

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

I read a story recently written by Dr. Christophe Ringer. Dr. Ringer told a story about a dinner he attended when he served as a pastor of a church. He was invited to a dinner at a church member's home. Some other members were there as well. After a good meal and great fellowship people slowly began to leave. One of the guests made a to go plate that only had dessert on it. She said she was planning to freeze it so she could eat it after Lent. It is quite interesting how wonderfully human this was. The struggle is real. In many ways, this to go plate represents how many of us grew up thinking about Lent. Lent for many is simply the act of giving up something we enjoy for a brief time, then returning to it after forty days.

Giving something up can certainly be a positive step in the right direction, if we recognize this "giving something up" as a spiritual practice for creating sacred space for change.

During the Season of Lent, we have the opportunity to create and then enter into a sacred space designed to create room in our hearts, minds, and souls. This act of creating and then entering into are intentional practices of preparation. Preparation so that we may be transformed by the resurrecting power of God.

In the Christian tradition it is affirmed that the power that raised Jesus from the dead also dwells in us. *"When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God."* ¹¹ So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus." Romans 6:10-11 NLT

This power serves to make space for new ways of loving one another and being in community together. Now, our focus must first be to allow the transforming power of God to work in and through us. Our purpose therefore is to be transformed to be transformation. Ghandi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." I would restate this as **"be the change God desires to see in the world."**

The season of Lent calls us to greater insight as to the struggles for liberation in our society and in this world. **Social transformation is deeply related to personal transformation.** Transforming social structures also means transforming ourselves. This means acknowledging that the various "isms" and injustices we struggle against are not merely external to who we are. They continue and are maintained because they are lodged in our collective imagination and expressed in our social institutions. The quote attributed to Edmund Burke, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men/women do nothing" is notable here. Another similar sentiment by John Stuart Mill was said in 1867, "Bad men/women need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good women/men should look on and do nothing." (*italics added*)

The more direct and accurate message is given to us by the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:2. Paul teaches, **"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."** NLT

WOW! What wonderfully generous opportunities and work we have before us this Lenten Season, to be formed and transformed by the power of God's Holy Spirit through the Word and will of God.

May God bless us and keep us this Lenten Season.

May God's face shine upon us and be gracious unto us.

May God's countenance rest upon us all and give us divine dissatisfaction.

A LENTEN PRAYER

*(Excerpts from and inspired by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in
Where Do We Go From Here?)*

Let us be dissatisfied until America no longer has a high blood pressure of creeds and an anemia of deeds.

Let us be dissatisfied until the tragic walls that separate the outer city of wealth and comfort from the inner city of poverty and despair are crushed by the battering rams of the forces of justice.

Let us be dissatisfied until those who live on the outskirts of hope are brought into the metropolis of daily security.

Let us be dissatisfied until slums are cast into the junk heaps of history, and every family will live in a safe, decent, and sanitary home.

Let us be dissatisfied until the dark yesterdays of the danger of a single story are transformed into beauty of many voices speaking truthfully and authentically.

Let us be dissatisfied until the beauty of your diverse world is seen as the very reflection of your vision of paradise.

Let us be dissatisfied until every little girl and boy, every teen, every young adult, every woman and man, is seen and celebrated as one made in your image, creative, lovely, gifted, necessary...so that we may all finally realize that to embrace the humanity of each individual, each community, each culture is to grab hold of the answers to all of humanity's questions.

Let us be dissatisfied until every state capitol is housed by a governor who will do justly, who will love mercy, and who will walk humbly with his God.

Let us be dissatisfied until from every city hall, justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Let us be dissatisfied until that day when the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and every human being sits under his own vine and fig tree, and none are afraid.

Let us be dissatisfied, until we all recognize that out of one blood God made all of humanity to dwell upon the face of the earth.

We know that the road ahead will not always be smooth. There will still be rocky places of frustration and meandering points of bewilderment. There will be inevitable setbacks here and there. And there will be those moments when the buoyancy of hope will be transformed into the fatigue of despair.

We understand that our dreams will sometimes be shattered, and our ethereal hopes blasted. But difficult and painful as it is, *Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth*, give us the courage and the tenacity, and the boldness to walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in Your will and plan for us and Your world. *"Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* **Amen.**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT – February 2024

Submitted by Susan Ogden

After postponing our Council Meeting twice, we were finally able to meet on January 23rd. I have come to realize how very fortunate I am to be working with such a hard working and caring group of people. As you read each committee's report you too will see how busy these people are working and planning for the future of the Harrisena Church Family.

As with any family, it is important to have a strong plan for a successful future. During the next coming months the Council will be looking into a process called STRATEGIC PLANNING. This is a process which could help us become a successful, growing church.

The congregation will be kept up to date on the process. You will also be asked to become involved as we move forward with this program. It is important that we all work together to make the future of Harrisena Community Church successful and a place where people will want to come to worship and do God's work in our community.

FINANCIAL REPORT – FEBRURY 2024

We are happy to report that the budget deficit for 2023 was considerably less than anticipated. **We are off to a good start in 2024 with pledges and income.** Our Trustees, however, have pointed out that the roofs on our buildings are old, some of the furnaces are beyond their life expectancy and repairs always pop-up requiring attention. Currently, one of the sinks in Robinson Hall kitchen is out of commission but will, hopefully, be repaired shortly. **Still, we are feeling confident that we will be able to meet all these financial burdens because of the faithful congregation working hard to keep our church campus in good condition to serve as a warm, inviting place to worship our Lord and Savior.**

We are forming a committee to help with this goal and devise a plan to keep us moving forward. If you would like to join us, please contact Reverend Wimberly for time and place we will be meeting. **If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to share those with the financial officers about our HCC finances.**

Thank you everyone for your support. With God's help and guidance we will keep our beloved church an important and vital part of our community for years to come.

Your Financial Officers

Ken Zacharias, Janet Wilson, Bonnie Nadig

MISSION REPORT – FEBRUARY

The Mission Committee want to thank everyone who has donated food items.

For the next two months we would like to collect personal items: soap, toothpaste, and deodorant. We will take these items to Family Services in Glens Falls.

We also continue to support The Open Door and their CODE BLUE Program.

Your Mission Committee Members: *Mary Alice Clickner, Pat Zacharias, Susan Ogden.*



CHICKEN and BISCUIT & FIXINS
Saturday, February 3rd, 5-7 PM

CREAMED CHICKEN OVER BISCUIT
MASHED POTATOES
PEAS & CARROTS
GARDEN SALAD
HOMEMADE PIE
(Gluten Free Available)

\$15/Adults & \$10/Children

Call Shirley Harney for Reservations (518) 832-7306
Harrisena Community Church
1616 Ridge Rd, Queensbury, NY 12804

Worship Committee Report- February 2024

Submitted by Melissa Ferrie-Healy

Are you ready for Lent?

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. The season of Advent prepares us for Christmas – our savior’s birth; the season of Lent prepares us for Easter – our savior’s death and resurrection. We prepare for Christmas by preparing a place for Jesus to be born in our hearts. We prepare for Easter following the example set by Jesus through fasting, prayer, confession and repentance, gradually shifting our focus to the things that matter most in God’s Kingdom.

We invite you to heighten your experience of Lent this year:

- Sign up to do a special reading and light the candles on our **Lenten Cross** during one of the 6 Sundays in Lent.
- Participate in our **Lenten Coin Challenge** through prayerful almsgiving to support the poor, homeless, and hungry in our community.
- Honor and/or remember your loved ones by ordering **Easter flowers** to decorate our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

Please consider READING SCRIPTURE and/or PROVIDING FLOWERS

- God’s word takes on new meaning when spoken by various members of the congregation. We would love to hear God’s word through **YOUR VOICE!**
- Flowers are always welcome! *There are so many beautiful flowers or every shade and color to choose from at the grocery store alone!* We would also be happy to assist with your purchase to honor or memorialize a loved one.
- Sign-up sheets are located in the Education Building.

We welcome and encourage your constructive feedback. We are here to serve!

2023-24 Worship Committee Members: Christine Burke, Melissa Ferrie-Healy, and Diane Henderson.

COMING THIS MONTH:

Scholarship Applications will be posted on our website: Harrisena.org this month.

February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Black History Month				1 Prayer @5:30	2 Prayer @5:30 Meal Prep. @12	3 Prayer @5:30: Chicken & Biscuit 5-7
4 Prayer @5:30: Worship @9:30	5 Prayer @5:30	6 Prayer @5:30 Conversations @1	7 Prayer @5:30 Lectio Divinia @10 on Zoom AA @7:30	8 Prayer @5:30	9 Prayer @5:30 Meal Prep. @12	10 Prayer @5:30
11 Prayer @5:30: <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> : Worship @9:30	12 Prayer @5:30	13 Prayer @5:30 Conversations @1 COUNCIL @7	14 Prayer @5:30: Lectio Divinia @10/Zoom AA @7:30	15 Prayer @5:30 Women's Mtg @12	16 Prayer @5:30 Meal Prep. @12	17 Prayer @5:30
18 Prayer @5:30: 1st Sunday in Lent : Worship @9:30	19 Prayer @5:30	20 Prayer @5:30 Conversations @1; COUNCIL @7	21 Prayer @5:30: Lectio Divinia @10/Zoom Ash Wednesday Svc @7; AA @7:30	22 Prayer @5:30	23 Prayer @5:30 Meal Prep. @12	24 Prayer @5:30
25 Prayer @5:30: 2nd Sunday in Lent -Worship @9:30	26 Prayer @5:30	27 Prayer @5:30 Conversations @ 1	28 Prayer @5:30; Lectio Divinia @10/Zoom AA @7:30	29 Prayer @5:30		

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP in the HCC sanctuary and **NEW** conference call-in number: (701) 791-9764 and you will be connected to the service. You can join our worship service via livestream at [Harrisena.org](https://www.harrisena.org). Click on the link to the livestream of the service.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS: 2) Linda Richardson; 4) Dan Blanchard; 5) Maxine Einzig, Jim Ferris; 6) Jeremy Cartier, Marilyn Somerville; 10) Art Norton; 17) Kayla Romanowski; 18) Phil Nadig, Linda Brown, Cindy Huber; 19) Shirley Harney; 21) David Farbaniec; 22) David Helffrich, Donnean Thrall; 25) Tim McAuley, Jean Meyer; 27) Andrea Lipinski, Jodi Loonan, Victor Urrico.

CELEBRATION FRIDAYS!! Send your special events and celebrations to the church office for our **CELEBRATION FRIDAY** email publication. This is our way of sharing the blessings of God with each other as we live filled with gratitude for all that God is doing in our lives.

Long-Term Prayer Requests – February 2024

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

In Facilities

Cindy Farbaniec – Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga
Manu Malkani – The Terrace
Art Norton – Slate Valley Center, Granville
Marilyn Somerville – Coburn Village, Rexford

At Home

Laura Avent – member of Harrisena
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
Wendy Leyonmark – Sister of Cindy Huber
Ann Malkani – Friend of Joanne Beck
Robert & Beth Marshall – relatives of Phyllis Straut
Christopher Nobile – Son of Jim & Eleanor Nobile
Gay Smith – Member of Harrisena
Sharon Sturdevant – Daughter of Marilyn Somerville
Fran Tucker – Mother of Bob Tucker
Doloras Van Detta – Friend of Marie Scarselletta

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Our Heartfelt Condolences go out to the Family & Friends of
Nancy Ann Hoover, former member of Harrisena. Nancy leaves behind her husband, Michael and her daughters, Nikki and Emily, and their families.



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 Fort Hood, TX

Joseph Hubbard (Army) – stateside

Tony Mitchell (USAF) - serving in Afghanistan.

Tyler Monroe (USAF), son of Cheryl Pagano – serving at Sheppard AFB

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

Lt. Griffith Parry (Army) relative of Griffith Parry – serving in Poland

James Pearson (USAF)

Phillip Riccio (Army), son of Phyllis Riccio -serving stateside

Brian Schneider (Army) – serving in Afghanistan

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

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

Braden Stormer – serving stateside

