

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2014



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What shall we do with all of this snow? I write on February 18, while snowflakes fall all around me. This morning I was given a lift from the post office to my office because the driver was concerned whether I'd make it under my own steam, since the latest bout of white concealed ice from the last storm. In the time it takes to mail a letter, the slipping potential had increased quite dramatically. My driver, Bridget, also informed me with a hand flourish and an halleluiah that she and her husband were leaving for destinations South where there is, ostensibly, less snow.

It has been an inconvenience, and indeed a danger for those whose automobiles careen into cars, trees, and guard rails. I find myself praying for folks who are stranded inside as well as outside, particularly when they have no access to heat, and/or food. My thoughts turn to individuals who are separated from loved ones by slick highways, and massive drifts. I've heard about the elderly and infirm who cannot open doors because of a snow blockade. As I attempted to ease my car out of a restaurant on Albany Avenue recently, I felt stuck in a vehicular free-for-all, a Russian Roulette because 12' drifts blocked my view of oncoming traffic. My prayers are with the Hurley Fire Department, Rescue Squad and emergency response people who are always at the ready during difficult weather.

On Presidents' Day weekend, I had booked a room at the Exeter Inn in New Hampshire, because I intended to spend my day off visiting children and grandchildren after worship that Sunday, and return early Tuesday morning. I booked the room, then

cancelled because of a possible second storm following the blizzard of February 13. When the weather looked as if it were changing in my favor, I re-booked, then cancelled a second time because the path of the storm veered toward New York and New England earlier than forecasters had predicted. I write from my office the day I planned to return from New Hampshire, understanding very well that I would have landed in a ditch on the Massachusetts Turnpike, most probably, had grandchild love overruled common sense!

Nevertheless I believe that we are called by Jesus to find a silver lining even in events like our perpetual snowy winter. After all we begin Lent on March 5, the church season where we consider our sins and shortcomings as well as the physical and psychic trudge Jesus undertook through Jerusalem bearing his cross which led to his crucifixion—a metaphorical blizzard of pain, bloodletting, and death. The silver lining came shortly thereafter, however, when the greatest event in history occurred: A tomb was found empty; a man was raised from the dead. The world has never been the same. Talk of Silver Linings! With this in mind, I've tried to unearth hope beneath our ongoing snowy blanket.



On Valentine's Day, the morning after the huge storm, I left the parsonage at 7, and traipsed around farmland to the north of our church with my snowshoes. Silence ruled because plows had not begun their task. Snow seemingly blanketed

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sound, except for the faint crunch made by snowshoes sinking in pliant powder. At times I would turn, and look at my ovoid print path, a singular human vestige on an untouched and infinite field of white. Soon the sun rose, brightening trees. Branches were snow rimmed; even wooden tendrils attracted white filaments. I imagined spidery fingers reaching toward heaven. Nearly two hours later, having trudged south along the Rail Trail to the Main Street Bridge, I returned and rewarded myself with hot chocolate and a long shower. Life could not have been better – although I would not have declined a trip to Florida were it offered.

Yours in Christ,

Doc Bob

Youth Group Penny Social

Saturday, March 22

Doors Open 11:00

Calling at 12:30

Schadewald Hall

Now accepting donations

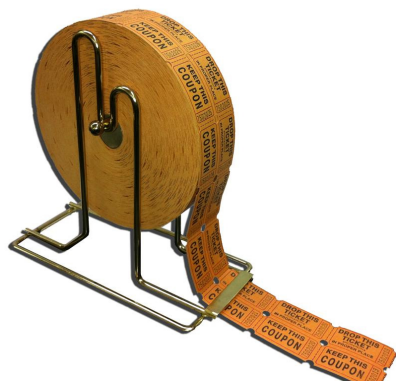
For more information:

Contact

Shannon

Butler

399-2002



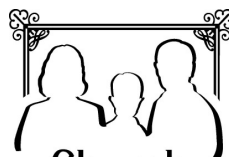
Mission of the Month

Local Missions

Rebecca Masters, Chair

The Missions Committee met February 2. We decided to try to continue to assist local groups that get money and supplies directly to the people who are most in need. The Mission for March will be for food and supplies for the homeless kids of the Kingston school district. It goes to kids at the two motels on 28, the Wenton in Saugerties and the motel on Rt 9W in Lake Katrine. This is most important on days when school is not in session, for example snow days and school holidays. We will collect the money and then buy the supplies to donate. If you have suggestions for mission donations, contact one of us: Rebecca Masters, Cindy Sumerano, Debbie Tucker, Fran Thompson.

Please use your mission envelope or one found in the pew to support this worthy endeavor.



Church Photo Directory

Directories are here!

And they are beautiful. Be sure to pick up your copy in Schadewald Hall - even if you didn't have your picture taken. It's a valuable resource.

Very special thanks to Debbie Tucker, Tom DiMicco and Lisa Longto for their many, many hours of work to ensure the directory became a reality.

If you are unable to get out to church to pick up your copy please call the office. We are happy to mail one to you.

A DEEP BLANKET OF SNOW COVERS
STICKLEY GARDENS AFTER SEVERAL
GOOD SNOW FALLS... YET, A PATH
IS OPEN TO THE PATIO AREA AS A
REMINDER OF GOD'S PROVISIONS
FOR ALL OF US. HE COVERS THE
EARTH WITH QUIET PEACE IN THE
SNOW, BUT HE ALSO GIVES US THE
PATH TO SERENITY AT THE PATIO
AS A REMINDER OF HIS ETERNAL
PEACE AND BLESSINGS...

STICKLEY GARDENS

FOR MORE INFORMATION – CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

LISA LONGTO (331-1438) CHAIRPERSON
JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER
ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)
SANDIE GREGORY (338-7626)
DIANA CLINE (338-7276)
REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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

Women's Guild

Spring is just around the corner, at least we hope so! It has been a tough winter but the Women's Guild hasn't let the snow piles get in our way.

We made the tough decision back in December to cancel the Cookie Walk. But, we have rescheduled it for 3/9/14. This is a big fund raiser for the Guild, folks really enjoy the cookies & we didn't want to disap-

point folks. So, we aren't putting those cookies sheets away yet. Ladies, please see Natalie Woodard or Shirley Burns to sign up to bake cookies & we will see everyone after church in the hall to purchase those cookies. Hurry out of church, get your box & enjoy the spring cookie walk. Thanks for your support!

The annual Church Birthday Party during coffee hour is coming up on 3/23/14. Please go to the table decorated for the month you were born in & see who else shares the same birth month. It is fun to see who is the oldest/youngest at your table. Please stay so we can sing Happy Birthday to each other. Thanks to Ellen Richards for chairing this annual event.

We have a sad bit of Guild housekeeping to let everyone know about. Our treasurer of 15 years, Jean Dussol, has asked to step down. Jean has been a wonderful & faithful treasurer for the Guild & we will truly miss her. Thank you, Jean, for all of your wonderful years of service & your grace for handling this task. God Bless. The duties of treasurer will now be done by Katie Emrich. We thank Katie for taking on this job & even though she has big shoes to fill, we are sure she will be successful.

Upcoming Events

3/9/14	Cookie Walk
3/23/14	Annual Church Birthday Party
5/18/14	Meeting

We welcome & 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 the Women's Guild. We meet right after church in the Dutch Room. So, come & see what we are all about!

Blessings,

Sandy Emrich - President

Café Chocolat

where women delight
in God's grace

Hurley Reformed Church Women's Ministry Retreat

Hello, Girlfriends!

Does simply *thinking* about chocolate bring a smile to your face? Try thinking about this—hanging out at a café with friends, while enjoying your favorite hot beverage, nibbling on a brownie or bit of chocolate pie, laughing, talking, and relaxing together—it's a perfect gathering!

Café Chocolat is a relaxing chocolate-themed retreat the women of our church are doing together. It includes worship, Bible study, and time for laughter as well as time for quiet reflection. And while the name of our gathering sounds indulgent, we'll actually be using chocolate as a metaphor for God's extravagant grace.

We'll begin with a continental breakfast on Saturday, April 5, 2014, at 8:00 a.m., and will finish by 4:30 p.m. in the afternoon. Our retreat will be held at The Hurley Reformed Church, 11 Main Street, Hurley, NY, and the cost is only \$25. per person! This covers the continental breakfast and lunch, fun and refreshing activities.

Call Deborah Zuill at 845-247-9157 for more information, or stop by our table at the church this Sunday to learn more and register.

Take time to relax, to make new friends, to worship, and to draw closer to God. We hope you'll join us at Café Chocolat.

Warmly, Deb Zuill



The Youth Group continues to meet the first and third Sunday at 7 p.m. We have 15-18 kids at each meeting. The Souper Bowl was extremely success-



ful. We raised \$500 which will be given to the Caring Hands Ministry. Brooks BBQ will be on March 4 which is the youth group's big fundraiser for the year. The kids have decided that they would like to participate in American Cancer Soci-



ety's Relay for Life. We will be having a Penny Social on March 22, 2014 to raise money for the Relay. We will also have other fundraisers for this event. The Youth



Group will be attending the Warwick Retreat in May which they are very excited about. We continue to grow and enjoy our time in fellowship and mission.



Christine Henning

BIRTHDAYS

Julia Wolf	March	Barry Rell	10	Jennifer Hinsdale	28
Danielle Wolf	10, '99	Kim Burgess	13	Ellen Morone	31
Justin Nekos	10, '99	Deborah Zuill	14	Bernadette Baker	31
William Gaffken	21, '00	Allan Masters	14		
Logan Brennan	23, '98	Ellen Stephano	14		
Lily Gram Collins	31, '98	Frank Warren	17		
Craig Jansen	1	Frank Presti	17		
Terry Read	2	Joyce Pinckney	18		
Linda Bogнар	2	Dino Sumerano	18		
Jack Gill	3	Katrina Rubino	19		
Dennis Horvers	5	Herb Morehouse	23		
Dr. Bob Gram	5	Jean Marrus	24		
Marianne Mizel	6	Christine Henning	24		
Bruce Wolf	7	Gretchen Giles	24		
Barbara Sartorius	9	Phyllis Bliss	24		
	10	Deidre Sills	25		
		Cathy McGraw	27		

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Jean & Jay Marrus	March 9
Emily & Art Harder	16
Charles & Sheila Jansen	25

Group

Registration Form

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Home telephone: _____

Cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Allergies or other special needs: _____



Return this form to the Hurley Reformed Church
11 Main Street, Hurley, NY

Join us for this Re-Scheduled Event!

~~Producers~~ Bakers Needed

~~Actors~~ Buyers Needed



Thanks for supporting the ~~Actor's~~ Women's Guild

Learning Opportunities in Lent

Dr. Gram has selected a wide variety of learning options during this holy period in order to appeal to those outside our church who may have particular interest in one or more of the subjects. Attend them all or one or two and invite your non-church going friends. The topics are atheist or agnostic friendly. Courses are Tuesday evening, 7-8:30pm, and repeated on Wednesday morning, 7:30 – 8:45am.

March 4 & 5: **"General Jesus: What Ministers Preached During the Civil War"** - The class will focus on two sermons by eminent pastors --one from the South, and one from the North-- to show how their divergent understanding of slavery, State's Rights, the pull of conscience, and "Just War Theory" shaped the course of our country's deadliest conflict.

March 11 & 12: **"Competitors of Early Christianity"** - In the early Christian era, religions like Mithras, The Great Mother, and Dionysius, among many others, competed for the hearts and minds of spiritual seekers in the

Mediterranean world. Philosophy, too, had religious and theological components and made devotional inroads, particularly among the wealthy, and literate. The class will explore the theologies of other religions in order to understand why Christianity outlived its rivals. What were the particular social and cultural currents which made faith in Jesus of Nazareth particularly appealing?

March 18 & 19: **"How the New Testament**

(Continued on page 7)

 Hurley Reformed Church 

Lenten Fish Fry

prepared by Sea-Deli



March 29, 2014

Hurley Reformed Church – Schadewald Hall



\$10.00 adults / **\$5.00** child under 12

Take-Outs Available

Reservations Required (open seating dinner)
Doors open at 4 pm and close at 8:15 pm



Tickets/Reservations – Call the Church **331-4121**

fresh fried fish

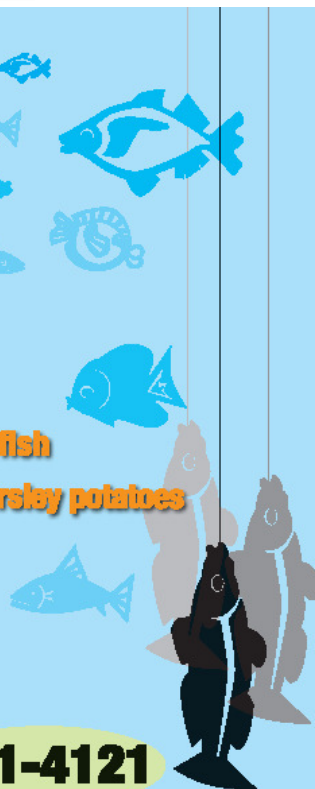
buttered parsley potatoes

cole slaw

roll

beverage

dessert



EASTER PLANTS

_____ Lilies	\$8.00
_____ Mini Roses	\$6.00
_____ Tulips	\$6.00
_____ Daffodils	\$6.00
_____ Hyacinths	\$6.00
_____ Pansies	\$3.00
_____ Primroses	\$3.00

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please print clearly:

Placed by:

In memory of:

In honor of:

We encourage you to take your flowers home. The church garden and the rail trail berm are getting full.

Please make checks payable to: HRC Women's Guild.

Mail or give your order by March 30, 2014 to:

Doris Alden
236 East Drive
Hurley NY 12443

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Became the New Testament - The class will explore how the early church picked and chose the books of the Christian canon. What were the first books of Scripture to be accepted? What were the initial criteria? What New Testament writings almost failed to "make the cut"? Why were certain gospels, apocalyptic writings, and personal letters rejected by the early church? The class will also focus on feminist theologians, in particular, who advocate expanding the canon to accommodate the wide-ranging diversity of Christian thought excluded by the New Testament.

March 25 & 26: "Is Heaven Necessary? Perspectives on Suffering and Hope in Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism"

April 8 & 9: "The Gospel of Matthew's Understanding of the Passion and Death of Jesus of Nazareth- From Palm Sunday to Jesus' Arrest"

April 15 & 16: "The Gospel of Matthew's Understanding of the Passion and Death of Jesus of Nazareth- From Jesus' Trial to His Burial" - All four Evangelists write about the events leading up to Christ's execution. Each Evangelist emphasizes different aspects reflecting their unique theological take on the purpose and meaning of Jesus' final days in Jerusalem. Matthew's theology of the cross will be compared to the other gospels to highlight his unique contribution to the earliest passion literature.

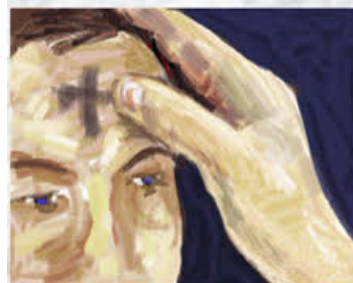
March 5, 2014

Services at 7:30

The sanctuary will be open throughout the day for prayer and contemplation.

"You are dust and to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19

Ash Wednesday



admin@hurleyreformedchurch.org, Hurley Reformed Church, Holidays in United States

Mar 2014 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
		MARCH 2014				9:30am - Dog 2pm - RVW Boy
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain 11am - Women's 7pm - Youth Group	5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Little League 7:30pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 12:30pm - Brooks 4pm - Hurley Purters 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 9:30am - Tax 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 6:30pm - Girl Scout	9:30am - Badminton 9:30am - Tax 1:30pm - Hurley 3pm - Quilting @ 7:30pm - Choir	2pm - Swim Team	10am - Genealogy @ 6pm - Private
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<u>Daylight Saving</u> 10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's 11am - Women's	11am - VFW @ 4pm - Dog Training 7pm - Consistory @ 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	8:30am - Hillside 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purters 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 9:30am - Tax 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Men's Group	9:30am - Badminton 9:30am - Tax 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7:30pm - Choir	7pm - Motorcycle	10am - Order of 5:30pm - HNS @ Hall
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's 7pm - Youth Group	10am - Genealogy @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purters 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 9:30am - Tax 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Hurley Lions 7pm - Men's Group	9:30am - Badminton 9:30am - Tax 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 7pm - NE 7:30pm - Choir	3pm - Set-up @ Hall	9am - Penny Social
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10am - Worship @ 11am - All Church 11am - Women's 1pm - Private @ Hall	10:30am - Genealog 5pm - Dog Training 6pm - HVFYH @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purters 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 9:30am - Tax 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Men's Group 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9:30am - Badminton 9:30am - Tax 3pm - Quilting @ 7:30pm - Choir		9am - Set-up @ Hall 4pm - Fish Dinner @
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's	5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @					

HURLEY REFORMED
CHURCH

PO Box 328
11 Main Street
Hurley NY 12443

Phone: 845-331-4121
Fax: 845-331-4153

E-mail: admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW
Pastor

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

HURLEY NY 12443

PERMIT #44301

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Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW

Hurley New York 12443

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

MARCH 2014

THE SPIRE

