

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

Richard Swenson wrote a book some time ago titled, "Margin" in which he describes modern society as so overcommitted and over scheduled that we have no space left for rest. One writer put it this way: *Overload is not having time to finish the book you are reading on stress. Margin is having time to read it twice. Overload is fatigue. Margin is energy. Overload is red ink. Margin is black ink. Overload is hurry. Margin is calm. Overload is anxiety. Margin is security. Overload is a disease of our day. Margin is the cure.*

He says that as a society, we have forgotten what margin is. In the push for progress, margin has been devoured. We so often feel distressed in ill-defined ways. We are besieged by anxiety, stress, and fatigue. Our relationships suffer. We have unexplained aches and pains. The flood of daily events seems beyond our control. We are overloaded.

Margin is the space that once existed between us and our limits. It is something held in reserve for contingencies or unanticipated situations.

As a medical practitioner, Dr. Swenson sees a steady stream of exhausted, hurting people coming into his office. He says that most of them are suffering from an uncontrolled societal epidemic: living without margin.

In this Gospel, Jesus confronts a society characterized by principles of overload. Jesus chastise the scribes and Pharisees because "they tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them." The heavy burden they lay on the people is not the law, but it is their own interpretation and practice of the law. These religious leaders ignore human need. They neglect the "weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith." ***Jesus rejects the justification of overload and issues an invitation to redirect our lives toward margin.***

We can all think of specific circumstances or situations that are hard and burdensome. Even so, much of our weariness is a result of the cumulative, multilayered intersections of life's complexities, physical illnesses, emotional heartbreaks, and spiritual longings. Our burdens are not simple. But a simple invitation or a simple promise can relieve a complex burden, provided we believe that the power behind the promise is complex and

strong enough to relieve our heaviness. It is powerful enough to lift what weighs us down. ***This is what Jesus does.***

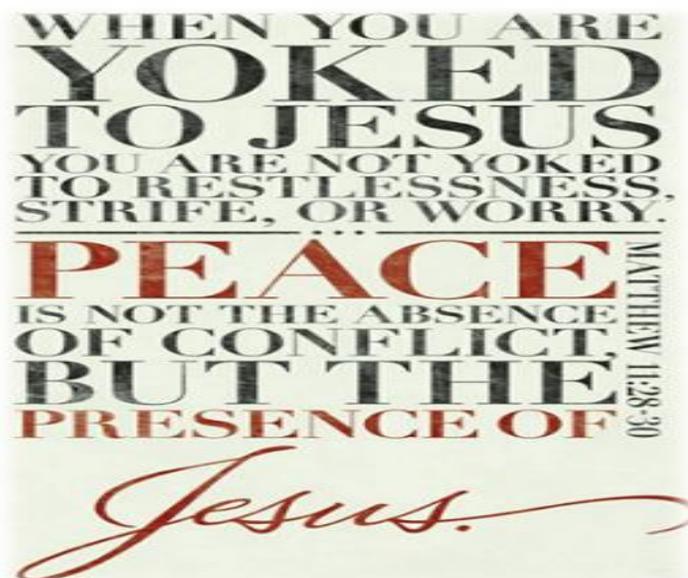
Jesus calls us to learn by doing, by adopting his spirit and living his imperatives. The truth of our faith is in the living. For example: To read about feeding the hungry is one thing; to feed them is quite another. ***The teachings of Jesus are not burdensome but life-giving.*** They point us to the self-giving side of love that is gentle and humble in heart. His yoke is easy, good, and kind. His burden is light. ***It is God's kingdom of justice, mercy, and compassion breaking into this world right here, right now.***

We have been harbingers of God's kingdom during this pandemic! We have not hidden away in fear. We have learned to care for one another in new and creative ways. We have learned effective ways to communicate, to speak, hear, and listen. We pray, encourage, support, and comfort each other, and in doing so, we have learned to live life – right here, right now – despite the circumstances. ***We have rediscovered margin – lives lived in humble service, lives lived in freedom and joy! WOW!!!***

As we continue forward in this new phase during the pandemic, may we continue yoked to Jesus under God's gracious and merciful care, free from the burden and need to prove ourselves, free to rest deeply and securely in God's grace, and free to love God and one another. **Thanks be to God!**

May the yoke of Jesus continue to guide us to places and spaces of peace and joy and service and love. **We continue together!**

Shalom
Dr. N.C. Wimberly



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a difference another month makes...

It's been just over five weeks since I've been inside the sanctuary of our church, but it seems like much longer. I miss picking up my friends Brandy, Christine and Art on the way to church because we had such great little talks during our brief Sunday morning rides. I also miss preparing the Keynote programs on the monitors for Sunday morning services.

Staying home and practicing social distancing when we must go shopping has become the harsh reality of the new normal. With all this time off Lori decided to make some nice face masks for members of the family. After digging out the sewing machine and informing me we needed to go shopping for some materials we drove to the store. I was not surprised to find all of the "good" fabric completely sold out as well as the elastic banding and the hundreds of spools of thread no longer filling the shelves. She couldn't even find needles for the sewing machine. It was almost the same reaction we had when we first went grocery shopping after the beginning of the pandemic when we could not believe the empty shelves throughout all of the stores we went to. A month ago we couldn't find even the basic grocery needs or personal products. Now one has a pretty hard time finding materials to make protective masks which are required if you are in close proximity to others while away from home. The one-dollar N95 masks from a month ago are now \$8 each. Want a real shock? See what a small bottle of hand sanitizer costs today. On the other hand, gasoline futures are at a negative. The smog over large middle east cities has cleared. The waters of Venice, Italy have actually cleared up and pollution overall in America is at its lowest amount in decades.

I can't help wondering how long it will be before the majority of our population realizes that it is not this virus that has taken such a toll on us. I've run into friends while shopping and I'm dumbfounded by their mentality of needing to procure every last one of a certain item because it probably won't be there next week. Talk about a self-fulfilling prophecy. I see fear all around me and most people don't even realize what exactly it is that they fear. Fear makes people do strange things.

At least we have our home to return to for some semblance of normalcy. Home is place where you can be yourself. Its a place where we spend time talking and breaking bread with our family. It's like a port in a storm where we can feel safe and protected. Home is a place where we can relax and interact with others. Home is a lot like Harrisena.

I looked outside a window this morning. The trees are budding. The squirrels are still scurrying around and there is an occasional glimpse of birds looking for something to eat on the banks over by the pond. There are signs that spring is on the way all around us.

Stop with the fear. Trust in God. Help others when you can. We have a lot to look forward to.

Me? I'm especially looking forward to a haircut. Maybe when I can, I'll have my barber shave my head just in case I can't get another haircut next month. Just saying...

Looking forward to what the future brings.

God blessed us all. Keep that in mind.

Peter Pepe



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Who are the mothers in your life?

On May 10th we will celebrate Mother's Day 2020. Whether we can physically give them a hug or not, this is an excellent opportunity for us to show our love and appreciation not only for our own mothers, but for all who have mothered us throughout our lives – and perhaps continue to mother us, no matter how "grown up" we may seem. Please take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all those amazing women in your life AND to share the story of those who have passed beyond our mortal vision. Let this be your outreach for the month of May!

Please Continue to Share Your Updates

While our weekly worship services are taking place on FACEBOOK LIVE and phone conference calls, we encourage you 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 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 in any way.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Please forward your pledges and offerings to *Harrisena Community Church, 1616 Ridge Road, Queensbury, NY 12804. We will get through this time together. Thank you! HCC Finance Committee: Bonnie Nadig, Ken Zacharius, and Cheryl Pagano*



Membership Committee

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Although we cannot meet as a congregation by sitting next to each other in a pew, please know we are virtually enjoying prayers together on Wednesdays at noon, scriptures and time together on Saturdays, services on Sundays, and meetings via zoom and conference calls. We are ringing our church bells and honking horns, making masks and meals, plus checking on one another in support of each other. Our Sunday School children have displayed positive messages in front of our church and enjoy zoom meetings on Sundays. All this shows how connected we are at Harrisena Community Church as a congregation and to our community. If you are thinking about joining our special Church family, I encourage you to contact Rev. Wimberly or myself. As a very wise woman once shared with us, God says: "We can do this." The more the merrier, so please join us.

For Membership Committee
Bonnie Nadig



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Missions and Fellowship Committees plus some friends have been busy on Fridays making **meals for our church members and friends**. We have made **105 meals** as of April 17th. It has been a lot of fun and it's a great way to keep in touch with our members and friends. **If you or if you can think of anyone that would like a meal and a friendly visit, please let Mary Alice or Susan Ogden know.** We want to thank all who have donated to this church project.

We give monthly **support to The Open Door and Family Services. We made an extra donation of \$500.00 to Family Services, since we cannot provide them with food donations.**

We provided 30 turkey dinners to Open Door. We continue to support our three international teenagers.

Reminder, your Harrisena Family is always there for you.

Mission Committee

We are still accepting FOOD DONATIONS for **FAMILY SERVICES. *These donations can be left at the front door of the Ed. Building. Open the front door and place them in the entrance between the 1st and 2nd door. Thank you so much!***

Most needed: applesauce, baking items {flour, sugar, cake & frosting mixes}; oatmeal; raisins; cereals; baby food (**no glass**, please); pasta; tomato sauce; canned meats/vegetables/beans; peanut butter; macaroni & cheese; instant puddings; and soups.

Personal items are also needed: feminine items, toothpaste, deodorant, toothbrushes, soap, etc.

WORKING TOGETHER MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

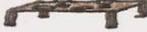
On Sundays at 12:30 PM, meet us on **GOOGLE HANGOUT** for our Children's Message and time of fellowship. Also, the Trustees put up a sign so Christian Ed. could place messages of encouragement and support during the COVID-19 pandemic. THANK YOU, KIDS!

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Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want. 
- 2 He makes me lie down in **green pastures**
and leads me beside **still waters**.

- 3 He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways
for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those
who trouble me; 
you have anointed my head with oil, 
 and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life,
and I will dwell in the  of the LORD for ever.

**HARRISENA COMMUNITY CHURCH
MAY CALENDAR 2020**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Weekly email blast & SATURDAY MEDITATION @ 3:00 PM FACEBOOK LIVE
3 Sunday Worship Service @ 9:30 am on Facebook Live & Conference call in	4	5	6 Prayer Together @12 noon on Conference Call-in	7	8	9 Weekly email blast & SATURDAY MEDITATION @ 3:00 PM FACEBOOK LIVE
10 Sunday Worship Service @ 9:30 am on Facebook Live & Conference call in	11	12	13 Prayer Together @12 noon on Conference Call-in	14	15	16 Weekly email blast & SATURDAY MEDITATION @ 3:00 PM FACEBOOK LIVE
17 Sunday Worship Service @ 9:30 am on Facebook Live & Conference call in	18	19 Council Mtg @7 PM/Conf. call	13 Prayer Together @12 noon on Conference Call-in	21	22 Harbinger articles due for June	23 Weekly email blast & SATURDAY MEDITATION @ 3:00 PM FACEBOOK LIVE
24 Sunday Worship Service @ 9:30 am on Facebook Live & Conference call in	25	26	27 Prayer Together @12 noon on Conference Call-in	28	29	30 Weekly email blast & SATURDAY MEDITATION @ 3:00 PM FACEBOOK LIVE

Our SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 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.

Until it is safe for us to gather again in the Harrisena Church building.

Remember, 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.

May Birthdays:

2) Christine Burke; 5) Billy Brown; 6) Kayla Monroe; 7) Clayton Burgess;
12) Mary Alice Clickner; 15) Peggy McArthur; 22) Linda Havens; 25) Frank Girard;
26) Chuck Ogden; 27) Mercedi Loonan; 29) Carol Webster; 31) Ryan Healy.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – May 2020

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

Nancy Cathers – Assisted Living, MD
Jane Christensen – Champlain Valley Senior Living, Willsboro, NY
Jane Lis – Eastern Star Campus, Oriskany
Lillian McDonnell – Glens Falls Center
James Nobile - The Landing of Queensbury
Geoffrey Stewart – Westchester Trauma Center

At Home

Maria Berg – Mother of Nicole Robinson
Celine & Bob Boulé – Daughter/Son-in-law of Brandy & Wally Madon
Lee Ann Clark – Daughter of Murial Clark
Jill Coleman – Friend of Suzanne Cartier
Kathleen Dumont – Niece of Brandy Madon
Colin Fuller – Son of Patti Girard
Rev. Patti Girard – Friend of Harrisena
Theodore Gusek – father of Tim Gusek
Nancy Hoover – Member of Harrisena
Randy Huber – Husband of Cindy Huber
Fabiola Jabaut – Mother of Steve Jabaut
Douglas Jones – Son-in-law of Art Norton
Thomas Kerschner – Relative of Allan Ferrie
Teagan Klingenburg – Student of Melissa Ferrie-Healy
Diane Lawson – Friend of Sue & Peter Cartier
Carmen LeFebvre – Friend of Peg McArthur
Wendy Leyonmark – Sister of Cindy Huber
Philip Nadig – Member of Harrisena
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Diane Parry – Cousin of Griffith Parry
Richard Smith – Member, husband of Donna D. Smith
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Melanie Swinton – Friend of Sue Ogden

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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.**

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

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



THE RAINBOW: GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh (NKJV).Genesis 9:12-15

**The rainbow is a covenant between God and all of creation.
The rainbow is a covenant of grace.**



WE ARE PRAYING FOR ALL OF OUR FRONTLINE WORKERS, FIRST RESPONDERS, SCIENTIST AND RESEARCHERS, ESSENTIAL WORKERS AND BUSINESSES, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND CAREGIVERS, LEADERS IN ANY FORM OF AUTHORITY, OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR WORLD!!!

SHALOM