

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2017



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write on Tuesday, March 14th, during the worst snowstorm of the winter. To get to the office I strapped on gaiters and slogged through nearly two feet of snow. As I watched tree branches dance, and spin drift whip into miniature tornadoes, I am reminded of the Great White Hurricane, known also as the Blizzard of 1888, which blanketed our part of the country about the same time as our latest snow fest. It occurred between March 11 and March 14, and paralyzed the East Coast from the Chesapeake Bay to Maine. In parts of New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, snow totals reached 60 inches with drifts in excess of 50 feet. Sustained winds of more than 45 miles an hour toppled trees, and telephone poles.

Like that 19th Century disaster, the Blizzard of 2017 was preceded by unseasonably mild weather. I took a hike in my shorts several days ago, and had a picnic on the back porch. I thought we were moving gradually toward Spring and was surprised by this sudden, bone chilling whiteout. Other similarities exist between the two storms. Transportation of all forms ground to a halt. Although plane flight was on the horizon, its 19th Century equivalents—trains, and ships—ceased operations. In terms of the latter more than two hundred vessels were beached or wrecked.

What do we do in situations like blizzards? If your phone is working, it's a good time to check up on friends. If your heat is working, it's a good time to invite someone over whose boiler

is on the fritz due to the storm. I'm by myself in the office, and I'm reminded of the joys of silence which storms create. There's no one around, and nothing to distract from thought. A snowstorm also prevents or at least slows our pace. A state of emergency has been declared in Kingston and environs which means cars and trucks are not appreciated by the DPW unless they are tucked in garages. And tramping through drifts to the local store will take three times as long as it would on a Spring day. We are forced to slow down.

Today banks and other institutions have closed which means that many of our commercial 'to-dos' must wait a day or two to complete. We cannot help but forego our daily laundry lists of activities, most of which are more than we can handle anyway, even when the weather is clement. So again nature's commandment on this day states, "Stop". Might we experience a Sabbath this Tuesday? Often it takes a snowstorm to make us rest in the midst of our all-too-busy schedules.

If I discover a silver lining in this white stuff, it is because Easter beckons. Jesus' execution on a cross and his resurrection can shape our understanding that something wonderful can occur from dire events. If we are Easter minded, then we uncover the coming good in bad events, although we need not, nor should we desire, to put off Easter until the snow melts, and Spring arrives. We can discover Easter in the present.

(Continued on page 2)

I plan to snowshoe tomorrow on farmland which surrounds the church. I will strap up at the Gazebo, and then descend behind the Commercial Truck Driving School, following the bends of the snow clogged Esopus creek as it eddies toward Kingston. There I will see ducks paddling the thread of the creek, overseen by gliding Red Tailed and Cooper's hawks, their wings stiff and fixed, riding wind pockets upward, resisting the blizzard's downward pull.

The banks of the Esopus are tree lined. Scrub maple, and thicker splayed branches of swamp maple; slender gray and white mottled beeches; spindly birch their bark peeled and scrolled by the elements; tulip trees, with swollen decay smeared bases. As a child tulips were my favorite trees. The first inklings of heaven came from observing these pinnacles near my home. The snow covers their water rot; deep bark grooves running upward creates the illusion of greater height. Sassafras fingers, undulant and rimed, arch over sections of the creek.

Varieties of vines--the 'furry' kind which runs up the lengths of oak and hickory creating a pretend symbiosis vie with tangles of the more flagrantly insidious types which are seemingly attached to the earth by

great tent pegs. They pull younger trees earthward. Young maples particularly bend like taut bows.

In the middle of the field a hundred Canadian Geese are lumps in the snow. At rest one rarely hears their high pitched honk. Then they lift, a great confused armada--squads crisscrossing one another--darkening the sky, their sudden gabble panics the ducks who launch from the creek. I don't believe the geese are carnivores. Nevertheless I experience the same fear which possessed me watching Alfred Hitchcock's movie, "The Birds".

My gaze will return to a young maple locked in struggle with a ganglia of vines. It bends but does not fracture. Reality would suggest that the vines will win. That the earth will claim the tree in time. That this is the fate of sentient and non-sentient reality. But I'm a Christian. And this snow covered day is Easter. In ways I can't comprehend the tree will thrive, and the tangling forces of death will be defeated.

Peace,

Doe Bob



APRIL EVENTS

April 1	Lenten Fish Dinner	April 12	Social Solos
April 3, 10	Basket classes	April 13	Maundy Thursday
April 3	Discussion with Doctors	April 14	Good Friday
April 6	Senior Citizens	April 16	Easter Sunday
April 9	Palm Sunday	April 19	Men's Group
April 10	Consistory	April 27	Hurley Heritage Society Lecture
April 11	Women's Bible Study	Continuing until April 11	AARP Tax Preparation



The month of March was devoted to the "Water Walk" which was one of our missions last year. We were able to raise awareness as well as funds for this worthy cause. For those of you who don't know about this Christian organization, Water Mission, along with many other projects, helps to build wells in needy areas of the world. Water, as we all know, is vital for sanitation and 2.4 billion people live without adequate clean water which leads to diseases and death. Thank you, Rebecca Masters, for all your help with this project.

The Deacon's fund is a reliable source for our brothers and sisters who are in need in our community. February was the month for this mission raising \$450 to do just that.

Marilyn Lowe



Flowers for the altar are needed. Get them from the florist, the supermarket, Adams, your backyard. Many Sundays available. See Kathy Jansen.

TAX PREPARATION

Did you know that the Hurley Reformed Church provides space for AARP Foundation Tax-Aide?

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free tax preparation help to anyone and if you're 50 and older, and can't afford a tax preparation service, we were made especially for you. We understand that retirement or other life changes may mean your taxes are a little more complicated now. With the help of our team of IRS-certified volunteers we make it easy for you. Taxes will be done by appointment beginning February 1 on Wednesdays and Thursdays until April 12, 2017.

Call for an appointment: 845-255-0791

*Spring waits to
burst forth in
Stickley Gardens...*

The fountain will soon be uncovered...
the green shoots of plants that have
rested all winter, will push up
from the earth in the warm sunlight.

It is a place of New Life —
Rebirth and Hope for those who
rest here and those who visit.

*Take time, visit Stickley
Gardens, find peace and
hopefully a little Spring!*

STICKLEY GARDENS

FOR MORE INFORMATION — CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

LISA LONGTO (331-1436) CHAIRPERSON
JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER
ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)
SANDIE GREGORY (338-7626)
LINDA DIDD, CONSISTORY LIAISON
REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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

April

BIRTHDAYS

Wayne Waligurski
 Travis Horvers
 Mildred Mattison
 Barbara Bondar
 Trevor Davenport
 Mia Zimmerman
 Kathy Hauck
 Thomas Mann
 Fred Kurtz
 Jeff Rafferty
 Jean Dussol
 Shirley Burns

Esther Stickley
 Beverly Roosa
 Barbara Baker
 Christine Beesmer
 1 Zachary Burns
 2 Lily Barra
 4 Kyle Constant
 4 Ann Every
 4 Liz Carpinelli
 5 Joan Sutton
 5 Todd Jordan
 5 Lauren Shaffrick
 6 Lois Morehouse
 7 Esther Keator
 8 Henry Dussol
 9 Karen Waligurski

11 Kendra Rubino 26
 12 Braison Boice 27
 12 Miranda Davenport 27
 14 Cody Baker 27
 15 Julie Jordan 27
 16 Emily Waligurski 26
 17 Pat Brennan 28
 17 Molly Shambo 29
 17
ANNIVERSARIES
 19
 20 Allan & Bonnie Dumas 13
 20 Nita & William Rockwell 19
 22 Carla & Craig Paton 22
 24 Dan & Midge Stott 23
 25 Gary & Lisa Longto 30



Looking for good fellowship?!

The Men's Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is April 19 at 7 pm. Come hang with us. See Paul Vonderheide for details.



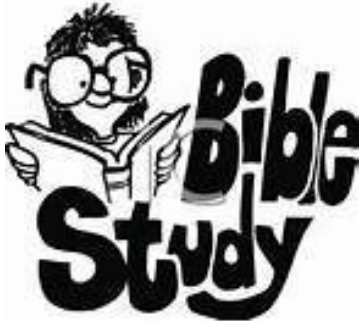
Social Solos will meet for our monthly lunch date on April 12 at 12 noon. Check the bulletin for place.



Prayer Chain meets on the first Sunday of the month directly after worship and fellowship. If you have something to bring to our attention, see Debbie Zuill.

News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.



Women's Ministries Bible Study is back. The ladies are continuing their study of the book Really Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs. They are currently studying Herodia. (You can read ahead!) Women's Ministry Bible Study meets every other Tuesday at 1 pm in the Dutch Room. Next meeting is April 4. For more information, contact Nancy Sweeney.



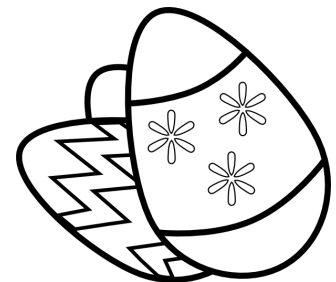
EASTER EGG HUNT

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2017



Crafts as part of Sunday School
starting at 10:30 am

Parsonage Lawn 11:30 am



*Thank
you*

To my friends at Hurley Reformed Church, many thanks for all the phone calls, cards and visits that have made my life very happy here at Golden Hill. Also thanks for all the flowers, sent or brought, and Doug Constant's delicious blueberry muffins. A special birthday greeting to Dr. Gram!! Hope to see you soon.

Natalie Woodard

The Health Food Diner

No sprouted wheat and soya shoots
And Brussels in a cake,
Carrot straw and spinach raw,
(Today, I need a steak).

Not thick brown rice and rice pilaw
Or mushrooms creamed on toast,
Turnips mashed and parsnips hashed,
(I'm dreaming of a roast).

Health-food folks around the world
Are thinned by anxious zeal,
They look for help in seafood kelp
(I count on breaded veal).

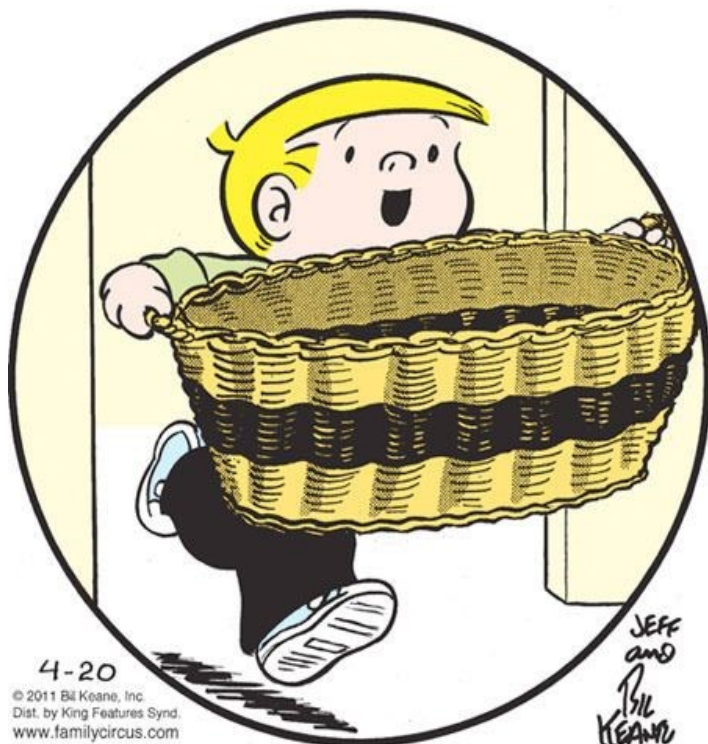
No smoking signs, raw mustard greens,
Zucchini by the ton,
Uncooked kale and bodies frail
Are sure to make me run

to

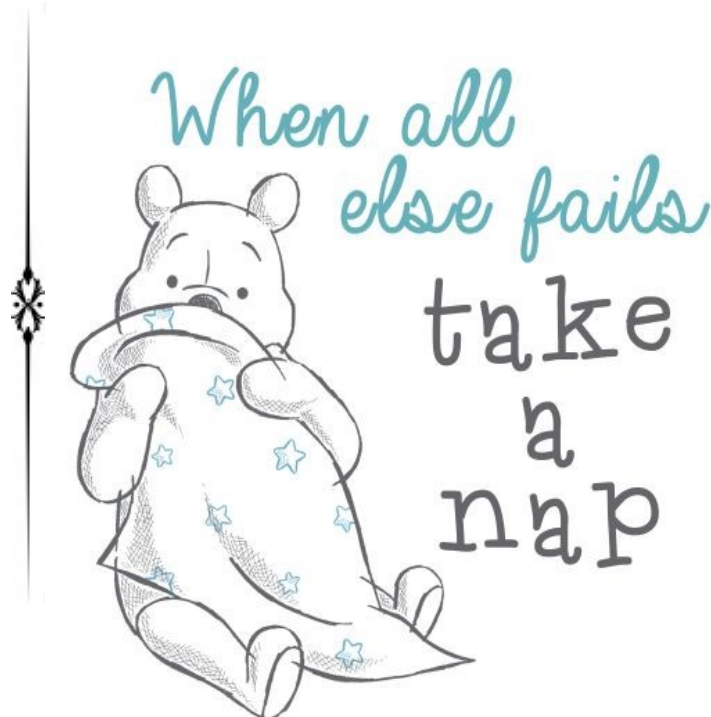
Loins of pork and chicken thighs
And standing rib, so prime,
Pork chops brown and fresh ground round
(I crave them all the time).

Irish stews and boiled corned beef
and hot dogs by the scores,
or any place that saves a space
For smoking carnivores.

Maya Angelou



4-20
© 2011 Bill Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com



"I found a basket to use for Easter!"

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain @	27 9:30am - Guild Quilters 1pm - basket class @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	28 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop	29 7:30am - Bible Study @ 8:30am - AARP tax 5:30pm - Dog Training 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop	30 8:30am - AARP tax 9:30am - Badminton @ 1:30pm - Hurley Senior 4:45pm - Dog Training 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Choir	31 Fish Dinner @	1 10am - Genealogy @
9 Palm Sunday 10am - Worship @ 11am - SHD Committee 11am - Women's 1pm - birthday party @	10 9:30am - Guild Quilters 11am - VFW @ Dutch 1pm - Basket Class @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7pm - Consistory @ 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	11 8:30am - Hillside Acres 9:30am - Badminton @ 1pm - Women's Bible 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop	12 7:30am - Bible Study @ 8:30am - AARP tax 12pm - social solos @ 5:30pm - Dog Training 7pm - Local 1582 @	13 Maundy Thursday 8am - luncheon for 8:30am - AARP tax 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - Choir	14 Good Friday	15
16 Easter Sunday 10am - Worship @	17 9:30am - Guild Quilters 10am - Genealogy @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	18 9:30am - Badminton @ 6:30pm - nursery 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop	19 7:30am - Bible Study @ 9am - Finance 5:30pm - Dog Training 7pm - Hurley Lions @ 7pm - men's group @	20 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training 7pm - NE WoodWorkers 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - Choir	21 7pm - motorcycle club	22 1pm - Memorial Service
23 10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's Guild	24 9:30am - Guild Quilters 10:30am - Genealogy @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	25 9:30am - Badminton @ 1pm - Women's Bible 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop	26 7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training	27 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training 6:30pm - Hurley 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - Choir	28 3pm - Miller Music	29
30 10am - Worship @ 1pm - book event @	1	2	3	4	5	6

April 2017

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

eSpire: In order to save money and reduce our impact on the environment, you may receive The Spire by email. Please request electronic distribution by emailing TheSpire@HurleyReformedChurch.org. If you no longer wish to receive the Spire please let us know at the same email address or call the church office and we will remove you from our mailing list.

Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW

Hurley New York 12443

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

APRIL 2017

THE SPIRE

