

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" And Jesus replied to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself [that is, unselfishly seek the best or higher good for others].' The whole Law and the [writings of the] Prophets depend on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:36-40 NIV

By air, land, and sea, Russia has launched a devastating attack on Ukraine, a European democracy of 44 million people.

Violence in eastern Ukraine between Russian-backed separatist forces and the Ukrainian military has by conservative estimates killed more than 10,300 people.

For the first time in more than a month, the country is averaging fewer than 2,000 newly reported deaths a day. Despite the steep decline, thousands of Covid-19 deaths continued to be announced each week.

When the nonpartisan Pew Research Center recently surveyed people in 17 countries in Europe, Asia and North America, Americans were the most likely to say their society was split along partisan, racial and ethnic lines. The U.S. also reported more religious division than almost any other country surveyed.

The U.S. was also one of five countries in which more than half the public said their fellow citizens can't agree on basic facts.

Writing in the aftermath of World War II, Elton Trueblood looked back to those few brave German Christians who had the courage to oppose Adolph Hitler. When so many others went along or simply kept silent, a few, a courageous handful, would not go along with the majority. Trueblood asked the question, "What made these people different? Why did they say no when everyone else said yes?" His answer was simple: "They had **the First Commandment.**" That made all the difference. When you have the First Commandment, when you take it seriously as a way of life, you find the courage to stand against the crowd.

In the twenty-second chapter of Matthew, an expert of the law from among the Pharisees asks Jesus one last question in order to test him. He asked, "Which commandment in the law is greatest?" Jesus' answer is classic. Loving God is the first thing, the most important thing. But, with it comes a corollary: to love God means that you also love God's people. The ancient rabbis put it in similar terms: "**What is hateful to you do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole Law.**"

For many, it seems that Christianity comes down to the "Golden Rule" of love your neighbor as yourself. The command to love your neighbor is actually found in the Hebrew text also in Leviticus 19:18. Yet, not many verses later, we find the command to love the alien (stranger) as ourselves in Leviticus 19:34: "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; **you shall love the stranger as yourself.**"

The headlines noted at the beginning of this meditation show the stark reality of our world today. So often we discount the scriptures as old and irrelevant and yet, these headlines help us better understand the necessity of God's word and the command to love, for **God is LOVE.** As a church, the Body of Christ, we are called to show the world what love looks like and maybe, just maybe when we do, even we will find that **neighbor and stranger are not such different categories after all.**

Dear God,

Give us the courage to love as you have loved us. Amen.

In Christ's service with you.

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly

A Message from the President

Submitted by Doris O'Rourke

In our February Council meeting your committee reps worked hard and addressed a variety of important issues. They created **guidelines for the new Tech Committee and the Nominating Committee**. This information will be added to our updated COMMITTEE DUTIES HANDBOOK. Each committee delegate gave an articulate but brief report which got us out the door before 9PM.

A BIG thank you to you all who participated and accomplished our work!



Turn Your Clocks Ahead as we SPRING forward one Hour!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On January 27th the Church voted to sell the vacant land that we subdivided. Since that time, we have researched Realtors to list the property. I also went out to some of the neighbors to make them aware of our plans. We immediately received an offer without contracting with a Realtor.

The Trustees and Finance Committees met with these interested purchasers last week to negotiate a price.

Our Attorney is in the process of preparing a Purchase Agreement with these folks. This agreement will be contingent on a vote by the entire church to finalize the sale. Once this is signed by both parties, we will finalize the Contract.

Things are moving forward very quickly, stay tuned for more updates.

Hal Payne

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!!

Church Council Mediation Meeting on March 12th from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE for March 2022

The Worship Committee has been busy getting ready for the Lenten season! We are looking for volunteers to light candles and read. Dollar folders have been ordered to hand out to the congregation for this season of giving. An explanation of this tradition will be handed out at the commencement of Lent. And Tim Gusek made a new Lenten cross!

We are planning on working on the banner project soon and are looking for volunteers.

We are still in need of a new Head Usher. Phyllis has been graciously filling in and others have volunteered as well but we are looking for someone to take responsibility for this very important task on a regular basis. A sign-up sheet is available in the interim.

Prayer request forms are available at the entrance to the sanctuary and there is a labelled basket to place them in at the entrance as well.

We will be decorating the church with Easter lilies and other spring flowers. The order form is included here and is due by 4/3/22. Please help us to have the church filled with flowers!

2021-2022 Worship Committee Members:

Melissa Ferrie-Healy(chair), Kathleen Gusek(Harbinger) and Phyllis Straut

Rev. Natalie Wimberly and Doris O'Rourke (ex-officio members)



EASTER FLOWERS

It is time to think about **ordering Flowers** to decorate the church for Easter. Please use the form below to let the **Flower Committee** know your wishes (*please enclose payment by check with your order*). *Thank you.*

I would like to order # ___plant (s) **at \$12 each. Enclosed is my check for \$**_____. *Please list as follows:*

“IN MEMORY” of _____
_____ OR

“IN HONOR” of _____

YOUR Name & Phone # _____

Please make your check payable to: *Harrisena Flower Fund.*

*Please place orders in the***COLLECTION PLATE** *on Sunday; in the* **FLOWER COMMITTEE MAILBOX** *downstairs in the Ed. building; or mail to:* **HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804.

DEADLINE FOR ALL ORDERS IS Sunday, April 3, 2022

With sincere thanks from the Flower Committee for helping to decorate our church for the Easter Season!

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Joanne Beck

The Women's Association held their lunch meeting on February 17 in Robinson Hall. The group hadn't had a regular meeting for several months so a lot of old business was discussed. **Doris read a thank you letter from Janice Holding from Bay Road Presbyterian Church for our donation to “Love and Hope for Leon, Haiti.”** Janice was our guest speaker in October.

Old business consisted of looking into a fireproof storage cabinet for Harrisena's historical documents; writing up a mission statement for the association and purchasing air-conditioning for Robinson Hall.

New business followed: appointing a delegate to the council, display case for Harrisena memorabilia and the possibility of the Women's Association making the new banners for the sanctuary.

Rev Patti Girard attended the meeting. She discussed a book she has written entitled "*If It Wasn't For Love.*" It is full of stories about people she has met throughout her ministry. For those of us who attended, we came away with a great feeling of accomplishment and fellowship. Reminder that **Women's Association is open to all women in the church and the community. We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month. Would love to see you!**

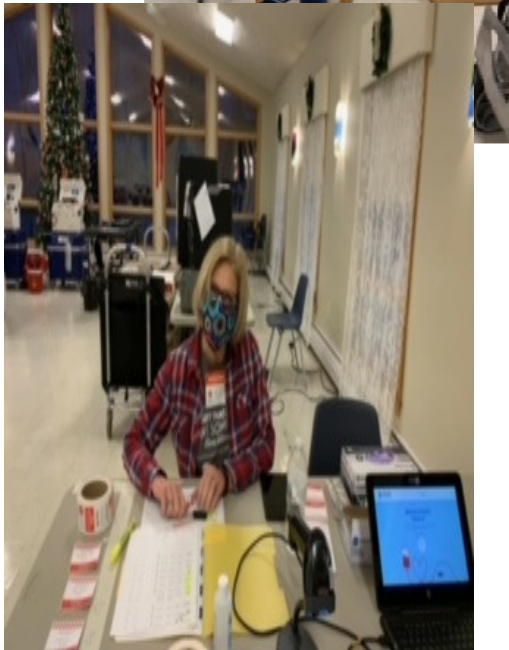
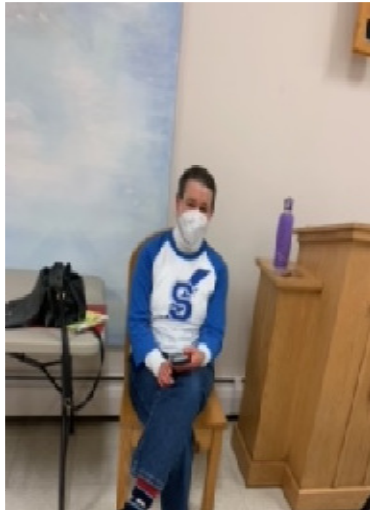
**OUTREACH COMMITTEE
BLOOD DRIVE SUCCESSFUL**

Melissa Ferrie-Healy again chaired a successful Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, January 28, 2022! This drive collected 27 units of life saving blood.

Although we were prepared for 39 donors, the Red Cross Staff was short several blood technicians. Unfortunately, COVID positives of the scheduled workers resulted in the short staffage. This resulted in 8 donors not being served.

Many thanks to: Melissa Ferrie-Healy, Pam and Bill Loeb Sue Cartier, Mary Alice Clickner, Sue Ogden, Robin Dutcher and Nancy Willett for all the hard work to make this drive successful.

The **next HCC sponsored Red Cross Blood drive** is scheduled for **Friday, August 19, 2022.**



"OUT to EAT"

Sixteen HCC members enjoyed the January "Out to Eat" gathering at the Ambrosia Diner. It was our first "Out to Eat" event since COVID and was enjoyed by all. Just a word of caution about the Ambrosia Diner, it is extremely busy on Sundays from 10 to 1 and it took a while to get the food. Our waitress was wonderful and even gave us individual checks.

The next "Out to Eat" gathering will be Sunday, February 27, 2022 at 11 am at the Adirondack Bar and Grill.

The restaurant is located just down from the Church at the corner of Rt. 149 and Ridge Road. Please contact Pam Loeb at pamelajloeb@gmail.com if you'd like to attend.

The "Out to Eats" are sponsored by the Fellowship Committee (Shelley Durkee, Pam Loeb and Janet Wilson). During the dark days of winter we decided to try lunch events and then moving to dinner gatherings when it is light longer. Let us know what you think.



SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday, July 16, 2022
Harrisena Chicken BBQ**

For Reservations/Payment/ or to reserve “*Meals of Love*”, (or to Volunteer), contact Deanna Payne (518) 761-0133 or cell (518) 681-2606.

Please ask for God’s favor on our endeavors!

March 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 <i>Ash Wednesday Service 6 PM</i> 10:30- Conversations 7:30- AA	3	4 <i>World Day of Prayer</i> Mission Meal prepared	5 Lenten Fast
6 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30- Communion	7	8- Council	9:10:30- Conversations Virtual Bible Study 7:30- AA	10	11 Mission Meal prepared	12 Mediation Meeting with Rev. Stefani 9-12 Lenten Fast
13 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30- Worship	14	15	16-2 Women’s Assoc. Mtg Virtual Bible Study 7:30- AA	17 <i>St. Patrick’s Day</i>	18 Mission Meal prepared	19 Lenten Fast
20 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30- Worship	21	22	23 10:30- Conversations Virtual Bible Study 7:30- AA	24	25 Mission Meal prepared	26 Lenten Fast
27 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> 9:30- Worship	28	29	30 10:30- Conversations Virtual Bible Study 7:30- AA	31		

Our SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE is held at 9:30 AM
JOIN US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP in the HCC sanctuary and conference call-
in: 1-313-209- 8800. The ID# is 796-8500, then press #.
You can also join us for worship service via livestream at Harrisena.org.

March Birthdays: 4) Liz Moon; 5) Nancy Cathers; 6) Thalia Matthews –Chase; 9) Walda Blanchard; 12) Patty Zacharias; 14) Brandy Madon, Griff Parry; 15) Natalie Robinson; 16) Sue Ogden, Tyler Monroe; 17) Kathleen Gusek; 20) Jonathan Staunches; 21) Dennis Moon; 28) Bruce Lipinski; 30) Peter Aust.

LENTEN FAST: HONORING THE SABBATH. BEGINNING ON ASH WEDNESDAY until the Monday after Easter Sunday. Reflection, meditation, and prayer during the season of Lent.

During the season of Lent, we are asking that there will be no emails sent regarding church business from Friday evenings at 5:30 p.m. until Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. Let's commit ourselves to this sacred time as we grow in God's grace, mercy, and love.

Long-Term Prayer Requests–March 2022

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

In Facilities

Cindy Farbaniec – The Terrace
Nancy Cathers – Assisted Living, MD
Maria Foss – Sunnyview Rehabilitation
Linda Kennedy – Fort Hudson
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
Manu Malkani – The Terrace
Art Norton – Slate Valley Center, Granville
Marilyn Somerville – Coburn Village, Rexford

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
Wendy Leyonmark – Sister of Cindy Huber
Ann Malkani – Friend of Joanne Beck
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Gay Smith – Member of Harrisena
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Doloras Van Detta – Friend of Marie Scarselletta

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*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Family & Friends of: **Helen Pechtel, Theodore Gusek, and John Urrico.** Helen was a friend of the members of the Mission Meal Team; Theodore was the father of Tim Gusek; and John was the brother of Roy Urrico.*

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, son of Kathleen & Tim Gusek – stateside at Ft. Hood, TX

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 (*West Point Military Academy*), relative of Griffith Parry- serving in Poland

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

