

THE SPIRE

December 2023



One of Liam's favorite Christmas songs is titled "the Twelve Pains of Christmas." It comes from a Bob Rivers album from back in the 80's named Twisted Christmas. It's a comedic but also too close to home relating of twelve seemingly unbearable tasks which we place on ourselves during the holidays. From rigging up to the lights, to the tantrums of children, the navigating of family relations, the repercussions of parties, even to the trouble of finding a tree, the tasks both poke fun and speak a bit of uncomfortable truth to us as we make ready for Christmas.

As Advent leads us into Christmas as well as the season of Christmas from a liturgical perspective we are called on to make ready and prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. In many ways it is sort of like a fire drill preparing us for what to do in case of a fire. However as with so many opportunities to prepare and make ready we don't practice or make ready. Or we don't make as much use of the time that is given, sort of like when you tell one of the kids to clean their room and they sit down with a book instead.

Instead of focusing in, or seeking to become closer to God, we find ourselves busy with perhaps not the 12 pains but at least the 12 different forms of busyness of Christmas. The chaos we create out of tradition or commitments, usually means that our plates are already overflowing by the time we get to the second or third Sunday of Advent let alone by Christmas. There is little or no space for peace on earth and goodwill to all. The call of John the Baptist to prepare and make ready goes in one ear and out the other as we stand in line or hunt for a parking spot.

The act of preparing for Christmas or at least the choices we make in preparing almost need a sort of categorization between what is a choice and what is important. I say that knowing that I have just read

a book speaking about how tradition and the way we have always done things can be a third rail or a bridge too far in ministry. But think about this as you want to push back on that categorization, traditions do have a shelf life in how we celebrate. At some point the gathering place where we would get together to celebrate a holiday with our family is sold because Mom and Dad have passed on or they've moved to a smaller home with less upkeep. Grandma no longer is the only one who makes dinner because she no longer is with you or her hips or knees can't take the standing.

As Advent moves forward and Christmas gets closer take stock of what is or are the most important pieces of celebrating Christ's birth. Make those things a priority, nurture the things of the season like good will, peace and compassion. And if for your own piece/peace of mind you need to make a hard choice about letting something go, or keeping something going, remember the grace of the Lord who's birth we are celebrating and have a sliver of that for yourself.

Christmas isn't about creating chaos and making pain and oppression. It is about how God saw us weighed down and oppressed by sin and death. It is about how God had compassion on us. And to set us free God sent his son, to us. God did so by means of some of the lowliest circumstances and by no simple way. But he did so because of God's deep love for us. May we all find peace, comfort and grace as we make ready for Christmas. May we prepare in a way that doesn't take what little vestiges of energy we have from us, but instead gives us life and relief beyond all measure. Amen.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 3,10,17,24,31	Worship
Dec. 3	Communion
Dec. 7	Hurley Seniors meeting
Dec. 5,12,19,26	Bible Study
Dec. 10	Cookie Walk
Dec. 11	Consistory Meeting
Dec. 13	Social Solos
Dec. 24	7pm & 9pm Worship
Dec. 25	Christmas Day



For December

Dec. 3	Dino Sumerano and Lisa Longto
Dec. 10	Lee Gable and Alan Dumas
Dec. 17	Linda Moon and Bill Baldinger
Dec. 24	Linda Moon and Aileen Helsley
Dec. 24 @ 7pm	Dino Sumerano and Lisa Longto
Dec. 24 @ 9m	Dennis Croswell and Bill Baldinger
Dec. 31	Lee Gable and Alan Dumas



Deacon For December

is

Dino Sumerano

*The members of
the Columbarium
Committee would
like to wish everyone
a very
Merry Christmas
and a
New Year
filled with
God's love.*

STICKLEY GARDENS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER:**

LISA LONGTO (532-7570) CHAIRPERSON
JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER
ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)
SANDIE GREGORY (338-7626)

LEE GABLE
REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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



Coty Burgess	2
Toni Hedges	2
Gillian Barnard	3
Pat Baker	4
Thomas Horvers	5
Bailey Kane	5
Dakota Stevens	5
Thomas Stevens	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





**Christmas Eve Worship will
be at
10am, 7pm and 9pm**

**Join us for our Children's
program on December 17th
after worship!**



**Cookie Walk
December 10th
After Worship in the Hall
\$8 a box**



**The mission for December
We will be collecting adult and
children hats, gloves, mittens,
scarves and boots**

**Please take note that we have a new
Zoom link!!**



**[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/87536349568?
pwd=RzBXak5mT2ZqMS9kRlFGMjhm
WUdGUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87536349568?pwd=RzBXak5mT2ZqMS9kRlFGMjhmWUdGUT09)**

Meeting ID : 875 3634 9568

Passcode: 441278



***Reach out to those who need your sup-
port***

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

Terry Conlin

Shirley Burns

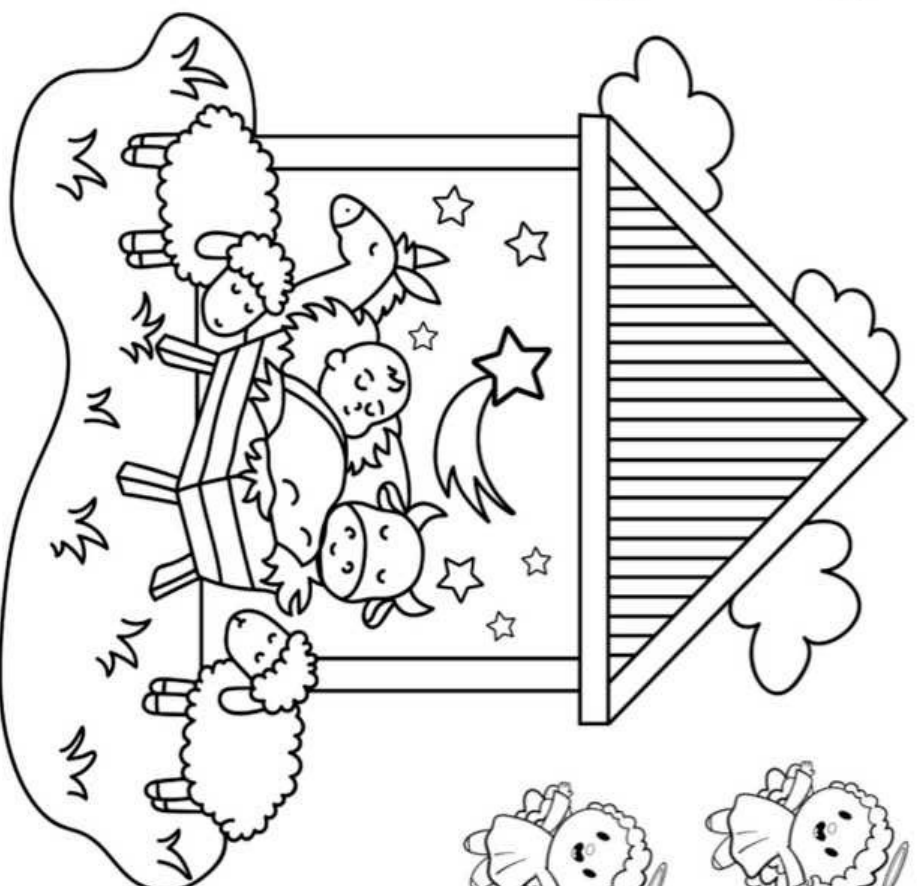
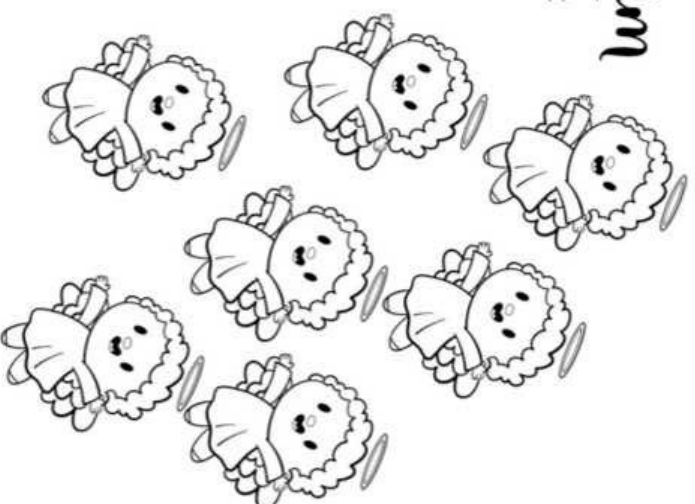
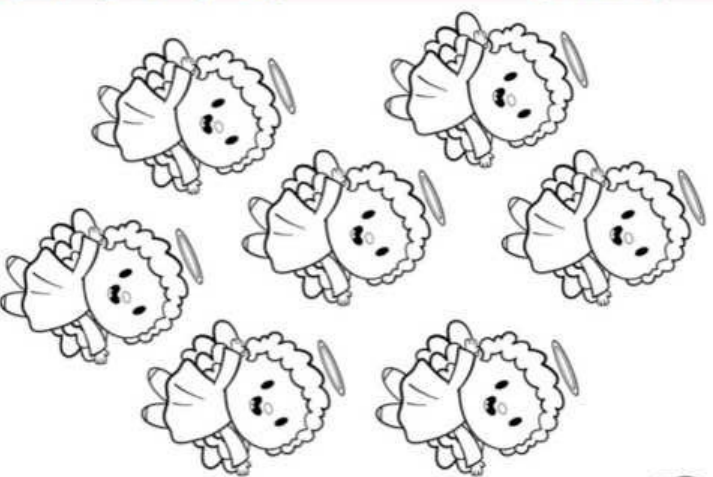
**Please join us for Worship
either in person or
through zoom every Sunday at
10am with Refreshments served
after in the Hall.**

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

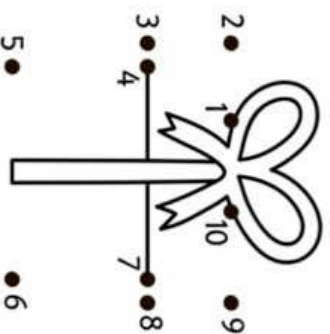


O Come Let Us Adore Him

_____ is Christmas Coloring Placemat



Connect the dots



Fill in the blanks (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Thanks be to _____ for His indescribable gift

There are _____ angels on this page



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
<div>3</div> <div>10am - Worship by Zoom and</div>	<div>4</div> <div>1:15pm - Tai Chi 7pm - 1st Capitol Corvettes 7:30pm - AI-Anon @ Room 9</div>	<div>5</div> <div>9am - Bible Study @ Dutch 4:15pm - Karate Class @ hall 4:30pm - PC 101 @ Dutch</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <div>1:30pm - Hurley Senior 4:15pm - Karate Class</div>	<div>8</div> <div>12pm - Knitters @ Dutch 1pm - UCDS Christmas</div>	<div>9</div> <div>9am - Karate Class @ Hall 10am - Genealogy @ Room 12pm - Woodworkers @ Hall</div>
<div>10</div> <div>10am - Worship by Zoom and 11:15am - Cookie Walk @ 4pm - Jenna Weiss</div>	<div>11</div> <div>11am - VFW @ Dutch Room 1:15pm - Tai Chi 7pm - Consistory @ Dutch 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - AI-Anon @ Room 9</div>	<div>12</div> <div>9am - Bible Study @ Dutch 4:15pm - Karate Class @ hall</div>	<div>13</div> <div>12pm - social solos by Zoom 5:30pm - Local 1582</div>	<div>14</div> <div>4:15pm - Karate Class</div>	<div>15</div> <div>12pm - Knitters @ Dutch</div>	<div>16</div> <div>9am - Karate Class @ Hall 1pm - Yensy Garcia 1st</div>
<div>17</div> <div>10am - Worship by Zoom and</div>	<div>18</div> <div>10am - Genealogy @ Rooms 1:15pm - Tai Chi 7:30pm - AI-Anon @ Room 9</div>	<div>19</div> <div>9am - Bible Study @ Dutch 4:15pm - Karate Class @ hall 6pm - Nursery School Board</div>	<div>20</div> <div>9am - HNS Christmas Party 10am - HNS jam delivery @ 10am - women's bible study</div>	<div>21</div> <div>4:15pm - Karate Class</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9am - HNS snow date party 12pm - Knitters @ Dutch</div>	<div>23</div> <div>9am - Karate Class @ Hall</div>
<div>24</div> <div>Christmas Eve 10am - Worship by Zoom and 7pm - Worship 7pm&8pm</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Christmas Day 10:30am - Genealogy @ 1:15pm - Tai Chi 7:30pm - AI-Anon @ Room 9</div>	<div>26</div> <div>9am - Bible Study @ Dutch 4:15pm - Karate Class @ hall</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>4:15pm - Karate Class</div>	<div>29</div> <div>12pm - Knitters @ Dutch</div>	<div>30</div> <div>9am - Karate Class @ Hall 12pm - HV/CA Dinner</div>
<div>31</div> <div>New Year's Eve 10am - Worship by Zoom and</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>

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.*

THE SPIRE
DECEMBER 2023
HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH
Hurley New York 12443
Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich
Pastor

