

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

# THE SPIRE

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On January 30<sup>th</sup> I preached a sermon on forgiveness. My sense is that it generated more post-worship discussion than other sermons. Essentially I spoke about the need to place forgiveness on a continuum. Often when 'do-gooders' tell us to forgive, the implication is that we must do so immediately. What they seem to overlook is the difficulty of doing so in the moment, especially for individuals who have been injured severely in childhood, or adults who have been betrayed horribly by those they love most. In a society which downplays or ignores suffering at every turn, it seems natural to call people to change overnight with nary a thought to another's brokenness. Nevertheless we are called, I believe, on a forgiveness trajectory.

The Greek word for forgiveness means, basically, letting go. That's a good place to start. It avoids the idea that we are guilty if we fail to embrace our persecutor, and invite him or her for Sunday dinner.

In Acts 13:51, Paul shakes the dust from his sandals on his opponents. They have treated him scandalously, and his act is a way of letting go. Dust shaking symbolizes the closing of a painful life chapter. We don't know the apostle's feeling toward his persecutors. What we do sense is that his symbolic act -- which Jesus himself advocates when he sends the disciples on their missionary journeys -- prepares him for God's hopeful future. (Matthew 10) What symbolic act helps us let go of the hurt which has visited us? What can stand as a point of demarcation? Perhaps it's a painting, or a letter. Perhaps it's singing a ballad of hope as we ride into God's sunset! Forgiveness is extracting ourselves from a painful past so that we can embrace God's positive future.

Forgiveness also entails confrontation. Jesus calls us to confront our abuser before we think of forgiveness. (Matthew 18:15-17) If our abuser is not contrite or ignores our words, our Lord calls us to bring church reinforcements so that the message will penetrate.

We can infer that Jesus takes seriously the ills visited upon us, and doesn't call us, for the sake of peace, or rapprochement, to downplay or ignore the magnitude of the sins inflicted upon us. We proclaim the Gospel to others by taking our hurts seriously. Jesus certainly does.

*What symbolic act helps  
us let go of the hurt  
which has visited us?*

Two thoughts which I didn't include in Sunday's message. First, Paul asks the church at Corinth to confront one who has sinned against the saints, thereby injuring the body of Christ. The apostle worries that the miscreant may commit suicide unless confrontation is mitigated by forgiveness and restoration in the community. (2 Corinthians 2:5-11) In other words Paul has a positive take on humanity: If someone's sin is pointed out, it is likely that he or she will change.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

Second, I believe the Holy Spirit opens the channels of forgiveness. In other words we may not have the power or strength to do it. It is the Spirit who knows the times and seasons when indeed we can open the pantry door of our hearts to our persecutor.

May we embrace the kind of compassion which Jesus displayed when He forgave, amazingly, His executioners.

In Christ's service,

Doc Bob

*Kudos to Emily Waligurski who was one of only five scholastic runners from New York and New Jersey to be invited to compete in the mile run at the New Balance Indoor Grand Prix Games on Saturday, February 5, 2011.*

*She will join four others in taking on the five top junior class milers from the New England states at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Boston.*

*Emily is a junior at Onteora High School and the daughter of Wayne and Karen Waligurski.*

*Go Emily!!!*

*"Ultimately, we are reborn to love because in this expanding, gracious space within us, we arrive at the astonishing presence of God at the core of our life. We blunder into the heart of God and find our own."*

Sue Monk Kidd (from **Firstlight: The Early Inspirational Writings of Sue Monk Kidd**)

## BIRTHDAYS

### February

Doug Woodard	6, '92
Tanner Sirni	6, '99
Alex Sirni	7, '95
Morgan Schaffrick	7, '96
Avery Davenport	13, '96
Amanda Horvers	19, '90
Drew Soshensky	22, '03
Chris Decker	2
Dean Baker	2
Drew Wonderly	3
Robert Kindt, Sr.	4
June Vanderlaan	4
Ron Burns	7
Stacy Schoonmaker	7
Molly Nicholas	8
Shannon Butler	8
Betty Pirro	8
Elsie Kemble	9
Christie Prentice	10
Joanne Fredenberg	11
John Mizel	12
Steve Helm	12
Colette Woodard	13
Eugene Groelle	13

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
to you!

Todd Rubino	13
Charles Ocker	13
Sherman Richards	13
Friedel Borst	14
Matt Sirni	16
Jared Wonderly	18
John Tucker	19
Donna Horvers	19
Lisa Longto	20
Rick Salzmann	22
Shirley Ruth	27
Leanne Warren	28
Jake Croswell	28
Nikki Cline	29
Lisa Rowdycz	29

### March

Lily Gram Collins	1, '96
Kevin Kurtz	3, 92
Ireland Sirni	6, 97
Terry Read	2
Richard Alden	2
Craig Jansen	2
Linda Bognar	3
Jack Gill	5
Dennis Horvers	5
Dr. Bob Gram	6

## ANNIVERSARIES

### February

Doris & Bob Alden	17
Tara & Robert Roddy	17

## Badminton anyone!



Interested in joining a team at church?

Contact Terry Conlin at 339-5648 for details.

## S T I C K L E Y      G A R D E N S

The twinkle of snow flakes and the sparkle of ice adorn our garden area. God shows us beauty in many forms, sometimes you just need to stop and find it. Take time in your day to appreciate all that God has blessed you with. Nature's beauty along

with a warm and loving family is a testament to his grace shining on you. We need to make time in our busy lives to appreciate both. Please stop and visit Stickley Gardens, a place where our church family is remembered forever.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COLUMBARIUM, PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.  
LISA LONGTO (331-1438) CHAIRPERSON • JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER • ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)  
JERRY FINK (246-6567) SECRETARY • DIANA CLINE (338-7276) CONSISTORY LIAISON

A SACRED PLACE OF BEAUTY AND CONTEMPLATION. (LOCATED ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE CHURCH)

**Penny Social, March 25, 2011:** The Youth Group is starting to collect items, new or gently used. If anyone has anything they wish to donate but cannot get to the church please contact Amy Sirni at 338-6701.



### ***Youth Group***

It's February, folks, and we have a good amount of things to do this month!

Our annual Souper Bowl Sunday Chili Sale is coming up on 2/6/11. Chili will be \$7 for a 32 oz container. If you didn't pre-order the chili you can pick it up on 2/6 right after church at the kitchen window in Schadewald Hall. This is a fund raiser for our local soup kitchens—Queens Galley & Caring Hands Feeding Program at the Clinton Ave Methodist Church. You can also make a cash donation in our soup pots if you would like.

Right after church on 2/6 we will be going snow tubing at the Sawkill Family Ski Resort. This activity is opened to all. So, if you would like to join us please contact Melinda

Herzog at 246-6587. The cost is \$20 per person for 2 hrs of snow tubing. Hope you can join us.

The Youth Group will be responsible for sanctuary flowers on 2/13/11. We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Valentine's Day.

This month our food collection is coffee for the church for our coffee hour fellowship time. Please put your donations in our container in Schadewald Hall.

On 3/1/11 the Youth Group will be sponsoring our annual Brooks BBQ. Contact Alyson Rafferty at 338-4469 to place an order. The monies raised from this will go towards our upcoming retreat. Thank you for your support.

Mark your calendar for our annual Penny Social to be held on 3/25. We are now accepting donations. Please place your items in the white garage at the church & mark these items as Youth Group Penny Social. Don't miss it!!

Any child in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade & above is welcome to join the Youth Group at anytime. Please come to our next meeting & check us out.

Thanks for all your support,  
Hurley Reformed Youth Group

2/5/11 Make Chili for Souper Bowl of Caring Fund Raiser

2/6/11 Chili Sale and Snow Tubing

2/13/11 Altar Flowers

3/1/11 Brooks BBQ

3/13/11 Youth Group Meeting & hosting coffee hour

3/25/11 Penny Social

Don't want to cook?  
Pick-up Brooks!

**BROOKS'**  
HOUSE OF BAR-B-Q

"The best BBQ ever!"  
Yummmmmmm!

The Hurley Reformed Church Youth Group is sponsoring

The Famous  
**Brook's BBQ**  
of Oneonta, NY!

**March 1, 2011**  
**4:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

Dinners include:  
1/2 Brook's famous chicken or rib,  
baked potato, coleslaw, dinner roll,  
butter, dessert & beverage.

**Adult Chicken: \$11.00**  
**Child Chicken: \$10.00**  
**Adult Ribs: \$12.00**

If your office has more than 10 dinner orders - We Will Deliver!!  
Simply call Alyson to arrange delivery.



To make a reservation call **Alyson** at **338-4469**  
(don't be afraid to leave a message)!

**WOMEN'S GUILD**

We held our Annual Birthday Party on 1/23 during coffee hour. It was a great time. If you missed it then we would like to wish you a Happy Birthday.

We won't be having a meeting for a few months. If you have a need or an idea don't want to wait until our next meeting to share it with us, let us know right away.

Calendar of events:

3/20/11 - Butterfly Exchange

We invite all women of the church to be a part of the Women's Guild. You don't have to be a member of the church to be a part of our group. We meet right after church in the Dutch Room. So, come & see what we are all about!

Blessings,

Sandy Emrich-President

Food Item for January and February—

COFFEE (regular and decaf)

**CLASSIFIED: Baby Lover Wanted**

Wanted: someone who loves babies and toddlers to start to assist then take over the nursery this year. 19+ years ago, when my daughter was 1, the nursery was covered on a rotating basis. I realized then, on the times it was my turn, that babies of that age need consistency - a familiar face. So as soon as Elizabeth moved to the "big kids' class", I started doing nursery on a weekly basis. I can't express the years of joy it has given me - seeing babies and toddlers start to walk, talk and then become "big kids". People thank me for helping, but I thank them for giving me the chance to play with them and get to know them. My first "babies" are now in their first year of college!

Unfortunately, as they have aged, so have I. It takes me a bit longer to get up off the floor than it used to. My wrists and arms give out sooner than I'd like. Would I keep doing nursery forever if I could - you bet! I really hope there is someone out there who would like to gradually take over and then provide some consistency to the next few years of babies. (You needn't sign up for 20 years!) I'll always be happy to lend a hand as my mother did for me until her late 70's! So if you love babies and would love a weekly "baby fix", see me or call me.

Rebecca Masters

338-3556

Rebamast@gmail.com

**MISSIONS:** The mission for February is Kairos Prison Ministry, a ministry to those who are impacted by incarceration. Your contribution in your monthly mission envelope will give new hope to women lost in shame, guilt, unforgiveness and hatred through the healing power of Jesus Christ and a new way of life. Carla Paton, a member of our congregation, is a member of the Kairos ministry team and is always willing to share the results of this important work that needs our support both financially and prayerfully.

Linda Dux, Missions Committee Chair

*Prayer of Commendation*

*We seem to give them back to you, O God, who gave them to us.*

*Yet as you did not lose them in giving, so do we not lose them by their return.*

*Not as the world gives do you give, O Lover of souls.*

*What you give, you do not take away, for what is yours is ours also if we are yours.*

*And life is eternal and love is immortal,  
and death is only a horizon,*

*and a horizon is nothing, save the limit of our sight.*

*Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further;  
cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly;*

*draw us closer to you that we may know ourselves to be  
nearer to our loved ones who are with you.*

*And while you prepare a place for us, prepare us also for  
that happy place, that where you are we may be also for  
evermore. Amen.*

Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (USA)



# LECTURE SERIES

## IT'S THE CLIMB

PRESENTED BY  
**REVEREND DR. BOB GRAM**

**What's your passion?** For Bob Gram – Minister, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Adjunct Psychology Professor at Yeshiva University, and Writer – it's climbing high peaks. Bob has scaled Kilimanjaro, Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, and more.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 9**  
**7:00 – 8:00 PM**

The **Y Winter Lecture Series** is all about setting goals and achieving them. It doesn't matter if your goal is to climb every mountain, or run a marathon. What matters is that you begin your personal journey. Bob's inspirational message can help you chart a course and set sail.

**Child Care Conference Room – 1st floor**  
**RSVP: 338-3810 or sign up at Front Desk**  
• **Light refreshments will be served** •  
YMCA, 507 Broadway, Kingston

Hurley Reformed Church

# February 2011

February 2011							March 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28						27	28	29	30	31		

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
	February 1	2	3		4
	10:30am HMS (Rm9/Hall) 4:30pm PC 101 (Dutch Rm) 7:00pm Writers Group (Room 12) 7:30pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:00pm Bible Study (DutchKm)	7:00am Bible Study (DutchKm) 9:00am Quilting (Dutch Room) 7:00pm Creativity for Christ (Room 5) 7:00pm Troop 20 Committee (DutchKm)	1:30pm Hurley Seniors (Hall) 4:45pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm GS SU (Room 6) 7:30pm Choir (DutchKm)	10:00am Bedminton 7:00pm Bedminton	9:00am VG Chili Prep (Kitchen, Hall, Dutch Room) 10:00am Worship 11:00am VG Lunch (Dutch) More Items...
7	9:00am HMC (Dutch Rm) 10:30am HMS (Rm9/Hall) 7:00pm Writers Group (Room 12) 7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:00pm Bible Study (DutchKm)	7:00am Bible Study (DutchKm) 9:00am Quilting (Dutch Room) 7:00pm Creativity for Christ (Room 5)	4:45pm Dog Training (Hall) 6:30pm Half Moon/RVW Council (Hall) 6:30pm Half Moon LEC (Room 6) 7:30pm Choir (DutchKm)		10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12) 10:00am Kitchen Committee (Room 13) 10:00am Worship 11:00am Kitchen Committee (Room 13) More Items...
14	10:30am HMS (Rm9/Hall) 7:00pm Writers Group (Room 12) 7:00pm Troop 20 (Hall) 7:00pm Bible Study (DutchKm)	7:00am Bible Study (DutchKm) 9:00am Quilting (Dutch Room) 5:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Book Group (Rm 12) 7:00pm Creativity for Christ (Room 5) 7:00pm Lions (Dutch Rm) 7:30pm Overlook Radio (Rm 6) 7:30pm Radio DX's (Hall)	4:45pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Woodworkers (Hall) 7:30pm Choir (DutchKm)		9:30am Dog Training (Hall) 10:00am Worship 11:00am New Members Class (Dutch Room )
21	10:30am HMS (Rm9/Hall) 10:00am Genealogy (Rm 12) 5:00pm Dog Training (Hall) 6:00pm Foundation Youth Health 7:00pm US Power Squadron (Room 7) 7:00pm Pack 20 (Hall) 7:00pm Significant Woman (Room 7) More Items...	7:00am Bible Study (DutchKm) 9:00am Quilting (Dutch Room) 5:30pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:00pm Creativity for Christ (Room 5)	4:45pm Dog Training (Hall) 7:30pm Choir (DutchKm)		10:00am Worship - Receive New Members
28					



HURLEY REFORMED  
CHURCH

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Pastor

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[WWW.HURLEYREFORMEDCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.HURLEYREFORMEDCHURCH.ORG)

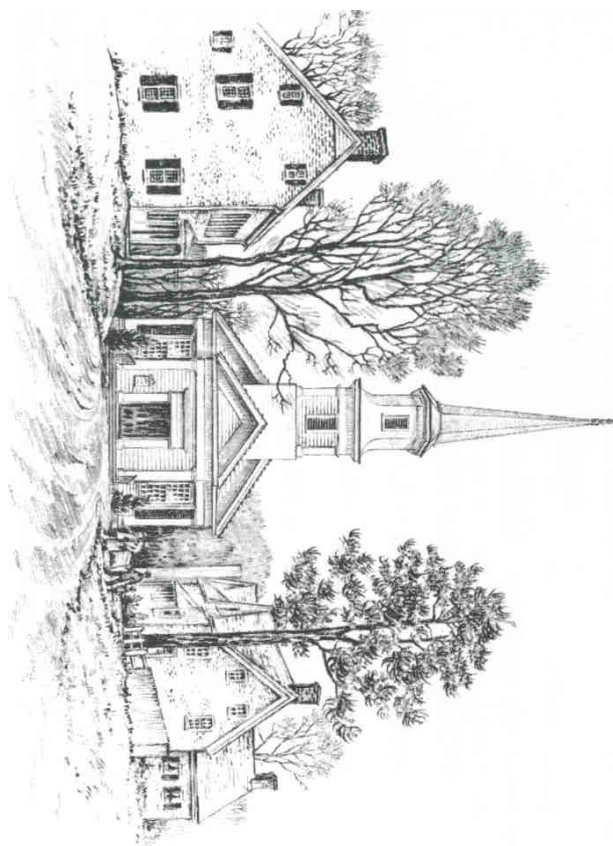
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