

THE SPIRE

December 2022



Advent has arrived. Decorations are out and possibly are all up. Sooner than we might like Christmas will be here. But not quite yet. Time is left to prepare and get ready. The clock hasn't struck yet on the point where Amazon or whatever service you order with, can't get the present to you in time. We've got 15ish days left to get ready and prepare.

Now I can't put my finger on it, but for some reason I've had a particular memory flittering around in my head. Maybe it's a measure of panic over not having working heat in the sanctuary two Sundays in a row. Or potentially it has to do with the piecemeal nature of my family's decorating this year, where we did part, and then another part, and then another part. Whatever the particular reason for the memory filtering in, it is thought that it is provoking which matters.

So the setting of the moment was worship. Worship was an everyday occurrence which was usually led by students and faculty. The season of the year was advent, when church responsibilities at internships, exam prep and the writing of papers all converge with the responsibilities of friends and family. To say the least we were busy and life tended towards the chaotic. Worship occurred in one of two spaces one was Mulder Chapel which was a more traditional worship space, and the other was Semilink Hall which was more informal and cozy. As we entered worship that day in Mulder chapel there were decorations strewn throughout. They weren't set up in an organized way, but there was a strand of lights here, a decoration of Santa there, a wreath placed neatly by the pulpit.

Now leading in worship that day wasn't a single student as was required throughout the year, but an entire class. As worship proceeded the decorations we bit by bit removed. Now one

thing about worship was that it was a chance to do something different that you might not be able to do in a normal service, sort of a lab type of atmosphere. Where else might worship innovation be sparked?

The message of the service and the reason for the removal of the sporadically placed decorations as well as their placement, was that while all these things were nice, and fun, they weren't the reason for our celebration. The encouragement and lesson from both professor and classmates was that often the chaos of the moment the multiple commitments and even over commitments we forget why it is we are celebrating in the first place.

That's the challenge of Advent and yes, even Christmas. We have created an unparalleled level of chaos and commitment to the point where the joy, hope, peace and love of the season are fleeting. Now I'm not advocating holding up in our homes like hermits, or taking down our decorations. But we need to remember in the midst of everything going on and all the time we have to spend and commitments we have, the reason behind it all. Advent is a time of preparation, a time of getting ready, not just our homes but ourselves. Getting ready isn't something we can flip a switch on, we can't say one moment that we are ready and suddenly we are. It takes us making efforts and doing things to get that way. I'd like to encourage all of us to give ourselves a little bit of grace this Advent and Christmas season. If you thrive in the chaos good on ya, but if not remember to take care of yourself. But most of all take the time to get yourself ready for the joy of Christmas. Amen



UPCOMING Events

December 4,11,18,25	Worship
December 4	Communion
December 6,13,20,27	Bible Study
December 11	Cookie Walk
December 12	Consistory Meeting
December 14	Social Solos
December 14	Blue Christmas Service
December 18	Sunday School Pageant
December 21	Women's Bible Study
December 24	Christmas Eve Service
December 25	Christmas Day

Social Solos meets on Wednesday,
December 14, 2022 at noon.

Contact Rev. Deb Zuill for an invite at
attitudema50@aol.com or 845-247-9157

Ushers for December

December 4	Chris Decker & Bob Kindt
December 11	Lisa Longto & Dino Sumerano
December 18	Linda Moon & Jeanne Quenzer
December 24	Glenn Decker & Bill Baldinger
December 25	Lisa Longto & Dino Sumerano



Christmas Eve. Worship
December 24th at 7pm & 9pm
Christmas Day Worship
December 25th at 10am

***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)

Bev Roosa is at the Terraces at Brookmeade

Shirley Ruth is in Golden Hill

Lori Pinkham is Wingate at Ulster

David Giles

Barbara Sartorius, New Hampshire

Terry Conlin

Jim Gregory



Deacon For December
is
Dino Sumerano

Winter is upon us.

The air is crisp, the leaves have fallen and the snow is threatening. Yet still the gardens are inviting. The love of our Lord is with us as we prepare to celebrate his birth. The trees and wreath are proud symbols of the holiday and the gift of Jesus within our hearts. He is born unto us and is held close in our hearts until we meet Him in paradise. Our eternal family is quietly growing.
We say goodbye yet know
we will be together again.

Please come, visit those whom
have passed before us and honor
them by feeling their peace.

*May the blessings of
Christmas fill your heart.*

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)

SANDIE GREGORY (845-338-7626)

LEE GABLE

REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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

A Note from Jane Barsumian:



I want to express my appreciation for being organist/choir director at the Hurley Reformed Church for thirteen years, beginning November 5th, 2009.

It has been a very rewarding experience in so many ways. Coming from eleven years of being organist for St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, I have served as a church organist for a total of twenty four years!

I now want to have time to travel to see my three children and seven grandchildren and a surviving younger brother and his family in Indiana, as well as visiting other countries.

So I am regretfully resigning my position at the end of this year. Christmas Sunday will be my final service. I will miss seeing many of you each week. God bless and keep each one of you.

Gretchen & Davis Giles new address and email are:

8W Main St Apt 277

Groton, Ma 01450

gsdgiles@gmail.com

Mission of the Month

In December we will be collecting
hats, gloves, scarves, socks and leggings
for the Kingston High School lending closet.

Thank you for your generous
donations!



Coty Burgess	2
Toni Hedges	2
Pat Baker	4
Thomas Horvers	5
Bailey Kane	5
Hal Hauck	6
Caitlin Decker	7
Joyce Ann Leverenz	7
Brent Jordan	11
William Rockwell	11
Renee Nekos	11
Rich Little	11
Jezmain Hubbard	12
Jennifer Mayfield	14
Linda Moon	16
Delaney Cox	17
Reid Dumas	20
Brian Rafferty	22
Kathleen Pfeiffer	23
Bill Baldinger	28
Lia Sumerano	28
Megan Christiana	28
Frieda Constant	29
Dawn O'Brien	29
Judy Horvers	30
Jada Nekos	30
Alyson Rafferty	31
Daniel Waligurski	31

Nancy & Rick Salzmann	15
Steve & Kristen Helm	21



A Message from Women's Ministries

Cards are sent out each month to those unable to attend Church. We welcome you to contact us if there is someone that you feel could use a kind message through a card from The Women's Ministries of The Hurley Reformed Church. Please contact Jane Merrill, Hospitality Secretary, at 914-388-1872 or e-mail her information at janevmerrill@aol.com to send a message through a card.



Advent Bible Study

Birth Narratives in the Gospels

- Why are they there?
- What are they trying to tell us?

Run by Ruth Kent on Wednesdays
during Advent

7pm in the Dutch Room.

Available in person and via zoom.

Contact Rev. Bill to sign up.

Hurley Reformed Church — Main Street, Hurley, NY



Cookie Walk!

12-11-22 after
worship

\$8.00 per lb.



Bakers Needed!

Contact Jeanne Quenzer 845-417-5676





It's That Time Again!!!



Once again it's time to place your orders for poinsettia plants to adorn the sanctuary for the Holiday season.

Plants are one size, one color, and one price: Red at \$8.00 each.

POINSETTIAS

Number of plants:_____ @ \$8.00 each: Total due_____

Name:_____

Phone:_____

In Memory of:_____

In Honor of:_____

We are requesting that you take your plant home or deliver it to someone special.

Make Checks Payable to: Hurley Reformed Church

Give to Kathy Jansen after worship or mail to:

223 Hidden Valley Road, Kingston, NY 12401

Payment must be received by December 11, 2022



PO Box 328
11 Main Street
Hurley NY 12443

Phone: 845-331-4121
Fax: 845-331-4153
E-mail: admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org

Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich
Pastor

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DECEMBER 2022
HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH
Hurley New York 12443
Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich
Pastor

