

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

STAY CONNECTED!

"I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me, and I in him, the same bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

We have heard these words before, haven't we? But what is it about vines and branches? What do they have to do with our faith or our lives?

According to the Old Testament, the vine was a common image for the people of Israel. We hear about the song of the vineyard in Isaiah 5:7. Isaiah says, *"the vineyard of Yahweh of Armies is the house of Israel."* We hear similar references to the vine from Jeremiah and Hosea. In the Book of Jeremiah, the Lord says, *"Yet I had planted you a noble vine, wholly a right seed."* (Jeremiah 2:21) Hosea writes, *"Israel is a luxuriant vine that puts forth his fruit."* (Hosea 10:1) And in the Book of Psalms, these words appear:

"You brought a vine out of Egypt. You drove out the nations, and planted it. You cleared the ground for it. It took deep root, and filled the land." (Psalms 80:8-9)

So, when we hear Jesus speak of vines and branches, we must pay close attention. Jesus is the new Israel! Jesus is the one through whom God establishes a new covenant! The makeup of God's chosen people would no longer be determined by their race or their Jewish ancestry. Who they were and whose they were would be determined by their relationship with Jesus! It is the same today. We must connect and **stay connected to Jesus!**

"For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit not in the letter." (Romans 2:28-29a)

In other words, just having your name on the roll isn't enough! Remember the old idiom: *"Going to a church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to McDonald's makes you a hamburger!"* The joy of salvation comes from knowing God's presence, trusting that your sins are forgiven and having the assurance that in every situation and circumstance, God is with you and you are greatly loved by God!. So **stay connected to Jesus!**

The Jews in Jesus' day had the name, but they lacked the spirit. In much the same way, the church today are Christian churches, the question remains, how well do we know Jesus and who is Jesus to us? Is Jesus your Lord and Savior? Do you listen to His teachings? Do you follow His example? Do you walk in His fellowship?

Jesus is the true vine, the source of our covenant relationship with God. Jesus is the link that keeps us connected to God and each other. In the words of the old gospel hymn, he is the tie that binds our hearts together in Christian love. So, **stay connected to Jesus!**

It is my hope and prayer that you stay connected to Jesus and that you will be nourished and sustained to do the will and work of God in this world in real time.

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope you all had a good and enjoyable summer with family and friends. I want to *welcome you to our new Church Year*, at Harrisena!

First, I want to thank last year's church officers and committee members for the work they did to keep our church moving forward and getting us through a challenging time. **I also want to thank you – the members and friends – for your support.** As we start this new church year, we need your continuing support and prayers to help make our church a place to worship and fellowship together.

Last February our church council voted to investigate the possibility of going to a part-time pastor. **A committee was formed to look into this change of worship. The committee has been meeting regularly to make this move successfully. The same committee moved into a Transition Committee and now has become a Search Committee for a part-time pastor.**

This is a challenging and very important time for Harrisena. As your president, I ask for your support and prayers as we move forward toward the changes in our Church History.

President, Susan Ogden

MISSION REPORT

The Mission Committee continues to support our members and the community. We want to **thank the members of our church who have prepared and delivered meals every Tuesday!** So far, 3,501 meals have been enjoyed!

We have also made a donation to the **Queensbury Rescue Squad.**

Thank you all for your support of the Warren County Family Services! The food and personal items you collected are greatly appreciated!

Missions Committee:

Mary Alice Clickner, Pat Zacharias, Susan Ogden



PULPIT COMMITTEE ARTICLE FOR HARBINGER

At the August Council meeting, a Pulpit Committee was formed to seek candidates to fill our part-time pastor position. Those agreeing to serve were:

**Shelley Durkee
Pam Loeb
Bonnie Nadig
Susan Ogden
Doris O'Rourke
Ed Szmul**

To date, we have posted the opening on an online site used by individuals seeking pastor positions. We also intend to use our website, Facebook and other publications both near and far.

Since the ultimate decision will be in the vote of our congregation, we welcome any thoughts, suggestions and leads anyone may have during this process. We promise to do our best to find our next minister and ask for your prayers.

In the meantime, Melissa Ferrie-Healy, who heads up the Worship Committee, is working hard to find guest pastors to fill the pulpit while we go through the search process. Please read Melissa's report and the lineup she already has for our Sunday services. If you know of someone who would be willing to do a sermon, please let Melissa know. Perhaps this is an opportunity for some hidden talent within our own congregation to share their public speaking skills.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Nadig for the Pulpit Committee

SEPTEMBER/SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE: Lives Have Been Saved!

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Summer Blood Drive on August 15th. We collected *32 pints of blood, including 6 "Power Reds."* That is *10 more pints than we collected at last summer's blood drive. Lives have been saved!*

Thank you to all who baked treats for our canteen, prepared lunch for our volunteers, greeted and registered our donors, and helped with set-up and clean-up. The Red Cross volunteers were grateful for their lunch of make-your-own tacos, and the donors were thrilled with the delicious homemade cookies we provided. *A special thank you to all who were able to donate blood, as well.*

Looking ahead, please ***SAVE THE DATE & SPREAD THE WORD*** -

HCC WINTER BLOOD DRIVE – Monday, January 26th from 12-5:00 p.m.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

A Time of New Beginnings

Rally Day – September 7

We will be holding a special Rally Day Worship Service on September 7th.

Whether you're someone who regularly attends Harrisena or someone who hasn't stepped through the doors of our "*Little Stone Church on the Ridge*" for years, we would love for you to join us - ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!

On Rally Day, we will **formally install our new officers and committee members.** We will **pledge to empower them with our support and prayers.** We will then celebrate with an "Indoor Picnic" Fellowship immediately following the worship service. *What a great way to kick off a new year of walking together with God!*

Rosh Hashana – September 22-24

In addition to Rally Day, this September marks another fresh start. Most of us celebrate the calendar New Year on January 1st. Some are also aware that the **Christian New Year begins with the Advent season**. What you may not know is that the **Jewish New Year falls in early autumn**. Rosh Hashana (aka “*The Head of the Year*”) marks the start of the Jewish High Holy Days, or “*Days of Awe*,” consisting of a 10-day period of prayer, self-examination, and repentance leading up to Yom Kippur, “*The Day of Atonement*,” and a year of judgement.

While Christians and Jews have different beliefs about the significance of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, **Rosh Hashana is a religious holiday (like Passover) that we can share**. We may not have focused on prayer, self-examination, and repentance since Lent, but now would be an excellent time to revisit those solemn practices, along with our Jewish brethren. **This year, we are also anticipating a major transition as Rev. Wimberly prepares to pursue ministry elsewhere**. What better time than now – at Rosh Hashanah - for us to immerse ourselves in prayer, self-examination, and repentance.

That said, Rosh Hashana is not about wearing sackcloth and ashes – it's a celebration of life’s sweetness - a time to enjoy honey cakes, pomegranates, and apple slices dipped in honey! It’s a time to share well wishes for a fruitful year ahead. In observing Rosh Hashana, we say, “*Shanah Tovah U’metukah*,” which means, “*May you have a good and sweet new year.*” Amen to that!

Guests in the Pulpit

You may be wondering what will happen when Rev. Wimberly completes her ministry at Harrisena Community Church at the end of September. We have not yet hired an interim pastor and have just begun our search for a more permanent pastor. For the next several months, we will be following the model set by the Lakeside Chapel in Cleverdale and the Potter’s Grove Tabernacle in South Glens Falls: **we will invite guest preachers filling the pulpit**.

Our former interim pastor, **Rev. Patti Girard**, has graciously agreed to preach on **Communion Sundays for September through December, including Rally Day and the Hanging of the Greens**. Another familiar guest at Harrisena, **Rev. Don Shuler**, has agreed to preach a mini-series for several Sundays in mid-November. A complete list of guest ministers for October and November will be published in

the October Harbinger and will also be posted on our website calendar. *Your prayerful support is needed as we endeavor to maintain continuity throughout this period of transition.*

Are you ready to play S.E.R.V.E. “Bingo?”

Good news: **our S.E.R.V.E. “Bingo” cards will once again be available from Rally Day on – just look for the bright orange paper!** These cards feature a **variety of options for members to actively SERVE at our church and in our community.** These cards are a fun way to challenge yourself and track your involvement. How many squares were you able to fill last year? Enough to complete a line or two for “Bingo?” Enough to fill your entire card, with twelve “Bingos?” How many “Bingos” will you achieve THIS year? Remember, *when YOU win - through acts of Christian service - we ALL win!*

The Worship Committee can ALWAYS USE HELP:

- Reading Scripture*
Ushering/Greeting
- Sharing fresh flowers
- Transporting the “Light of Christ”
- Leading the congregation in song
- Sharing special music
- Serving as an active member of the Worship Committee

**** Christine Burke has graciously offered to help anyone with a desire to approach the lectern with CONFIDENCE and SKILL. We would love to hear God’s word spoken with YOUR voice!***

Sign-up sheets are in the Education Building, outside Robinson Hall.

2025-26 Worship Committee Members: *Melissa Ferrie-Healy and Diane Henderson. We are here to serve God, Christ, and our parish!*



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TECH/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE – Website Update

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy, Website Coordinator

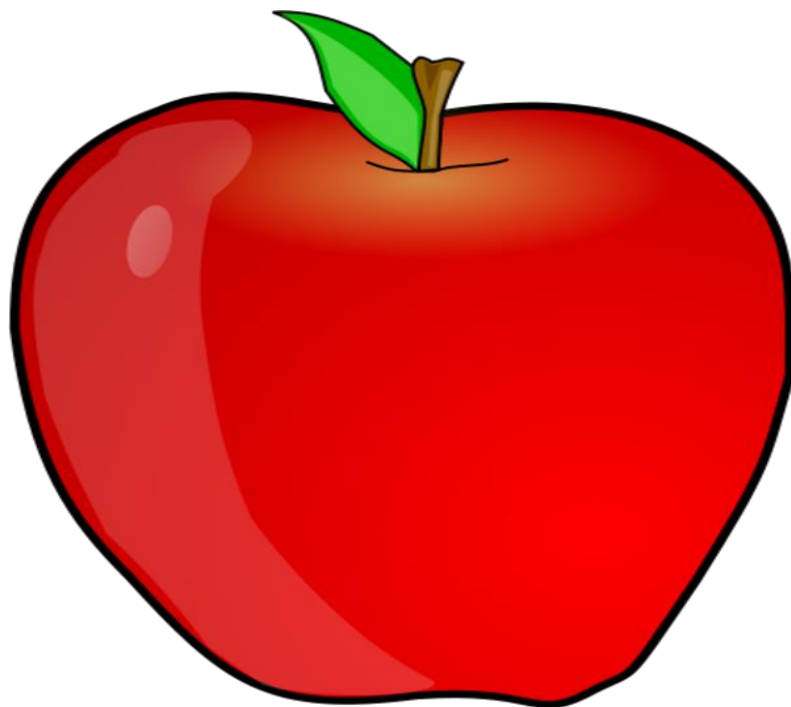
A Fresh New Look!

For the past two summers, we have been working to create a fresh, new look for our website. We wanted it to accurately reflect our unique Christian identity and values. We wanted it to convey the physical and spiritual beauty of our *“Little Stone Church on the Ridge.”* We wanted it to contain up-to-date information. We wanted it to be user-friendly. We wanted it to welcome visitors to explore and encourage them to attend worship, either in person, or online. We are pleased to share our fresh new look: (see next page)



A Work in Progress...

Please note our “*fresh new look*” is just the beginning! We encourage you to explore the links for yourself. We invite you to send photos of church events, important announcements, additions to our calendar, updates and any further suggestions to our website coordinator, Melissa Ferrie-Healy, at mlfmusic@yahoo.com so our website can continue to grow and thrive.



APPLE FESTIVAL

**Saturday, October 11th, in Robinson Hall,
10 AM – 3 PM**

Join us for:

*Silent Auction, Lunch, Craft Vendors,
Basket Auction, Bake Sale and Much More!*

***THE FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PROVIDE
AUCTION ITEMS TO BE USED DURING OUR APPLE FESTIVAL ON OCTOBER 11TH!***

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS & BASKETS

Please Contact Shirley Harney at 518 832-7306 for more information

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 5:30 am Prayer Labor Day	2 5:30 am Prayer; 1- Conversations	3 5:30 am Prayer 7:30-AA	4 5:30 am Prayer	5 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4- Kingdom Co- op	6 5:30 am Prayer
7 5:30 am Prayer 9:30- Rally DAY Sunday Worship	8 5:30 am Prayer	9 5:30 am Prayer; 1- Conversations; 7-Council	10 5:30 am Prayer 7:30-AA	11 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4-Kingdom Co-op	12 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4- Kingdom Co- op;	13 5:30 am Prayer
14 5:30 am Prayer 9:30- Worship; 9:30- Oneida Church	15 5:30 am Prayer	16 5:30 am Prayer; 1- Conversations	17 5:30 am Prayer 12- Women's Assoc Mtg 7:30 AA	18 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4- Kingdom Co- op	19 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4- Kingdom Co- op;	20 5:30 am Prayer
21 5:30 am Prayer 9:30- Worship; 9:30- Oneida Church	22 5:30 am Prayer	23 5:30 am Prayer; 1- Conversations	24 5:30 am Prayer LGGC 7:30-AA	25 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4- Kingdom Co- op	26 5:30 am Prayer: 9-4- Kingdom Co- op;	27 5:30 am Prayer
28 5:30 am Prayer 9:30- Worship; 9:30- Oneida Church	29 5:30 am Prayer	30 5:30 am Prayer; 1- Conversations				

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP @ 9:30 a.m. in the Harrisena Community Church sanctuary. You can also join our worship service via livestream at Harrisena.org. Click on the FACEBOOK link at the top right-hand side of the website to the livestream of the service.

SEPTEMBER Birthdays: 5) Bruce Lipinski, Lydia Thrall; 8) Steven Greene; 9) William Resse; 12) Doug Helffrich; 20) Evan Lipinski; 21) Michael Healy; 28) Noel Granger, Jane McLaughlin, Lynsey Urrico; 29) Nicole Nadig-MacDermid.

CELEBRATION FRIDAY! Send all announcements to the church office on Wednesdays to be included in the Celebration Friday publication. CELEBRATION FRIDAY is the HCC email publication sent every two weeks.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – September 2025

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

In Facilities

Manu Malkani – The Terraces

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 Cindy Huber

Douglas Jones – Son-in-law of Art Norton

Ann Malkani – Neighbor of Joanne Beck

Robert Marshall – Friend of the Straut family

Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile

Gay Smith - Member

Fran Tucker – Mother of Robert Tucker

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Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Families & Friends who lost Loved Ones during this past month:

Rev. LaMont Robinson, long-time Harrisena Church Pastor;

and **Sherman Parker**, past Superintendent of the Lake George Schools.



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

Wes McQueen, nephew of Dodi/Rev. Robinson- serving stateside

Kaleb Parker (Army), grandson of Rev. Dr. Wimberly – serving in Germany

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

James Pearson (USAF)

Daniel Urband (USAF), grandson of Alice Urband—serving stateside

Mark Wilson (Army Spcl Forces/Reserves), husband of Andrea—serving stateside

Braden Stormer – serving stateside

