THE HARBINGER NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

HALLELUJAH!: PRAISE THE LORD!

"Though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines, (though) the product of the olive fails and the fields yield no food, though the flock is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the (victorious) God of my salvation! The Lord God is my strength, my personal bravery, and my invincible army; He makes my feet like hinds' feet and will make me to walk (not to stand in terror, but to walk) and make (spiritual) progress upon my high places (of trouble, suffering, or responsibility)!

(Habakkuk 3:17-19 AMP)

Habakkuk has found the secret of true strength. True strength lies not in self-confidence, but in trusting the Lord. Habakkuk vowed to rejoice in the Lord no matter what adversity he encountered. Habakkuk 2:4 says ".....the just shall live by faith." So, why could he rejoice in the midst of problems and troubles? Habakkuk learned to trust God, even when faced with seemingly unjust or overwhelming circumstances. Habakkuk learned to live by faith! HALLELUJAH!

Initially, Habakkuk struggled with the idea that God would use the Babylonians to conquer and punish his people because the Babylonians were more wicked than Judah. He questioned God's fairness and whether God was truly in control. Even in the midst of his initial doubts, Habakkuk learned to trust in God's plan and to acknowledge God's ultimate sovereignty. He recognized that God would ultimately deal with all wickedness and bring about His own justice. **HALLELUJAH!**

Habakkuk's journey of faith is much like ours. It demonstrates the importance of persevering in faith, even when faced with difficult circumstances. He found strength, as we do, in trusting God's promises and waiting for God's ultimate intervention. We find strength in the promise of God's kingdom to come and God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In spite of the hardships we all face, we, like Habakkuk, learn to rejoice in the Lord and trust in God's ability to work all things together for our good.

HALLELUJAH!

Habakkuk's message is prayer. Prayer is intimate, focused, and intentional communication with God. Habakkuk turns to God putting his trust in the Lord. He knows that God will bring glory and justice to those who trust in Him. We too can live by faith and praise God even in the midst of life's storms. When we are empty, barren, alone, uncertain, pain-filled, distressed, dis-eased, and uncomfortable. We too can rest assured that in times of great difficulty, God has a plan and God is faithful! We too can rejoice and praise the Lord our God, expecting great victory. We too can offer our gratitude and hope to God, for God inhabits the praises of His people! **HALLELUJAH!**

Offering our praises to God reminds us of the promises of God. God promises never to leave us or forsake us! God is with us, for us, and in us! Isaiah 43:2, captures some of the most powerful words of faith and trust ever written for this journey we call life. He writes, "When you go through deep waters, He will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you" (Isaiah 43:2 NLT). **HALLELUJAH!**

Also, in the Message Bible translation, the song writer sings these words, "I bless God every chance I get; my lungs expand with his praise." WOW!!! My lungs expand when I praise God! WOW! Whatever the season or circumstance, **Praise the Lord! HALLELUJAH!**

So.....if you like to dance, **DANCE!** Praise God in a dance. If you like to sing, **SING!** Praise God with a song. If you like to lift your hands and shout, **PRAISE YOUR HANDS AND SHOUT!** Praise God with hands raised and with a shout! Even more importantly, surrender your life to Jesus who is our Christ. **LET GO!** The words of Corrie Ten Boom have always been straight forward and to the point, especially for our 21st century audience. She wrote, "I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that, I still possess. Hold everything in your hands lightly, otherwise it hurts when God pries your fingers open." **SURRENDER!** A surrendered life is the greatest praise! **HALLELUJAH!**

In Christ's service with you.

Shalom, Dr. N. C. Wimberly



WORSHIP COMMITTEE - May 2025 Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

So, What Happens Now?

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! So, what happens now? What do we do with the Easter message? What do we do with the lessons we learned during our Lenten journey? In the Bible, the book of Acts comes next – simply stated, now is the time to ACT on what we have learned! Now is the time to go forth and share the good news: Christ's work on earth is finished: We are saved! We are saved indeed! Now is the time for US to continue the work Christ began on earth, showing God's LOVE toward everyone, especially those in need. The season of Eastertide continues for 50 days, from Easter Sunday (4/20) until Pentecost (6/8). Let's "make hay while the sun shines!" That's what happens now.

May 11th – Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is an opportunity for us to recognize all those who have mothered us throughout our lives. We would like to continue our tradition of sharing a special slide show featuring photos of mothers, grandmothers, and mother-figures who have helped shape our lives. We invite you to email photos of the special mothers in your life to Rev. Natalie by Tuesday May 6th at the latest. Please include a brief description including your name, along with the name of the woman/women in the photograph and their relationship to you.

May 25th – Memorial Sunday

Memorial Sunday is an opportunity for us to acknowledge those who have transitioned over the past year by reading their names aloud and lighting candles at the altar. If there are any names you would like to have included in this service, please contact the church office by Tuesday May 20th at the latest.

Please consider assisting the Worship Committee...

If you would like to JOIN the Worship Committee, please let one of us know immediately, so we can notify the Nominating Committee. "Many hands make light work!"

If you are unable to commit to JOINING the Worship Committee, we can always use help with the following duties at our weekly Worship Services:

- Reading Scripture
- Assisting with Ushering
- Assisting with Communion
- Providing flowers
- Providing special music

Our sign-up sheets are located outside Robinson Hall, in the Education Building.

2024-25 Worship Committee Members: *Melissa Ferrie-Healy* and *Diane Henderson*. We are here to faithfully serve God, this Parish and our Community.



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION - May

Doris O'Rourke

On May 3rd at ten A.M. the Women's Association will be cleaning our church. There will be a short business meeting and a lunch fellowship. The following Friday we are having the carpet professionally cleaned by <u>Arizona Carpet Cleaners</u>. They have done a great job for us in the past.

WE WILL NOT MEET ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 13th.

FLOWER COMMITTEE - May

Doris O'Rourke

Thank you to everyone who purchased lilies or made a donation for the beautiful Easter flower displays!

We have received a wonderful offer from the <u>Lake George Garden Club</u> to do a cleanup on our grounds and flower beds. We are very appreciative to their members for this help. **The Garden Club meets** monthly in Robinson Hall.

MISSION'S REPORT

We have **served 3,290 meals** for people in our community. We want to thank **Ed Szmul** for volunteering to help deliver the meals.

We donated two 14-pound hams to the Salvation Army.

Thank you all for continuing to bring in items for Family Services in Glens Falls. Your monthly contributions are greatly appreciated and help us to continue to help where we are needed in the community.

Mission Committee: Mary Alice Clickner, Susan Ogden, Pat Zacharias

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Just a reminder, scholarship applications are available online and are **due Friday**, **June 6**th. If you have received one of our scholarships in the past, we encourage you to apply again. (Go to the Harrisena website at: www.harrisena.org)

Your Scholarship Committee

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – May

Happy End of Bright Week (I will let you look that up on your own, as I had to after hearing about it during a Bible study I attended. Made me want to put up my Christmas lights again!)

Which brings me to our **very powerful & special Holy Week celebrations** leading to both well attended lovely Easter services held in our hall & sanctuary where the many of our members were able to mingle then worship with the two Guest Churches.

Which brings me to the most wonderful Holy Week leading to both our Easter services. Both were well attended, but more so the later service at 9:30 AM.

And yet, after getting home from *Maundy Thursday* and Faith Tabernacle's *Good Friday services*, I realized how saddened I hadn't seen more familiar faces. (Feel the need to express, I spent my second *Good Friday* @Faith Tabernacle as one of two from our church (our pastor's granddaughter was the other). These celebrations of Jesus' final days are so meaningfully done. And I greatly encourage those of you who happened to miss them, to please, very much consider joining us in future! (& no, collections were not taken in either:)

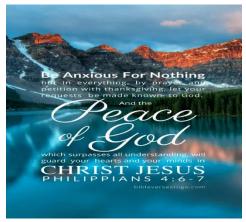
Very happy to find the need to have more *Welcome Bag*s as needed this month and happier to make more welcome bags for the next month. For they are, again, going as fast as they're made (a terrific problem to have!) Most pleased to announce a new young family with three boys under 4 have attended church now 4 or 5 times.

I have great pride being a member here with you all! The meetings we've had regarding moving to a part- time pastor demonstrate to me what a true genuine family we are in every sense of the word - great interest, kindness & communication.

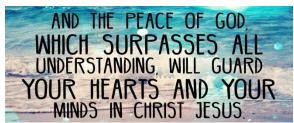
In devotion & love with you, *Christine Burke*

HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH CHALLENGE - MAY 2025

SHALOM THE PEACE OF GOD



In Hebrew, "Shalom" (שלום) means more than just "peace" in English. It encompasses a broader concept that includes well-being, wholeness, completeness, and a state of harmony. When used as a greeting or farewell in Israel, it translates to "hello" and "goodbye," but it also carries the meaning of "may you be in peace, may you be well, and may you be whole".



Shalom is a peace that passes all understanding.

God's peace is beyond human comprehension and will protect believers' emotional and intellectual

well-being through their faith in Christ.

SHALOM encompasses all of life.

- Shalom is a concept that extends beyond personal wellbeing to encompass societal harmony and justice.
- Shalom is often associated with the restoration of broken relationships and the establishment of a just and peaceful world.
- Shalom is a powerful symbol of hope and a goal that people strive for, both individually and collectively.



WHEN SCIENCE CATCHES UP TO BIBLICAL TRUTHS BENEFITS OF SHALOM

PERSONAL WELL-BEING Peace of mind and serenity:

Shalom fosters a sense of calmness and tranquility, reducing stress and anxiety.

Health and vitality:

Some interpretations link shalom to good health and well-being, suggesting that when life is in harmony, it positively impacts physical health.

Joy and contentment:

Shalom can cultivate a deeper sense of joy and contentment, leading to a more fulfilling life.

HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS Stronger connections:

Shalom encourages empathy, compassion, and trust, leading to more meaningful and harmonious relationships.

Reduced conflict:

By fostering a sense of justice and fairness, shalom can help prevent misunderstandings and disagreements.

WELL-BEING: SOCIAL/COMMUNITY Justice and equality:

Shalom is linked to the idea that everyone's needs are met, and that there's a sense of fairness and justice in society.

Community well-being:

When shalom is present, it can contribute to a more peaceful, cooperative, and thriving community.

Environmental stewardship:

Some interpretations of shalom extend to a sense of responsibility for caring for the environment, recognizing its importance for overall well-being.

SPIRITUALITY

Connection to God:

Shalom can be seen as a reflection of God's peace and presence in the world, fostering a deeper spiritual connection.

Hope and purpose:

Shalom can provide a sense of hope and purpose, particularly in challenging times, by reminding us of the possibility of a reconciled and flourishing world.

MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Christian Home Month/American Heritage Month				1 5:30am Prayer	2 5:30am Prayer	3 5:30am Prayer
4 5:30 am Prayer Morning Worship @9:30 am Holy Communion	5 5:30am Prayer	6 5:30 Prayer Conversations @1	7 5:30am PRAYER AA @7:30	8 5:30am Prayer	9 5:30am Prayer	10 5:30am Prayer
11 5:30 am Prayer Morning Worship @9:30 am Mother's Day	12 5:30am PRAYER Income Taxes Due	13 5:30am Prayer Conversations @1 Council @7	14 5:30am Prayer Women's Mtg @12 AA @7:30	15 5:30am Prayer	16 5:30am Prayer	17 5:30am Prayer Armed Forces Day
18 5:30 am Prayer Morning Worship @6 AM & 9:30 am	19 5:30 am Prayer	20 5:30am Prayer Conversations @1	21 5:30am Prayer; 12- LGGC AA @7:30	22 5:30am Prayer	23 5:30am Prayer	24 5:30am Prayer
25 5:30 am Prayer Morning Worship @9:30 am Memorial Sunday	26 5:30am Prayer	27 5:30am Prayer Conversations @ 1	28 5:30am Prayer AA @7:30	29 5:30am Prayer Ascension Day	30 5:30am Prayer	31 5:30am Prayer

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP @ 9:30 a.m. in the Harrisena Community Church sanctuary and via livestream at Harrisena.org. Harrisena Community Church on YOUTUBE!

May Birthdays: 2) Christine Burke; 5) Billy Brown; 6) Kayla Monroe;

- 12) Mary Alice Clickner; 15) Peggy McArthur; 20) Pamela Loeb; 22) Linda Havens;
- 26) Lance Fuilon Loonan; 27) Mercedi Loonan; 31) Ryan Healy.

CELEBRATION FRIDAYS!!

Send all announcements to the church office on Wednesdays to be included in the Celebration Friday publication. CELEBRATION FRIDAY is the HCC email publication. When there is good news, we spread it!

<u>LONG-TERM PRAYERS – May 2025</u>

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

In Facilities

Pat Dallas- River Mead, Peterborough, NH Manu Malkani – Fort Hudson Marilyn Somerville – Coburn Village, Rexford

At Home

Laura Avent – member of Harrisena
Santina Bauer – friend of Roy Urrico
Walda Blanchard - Member
Kathleen Dumont – Niece of Brandy Madon
Rev. Patti Girard – Friend of Harrisena
Randy Huber – Husband of member, Cindy Huber
Douglas Jones – Son-in-law of Art Norton
Ann Malkani – Friend of Joanne Beck
Gay & Roger Smith – Members of Harrisena
Fran Tucker – Mother of Bob Tucker

Our Deepest Condolences go out to the Families and Friends of Rev. Lester B. Vier who died on March 31, 2025 at 96; and Cynthia P. Farbaniec who died on April 23, 2025, at 86. Rev. Vier was a Pastor at Harrisena Community Church in the 1950s; and Cindy and her husband Phil were long-time members of the Harrisena Community Church.



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

Joseph Hubbard (Army) – stateside

Tyler Monroe (*USAF*), son of Cheryl Pagano – serving at Sheppard AFB **Kaleb Parker** (*Army*), grandson of Rev. Dr. Wimberly – serving in Germany **Griffith Parry** (*Army*), nephew of Griffith Parry- serving in Poland **James Pearson** (*USAF*)

Daniel Urband (*USAF*), grandson of Alice Urband—serving stateside **Mark Wilson** (*Army Special Forces/Reserves*), husband of Andrea—serving stateside

Braden Stormer – serving stateside

