

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 11

DECEMBER 2019



PATIENCE

In our home when Liam gets ready for bed we have a discussion. No we don't discuss whether the decline of the Roman Empire was due to weak or ineffective emperors or if it was due to the steady outsourcing of their military. And no although we have had the discussion it isn't about which is cuter in the Star Wars universe, baby Yoda or the Ewoks. We discuss every night what is known as the plan. The plan although it is subject to change, is the chain of events for the following day. It allows us to prepare and make ready for the next day.

Now Christmas is coming. Already we are in that wonderful time of waiting known as Advent. Advent is a time of planning and preparation; it is a time of making plans and preparing our lives. Some of us have advent calendars which count down the days, and give you a little treat with the passing of each day. Some might light an Advent wreath at home marking the Sundays until the day. When I was much younger there was even an additional pre Thanksgiving ritual. The day, usually the night, before Thanksgiving we would all take pad and pen or crayon and write out our Christmas lists. That tradition has now been replaced by a pre Thanksgiving meal scramble to find a newspaper filled with sale fliers which you can place before children to distract them while you make dinner.

One of the traditions we have in our house is that we make a chain. We take colored paper and make a paper chain with the exact number of days left until Christmas. Every morning the kids insist that we tear the current day's ring off. As the chain gets smaller and smaller the excitement builds and builds.

Now there are two reasons which I would like you to consider for these countdowns. (That's not to say that they are the only reasons but are the two we will be looking at.) The first is that such a countdown

helps to measure and contain the excitement. It helps children and sometimes adults manage to wait and be as patient as possible. It helps the tension to be steadily released as the days tick by. It, by no means, is an indicator of how well we are holding that tension or whether or not it helps us to be patient, but it is a tool that can be used. It forces us to slow down, and almost savor the days that are, instead of always thinking ahead to the day that will be.

Another thing that these do is that it reminds us that we only have so many days left until the day. One of the things which I do when driving is count the miles and divide by the mph and try and estimate how much longer to the next city or the next waypoint. When driving it keeps my mind active and alert while also determining how much longer in miles and then minutes. A calendar helps us to know that we have only 20 days or 10 days left. It allows us to plan out and map so that when the day arrives we are not caught by surprise. After all it is seldom a good idea to make plans or get a gift or do anything for Christmas at the very last second.

Even though we have a calendar and a chain I still end up fielding the question of how many more days are left until Christmas. Even though we know that we have x number of days left and tomorrow will be x-1, we will still not be as prepared for Christmas as perhaps we should or could be. But Advent and Christmas is only practice. They are only practice rounds designed to prepare us for the greater day when Christ returns. Take things patiently, take the time to practice and prepare, because Christmas and Christ are coming.

Rev. Bill



DECEMBER EVENTS

December 1 Communion

December 3, 10, 17 Tuesday Bible Study

December 4, 18 Women’s Bible Study

December 9 Consistory

December 11 Social Solos

December 14 Breakfast with Santa

December 22 Christmas Pageant

December 24 Christmas Eve Services

December 25 Christmas

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

December 1
Ushers: Sandy Emrich & David Kent

December 8
Ushers: Jim Craven & Roberta Falatyn

December 15
Ushers: Marilyn Lowe & Russ Glass

December 22
Ushers: Jim Pirro & Doug Constant

December 24
7:00 pm Linda Clarke-Dido & Chris Decker
9:00 pm Sandra Gregory & Kathy Jansen

December 29
Ushers: Sandy Emrich & David Kent

FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER

December 1 Christa and Terry Conlin
Jim and Sandie Gregory

December 8 Aileen and Teagan Helsley

December 15 Jansens

December 22 Poinsettias

December 24 Poinsettias

December 29 Poinsettias

REFRESHMENTS

December 1 Sandie Gregory Kathy Jansen

December 8 Cookie Walk

December 15 Su Wonderley
Nike Provenzano

December 22 Helen Van Kirk

December 29 Lisa & Gary Longto

READERS FOR ADVENT

December 8 Steve and Brandt Kurtz

December 15 Chris, Keri, Mikayla Decker

December 22 Jim Veith

December 24
7:00 pm The Dockeries
9:00 pm The Croswells



O Come, Let Us Adore Him

You and Your family are invited to join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in our Christmas Eve Services:

7:00pm - A service of Carols and Candles to welcome the Light that comes in the Christ Child

9:00pm - We celebrate His birth with a service of Carols, Candles, and Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*Experience the Wonder in the beauty of the season
as we join together in the sanctuary to welcome Him
as the Babe of Bethlehem who comes to give us joy and
peace, this night and all year long.*



December

BIRTHDAYS

Coty Burgess	2
Toni Hedges	2
Pat Baker	4
Micaela Ryan	5
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
Jennifer Mayfield	14

Lauren Rubino	16
Linda Moon	16
Delaney Cox	17
Reid Dumas	20
Mary Lou Vogt	20
Brian Rafferty	22
Kathleen Pfeiffer	23
Jim Prentice	27
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

ANNIVERSARIES

<i>December</i>	
Nancy & Rick Salzmman	15
Barbara & Jim Mayfield	19
Steve & Kristen Helm	21
<i>January</i>	
Rev Charles & Esther Stickley	2
George & Renee Nekos	4



There's something in the air,
 a breeze that smells of snowflakes,
 all cool, crisp and fair.
 Snowflakes will fall silently on
 the garden, and as you sit in this
 special place, perhaps having
 to brush some snow off the benches,
 take the time to reflect, and know
 that God's love comes again
 and again. He will give us strength
 as well as comfort.

May the Christmas season bring
 you closer to family both past
 and present and may you feel
 the love of Jesus within.

STICKLEY GARDENS

FOR MORE INFORMATION - CONTACT ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER:

LISA LONGTO (331-1438) CHAIRPERSON

JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER

ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)

SANDIE GREGORY (338-7626)

REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

A SACRED PLACE OF BEAUTY AND CONTEMPLATION.

(LOCATED ON THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE CHURCH)

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 14, 2019
at the Hurley Reformed Church
 11 Main Street, Hurley, NY
8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

- Children 2 and under . . . *free*
- Children 3-12 \$ 5
- Adults (12 and up) \$10

Have your picture taken with Santa
 and receive a small gift!
 Christmas Crafts at 9:00 AM

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT PUERTO RICO RELIEF EFFORTS

Reservations are needed:
 Call 331-4121



**REACH OUT TO THOSE
 WHO NEED YOUR SUPPORT
 IN THEIR DAY TO DAY
 NEEDS:**

Keep them in your prayers.

Alice and Frank Presti are home; Bev Roosa is at the Terraces at Brookmeade; Dolores McGoldrick is at Ferncliff; MaryLou Vogt is in Hudson Valley Senior Residence; Shirley Ruth is in Mountain Valley Manor; Bob Williams, Friedel Borst, Audrey Hornbeck and Fred Horvers at TenBroeck; Lori Pinkham in Wingate at Ulster, Tony Peralta; Anthony DiPietro (son of MaryAnn DiPietro), Marie Dressel; Dick Baker.

Social Sols

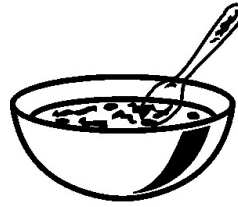
Next Lunch date:

December 11, 2019

12 Noon.

Place: Deising's

Our Third Anniversary
Celebration

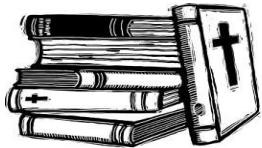


SOUP'S ON.

The Soup Elves are preparing
soup for Sunday December 22.

Just in time for Christmas

\$8.00 a quart



WOMEN'S Bible Study

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

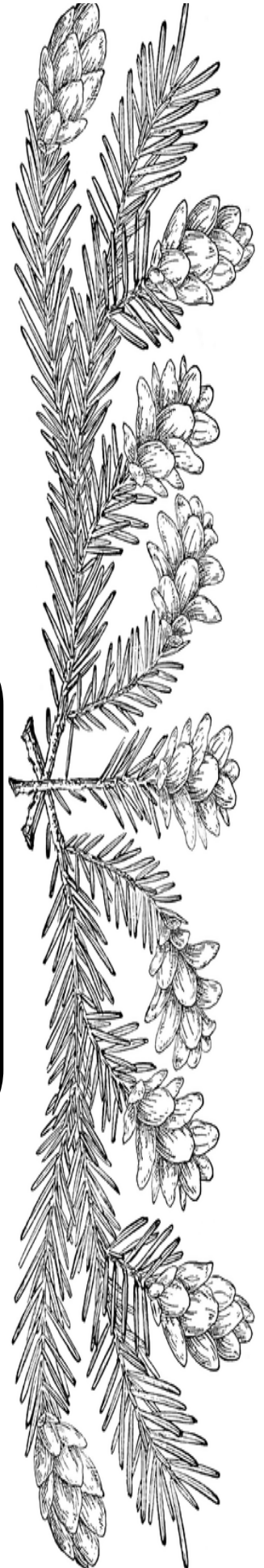
December 4 and December 18
from 9-11 am. We are a fun loving
group; refreshments are served
with laughter and love.



Cookie Walk

December 8

After Worship



A Winter Poem (with apologies to the late great Dr. Seuss)

Hello Dave, my name is Sam. Sam I Am. I Am Sam.

Won't you like this coming cold? Won't you like it, aren't you sold?

Won't you like it when it blows? Won't you like it when it snows?

Won't you like it when you glide? Won't you like it when you slide?

I will NOT like it when it blows, I will NOT like it when it snows.

I will NOT like it when I glide, I will NOT like it when I slide.

I will NOT the weather Sam, I will NOT like it Sam I Am!

Won't you like it when you sneeze? Won't you like it when you freeze?

Won't you like the polar blast? Won't you like it, as it will last?

I will not like it when I sneeze, I will not like it when I freeze.

I will not like the polar blast, I will not like it, while it may last.

I will not like the weather Sam, I will not like it Sam I Am!

Then perhaps, Dave, you should go, where the temps are not so low.

Then perhaps you'll leave this behind.

The perhaps, find peace of mind!

David Kent, Hurley, NY



DID YOU KNOW.....

... that green beans are left handed? When climbing up the pole, they always wind from left to right. But the hop vine always winds from right to left? Why?

... that every snowflake has six sides, six points and six segments? There has never been a snowflake found that has five or seven or any other number. And no two snowflakes are alike. Why?

... that a cob of corn has an even number of rows and an even number of grains upon its surface? An even number of rows and an even number of grains upon its surface? An even number of "silks" form the tassel at the end of the cob. Each stock of wheat, rye, oats and barley bears an even number of grains. Why?

... that there are millions upon millions of people in our world, each with two eyes, one nose, one mouth, two ears ... and yet no two are exactly alike? Why?

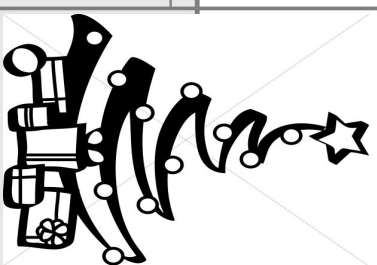
BECAUSE ...

... they are all the work of the hands of an infinite, all-wise Creator and prove the loving care of a personal God who wants to live in our hearts and lives. When we invite God, in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, to enter our personalities, He brings order and harmony and gives peace of mind.

Unknown author.
(Thank you Sonnie Howe)

Hurley Reformed Church, Hurley Reformed Church

Dec 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10am - Worship @ 1</p> <p>11am - Prayer Chain</p>	<p>11am - Basketball Class 2</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @</p> <p>4:30pm - Dog</p> <p>7pm - 1st Capitol</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>9am - Bible Study @ 3</p> <p>11am - balance</p> <p>4:15pm - dog</p> <p>4:30pm - PC 101 @</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9am - women's bible 4</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scouts @</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton 5</p> <p>1:30pm - Hurley</p> <p>4:45pm - Dog</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Cookie Walk Set Up</p>
<p>10am - Worship @ 8</p> <p>11am - Cookie Walk</p> <p>11am - Women's</p>	<p>11am - VFW @ 9</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @</p> <p>4:30pm - Dog</p> <p>7pm - Consistory @</p> <p>7pm - Hudson Valley</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>9am - Bible Study @ 10</p> <p>11am - balance</p> <p>4:15pm - dog</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9:30am - quilting @ 11</p> <p>12pm - social solos</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scouts @</p> <p>6:30pm - Local 1582</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton 12</p> <p>4:45pm - Dog</p>	<p>13</p> <p>breakfast with santa</p> <p>7pm - Motorcycle</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Breakfast with</p> <p>10am - Genealogy @</p>
<p>10am - Worship @ 15</p>	<p>10am - Genealogy @ 16</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @</p> <p>4:30pm - Dog</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>9am - Bible Study @ 17</p> <p>11am - balance</p> <p>4:15pm - dog</p> <p>6pm - Nursery</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>nursery school 18</p> <p>9am - women's bible</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scouts @</p> <p>7pm - Hurley Lions</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton 19</p> <p>4:45pm - Dog</p> <p>7pm - NE</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5pm - BAPS</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>10am - Worship @ 22</p>	<p>10:30am - Genealog 23</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @</p> <p>4:30pm - Dog</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>9am - Bible Study @ 24</p> <p>11am - balance</p> <p>7pm - Christmas Eve</p> <p>9pm - Christmas Eve</p>	<p>Merry Christmas 25</p>	<p>4:45pm - Dog 26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>10am - Worship @ 29</p>	<p>3pm - Quilting @ 30</p> <p>4:30pm - Dog</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>9am - Bible Study @ 31</p> <p>11am - balance</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">December 2019</p> 			

PO Box 328
11 Main Street
Hurley NY 12443

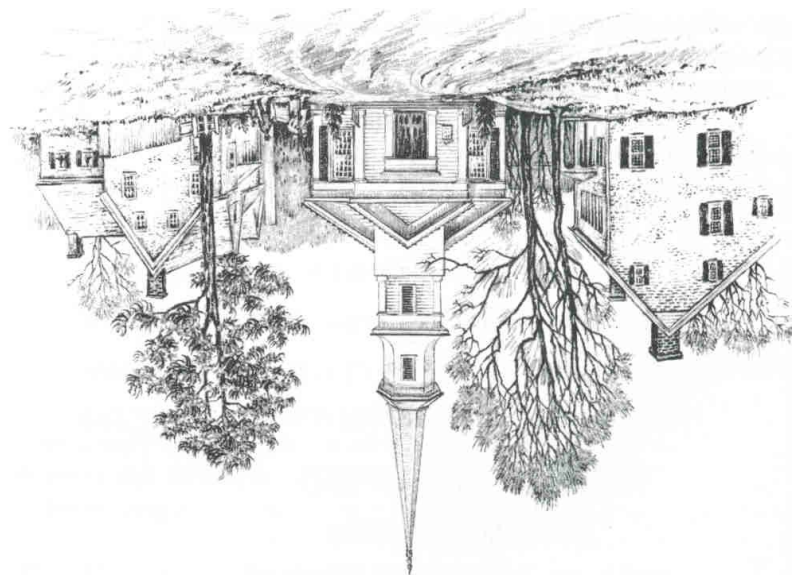
Phone: 845-331-4121
Fax: 845-331-4153
E-mail: admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org

Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich
Pastor

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

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