

THE SPIRE



December 2021

The other night I was sitting and watching the movie *Miracle*. It tells the story of the 1980 US Olympic team that took on the vaunted Soviet hockey machine. It's a story that many of us lived through. I say us because I lived through it by just a whisker, but was likely napping since napping, eating and screaming is what almost two month olds do. The movie and to an extent the story gets its name from the Al Michaels end of game call, "do you believe in miracles."

It's a made for film and Disney moment. A group of underdogs who no one ever gave a chance succeeds. It is one of many sports and life miracles. We love these stories. The improbability, the happenstance all seem to come together to furnish us with both a good story but also one which moves us. Maybe it is that movement to emotion, to joy is why we love these stories so much. Where the Cinderella team manages to overcome and endure and win.

But we also like other sorts of miracles. This is the season where we see miracles all over TV and in song. We watch *Miracle on 34th St.* There is the miracle of Ebenezer Scrooge changing his heart after experiencing the three ghosts of Christmas. The Grinch even gives us a miracle as he hears the song of Christmas from Whoville and his heart grows and he saves their presents and everything else. Liam's favorite movie *Home alone* contains several miracles as somehow a child is reunited with his parents and other relatives on Christmas, and survives the invasion of two inept thieves.

We even love more earthly miracles, like owners who have been separated from their pets being reunited. Or children whose parents have been deployed overseas being surprised by that parent's

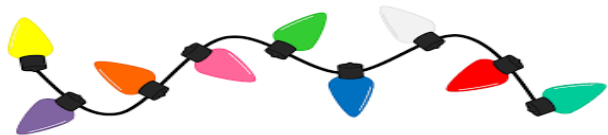
surprise and miraculous return. Who doesn't love a good miracle moment and all the warm and fuzzy feelings that they bring.

But all these miracles we seek pale in comparison to the miracles which Christ wrought. From healing the blind and lame, cleansing the leper, restoring humanity to society, to raising the dead. Christ came and the miraculous happened. Even as his ministry ended and he rose himself from the dead and then visited his disciples and ascended to heaven. Christ and miracles go hand in hand.

But it all began with a miracle. It began with a young woman willingly engaging in God's plan. In a man assisting God and her with that plan. It began not in a palace where you might expect to meet the son of God but in a manger. It wasn't with trumpets and fanfare, but with the braying of donkeys, the moos of cows and the bleating of sheep that the King was greeted.

As we begin our advent journey which leads us to Christmas, as we light the four candles that lead the way to the celebration of Christmas, we should turn our attention less on chasing miracles and instead celebrating the ones we have. Instead of waiting for the next great Cinderella story, we should celebrate the greatest story. Instead of a miser changing his heart after being visited by ghosts, we can listen to and remember the baby in the manger who shook the world to its foundation. The miracle of Christmas isn't just coming, it's here with us. Amen.





EVENTS

December 5,12,19,26	Worship
December 5	Communion
December 7,14,21,28	Bible Study
December 8	Social Solos
December 13	Consistory Meeting
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship
December 25	Christmas

USHERS FOR OCTOBER

December 5
Ushers: Chris Decker and Bob Kindt

December 12
Ushers: Sandy Emrich and Lisa Longto

December 19
Ushers: Glenn Decker and Tom Harkin

December 24 -7pm
Ushers: David Kent and Dennis Croswell

December 24-9pm
Ushers: Jim Pirro and Linda Moon

December 26
Ushers: Sandy Emrich and Lisa Longto



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

Keep them in your prayers.

Judy Bell (Terry Gaffken's mom) needs prayers

Viola Opdahl is home

Bev Roosa is at the Terraces at Brookmeade

Shirley Ruth is in Golden Hill

Fred Hovers is at Ten Broeck

Lori Pinkham is Wingate at Ulster

Anthony DiPietro (son of MaryAnn DiPietro)

Marie Dressel

Steve Kurtz who is recovering at Albany Med. after and ATV accident.



MISSIONS REPORT

The mission for December is Samaritan's Purse., Thank you for your generous donations!

DEACON OF THE MONTH
is
David Kent



SOCIAL SOLOS meets on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at noon.

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

HRC Giving Tree 2021

We will be supporting the **Myer Elementary School** again this year. Karen Waligurski (*the school nurse*), has requested that we provide **gift cards**.

(Karen will make sure that the cards get to the families in need.)

Please purchase your cards from where you are comfortable shopping.

Suggested Stores:

ShopRite	CVS
Hannaford	Walgreens
ALDI	Walmart
Target	Stewarts

Suggested Amount:

\$10.00
\$15.00
\$20.00
\$25.00

Please put your card(s) in an **envelope marked Giving Tree** and drop them in the offering basket or send them to the church with your offering. Please make sure the \$ amount on the card is indicated. **Donations are due 12/12/21.**

Hygiene Kits 2021

There is a need for hygiene kits too so if you would like to shop and put together a kit or two that would be wonderful!

MEYER SCHOOL HYGIENE KITS:

Shampoo, Body Wash, Tooth Brush, Tooth Paste, Deodorant, Soap, Hair Brush, Nail Kit, Wash Cloth & Toiletry Caddy

All items are from Dollar Tree for \$10.

Donations are due 12/12/21.

Your generosity will help many families right here in Hurley, NY
Any questions contact Linda Moon or Marilyn Lowe

Hurley Reformed Church, PO Box 328, Hurley, NY 12443

♥ We thank you for caring and helping others.....the true meaning of Christmas ♥

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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.

eSpire is now available! 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 TheSpire@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.)
Thank you!!

Afraid of falling?
Want to get Stronger, stand
straighter
and just have fun?



JOIN OUR SIT TO STAND CLASS!

Starting December 6 @ 1pm At
the Hurley Reformed Church
\$15/ class
Any questions please
call Ruth Beyl 845-688- 2516



The former quilting group of the Hurley Reformed Church have assembled several albums of photos from the old days when they were very active each year. These have been placed in the glass case in Schadewald Hall for you to see. Please take the time to review these and enjoy the memories.

-Frieda



Refreshments

It's great to have coffee & refreshments back after service and flowers on the alter. (Sign up sheet can be found in the hall for both)



Worship

Please join use either in person or by zoom every Sunday at 10am.
Communion will be held in the pews on Sunday, December 5th.
The average attendance on Sunday is 40, with 8 Sunday School kids.
Thanksgiving attendance was 25!!!



Many thanks to Joan and her organ music, as well as Kathy Jansen for posting the hymns.

Choir may resume some time in the future.

Wayne continues to be in the loft, providing his additional voice and more.



December Birthdays

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

December Anniversary

Nancy & Rick Salzman	15
Barbara & Jim Mayfield	19
Steve & Kristen Helm	21

*T*here's something in the air, a breeze
 that smells of snowflakes, all cool and crisp.
 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 & may you
 feel the love of Jesus within.*

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)**



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 \$7.50 each.

POINSETTIAS

Number of plants: _____ @ \$7.50 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 5, 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
10am - Worship by	4:30pm - Dog 7pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9am - Bible Study @ 4:30pm - Karate 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 6pm - Girls Scouts	9:30am - quilting @ 12pm - social solos	1:30pm - Hurley 4:30pm - Dog	12pm - Crochet-	10am - Karate Class
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10am - Worship by	4:30pm - Dog 7pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9am - Bible Study @ 4:30pm - Karate 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 6pm - Girls Scouts	9:30am - quilting @ 12pm - social solos	4:30pm - Dog	12pm - Crochet-	10am - Genealogy @ 10am - Karate Class
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am - Worship by	11am - VFW @ 4:30pm - Dog 7pm - Consistory @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9am - Bible Study @ 4:30pm - Karate 6pm - Girls Scouts	10am - women's 7pm - Hurley Lions	4:30pm - Dog	12pm - Crochet-	10am - Karate Class
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am - Christmas 10am - Worship by	10am - Genealogy @ 4:30pm - Dog 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9am - Bible Study @ 4:30pm - Karate 6pm - Girls Scouts		4:30pm - Dog	7pm - Christmas Eve 9pm - Christmas Eve	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
10am - Worship by	10:30am - 4:30pm - Dog 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	9am - Bible Study @ 4:30pm - Karate 6pm - Girls Scouts		4:30pm - Dog	12pm - Crochet-	

PO Box 328
11 Main Street
Hurley NY 12443

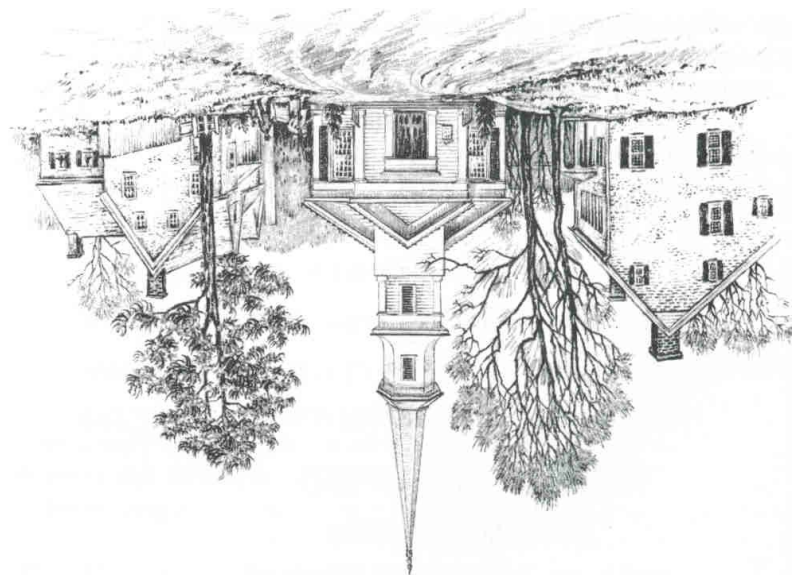
Phone: 845-331-4121
Fax: 845-331-4153
E-mail: admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org

Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich
Pastor

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

DECEMBER 2021

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