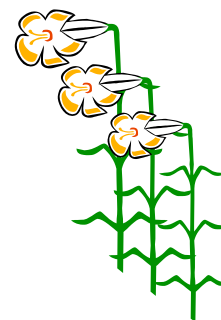


THE SPIRE

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2015



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write in late February during one of the snowiest months I can remember. A recurring thought is that at our outdoor Easter Sunrise Service, shepherds and Magi will snowshoe to the empty tomb, and that the resurrected Jesus will be wearing a Pillsbury Dough Boy sized ski parka! Resurrection Sunday occurs on April 5 this year. I hope Spring warmth will match the fire in our hearts as we herald a once crucified but now living Lord. It has been a cold,

cold winter. A friend from New Hampshire once said that there are two seasons in his town: Winter and three months of rough sledding. Could his saying apply to us? This morning I met an optimist who said, "Well, at least it's not raining." Not yet. If the torrential rains move eastward, our Easter Dawn Service may feature Jesus in a boat, umbrella in hand!

Cold is an apt metaphor for the Lenten season, and Holy Week. Jesus' ministry in Galilee began with opposition from the religious leaders of his day. Their hearts grew colder as our Lord moved south toward his destiny in Jerusalem. By the time Jesus reached the Holy City, wintry spirits had crystallized into ice blocks: Members of the religious establishment plotted secretly to kill the Lord of life. The poet T. S. Eliot wrote: "Through the dark cold and empty desolation the wave cry, the wind cry . . ."

Arctic Jerusalem wept, too, because it could not recognize its Savior.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday adulation and ends with abandonment, and ignominy on Golgo-

tha, Skull Hill. I pray that you will experience Christ's chill from the cold-hearted rage thrust

against him. He was betrayed. He was scorned and taunted. He was punched and flayed. He was stripped naked and nailed to a cross.

And yet. For the Christian there is always an "and yet" to the tragedies of life. And yet the warmth of Spring triumphed over Winter; the fire of resurrected life over a frigid tomb. Jesus is risen. He is risen indeed. And he shares his resurrection with his children. For us literal death

is not an end but a new beginning, a fresh start.

Eternity with Christ awaits. The apostle Paul wrote that our lives are like kernels in the here-and-now. In heaven, we'll blossom like Spring flowers (1 Corinthians 15:37). We'll become everything we were meant to be. Christians will also understand, for the first time, the mysteries of life which have plagued us. The apostle wrote, "For now we see dimly in a mirror, but then face to face. Now I know in part, then shall I know in full as I have been fully known." (1 Corinthians 13:12). The profound 'whys' of life will yield to God's heavenly wisdom.

I could say more biblically about our ultimate future, but I'll save it for the Spire next Easter. Let me close by noting that Christ's resurrection aids us on our journey here. In many ways, we've experienced crucifixion on a figurative plane. It occurs whenever we lose a job, experience rejection, or find ourselves up against enemies. We are crucified when someone we love divorces us or dies. Loneliness, despair, and chronic illness are examples which mark the cruciform nature of early living. And yet resurrection occurs when all seems

***COMING IN
FROM THE COLD
TO
RESURRECTION
WARMTH***



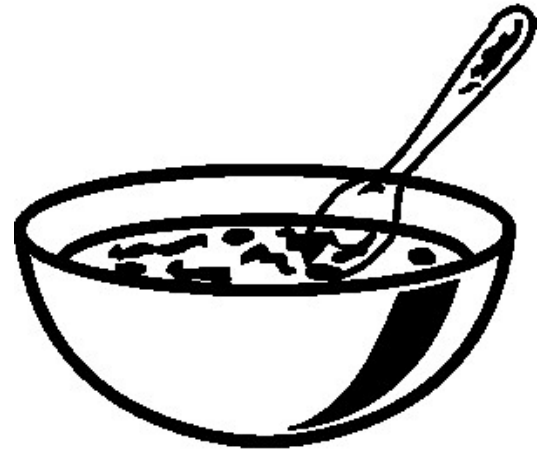
Mission News:

Well, Spring is in the air- though not it's always as evident as we'd like! Our thoughts now turn to warm weather activities. Our April Mission of the month will be raising money for scholarships to Camp Wiltmeet which is part of the YMCA camp program. Activities include teamwork, cooperative games, group projects, sports, drama, arts & crafts, foursquare, nature, newspaper, gardening, dance, yearbook and more. The campers are bused to Moriello Pool in New Paltz on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays of each week.

Our Benevolences for the 2014 went to Caring Hands, The Reservoir Food Pantry and the Food Bank of The Hudson Valley.

Suggestions for Missions? If you have any ideas for organizations that are in need and provide direct service, let one of the committee know: Rebecca Masters, Linda Caddy, Kathy Jansen, Cindy Sumerano or Debbie Tucker.

Rebecca Masters, Chair



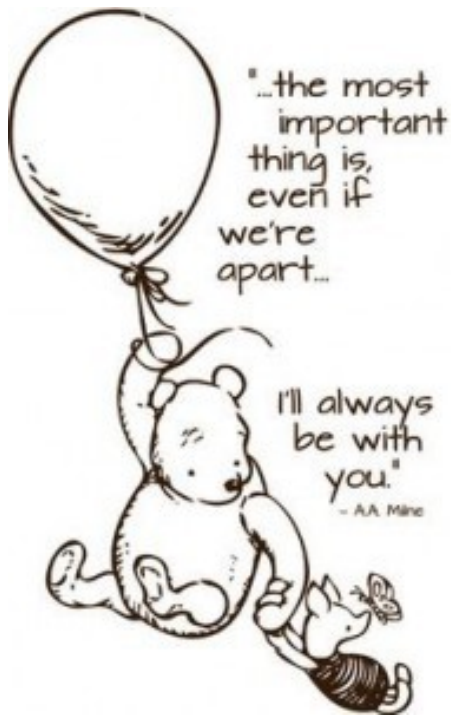
Monthly Soup Sunday.

The next Soup Sunday is scheduled for **April 12.**

The soup will be lemon chicken soup.. As in the past you may bring your own container. Make sure it is labeled with your name. Drop it off in the kitchen prior to April 11.



Piglet:
"how do You spell love?"
Pooh:
"You don't spell it,
You feel it."



Spring Clean up Day

May 2, 2015

8:45 Coffee and Assignments

9: 00 Work Begins

For more information, talk to Dennis
Croswell

Have Faith...

Long, cold, bleak days may continue,
yet winter always turns to spring.

No matter how hopelessly bitter and
gray things appear, the moment always
comes when suddenly our spirit revives,
and hope is reborn.

Spring is coming...

wait for it, be patient and watch how
God will again transform our world.

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)

JIM CRAVEN, CONSISTORY LIASON

REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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

Property and Maintenance

Contributions for the April Property and
Maintenance Envelopes will be used to offset
the unexpected costs associated with the
church's septic system.

If anyone is interested in joining the Prop-
erty-Maintenance committee or any of our
monthly work parties, please contact Dennis
Croswell at 331-5944. The monthly work par-
ty normally takes place on a weekday after-
noon.



News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.

Women's Guild

The annual Church Birthday was a HUGE success!! Even though it snowed in the morning folks turned out & enjoyed a wonderful fellowship!! It was great to see folks talking, eating & just having a great time. Thanks to everyone that decorated a table!! They were all beautiful!! Good job everyone!!

There was a local soup kitchen that had to shut down due to repairs to pipes that needed to be made in order for them to operate & service folks in need. As a Guild we donated \$500 to them to assist them with these repairs. We are blessed to have been able to do this for them. They indeed did open their doors & are back up & running.

There will be a pot luck luncheon that will be held after church on May 16. Ellen Richards will be chairing this. Mark your calendars. Hope to see you all there.

Happy Spring & Happy Easter to everyone!

Our calendar of events:

4/12/15	Meeting
5/16/15	Set up for pot luck luncheon
5/17/15	Pot Luck luncheon

God Bless,
Sandy Emrich
President



Looking for good fellowship?!

The Men's Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is April 16 at 7 pm.

Come hang with us.

See Wally Cook for details.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The purpose of this ministry is to bring comfort and a warm embrace to the person in need.



The knitter of a shawl provides loving thoughts that are put into the making of the shawl.

Please contact Lee Gable, 246-3751, if there is a need of a shawl or if you would like to knit or crochet one.

A Request from Ellen.

When you clean your house this spring, please bring your unneeded baskets and vases to Ellen . She will use them for the Corn and Craft Fair in August. Please leave them in church with her name on it, or call Ellen at 331-0674

Thanks in advance.

April

BIRTHDAYS

Wayne Waligurski	1
Travis Horvers	2
Mildred Mattison	4
Trevor Davenport	4
Kathy Hauck	5
Fred Kurtz	6
Jeff Rafferty	7
Jean Dussol	8
Shirley Burns	9
Esther Stickley	11
Molly Saltzmann	12
Beverly Roosa	12
Barbara Baker	12

Christine Beesmer	14
Zachary Burns	15
Lilly Barra	16
Helen Lehtonen	16



Kyle Constant	17
Ann Every	17
Liz Carpinelli	17
Joan Sutton	19
Lauren Shaffrick	20
Eastor Keator	22

Henry Dussol	24
Karen Waligurski	25
Emily Waligurski	26
Kendra Rubino	26
Miranda Davenport	27
Cody Baker	27
Julie Jordan	27
Pat Brennan	28
Molly Shambo	29

ANNIVERSARIES

Allan & Bonnie Dumas	13
Carla & Craig Paton	22
Dan & Midge Stott	23
Gary & Lisa Longto	30

Stone House Day

This year we have rack cards instead of brochures to advertise Stone House Day. Please pick some up and take them with you wherever you go. They can be handed out, posted or put in a rack. It's never too early to promote Stone House Day.

Thank you.

Ellen Richards

The Berm on Route 209

We (Hurley Reformed Church) are still in charge of one of the berms on Rte 209 (third one north of Main Street bridge) and we like it to look nice (be the nicest one there!) We need someone to be in charge of the maintenance which means getting a group together throughout the summer to weed and trim the grass around the edges. Please volunteer to be in charge! It is not a big job as long as it's organized well!

Ellen Richards

Thank You!

Every Sunday, the bulletin reminds us to "Reach out to those who might need the support of HRC members "in their day to day needs." This is a very belated "Thank You" to everyone who has made it possible for me to recover as quickly as possible from hip replacement surgery in January – and in the less-than-ideal winter conditions we had all through February. I couldn't be at this point without all this support. It was prayers and thoughts, meals, and transportation, cards and more. I won't even try to list names here though I owe special thanks to many; but THIS IS the Hurley Reformed Church. It reminds us to "Reach Out", and you have done that. Thank you and God Bless you.

Barbara Sartorius

News Bytes

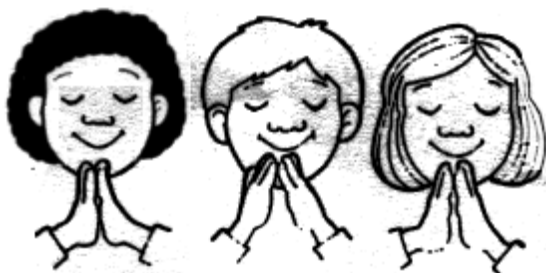
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Youth Group News

We had a very **successful Brooks BBQ** despite the weather! Thanks to everyone for their support. We are working on doing a **mission trip to New Mexico** this summer.

We are also participating in the **Relay for Life** this year. It is on **June 13th** and it will not be an all nighter. If you are interested in participating please let Christine Henning, Sierra Butler or John Henning know!

Penny Social will be on **April 25th**. Doors open at **11 a.m.** and calling will begin at **12:30**. If you are spring cleaning and find some items that you think people would like to have please put them in the garage!



Women's Ministries

The Women of this Ministry remain excited and eager in continuing to do God's work. We invite other women in our church to come and join us. Our Outreach program has met with much success. Please let us know how we may help you. There are brochures outside of the sanctuary that lists what we do. The members are as follows: Marilyn More, Helen Sgroi, Shirley Ruth, Roberta Falatyn, Nancy Sweeney, Carla Paton, Joyce Pinckney, Andrea Littleton-Foster, Linda Dux, Pat Baker, Lori Baker, Midge Stott, Ellen Richards and Deb Zuill as Chairperson. Rev. Gram is our advisor. We meet every 2nd. Sunday. Our future plan is to begin a Women's Bible Study.

Prayer Chain

The Women of the Prayer Chain find that their work is never done. We thank God for the victories and praise Him for the successes yet to come. As you may know, your requests when given to us are on our lists for 6 months. We appreciate the updates that we receive. Thank you for your continued faith in us. We continue to pray your strength in the LORD! We meet every 1st Sunday. Come and join us! Members: Helen Sgroi, Sonnie Howe, Diane Cline, Shirley Ruth, Pat Baker, Sandy Gregory, Roberta Falatyn, Sandy Emrich, Esther Stickley, Audrey Frost, Joyce Pinckney and Deb Zuill, as Chairperson.

Deb Zuill

Yours In Christ,
Deb Zuill

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			7:30am - Bible 9am - AARP Tax 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Boy Scouts 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9am - AARP Tax 9:30am - Badminton 1:30pm - Hurley 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - Overeaters 7pm - Maundy 7:30pm - 1st Capitol		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6:30am - Sunrise 10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain 11:30am - Easter 3pm - daisy girl	5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Little League 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purlers 4:30pm - Dog 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 9am - AARP Tax 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Local 1582 @	9am - AARP Tax 9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - Choir	7pm - Motorcycle	10am - Genealogy @ 1:30pm - Hudson 4:30pm - set up for
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's 1pm - SHD Home	11am - VFW @ 1pm - Basket Class 5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Consistory @ 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	8:30am - Hillside 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purlers 4:30pm - Dog 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 8am - Center for 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Hurley Lions	9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - Overeaters 7pm - NE 7:30pm - Choir	Kathy M. event @ Schadewald Hall	11am - Dave Baker
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am - Worship @ 11:20am - Stone 2pm - baby shower 3pm - daisy girl	10am - Genealogy @ 1pm - Basket Class 5pm - Dog Training 6pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purlers 4:30pm - Dog 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - Choir	3pm - penny social	Penny Social @
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
10am - Worship @	10:30am - Genealogy 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purlers 4:30pm - Dog 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - Choir		

April 2015

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

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