwDhNOHh>

ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION

Ash Wednesday is a time of naming brokenness. As we enter the season of Lent, we commit to enter also into a season of healing and recovery that requires the naming of what has been shattered as a first step. We take “the yoke” of responsibility as disciples of Jesus to be the Body of Christ—a body of those who need healing and offer healing in the world. The promise of Jesus is that he is with us in our weariness and burdens.

Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul
Healer, come.

*Our life is full of brokenness—broken relationships, broken promises, broken expectations. How can we live with that brokenness without becoming bitter and resentful except by returning again and again to God’s faithful presence in our lives. —
Henri Nouwen*

PRAYER

***Holy Giver of Breath and Life,
In Your love, make us whole.
Make us whole. Amen.***

February 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 AA @7:30	4 Conversa- tions @9:30; Prayer Together at noon	5	6 Weekly Email Blast! Saturday Meditation @3/ Facebook Live!
7 Sunday Morning Worship Facebook Live! And Conference call-in @9:30	8	9 COUNCIL @7 Via zoom	10 AA @7:30	11 Conversa- tions@9:30; Prayer Together at noon	12	13 Weekly Email Blast! Saturday Meditation @3/ Facebook Live!
14 Sunday Morning Worship Facebook Live! And Conference call-in @9:30	15	16	17 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE @ 7 PM (ZOOM) AA @7:30	18 Conversa- tions@9:30; Prayer Together at noon	19	20 Weekly Email Blast! Saturday Meditation @3/ Facebook Live!
21 Sunday Morning Worship Facebook Live! And Conference call-in @9:30 First Sunday in Lent	22	23	24 AA @7:30	25 Conversa- tions@9:30; Prayer Together at noon	26 Articles due for MARCH Harbinger	27 Weekly Email Blast! Saturday Meditation @3/ Facebook Live!
28 Sunday Morning Worship Facebook Live! And Conference call-in @9:30						

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.

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.

February Birthdays:

2) Linda Richardson, Lynda Scurlock; 4) Dan Blanchard; 5) Maxine Einzig, Jim Ferris; 6) Jeremy Cartier, Marilyn Somerville; 10) Art Norton; 18) Phil Nadig, Linda Brown, Cindy Huber; 19) Shirley Harney; 21) David Farbaniec; 22) David Helffrich; 25) Tim McAuley, Jean Meyer; 27) Andrea Lipinski, Jodi Loonan, Victor Urrico.

Jesus said to his disciples:
“You have heard that it was said,
You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.
But I say to you, love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you,
that you may be children of your heavenly Father,
for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good,
and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.
For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?
Do not the tax collectors do the same?
And if you greet your brothers only,
what is unusual about that?
Do not the pagans do the same?
So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.”
Matthew 5:43-48 NIV



Long-Term Prayer Requests – February 2021

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

In Facilities

Nancy Cathers – Assisted Living, MD
Theodore Gusek – Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga
Linda Kennedy – Fort Hudson
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
Lillian McDonnell – Glens Falls Center
James Nobile – The Landing at Queensbury

At Home

Laura Avent – member of Harrisena
Maria Berg – Mother of Nicole Robinson
Celine & Bob Boulé – Daughter/Son-in-law of Brandy & Wally Madon
Kathleen Dumont – Niece of Brandy Madon
Abigail Evans – Friend of Harrisena
Collin Fuller – son of Patti Girard
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
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Diane Parry – Cousin of Griffith Parry
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Melanie Swinton – Friend of Sue Ogden
Doloras Van Detta – Friend of Marie Scarselletta

~

*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Family & Friends of **Patricia Engwer** who died this past month. Pat was a friend of Christine Burke*

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
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



LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY!