

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

We had some good stuff happen in August . **High Peaks Bluegrass band**. Then we joined with Oneida Church as we worshiped with **Mark 209** , a Country Chirstian group. Yes, I have started, and been out and about getting to know all of you. Whether that's been a good thing or not isn't for me to decide, but I do hope you are hearing and experiencing good things. Today, (Sunday the 23rd) two people decided to hug me. A pleasant surprise.

I want to be clear and honest here. I know most of you are hopeful that I will bring a new Spirit to Harrisena. Most churches, when they hire a new Pastor, feel the same. Much like any new relationship, there is an excitement to it. And so far, here, I believe things are off to a good start. But I am just one piece of the puzzle. For a new Spirit to take hold-take root and grow, it will take all of us. It takes continued communication. It takes sharing of ourselves, even when we don't want to. It takes good food (that one is covered), paying attention and even a warm hug if needed.

We don't just GO to church. We ARE the church. All of us together, And we have an awesome responsibility to nurture God's loving Spirit in all we do. No one does it alone.

There is something new happening at Harrisena. Come be a part of it.

One in the Spirit,
Rev David

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I can't believe that summer is almost over. I hope you all had an enjoyable time with family and friends!

It was an exciting time at Harrisena. Our congregation got to hear a variety of sermons from our guest pastors, and we were treated to a wonderful Hymn Sing. Our chicken barbecue was a great success, and we ended the summer with a Bluegrass Concert! A heartfelt thank you to all of you who worked to make these events possible.

Rally Day is Sunday, September 13th. This is the beginning of our church year. We will be installing our **Council and Staff Members** at this service. If you have not met our new part-time Pastor, Rev. David Poole, please come and hear what he has to offer us. After church, on September 13th, Rev. Poole has invited us to tour the Parsonage. I hope you will all stay after worship and see what many hands have done to make the parsonage a home to be proud of. Light refreshments will be served.

Our Sunday School rooms will be again filled with children and teachers after Labor Day. Oneida Community Church will continue to hold their Sunday services in Robinson hall as we move forward into the year.

President, *Susan Ogden*

MISSION REPORT

We continue to prepare and deliver meals on Tuesdays. So far we have delivered over 3,900 meals to our members and friends in our community.

We are in great need for help because we are missing one team of people. If you could find some time to volunteer, it would help us continue this program.

We donated \$500.00 to Family Services to help support their Feet First Program. The money will help buy shoes, sneakers and socks for children in our area.

We continue to collect and donate food and personal items for Family Services Pantry.

As always, thank you for your support and monthly contributions to the Missions Committee.

Missions Committee:

Mary Alice Clickner, Pat Zacharias, Susan Ogden

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION:

The Women's Association's first meeting of the year is **Wednesday, September 9, at noon** in Robinson Hall. As usual bring your lunch. Dessert will be provided.

Women's Association is **open to all women in the congregation** and in the community.

Hope to see you there!
Joanne Beck, Secretary

OUTREACH

We continue to **send cards monthly** to those listed on the **Long-Term Prayer List**, and to make home visits when able.

Please let the office know if you would like to **add someone to the Long-Term Prayer list**.

Outreach Committee: *Shirley Harney & Joanne Beck*

BLOOD DRIVE

Melissa Ferrie-Healy, Pam and Bill Loeb

Harrisena Community Church sponsored **another successful Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, August 14, 2026, from 12-5:30**. As you have probably heard, the Red Cross is experiencing severe blood shortage. We are happy to share that our Blood Drive collected 24 units of blood to help with the shortage. Our goal was 23 units and we collected 24 units.

- 31 donor appointments
- 27 donors registered
- 9 Walk-ins
- 6 Donors deferred
- 3 first-time donors
- 2 Latino units

Many folks worked to make this drive a success. **Melissa Ferrie Healy, Bill and Pam Loeb chaired the event. Thanks to Sue Cartier and Mary Alice Clickner** for baking treats for the donors. **Susan Ogden and Mary Clickner** worked the refreshment table making sure the donors were offered water, juice and snacks. **Rev. Poole** assisted at the registration table. Our team at Harrisena prepared a taco lunch for all the Red Cross Blood Staff to make their day go smoother.

The next Blood Drive is scheduled for January 22, 2027. Please put the date on your calendar to donate or help if you are able.

TREASURER'S REPORT

With summer waning away and fall on the horizon, it is time to start thinking about our **church budget for 2027**. Harrisena has been blessed with the **Ross Grant** which this year provided **\$43,000.00 towards our Operating Budget**. We are also blessed with now having **Rev. David Poole as our part-time pastor**. Many thanks to the many friends and members who helped spruce up the parsonage to welcome our new minister! I am also happy to report yet another blessing from **the estate of a former pastor at Harrisena, Rev. Lester Vier**. Rev. Vier's daughter told me that for each church her father served he started an investment account to be distributed upon his death. The Harrisena account was for **\$51,000.00** which has been placed with *Osaic Wealth* (Tim Gusek's firm).

So many blessings for *Our Little Stone Church on the Ridge*.

It goes without saying we still rely on our friends and members to contribute with pledges and gifts so we can continue to provide a warm place to worship, a beautiful space for fellowship and a church where all are invited to attend.

Thank you everyone, and may God continue to bless us.

Bonnie Nadig, Treasurer
Ed Szmul, Financial Secretary

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Letting Go of the Reins

For me, the horse is one of God's finest creations, and very few things can compare with a good ride on a good horse. I love the feel of sitting astride such a powerful, yet willingly compliant creature. My heart is filled with a sense of gratitude and awe as I strive to "*be one with my horse*" during the ride. That said, it's always a comfort to know I have the reins well in hand – just in case...

To me, the past 10 months at Harrisena have been a ride to remember – a ride that's kept me hanging on for dear life! We've been wandering through a "*wilderness*" of sorts, much like Moses and the Israelites, depending on God to provide our daily mana (a suitable guest pastor to lead worship each Sunday) and having no idea if or when we'd ever reach the "*Promised Land*" (a stable church family with a permanent part-time pastor of our own.)

As Worship Committee Chair, I feel as if I've been bushwacking a trail through that wilderness on a week-by-week basis, booking guest pastors, coordinating hymns and readings, adjusting worship formats, and trying to show up with a smile on my face and a song in my heart, no matter what. **I am truly grateful for those who worked so tirelessly with me to make sure everything came together each Sunday morning – most notably Ed and Noreen Szmul, Christine Burke, and Sue Urrico.** *But thank God we don't have to keep this up for 40 years!*

Indeed, God deserves the lion's share of credit for seeing us through this memorable adventure. As Rev. Steve Butler likes to say, "God is good – all the time!" In spite of all the uncertainty over the past year, we have been blessed in so many ways: our beloved choir has returned, along with our long-time choir director, Dodi Robinson; we have been well served by excellent guest pastors each week; we opened our church to a variety of musical guests, including *Garden Sound Choir*, *High Peaks Bluegrass Band*, *Opera Saratoga*, *The Cello Experience*, and our Hymn Sing duo, *Sing for Joy and More*; we welcomed new members into our church family. Most importantly, we grew in our ability to maintain faith, hope, and love as a church family. All in all, this intensely challenging ride has been a rewarding one.

And now, thankfully, the time has come to let go of those reins and graciously hand them over to the capable hands of Rev. Poole. **Praise God! And Happy trails!**

What's Next? Join Us on the Journey - Walking with God - and FIND OUT!

When God first called me to join Harrisena Community Church (35 years ago?!) I imagined my journey would include singing in the choir, enjoying some good sermons, and growing my faith alongside a vibrant community of believers. I had no idea I would end up accompanying the choir within a few short months. I had no idea I would eventually become the church organist. I had no idea I would end up partnering with so many different pastors – Rev. Robinson, Rev. Goodwin, Pastor Patti, Rev. Wimberly, ALL OUR GUEST PASTORS - and now with Rev. Poole. God's plan for my life expanded far beyond the limits of my narrow scope of vision.

As Mark 209 aptly pointed out at their worship service/concert last month, God never intended for Noah to steer the ark – that was God's job. Noah just needed to make sure the ark was built according to God's plan, and that everyone was on board. Once God had me securely aboard the Good Ship Harrisena, He was able to guide me exactly where I needed to go - instead of where I expected.

If God was able to do that for me, He can surely do it for you! Hop aboard the Good Ship HCC and **JOIN us** for our **Rally Day Worship Service** on **September 13th**. **JOIN us** as we renew or fellowship in Christ. **JOIN us** as we formally install our new officers and committee members. **JOIN us** as we pledge to empower them with our support and prayers. **JOIN us** as we celebrate with *a special coffee fellowship on the Parsonage Porch immediately following the worship service.*

And then **COME BACK AGAIN!** In fact, come back every Sunday you are able! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors! Bring anyone you meet along the way! All are welcome at Harrisena! Just show up and let God work His magic. **Have faith, gather your courage, and bravely dare to explore what God has planned for YOUR life and ministry at Harrisena Community Church.**

Opportunities Abound! On any given Sunday, you could....

- Be an usher
- Carry the "Light of Christ" at the opening and close of worship
- Read Scripture
- Provide fresh flowers for the altar
- Help serve Communion
- Share some special music

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

2025-26 Worship Committee Members: Melissa Ferrie-Healy and Lynn Bishop. We are here to faithfully serve God, Christ, and our parish!

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Choir Qualification Quiz

Is the Harrisena Choir a good fit for YOU? Take this quick quiz to find out!

- Do you enjoy singing?
- Are you able to match pitch? (*Can you sing in tune?*)
- Would you like to get to know our cool choir members a little better?
- Would you like to put your God-given musical gifts to good use?
- Are you willing to rehearse with the choir each Sunday morning at 8:30-9:15?

If you answered “yes” to ANY of these questions, you should consider joining the Harrisena Choir! All voice parts are welcome! For more information, contact our director, Dodi Robinson, or our accompanist/organist, Melissa Ferrie-Healy.

Save the Date for Special Music

We are thrilled to announce that **Garden Sound Choir** will be returning to Harrisena for a concert to benefit Family Services on **Saturday, December 12th at 7 p.m.**

Also, the Glens Falls Senior Citizens Choir, **Encore**, under the direction of Dodi Robinson, is hoping to perform a Sunday afternoon concert sometime this fall. *Stay tuned for details!*

Is anyone interested in an in-house **Christmas Hymn Sing? A vocal or instrumental recital? A bluegrass concert? A performance by one of our local high school ensembles?** *Please let us know ASAP so we can plan accordingly!*

TECH/SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE – Website Update

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy, Website Coordinator

Website Updates

One year ago, we created a fresh new look for our website. It remains – as intended - an organic work in progress. And please continue to send **church-related photos, important announcements, calendar additions/updates, and any further suggestions** to our website coordinators, **Melissa Ferrie-Healy and Rev. Poole.**

Also, please continue to “LIKE,” FOLLOW and SHARE on Facebook!

If you would like to see something church-related posted on our new Facebook page (**Harrisena Community Church 2025**), please contact **Noreen Szmul.**



APPLE FESTIVAL

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

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 10TH!

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS & BASKETS

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

SETEMBER 2026

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

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](https://www.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.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – September 2026

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

In Facilities

Walda Blanchard – Rehab at Washington Center, Argyle
Pat Dallas- River Mead, Peterborough, NH
Colleen Donahue – Fort Hudson Health Center
Brandy Madon – Rehab at The Pines
Ann Malkani – The Terrace
Manu Malkani – Fort Hudson Health Center
Marilyn Somerville – Elderwood, Ticonderoga

At Home

Laura Avent – Member of Harrisena
Kathleen Dumont – Niece of Brandy Madon
Peter Eonis – Friend of Kathleen Gusek
Rev. Patti Girard – Friend of Harrisena
Avery Graves – Friend of Shelley Durkee
Douglas Jones – Son-in-law of Art Norton
Lyndsey Robinson – Dodi Robinson's D-I-L
Gay Smith – Member of Harrisena
Bob Straut, Jr. -Son of Phyllis Straut

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*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Families & Friends who lost Loved Ones during this past month: **Roger Smith**, Member & husband of Gay Smith.*



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

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)

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

Braden Stormer – Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

