

THE SPIRE

April 2026



Recently a tragedy struck someone that Sara and I know. Needless to say that those around this family rallied. Those who had been touched by a similar tragedy began to talk about what they had gone through, the lessons learned. Some of these lessons were about who needs to be contacted as well as what papers should and shouldn't be signed. Thankfully these brothers and sisters in Christ were able to speak in spite of their own trauma and tragedy and transform their own moment of pain to help someone else who was going through a similar pain.

I've seen several moments like this in the past few months. I've seen moments where church members went the extra mile, put themselves out there, rallied around someone who was in pain and hurting. Honestly I don't think that I've ever been prouder of the Church as I was in these moments. Each time you literally saw the church as it should be. These moments have a heartwarming effect on us as we see someone who is in a place of need getting the assistance that they need.

But as wonderful and heartfelt as these moments are it begs the question of whether this is the norm. Is it common for us? Is it something that happens every day?

Once I was approached by someone seeking a moment of my time. They had wanted to compliment how welcoming, loving and caring Hurley Reformed had been to them. At the end of their compliment was a statement, "it's too bad that it isn't normal for churches." If the earlier statement complimenting this congregation picked my heart up, that comment dashed it on the ground. Sadder still is knowing the reality that they weren't all that wrong.

Now to begin, I don't know this person or their

back story. But I do know a few others who entering a church building is filled with emotions, one of which is fear. Fear of how they will be treated, fear of past hurts and issues. When we encounter persons our knee jerk reaction may be to be defensive. Well we're not them, that is the person who hurt them. And while factually correct, it seldom advances the conversation.

In moments like this all you can do is love them, and love them as they are. You cannot undo the hurt of the past or the history that they lived out. The pain and hurt that they experienced the challenges, slights and the like are not ours to bear. All you can do is live out Christ's call and love them as a neighbor. Welcome them as Christ would, love them as he would. The challenge for us, that is the church, is to live out Christ's command to love our neighbor.

It is up to us, to change those moments of compassion where we step up and act when tragedy strikes, to a lifetime of loving our neighbors. Those heartwarming moments where a body of believers rally around someone in need should become commonplace as the church makes them happen day in and day out. Like everything it needs to start somewhere. Why not this Holy Week and Easter? Why not now? May the day of resurrection resurrect within us the sustainability of compassion for one another at all times. Happy Easter and may we all continue to serve our Lord, Amen.



BETTE MIDLER sings,

*“just remember
that beneath
the bitter snows,
lies a seed that
in the Spring
becomes a Rose.”*

We know that with Spring will come the colors of the rainbow in the flowers that will wave in the warm breezes. Spring comes to remind us of Life, in a resurrected Lord who greets us in the early morning hours at the open tomb.

Visit the Gardens and just sit and take a moment to contemplate the promise given to those placed in the columbarium and to each of us as well.

“I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, you may be also.”

Welcome Spring!

STICKLEY GARDENS

FOR MORE INFORMATION – CONTACT ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER:

LISA LONGTO (845-532-7570) CHAIRPERSON
JIM PIRRO (845-383-0079) TREASURER
ESTHER STICKLEY (845-331-2919)
REV STICKLEY (845-331-2919) SECRETARY
KATHY JANSEN (845-532-0908)
JAMES SASS (845-849-4937)

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



Deacon Ministry

DEACON FOR APRIL
IS
JEANNE QUENZER



**Reach out to those who need your support
in their day to day needs:**

Please keep them in your prayers.

Judy Bell (Terry Gaffken's mom)

Lori Pinkham is Wingate at Ulster

Terry Conlin

Marilyn and the More Family

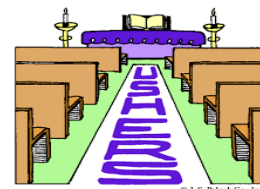


Social Solos meets on April 8, 2026@ noon

Anyone wishing to join please contact

Rev. Deb Zuill for an invite at

attitudema50@aol.com or 845-247-9157



April

April 5 Maggie Sass and Kathy Jansen

April 12 Wally Cook and Jim Gregory

April 19 Jeanne Quenzer and Bonnie Dumas

April 26 Jeanne Quenzer and Dino Sumerano

What's Happening

April 5	Easter Service 7am & 10am & Communion
April 5, 12, 19, 26	Worship
April 7, 14, 21, 28	Bible Study
April 6, 13, 20, 27	TaiChi @1pm
April 3, 10, 17, 24	Sew and So & Knitters
April 13	Consistory Meeting
April 8	Social Solos
Tues, Thurs & Sat.	Karate

May 3 @11am -All Church Birthday Party
 May 11 @9am -Parking Lot Line Painting
 May 16 @9am-Spring Clean-Up Day
 May 30 @10am-225th Community Celebration
 June 7 @10am-Worship Celebration
 June 14 @11am-Salad Share
 July 18-Hawaiian Bingo
 August 30 @11am-Church Cookout



When the time comes and you are faced with a funeral of a loved one, or a celebration of a baptism the Hurley Reformed Church would like to offer a hand.

The Celebration Committee is happy to help you with the repast after the funeral service or the celebration for the baptism. We will do the set-up of the hall, serve the food (although we cannot supply the food), and we will do all the clean up afterward.

If you would like more information about this, please speak with Rev. Appleyard-Pekich.



Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday to..Us

Sunday, May 3rd, our after worship Coffee Hour will be a special time to celebrate each other with an all church birthday party. We will gather in Schadewald Hall and find our place at the table set for the month of our birthday. Tables will be grouped seasonally— Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Visit with others while enjoying refreshments and, of course, birthday cake. Do you have a birthday twin? Come and find out!



Morning Worship

Every Sunday

Please join us for Worship every Sunday at 10am with Refreshments served after in the Hall.

Sign up sheets are posted in the Hall for flowers and refreshments.



If you are unable to attend Worship in person please join us through our Zoom link. It can be found on our webpage on the right side under our bulletin and on the left side under Worship Material.



April Birthdays!

Wayne Waligurski	1
Travis Horvers	2
Mildred Mattison	4
Barbara Bondar	4
Trevor Davenport	4
Kathy Hauck	5
Fred Kurtz	6
Esther Stickley	11
Christine Beesmer	14
Jim Sass	14
Zachary Burns	15
Lily Barra	16
Kyle Constant	17
Ann Every	17
Joan Sutton	19
Todd Jordan	19
Jane Merrill	20
Kinsley LeLay	20
Lauren Schaffrick	20
Colin Sass	22
Karen Waligurski	25
Kendra Rubino	26
Miranda Davenport	27
Mackenzie Dockery	27
Cody Baker	27
Julie Jordan	27
Emily Waligurski	26
Pat Brennan	28
Molly Shambo	29



Allan & Bonnie Dumas	13
Nita & William Rockwell	19
Carla & Craig Paton	22
Dan & Midge Stott	23
Lia & Tom Rutski	28
Gary & Lisa Longto	30



The Mission for April will be the Veteran's Reintegration Program in Saugerties.

The basket items will be Flour and Sugar for Bread of Life.



Please send any updates for our prayer chain to

Pat Baker at
845-331-2556

or

pbaker727@yahoo.com



Below is a recipe for Resurrection Cookies, which was given to us by Rev. Charles Stickley. It was printed in our "200 years of Tasteful Traditions" cookbook when we celebrated the church's 200th anniversary.

1 c. whole pecans

3 egg whites

1 c. sugar

1 tsp. vinegar

pinch of salt

Read the whole recipe before beginning. Try to do together on the night before Easter Sunday. You will also need a wooden spoon, a Bible, a zip-lock baggie and tape.

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Place pecans in the zip-lock baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, he was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.

Let the children smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.

Add egg whites to the vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 11 to 15 minutes, until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper-covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body laid. Put cookie sheet in oven. Close the door and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of the tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66.

Go to bed! Explain to the children that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Resurrection morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie! Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Resurrection, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9

Church Growth, and Getting To Know You...

As we embark on our mission of church growth and retention, we are looking at ways to get to know you better. We would like to create a database that would give us a better idea of who you are. For starters, If we want to reach out to you, what's your address? Can we reach you by phone? When is your birthday? Do you have children who have been baptized and confirmed?

We have created a very easy form to help us gather some information. We would be happy if you would please take a few minutes to fill this form out, and return it to the church. It will help us to work toward our goal of growing our congregation, and more importantly, to be able to reach out to you and get to know you better. Please know that this form is completely optional.

You can either drop this completed form at church anytime, or you may mail it to the church at: Hurley Reformed Church, PO Box 328, Hurley, NY 12443. We also will soon have a link to this form on our Church website so you can complete it online. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Rev. Appleyard-Pekich.

Hurley Reformed Church

Family Profile

Family Last Name _____
Physical Address _____
Mailing address (if different from above) _____
Phone – Home _____
Cell _____
Email _____

First Name (Spouse) _____
Birthday _____
Baptized Yes No
Confirmed Yes No
Member of Hurley Reformed Church Yes No

First Name (Spouse) _____
Birthday _____
Baptized Yes No
Confirmed Yes No
Member of Hurley Reformed Church? Yes No

Child _____
Birthday _____
Baptized Yes No
Confirmed Yes No
Hurley Reformed Church Member? Yes No

Child _____
Birthday _____
Baptized Yes No
Confirmed Yes No
Hurley Reformed Church Member? Yes No

Child _____
Birthday _____
Baptized Yes No
Confirmed Yes No
Hurley Reformed Church Member? Yes No


Child _____
Birthday _____
Baptized Yes No
Confirmed Yes No
Hurley Reformed Church Member? Yes No

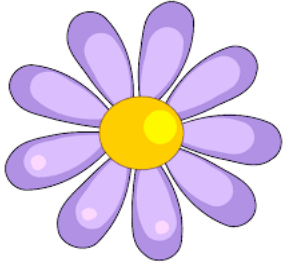
Do you have offering envelopes: Yes No
If yes, what is your envelope number? _____

If No, would you like offering envelopes? Yes No

May we print your family Birthdays and Anniversaries in our Spire? Yes No

Date _____

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter Worship 10am-11am	1st Capitol Corvettes / pm- At-Anon 6:30pm-8pm @ Hall TaiChi 1pm-3:30pm @ Hall	Bible Study 9am-10am @ Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Meeting 8:30am-9:30am @ Local 1582 Trailways 2pm- Meeting 8:30am-9:30am @ Radio Club 7pm-9:30pm @ social solos 12pm-2pm @	Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Good Friday Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-9pm	Event? 4pm-8pm Karate Class 9am--11am @ Karate Class 9am--11am @
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Event 12pm-5pm Worship 10am-11am	At-Anon 6:30pm-8pm @ Hall Consistory 7pm-9pm @ Dutch TaiChi 1pm-3:30pm @ Hall VFW 11am-12:30pm @ Dutch	Bible Study 9am-10am @ Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Meeting 8:30am-9:30am @	Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-9pm	Karate Class 9am--11am @
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Worship 10am-11am	At-Anon 6:30pm-8pm @ Hall Genealogy 10am-2:30pm @ TaiChi 1pm-3:30pm @ Hall	Bible Study 9am-10am @ Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Meeting 8:30am-9:30am @	Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-9pm	Karate Class 9am--11am @
26	27	28	29	30	1	
Worship 10am-11am	At-Anon 6:30pm-8pm @ Hall Genealogy 10:30am-2:30pm HNS-Grandparents Day 9am- TaiChi 1pm-3:30pm @ Hall	Bible Study 9am-10am @ HNS Board Mtg 6pm-9pm @ Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Kidspespace 5:30pm-7pm @ Meeting 8:30am-9:30am @	Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm Kidspespace 5:30pm-7pm @	Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-9pm	



PO Box 328
11 Main Street
Hurley NY 12443

Phone: 845-331-4121

E-mail: admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org

Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich
Pastor

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KINGSTON, NY
PERMIT #44301

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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 admin@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

Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich

Hurley New York 12443

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

APRIL 2026

THE SPIRE

