

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.
(Proverbs 3:5) NIV*

The book of Proverbs is the quintessential book of "Wisdom" in the Old Testament. Wisdom literature seeks to teach us "wisdom," that is, the attitude and means by which to live well. This kind of common-sense wisdom is based not on revelation (no burning bushes) but on experience and observation. Professor Ellen Davis, says this, "**The Proverbs are spiritual guides for ordinary people, on an ordinary day, when water does not pour forth from rocks and angels do not come to lunch.**" They are grounded in a day to day, moment by moment relationship with God.

One of the themes of Wisdom literature is that it finds value in framing truth dualistically. For example, it often contrasts virtue-vice pairs: wisdom and foolishness; the wise and the fool; light and darkness; knowledge and ignorance; understanding and vanity; goodness and evil. Revisiting these themes, especially during the Lenten Season, allows us to reflect on what we truly believe and how we live out our beliefs in our daily lives. **Lent is a time for progressive unfoldment, a season of spiritual growth.**

Charles Fillmore writes, "When we can blend and merge our mind with God-Mind, the way is open for the Lord to glorify us and to lift us into a higher, purer, more spiritual state."

During Lent, we experience a time, set aside, to reaffirm, revision, and renew our faith in the God of our everyday lives. As we **search beyond our comfortability**, we discover that Lent isn't solely about the discipline of fasting or about giving something up, or even about identifying with the suffering of Jesus, because the truth is: temporarily craving an ice cream sundae brownie and not eating it, doesn't even come close to the suffering our Lord endured for our salvation. **Lent is so much more.**

Lent gives us the opportunity to come face-to-face with who we are: in our sinfulness, in our weakness, in our confusion, in our pain and **brings us to the one who loves us so.** Recognizing the need for God in our lives, the need for a Savior, even after years of being good Christian folk, empowers us to continue the journey to personal transformation. Here lies the challenge, the opportunity and the gift of the Lenten Season, to journey forward, open to discovering new ways of seeing, new ways of hearing, new ways of thinking, new ways of being...**new ways of trusting God.**

Trusting God means more than believing in who God is and what God says. The word for **trust** can also mean "**to have confidence in.**" Having confidence in something or someone means having an assurance that leads to action. Trusting God is the

confidence and assurance to boldly live out our faith day after day, moment by moment. This confidence and assurance infuse our whole being.

Meditate on these words from the Message Bible:

*Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;
God is the one who will keep you on track.
Don't assume that you know it all.
Run to GOD! Run from evil!
Your body will glow with health,
your very bones will vibrate with life!*

In Christ's service with you.

Shalom,
Dr. N. C. Wimberly

A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

Fast from indifference... Feast on relationship

Fast from judgement... Feast on compassion

Fast from greed... Feast on sharing

Fast from scarcity... Feast on abundance

Fast from fear... Feast on peace

Fast from lies... Feast on truth

Fast from gossip... Feast on praise

Fast from anxiety... Feast on patience

Fast from anger... Feast on kindness

Fast from apathy... Feast on engagement

Fast from discontent... Feast on gratitude

Fast from noise... Feast on silence

Fast from discouragement... Feast on hope

Fast from Hatred... Feast on love.

PRAYING OUR WAY THROUGH

“And Moses built an altar and named it ‘The LORD is my Banner.’ -Exodus 17:15

When Israel faced the Amalekites in battle at Rephidim it wasn't with overwhelming force, an experienced army, or the best commanders. It was as a transient tribe of herdsmen escaping slavery in Egypt and travelling uncertainly to a promised land they hadn't seen in over four hundred years. They were trespassers travelling through the lands of fierce fighting peoples. They travelled with women, children, herds, and all their possessions. The battle was for survival, for hope, for a future.

But they travelled with something else too, something else that no other nation on earth had – a pillar of fire, a cloud of smoke, the very presence of God. Israel did not fight its battles alone. No matter how inexperienced or overmatched they were they were never the underdogs. No matter how desperate they felt they were never at a loss. The great general, the perfect protector, the LORD was with them. The very name used in Scripture is Jehovah Nissi - "the Lord is my banner."

During the wake of the most recent pandemic, COVID-19, we remember that God is with us as we stay strong, healthy AND take the proper precautions. As God showed the nation of Israel that they were not alone in the battle. We must also remember that God is with us and that God is our banner. The Lord was with them, fought for them, protected and conquered on their behalf, and was their banner. The Lord is with us.

As a faith community, let us pray with confidence for those affected by COVID-19, the coronavirus. As new cases of the coronavirus are reported in other countries and have recently been rising across the United States, let us pray for the recovery of those who are ill, the medical teams caring for the sick, those working to develop a vaccine, those who keep us informed about proper precautions and our part in alleviating COVID-19.

I have listed below information provided by the **Center for Disease Control and Prevention:**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60%-95% alcohol.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Routinely clean frequently touched objects.
- Maintain at least 3 feet between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early.
- Avoid shaking hands and encourage the congregation to greet one another with a smile and a hand over their hearts as a symbol of Christian love.

Let us pray:

Dearest Lord,

You are our banner! We trust that you come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus; we will experience your healing love.

We trust that you heal those who are sick with the virus; they will regain strength and health through quality medical care.

We trust that you will deliver us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

We trust that you will cleanse us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Merciful God,

We trust your presence will never leave us. We know that you are by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

We know that you are with the families of those who are sick or have died. We trust that you will comfort them through their worry and grief and defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Compassionate Creator,

We know that you are with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected. May they know your protection and peace.

We know that you are with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

God of love,

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, we trust you. We know that you are with us. You are our banner. *Amen and amen.*

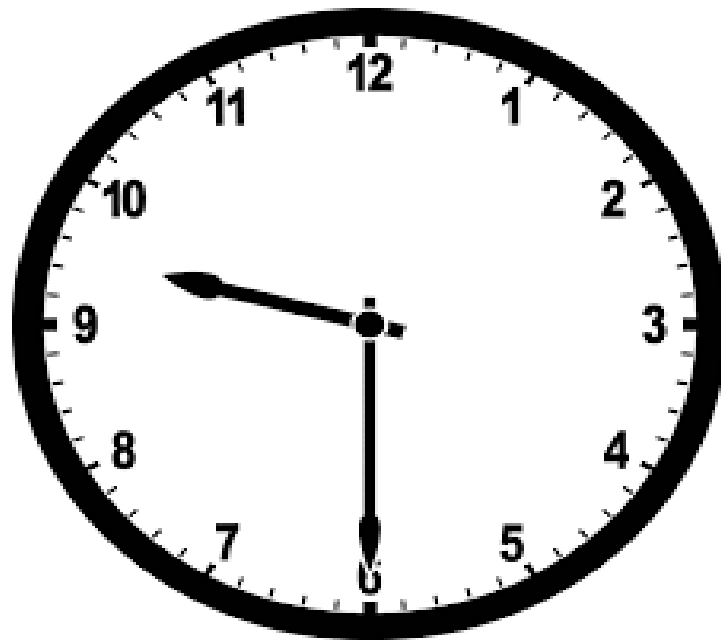


REMEMBER !

**Beginning tomorrow, Sunday, March 8th, is
Daylight's Savings Time**

Turn Your clocks ahead One hour!

See you at church on Sunday.



Special Notice

We **will** be ordering **Easter Flowers**; we just have not received a price from the vendor as yet. All orders are due in the office **on April 5th, Palm Sunday**.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Lenten Outreach

Lent is a season for personal reflection. It is a time to pare back our many layers of “onion skin” and rediscover what truly matters in life. According to Jesus, loving our neighbors is something that truly matters. Who are our neighbors? Those who live in our apartment building, housing complex, neighborhood or nursing home. Those who share our work (or workout) space. Those who sit with us on a bus, plane, or train. Those who stand in line with us at the store or sit with us in a waiting room. We are surrounded by “neighbors!”

How can we show our neighbors we love them? We can talk to them. We can listen to them. We can offer our help and encouragement. We can invite them to share in our lives. We can pray with them and for them. We can even send them cards!

Let's give this neighborly outreach a try for the next 40 days of Lent and see what a positive impact our actions can have!

Wanted: Easter Cards

While it's true I said we were “all set with cards” last month, it **would be LOVELY to have some Easter cards to send to those on our Long-Term Prayer List**. We have a small collection of Easter cards at church, but our list continues to grow. If you have any cards left over after sending them to your neighbors (☺) please place them in the Outreach mailbox at Robinson Hall. Any donations would be greatly appreciated!

And, of course, we can always use stamps!

We welcome and encourage your feedback...

2019-20 Outreach Committee Members: Melissa Ferrie-Healy & Peggy McArthur.
Many hands make light work! **Please let us know if you'd be interested in joining or assisting us in any way.**

**Membership Committee
Spotlight on new member, Carolyn Kellogg**

Meet new member, **Carolyn Kellogg**, who joined the Harrisena Church on December 8, 2019!

Carolyn lives on beautiful Glen Lake and has two adult children, Denise and Bob. She also has four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren!

Warren Tire is the family business and Carolyn has been involved in the business since it opened in 1983. She has also been a volunteer and Fund Raiser for **W.A.I.T. House** for many years.

Please extend Carolyn a warm welcome to our Harrisena congregation!

Bring a Friend to Church and/or Sunday School

February and March are bring-a -friend to church months!

Do you know someone who is looking for a church? Do you have a neighbor or know someone who is looking to deepen their relationship with God? Perhaps you are aware of someone who is just curious about what goes on in that beautiful stone church on Ridge Road. Invite them to join us for a service!

The challenge is on – invite someone to come with you. This **includes our Sunday School students** as well. There is a good thing going on here, let us share that good news.



MARCH 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1 st Sunday in Lent - Communion @9:30 am	2	3	4 AA @7:30	5 Conversations @9:30; <i>Lenten Study</i> @11:30	6	7
8 Worship @9:30; Confirmation Class @11:30 – <i>Daylight Savings Time</i> Begins	9	10 COUNCIL @7	11 AA @7:30	12 Conversations@9:30; <i>Lenten Study</i> @11:30; Women’s Mtg @12:30	13	14
15 Worship @9:30	16	17	18 AA @7:30	19 Conversations @9:30; <i>Lenten Study</i> @11:30	20	21
22 Worship @ 9:30 ; Lunch & Movie @11:30	23	24	25 AA @7:30	26 Conversations@9:30; <i>Lenten Study</i> @11:30	27	28
29 Worship @ 9:30	30	31				

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 Stauches; 21) Dennis Moon; 28) Bruce Lipinski; 30) Peter Aust.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – March 2020

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

In Facilities

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
Robert Straut, Sr. – Fort Hudson
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
McCane Family – Relatives of Bob & Phyllis Straut
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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*Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Family & Friends of **Jean Trudel, June Armstrong, Emil Lindstrand, Scott Fraser, Grace Clough, Jane Henshaw** and **Caroline Parisi** who died this past month. Jean, June & Emil were friends of Sue & Peter Cartier; Scott was a member and beloved by Christine Burke; Grace, was the mother of member, Linda Higgins; Jane was a long-time friend of Joanne Beck; and Caroline was a friend of Bonnie & Phil Nadig.*

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

Todd Payne has retired from the Army and is safely home!

