

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

On Monday, January 18th, we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a federal holiday in these United States marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year. Dr. King's birthday is January 15th. When I googled Dr. King, *Wikipedia* described him as chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement. It is duly noted that he successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. Everywhere I looked, this was a consistent manner of identification for Dr. King. This is consistent with history. And yet, there is so much more. Dr. King was first and foremost, a child of God – a servant of the Most High God. Dr. King championed the good news of the kingdom of God.

As a Baptist preacher, Dr. King followed in the footsteps of his father, who was also, a Baptist preacher. Dr. King's theology was grounded in his desire to obey God and to follow Jesus. This is a theology of personal sacrifice. Dr. King understood his role and his calling as bearing the cross. His foundation was the Bible. Not Gandhi. Not Thoreau. Not Boston University. Dr. King was through-and-through a child of God, a Christian and a Baptist preacher.

In his own words, he asked to be remembered as one who *“tried to give his life serving others.”* He asked to be remembered as one who tried his best to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort prisoners. In Dr. King's sermon, *The Drum Major Instinct*, he said, *“Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter”.* It was Dr. King's faith in God that guided, strengthened, and sustained him as a husband, a father, a leader in the civil rights movement, a spokesperson for the Vietnam war and for sanitation workers, and the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize...*and all the other things.*

Remembering, Dr. King, I share with you some of his words. You will notice the good news of the kingdom of God spoken in and through them.

I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love. Martin Luther King Jr.

If I speak in the tongues[a] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing. 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. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.
I Corinthians 13 NIV

And I say to you, I have also decided to stick to love. For I know that love is ultimately the only answer to mankind's problems. And I'm going to talk about it everywhere I go. I know it isn't popular to talk about it in some circles today. I'm not talking about emotional bosh when I talk about love, I'm talking about a strong, demanding love. And I have seen too much hate.
Martin Luther King Jr.

Do everything in love. I Corinthians 16:14 NIV

Agape does not begin by discriminating between worthy and unworthy people, or any qualities people possess. It begins by loving others for their sakes. It is an entirely "neighbor-regarding concern for others," which discovers the neighbor in every man it meets. Therefore, agape makes no distinction between friend and enemy; it is directed toward both.
Martin Luther King Jr.

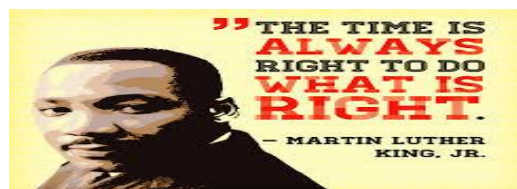
My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12 NIV
I want to tell you this evening that it is not enough for us to talk about love, love is one of the pivotal points of the Christian faith. There is another side called justice. And justice is really love in calculation. Justice is love correcting that which revolts against love.
Martin Luther King Jr.

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.
I John 4:20 NIV

Prayer

*Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
for to you I entrust my life.*
Psalm 143:8 NIV

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. KING!
Thank you for your service to God and to your neighbor!



SHALOM
Dr. N. C. Wimberly

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

***“See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor;
a great throng will return.” Jeremiah 31: 8***

“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.”

Our third value statement

“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.”

I see these words each week and while these thoughts are as familiar and comfortable as my favorite pair of shoes, each time I ponder these statements, new and important ideas applicable to the times in which we live come to mind. Revisiting them reminds me of why I became a part of this church and why I remain, faithfully working to bring Harrisena into its bright and successful future. These statements represent our core beliefs, and with all the noise of our everyday lives, it's easy to forget them and drift off into a place where crazy and irrelevant matters take on improper importance.

Let us choose not to let this happen.

This month at the beginning of the Council meeting, we will share with each other our thoughts on the third stated value. For me, this value means more when placed in context with the first two. My questions:

- Is this value as important today as the day we wrote it? Why?
- Love and inclusion are in all three values. What does this mean to us and why is so important that we include it in all three value?
- How do these make Harrisena different? Why?

Council meetings are open to all members. Join us and share your thoughts.



FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

With the Grant that Rev. Wimberly secured for Harrisena, we have already held a Webinar on "*The Church, Is it a House of Worship or a Business?*" by Joan Davion of the Davion Group (Answer: Both, and much more.) The next step of the grant is to have company called FOURLANE **provide intensive financial training for our Financial Officers.**

Fourlane promises to help us find the answers we need so that we are using *Quickbooks* in a manner to get the most out of it. After their comprehensive review, they will educate our financial team so we are equipped to effectively use and maintain our financial files. Following our training, your Financial Team will "*pay it forward*" by supporting and mentoring at least one other church in our area to help provide support and stability with their finances. Because of the award of the grant, none of the expense of this training is coming out of our Church monies.

A more comprehensive financial year-end report will be provided to Council at the January meeting and printed in the next Harbinger. Our savings account, which is the "barometer" of our financial status, had a balance of \$161,630.85 on December 31, 2019. As of December 31, 2020, the savings account balance was \$177, 313.95. Because of the help of \$40,000.00 from the Ross Grant, and faithful pledging of the Harrisena congregation, our income for 2020 has exceeded our expenses by approximately \$15,683.00.

CONGRATULATIONS to Harrisena!

Thank you for your support in 2020 and continued support in 2021.

Bonnie Nadig
Ken Zacharias
Cheryl Straut

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Winter Blood Drive at HCC

Our annual **Winter Blood Drive will take place on Friday, January 29th at 12:00 p.m. - 6 pm** in Robinson Hall. We collected 25 pints of blood during our August 2020 Blood Drive. Can we **DOUBLE** that amount this month?? Perhaps! All things are possible!

How is God calling YOU to help?

Spread the word on your social media! Hang a poster where others in the community can see! Pray for the safety and availability of our donors and volunteers! Help with set-up or clean-up! Work as a greeter! Bake some goodies or make a pot or crock of soup for the canteen! If any of these options sound appealing to you, please contact Melissa Ferrie-Healy or Pam Loeb ASAP.

If you're feeling especially brave and generous, you could **DONATE YOUR BLOOD!** Walk-ins are welcome, but **appointments can easily be scheduled ahead of time by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or visiting redcrossblood.org.**

Any help would be greatly appreciated!

2-0-2-1 Resolutions :

Looking for a way to make 2021 as productive and meaningful as possible? You may want to try this model for your New Year's Resolutions:

Choose 2 things you can do each day **to brighten someone else's life**

Choose 0 for **ZERO tolerance for hatred and indifference in your life**

Choose 2 things you can do **each day to improve your own health and well-being**

Choose 1 **character trait you would like to cultivate in your life**

These resolutions can be made daily, weekly or throughout the year. Keep track of them and see what a difference they can make in your life, as well as the lives of those around you!

Please Continue to Share Your Updates

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!

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, especially writing cards.

***Thanks to Shirley Harney** for helping write Christmas cards to all on our list.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Meet the Ogdens, Sue and Chuck. I'm sure when you have passed by the Harrisena kitchen you have noticed Chuck and Sue. They have each served on several committees at Harrisena and have been the driving force behind many of our dinners, luncheons, breakfasts and especially the chicken barbecue in the past. Chuck is currently serving as a trustee. Sue is currently serving on Missions as well as being the chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. Add Christian Education teacher to that list and one of the Friday meal organizers for Sue and you can see why they are both so busy at church.

Outside activities include delivering meals for the Homebound Senior Meals (Meals on Wheels). Sue is a member of the Auxillary for Bay Ridge Fire Department.

Chuck's knowledge on the workings of our church have come in handy on many an occasion and continue to be tapped into, for both the physical workings and historical knowledge. Besides his activities at Church, Chuck is a 60-year member of Bay Ridge Fire Department and has served as Chief of that Department as well. Currently, Chuck is a member of the Board of Directors for the Fire Department.

Chuck and Sue live on beautiful Glen Lake. They are the proud parents of Lynn and grandparents of Lara and Blake. Both of them have lived in the area for their entire lives with the exception of educational pursuits at Oswego for Sue. Chuck worked at Sandy Hill for 37 years. Following his career at Sandy Hill, Chuck worked for the Queensbury Schools' Department of Transportation for 8 years. Sue taught in the Hudson Falls School District for 46 years. Following Sue's retirement, she substituted until the pandemic made that difficult to continue.

Among their many activities, family rates highest but travel remains an enjoyment. The Ogdens have enjoyed Florida, Jeckyll Island, Scotland, Hawaii, Alaska, South Dakota, Texas, Mississippi River Cruise, Wyoming, New England, Nova Scotia, Canada, to name just a few.

The Ogdens membership at Harrisena began on February 3, 1980. Their support of our church has been strong from the beginning and we look forward to many more years of enjoying their talents, friendship, love and spirituality.

FLOWER COMMITTEE

Many thanks to Joan Beck, Peter & Suzanne Cartier, Melissa Ferrie-Healy, Donna Gelder-Bigelow, Mark & Linda McCollister, Jean Meyer, Cheryl Straut, Phyllis Straut and Joan Walker for their contributions to the flower fund for the Christmas Decorations in the church that will last into the future.

Given By

Joanne Beck

Donna Gelder-Bigelow

Peter & Suzanne Cartier

Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Mark & Linda McCollister

Jean Meyer

Phyllis & Cheryl Straut

Joan Walker

In Memory of

Bruce Beck

Lou Bigelow; Bill & Betty Gelder

Peter Caswell

Families of the Ferries and Healys

Our Parents

Dick Meyer

Bob Straut, Sr.; Morgan Monroe; Donna Straut; Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Morgan; Mr. & Mrs. John S. Witmer III; Ralph Morgan; and Patricia Thonus

John Walker

Given by

Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Mark and Linda McCollister

Phyllis Straut

In Honor of

Mike, Ryan & Matt Healy; Al and Brenda Ferrie

Our Children and Grandchildren

My Children, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren and Great-Great Granddaughter



**GLIMPSES OF THE HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH
CHRISTMAS 2020 FAMILY ALBUM**



Donna Davidson-Smith and Family



The Guseks



Donna Gelder-Bigelow



Donna's Christmas Tree of Remembrance



The Paynes



The Healys



The Healys... um! Um! Good!



The Wimberlys



HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH LIVE NATIVITY 2020



Mary: Kenzie Wilson

Wise Man: Wallace Loonan Wise Man: Ajani Wimbley

Wise Woman: Melissa Ferrie-Healy



Angels: Kyla and Caleigh Wilson



Gabriel: Aleana Martin



Angel: Kyla Wilson
Shepherd: Bonnie Nadig



BABY JESUS (God with us)

Shepherd: Matthew Healy

Mary: Kenzie Wilson

Wise Man: Wallace Loonan

Wise Man: Ajani Wimbley

Wise Woman: Melissa Ferrie-Healy

HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



**THANK YOU TO THE 50 + PEOPLE THAT LIT THE COMMUNITY
ON CHRISTMAS EVE
THE LIGHT OF GOD KEEPS SHINING!**

JANUARY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Weekly email blast & Saturday Meditation @3 pm on Facebook Live
3 9:30 am Sunday Worship on Facebook Live! & Conf. call in.	4	5	6 AA@7:30	7 Conversations 9:30-11 Prayer Together @12 noon	8	9 Weekly email blast & Saturday Meditation @3 pm on Facebook Live
10 9:30 am Sunday Worship on Facebook Live! & Conf. call in.	11	12 Council Mtg on ZOOM @7 PM	13 AA @7:30	14 Conversations 9:30-11 Prayer Together @12 noon	15	16 Weekly email blast & Saturday Meditation @3 pm on FB Live
17 9:30 am Sunday Worship on Facebook Live! & Conference call in.	18	19	20 AA @7:30	21 Conversations 9:30-11 Prayer Together @12 noon	22	23 Weekly email blast & Saturday Meditation @3 pm on Facebook Live
24 9:30 am Sunday Worship on Facebook Live! & Conference call in.	25	26	27 AA @7:30 <i>*Harbinger articles due for February</i>	28 Conversations 9:30-11 Prayer Together @12 noon	29 Blood Drive	30 Weekly email blast & Saturday Meditation @3 pm on Facebook Live
31 9:30 Sunday Worship/Facebook Live & Conf. Call in						

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.

January Birthdays

5) Debbie Cartier; 9) Roy Urrico; 12) Jay Petrequin; 14) Donna Gelder-Bigelow; 15) Danielle Nadig-Cooper, Sandy Jabaut; 17) Kyle Irving; 18) William Brown, Richard Kline, Dan Donovan; 19) Cameron Brown, Matthew Healy; 21) Andrea Nadig-Wilson; 22) Ajani Wimbley; 24) Shelley Durkee; 27) Rev. Dr. Wimberly.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – January 2021

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

Nancy Cathers – Nursing Home, Maryland
Colin Fuller – Slate Valley Nursing Home
Theodore Gusek- Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga
Linda Kennedy – Fort Hudson Health Services
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
Lillian McDonnell – Glens Falls Center
James Nobile - The Landing of 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 – Daughter of Bob & Cheryl Evans
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 VanDetta – Friend of Marie Scarselletta

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*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Family & Friends of **Clark Bothfeld**, husband of Marilyn Somerville, who passed away in December; also to the family & friends of **Diane DeMass** who died this past week. Diane was a friend of Suzanne & Peter Cartier and wife to Larry DeMass.*

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN THE MILITARY

Please **update the status of anyone you know on this list as soon as information is available.**

Derek Dumas—stateside

Michael Gusek (*Patriot Missile Battery*), son of Kathleen & Tim Gusek – serving at Fort Hood, TX

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



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***Doris O'Rourke requested that we put this note in the Harbinger:
Original Harrisena Church Window Shutter
Best offer *over \$100.00****

Please contact Doris O'Rourke at: 518 793-8842

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