

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH: Time to BUILD Again

“And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.”

Isaiah 58:12 NIV

This 12th verse of this fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah is a trumpet call to the people of God to rebuild, repair, and restore. It is God's mercy and grace practically applied. It is **God's gift of reconciliation** realized in a community facing challenges. It is a call to substantive faithfulness to God.

God sends the prophet Isaiah to the people to speak to them because there is a clear contrast between the people's intentions and the God's will. There is an incongruity between what the Lord desires and what the people offer. They have been following their traditions, but their traditions have become empty repetitions and old habits. They have become so good at their religious activities that they no longer need God to be a part of them. They have become comfortable in their own ways, their own thoughts, and their own attitudes toward the sacred things of God. Even so, God desires relationship and calls the people to a higher loyalty, a renewed mission, and a greater purpose. **God's people are repairers of the breach, the restorers of streets to dwell in.**

Harrisena Community Church has a strong foundation. John and Louisa Harris built Harrisena to last for generations. They wanted a place of worship in their community to study the word of God, grow spiritually, be a beacon of light, and a House of Prayer. This is their legacy and our inheritance. Everyone at Harrisena has worked diligently to continue the legacy of friendship to the community even in the midst of adversity. **Now, God is calling Harrisena Community Church to build again** and to raise up the foundations for this generation and for generation of believers to come. **It is our time to repair the breach** between God and our community and between God and ourselves.

Many don't attend church, let's invite them. Many are suspicious of religion, let's show them God's heart. Many have been hurt by the church and its people, let's reconcile any wrongs or misconceptions. Many see hypocrisy within the walls of the church, let's boldly proclaim kindness and compassion. We must extend grace to others and to ourselves. We are learning – learning to lead with love and to trust the process of spiritual growth and discovery. We are God's children, made in God's likeness. We are the repairers of the breach. **We are the restorers of streets to dwell in.** Think of all the ways God has been present in and through us just this past year.

In 2022, we saw God working in and through the people of Harrisena with the Friday Meals Ministry (over 2000 meals prepared and delivered), the Outreach Committee hosted the American Red Cross blood drives, the Fellowship Ministry offered time together on Sunday mornings where people built lasting loving relationships, and our Membership Committee welcomed six (6) new people to the HCC Family. **GOD IS WITH US!**

The Board of Trustees worked to be good stewards of the care and maintenance of HCC property, the Finance Officers have once again found new ways to invest HCC funds in accounts that yield the best return for HCC accounts. Just last week, someone visiting HCC

during our Christmas service talked about the diligent care of HCC Outreach Ministry of sending cards to encourage those going through loss, sadness, and other challenges. The visitor said, **“Your cards carried me through when I lost my mother.” THANKS BE TO GOD!**

With the support of the HCC congregation’s president, the church council gathered, planned, and worked to find relevant and meaningful purpose. It was such a blessing for the Women’s Association to be able to hold their annual Christmas Communion Service again this year. Did you see the sanctuary during our Easter and Christmas celebrations? **New banners** were created and hung, and the **sanctuary was beautifully decorated!** The presence of God pulled us all together to worship on Sundays and on special services in the beauty of God’s holiness with the work of the ministries of our Worship Committee and our organist. **WOW!**

Our Christian Education Ministry has creatively found ways of engaging our children and youth even with their very busy schedules. Christian Education is now on the move. Wherever HCC kids are, HCC is there too! **“If our kids can’t come to us, because of school and extra-curricular activities, we will go to them.” WOW!**

Our Mission Committee continued to reach out to our local, national, and international neighbors through our support to Plan International, Family Services Association, Open Door and Hudson Falls Primary School. Family Services Association requested peanut butter. So, we gathered over 50 jars. They are now requesting underwear in all sizes for families in need. **Our goal is 100 pieces of underwear by January 29th. WE CAN DO IT!**

We cannot forget all those prayers that went out through our **Prayer Chain**, or the efforts made by every single person who worked to repair the building or ramp without asking for recognition. For everyone who showed up to help in any way. **WE THANK GOD FOR ALL OF YOU!**

Harrisena Community Church, God has blessed us and has kept the divine promise to never leave us or forsake us...so...it’s time...who’s ready to build again?

“You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.”

Pray with me this blessing written by Howard Thurman. The title is “Through the Coming Year.”

Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.

There will be much to test me and to make weak my strength before the year ends. In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true and do the thing of which I am ashamed. There will be errors of the mind and great inaccuracies of judgement which shall render me the victim of my own stupidities. In seeking the light, I shall again and again find myself walking in darkness. I shall mistake my light for Thy light and I shall shrink from the responsibility of the choice I make. All of these things, and more, will be true for me because I have not yet learned how to keep my hand in Thy hand.

Nevertheless, grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart. May I never give the approval of my heart to error, to falseness, to weakness, to vain glory, to sin. Though my days be marked with failures, stumblings, fallings, let my spirit be free so that Thou mayest take it and redeem my moments in all the ways my needs reveal. Give me the quiet assurance of Thy Love and Thy Presence.

Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.

Amen.

In Christ’s service with you.

Shalom,
Rev. Dr. Natalie C. Wimberly

THANK YOU to ALL!
Message from the Congregational President

January begins with **NOTES OF APPRECIATION to the following people** as they resign their positions:

To **Phyllis Straut**; our thanks for her hard work and dedication for her time on the Worship Committee.

Thank you to **Cheryl Straut, Donna Bigelow and Brandy Madon** for the many hours spent updating the membership list and the birthday list as they served on the Membership Committee.

Thank you also to **Bob Tucker** for sharing his knowledge and experience to build up the Tech Committee.

Thank you to **Steve Greene** for his steadfast support of the Tech Committee.

The Council was notified of these vacancies during the December Council meeting.

Filling these elective positions requires a simple majority vote of Council for anyone who wishes to serve. Please consider offering your willingness to fill one of these open positions. Our committees are vital to the wellbeing of our church.

Warm wishes for a Blessed New Year,
Doris O'Rourke

TREASURER'S REPORT
Welcome to 2023 HCC Friends and Family

As we welcome in the New Year, we are extremely hopeful that HCC will enjoy a fiscally sound 2023. We all understand that looking back to years past is beneficial in our trying to develop new financial goals for the future of HCC but I also feel that looking ahead, we will all find it very exciting to embrace, enjoy, and grow HCC in 2023. **I feel with our increase in membership this past year, Harrisena will continue to grow which will allow us to share our kindness, friendship, and faith with all.**

Friends and family of HCC have been so supportive and uplifting in making this a very special church, Thank you.

With a goal of \$50,000:

To date - We have 17 pledges

Also to date we have \$30,196 in pledges for 2023.

We, as the Financial Officers of HCC, wish you all the very best in the year ahead, we truly appreciate your love and support.

God Bless,

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christmas Tree that was decorated for Prospect School's "Festival of Trees", sold for \$175. Thank you to Kayla and Matthew Romanowski for heading up the decorating crew.

12 children celebrated the *Hanging of the Greens* with us. The kids received gifts, and participated in a craft of spray painting initials on the ramp. Please take a moment to enjoy their art work before construction of the new ramp begins, and all the initials disappear. As always, - "A Good Time Was Had By All"

Thank you to everyone who attended Ajani's musical, Wallace's concert, and Ryan's concert. Your support has truly made a difference to the boys, and surprisingly to those of us who attended. Our hearts were as full as the kids. I felt so proud of each boy. I'll try to get emails out of future events, so you can attend and have a feel good, proud moment too!

If you, your children or grandkids have future events or performances coming up, please let me know "Who", "What", "Where" and "When"; so that I can get out the info ASAP. We would like to attend all events when possible

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE FUTURE EVENTS:

Wallace Loonan
1/11. ski event @ West Mountain @ 5pm
1 run GS

1/15 -4pm MLK Celebration - Christ United Methodist Church- "Madrigals"

Thank you Jodi for sending me Wallace's schedules. **I'm anxiously awaiting to receive schedules from the others as well.**

Thank God For Kids 🤔 😊 😎
Deanna Payne 518 681 2602

CELEBRATING OUR KIDS!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Mary and Bill Boyd were inducted into Harrisena Community Church on Sunday, December 11, 2022. Sean Loonan, representing the Membership Committee, presented them with a certificate and a print of HCC.

Mary and Bill were honored during the fellowship hour with a cake provided by the Fellowship Committee. **Welcome Mary and Bill Boyd to the HCC family!** We look forward to their continued involvement with our church and extended community.



New Welcome Visitor cards adorn the pews. The committee had considered many options and decided to draft a unique card with a photo of the church and plenty of space for contact information for visitors to share. **Revisions to the directories that have come to the attention of the committee members over the past 5 months have been shared with the church office secretary, Sue Urrico.** The compiled revisions will be printed and handed over to the church office early in the new year. **Cheryl Straut and Donna Gelder-Bigelow** have resigned from the Membership Committee, Donna in December and Cheryl as of the new year. **If you would like to serve, please contact the church president, Doris O'Rourke,** to be considered for the special election.

Respectfully Submitted, Sean Loonan, Brandy Madon, Donna Gelder-Bigelow, Cheryl Straut

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Advent and Christmas seasons so special by purchasing poinsettias, helping decorate the Sanctuary and/or Robinson Hall, preparing a special meal, serving communion, reading, lighting candles, ushering, salting the sidewalks, folding bulletins, or providing special music. **We appreciate your commitment!**

Help Wanted

Sadly, **Phyllis Straut has decided to step down from the Worship Committee.** For years, she has done an amazing job of decorating our sanctuary with something special for each of the seasons. We appreciate her hard work and dedication, and we respect her decision to take a break. Phyllis is leaving behind some big shoes to fill. **If God is calling YOU to the task, please let us know as soon as possible!**

We also need to make sure we have scripture readers every Sunday. The sign-up sheets are in the Education Building. Please consider signing up on a regular basis.

2022-23 Worship Committee Members: *Christine Burke, Melissa Ferrie-Healy, and Jodi Loonan.*

WINTER BLOOD DRIVE 2023

The Harrisena Community Church **Winter Blood Drive** will take place on **Friday, January 27th from 12:00 PM - 5:30 PM in Robinson Hall.**

How is God calling YOU to help?

- **Spread the word on your social media**
- **Hang a poster where others in the community can see it**
- **Pray for the safety and availability of our donors and volunteers**
- **Assist with set-up or clean-up**
- **Work as a greeter**
- **Bake some goodies or make a pot of soup for our volunteers**

If any of these options sound appealing to you, **please contact Melissa Ferrie-Healy or Pam Loeb AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

If you are 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 appreciated!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

December 2022

Given By

Joanne Beck

Christine Burke

Melissa Ferrie-Healy
*Those Who Have Passed
Beyond our Mortal vision:*

Ron & Diane Henderson

Doris O'Rourke

Donna D. Smith, with
Everlasting Love

Cheryl Straut

Phyllis Straut

Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Cheryl Straut

Phyllis Straut

In Memory of

Bruce Beck

Scott McKenzie Fraser

Rachel & Eldred Ayer,
Norma & John (Jack) Ferrie,
Ann & Jack Healy, Hertha & Richard Gillespie;
Rachel Ann Howard & my Beloved Father, Allan
James Ferrie

Ronald & Betty Henderson,
Milton & Florence Fournier

Edward O'Rourke; Steve O'Rourke

Richard Smith (baby),
Jean & Don Moon

Morgan, Dad & Grandparents

Robert A. Straut, Sr.; Donna Lynn Straut,
Morgan G. Monroe, Jack & Barbara Witmer;
and Many Others of my Family & Friends

My beloved Family and Friends

My Beloved Family & Friends

My Family: Bob Jr, Rich & Cheryl, Grand- Great-
Great -Great Children; My Harrisena Family

JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Epiphany Sunday- Worship @9:30	2	3 Conversations @1	4 AA @7:30	5	6	7 <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>
8 Baptism of the Lord- Worship @9:30	9	10 Conversations @1; Council Mtg @7 PM	11 AA@7:30	12	13	14
15 Worship @9:30 am	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17 Conversations @1	18 LGGC Lectio Divinia @12:30 AA @7:30	19	20	21
22 Worship @9:30 am	23	24 Conversations @1	25 Lectio Divinia @12:30 AA @7:30	26 Women's Association Mtg@12	27 Blood Drive 12-5:30	28
29 Worship @9:30 am	30	31 Conversations @1				

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP @ 9:30 a.m. in the Harrisena Community Church sanctuary and conference call-in at 1-313- 209- 8800. The ID# is 796-8500, then press #. Also, join our worship service via livestream at Harrisena.org. Click on the link to the livestream of the service.

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.

CELEBRATION FRIDAYS!!

Send your special events and celebrations to the church office for our CELEBRATION FRIDAY email publication. This is our way of sharing the blessings of God with each other as we live filled with gratitude for all that God is doing in our lives.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – January 2023

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

In Facilities

Cindy Farbaniec – Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga
Linda Kennedy – Fort Hudson
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
Manu Malkani – The Terraces
Art Norton – Slate Valley 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 member 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 – Neighbor of Joanne Beck
Robert Marshall – Relative of Phyllis Straut
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Marie Scarselletta – Relative of Phyllis Straut
Gay Smith – Member
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Doloras Van Detta – Friend of Marie Scarselletta
Joan Walker - Member

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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, son of Kathleen & Timothy Gusek is serving stateside

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*) , nephew of Griffith 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

