

# THE SPIRE

December 2025



A blessed Advent to you all! Over the Thanksgiving holiday we journeyed south to Virginia for some rest and relaxation. One of the things that we enjoyed the most were the first few days we were there. It was 70 degrees. When we spoke with someone about what the norms were for temperature for this time of year we learned that this was not a fluke but an occasional normal, so we took the beauty and warmth and ran with it.

But we did notice something that caught our eyes while we were walking around in these warmer temps. While some of us were gallivanting around in our sweatshirts and shorts there were those who were walking around as if it was below freezing. When the kids noticed that some people were bundled up they did what kids often do and drew attention to it. I think it was Barb who tugged at my arm and said, "Dad, why are those people wearing their winter coats?" And as parents do you try to both explain but also seek to not have your kid shouting out and pointing fingers. Regarding the pointing I was successful in quashing it, the shouting I was less so.

In the answer I gave to Barb, I hit upon some of the realities that exist in our lives and our world. Those realities apply to life, politics, etc. We all have a perspective through which we view things. In VA it was the perspective of how everyone viewed a 70 degree and overcast day. Those of us from up north look at the temperature and think Yippee! While at the very same time those from the south, based on their choice of clothing thought brrrrr.

Often the differences which we have in perspective is a pretty innocuous thing. But sometimes it can cause friction, anger, even hate. The challenge for all of us is to understand that a difference in how we see things and approach things does not necessarily mean that we are right and others are wrong, or that we are wrong and others are right, just that we see a problem or something with a different lens. Such a lens

is developed and is different person to person.

The idea of seeing things differently has a huge proponent with faith. For instance God sees the world differently and humanity differently than we do. God sees both who we are as well as who we might be. When we embrace the idea that God sees us differently than as even we see things it can drive us or inspire us to live into that vision, living into the version of ourselves that God created us to live into. When we accept that the person in the pew next to us sees something different in scripture or in God that is different than we do, it isn't the end of the world or the time to start a heresy trial. It's an invitation to not only see things differently but grow our own understanding. Our friend might have had a life experience that a particular scripture speaks to, and by listening to them you might see that scripture with a little different nuance.

But there is a risk involved. Not the risk of having our minds changed. But the risk of being in community. When we listen to how someone else sees something, that we may have seen one way, we are existing in community. When we show the respect to one another by listening and hearing, we run the risk of connecting with someone, with seeing not what they see but why it is that they see it. When we open ourselves to the pain and beauty of relationship we not only embrace how God calls us to be the church but we also enhance our understanding with one another and scripture. May we grow our understanding as we live out being the body of Christ. May Peace, Hope, Love and Joy be yours this Advent.

Amen



It seems like a stark contrast to see the  
Christmas trees in the Columbarium  
next to the white crosses.

But it is such an important reminder  
that the child whose birth we celebrate,  
came to be crucified for our sins,  
to enable us to spend eternity with him,  
blameless of any wrong doing.  
Take a moment to rejoice with those  
who have gone before us and  
now see Jesus, face to face.

*Merry  
Christmas!*

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## STICKLEY GARDENS

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FOR MORE INFORMATION – CONTACT ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER:

LISA LONGTO (845-532-7570) CHAIRPERSON  
JIM PIRRO (845-383-0079) TREASURER  
ESTHER STICKLEY (845-331-2919)  
REV STICKLEY (845-331-2919) SECRETARY  
KATHY JANSEN (845-532-0908)  
JAMES SASS (845-849-4937)

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



DEACON FOR DECEMBER  
IS  
DINO SUMERANO



**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)

Lori Pinkham is Wingate at Ulster

Terry Conlin

Lois Morehouse



## December

Dec. 7    Dennis Croswell and Dino Sumerano  
Dec. 14    Chris Decker and Bill Baldinger  
Dec. 21    Marilyn More and Wally Cook  
Dec. 24 @ 7pm Aileen Helsley & Russ Voigtlaender  
Dec. 24 @ 9pm Dennis Croswell & Dino Sumerano  
Dec. 28    Chris Decker and Bill Baldinger



# Announcements and Upcoming Events



**Poinsetta** sale has started, please see the next page for our order

December 7	Communion
December 7, 14, 21, 28	Worship
December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Bible Study
December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	TaiChi @1pm
December 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 30	Tai Chi @2pm
December 5, 12, 19, 26	Sew and So & Knitters
December 8	Consistory Meeting
December 10	Social Solos
December 14	Cookie Walk
December 21	Sunday School Play
Tues, Thurs & Sat. in Dec.	Karate
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship 7pm&9pm



Coat Drive-We are collecting gently used or new coats for adults and children. Coats will be donated to Peoples Place to be given to those in need. They can be dropped off in the basket at the top of the stairs.



Look for our **Mitten Tree** in December!



Social Solos meets on Wednesday,  
December 10, 2025

At noon

Anyone wishing to join please contact  
Rev. Deb Zuill for an invite at  
[attitudema50@aol.com](mailto:attitudema50@aol.com) or 845-247-9157



Our annual **Cookie Walk** will be December 14th.

Bakers needed!



**Thank you** for everyone who supported the Samaritans Purse Shoebox program. With all your support we dropped off 62 boxes to the disruption center. Plus we had 5 boxes ( that we know of) via online purchases.



Come celebrate our 225th Anniversary this May and June. Details to follow.



Coty Burgess	2
Toni Hedges	2
Pat Baker	4
Thomas Horvers	5
Bailey Kane	5
Dakota Stevens	5
Thomas Stevens	5
Hal Hauck	6
Caitlin Decker	7
Brent Jordan	11
William Rockwell	11
Renee Nekos	11
Rich Little	11
Jezmain Hubbard	12
Jennifer Mayfield	14
Linda Moon	16
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



Our Mission for December is Angel Food East. Angel food East was founded in 1992 to provide hot Delivered meals, seven days a week to people living with HIV +AIDS. Now they prepare more than 300 meals, fresh fruit, and salad two days a week to those in need in Ulster County.

We will also do the Mitten Tree, collecting mittens, gloves and hats for children and adults. We also will collect new and gently used coats to be delivered to people's Place.



**Please join us for Worship every Sunday at 10am with Refreshments served after in the Hall.**

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

**If you are unable to attend Worship in person please join us through our Zoom link. It can be found on our webpage on the right side under our bulletin and on the left side under Worship Material.**

## Church Growth, and Getting To Know You...

As we embark on our mission of church growth and retention, we are looking at ways to get to know you better. We would like to create a database that would give us a better idea of who you are. For starters, If we want to reach out to you, what's your address? Can we reach you by phone? When is your birthday? Do you have children who have been baptized and confirmed?

We have created a very easy form to help us gather some information. We would be happy if you would please take a few minutes to fill this form out, and return it to the church. It will help us to work toward our goal of growing our congregation, and more importantly, to be able to reach out to you and get to know you better. Please know that this form is completely optional.

You can either drop this completed form at church anytime, or you may mail it to the church at: Hurley Reformed Church, PO Box 328, Hurley, NY 12443. We also will soon have a link to this form on our Church website so you can complete it online. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Rev. Appleyard-Pekich.

### Hurley Reformed Church

#### Family Profile

**Family Last Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Physical Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mailing address (if different from above)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone – Home** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cell** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**First Name (Spouse)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Birthday** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Baptized** Yes No  
**Confirmed** Yes No  
**Member of Hurley Reformed Church** Yes No

**First Name (Spouse)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Birthday** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Baptized** Yes No  
**Confirmed** Yes No  
**Member of Hurley Reformed Church?** Yes No

**Child** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Birthday** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Baptized** Yes No  
**Confirmed** Yes No  
**Hurley Reformed Church Member?** Yes No

**Child** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Birthday** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Baptized** Yes No  
**Confirmed** Yes No  
**Hurley Reformed Church Member?** Yes No

**Child** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Birthday** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Baptized** Yes No  
**Confirmed** Yes No  
**Hurley Reformed Church Member?** Yes No

**Child** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Birthday** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Baptized** Yes No  
**Confirmed** Yes No  
**Hurley Reformed Church Member?** Yes No

**Do you have offering envelopes:** Yes No  
If yes, what is your envelope number? \_\_\_\_\_

If No, would you like offering envelopes? Yes No

**May we print your family Birthdays and Anniversaries in our Spire?** Yes No

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_



***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.



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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 14, 2025***

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>  <div> <div>30</div> <div> 1pm - 3:30pm-Taichi @ Hall  6:30pm - 8pm Al-Anon @ Hall  7pm - 9pm 1st Capitol </div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>1</div> <div> 2pm - 3pm Bible Study @  2pm - 3pm Taichi  4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class </div> </div>	<div> <div>2</div> <div> 8:30am - 9:30am Meeting @  10am - 2:30pm Holiday </div> </div>	<div> <div>3</div> <div> 1:30pm - 3:30pm Hurley  2pm - 3pm Taichi  4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class </div> </div>	<div> <div>4</div> <div> 8am - 3pm Sew and So  9am - 9pm Holiday Event @  1pm - 4pm Knitters @ Dutch </div> </div>	<div> <div>5</div> <div> 9am - 10:30am Karate Class  11am - 4pm Event @ Hall </div> </div>	
<div> <div>7</div> <div> 10am - 11am Worship  11am - 12:30pm VFW @  1pm - 3:30pm-Taichi @ Hall  6:30pm - 8pm Al-Anon @ Hall  7pm - 9pm Consistory @ </div> </div>	<div> <div>8</div> <div> 2pm - 3pm Bible Study @  2pm - 3pm Taichi  4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class </div> </div>	<div> <div>9</div> <div> 8:30am - 9:30am Meeting @  12pm - 2pm social solos @  2pm - 5pm Local 1582  7pm - 9:30pm Radio Club @ </div> </div>	<div> <div>10</div> <div> 2pm - 3pm Taichi  4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class </div> </div>	<div> <div>11</div> <div> 8am - 3pm Sew and So  1pm - 4pm Knitters @ Dutch </div> </div>	<div> <div>12</div> <div> 9am - 10:30am Karate Class  10am - 2:30pm Genealogy @  2pm - 9pm Cookie Walk set </div> </div>	
<div> <div>14</div> <div> 10am - 11am Worship  11am - 1pm Cookie Walk </div> </div>	<div> <div>15</div> <div> 10am - 2:30pm Genealogy @  1pm - 3:30pm-Taichi @ Hall  6:30pm - 8pm Al-Anon @ Hall </div> </div>	<div> <div>16</div> <div> 2pm - 3pm Bible Study @  2pm - 3pm Taichi  4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class  6pm - 9pm Nursery School </div> </div>	<div> <div>17</div> <div> 8:30am - 9:30am Meeting @  9am - 3pm HNS-Christmas </div> </div>	<div> <div>18</div> <div> 2pm - 3pm Taichi  4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class </div> </div>	<div> <div>19</div> <div> 8am - 3pm Sew and So  9am - 3pm HNS-snow date  1pm - 4pm Knitters @ Dutch </div> </div>	<div> <div>20</div> <div> 9am - 10:30am Karate Class  2pm - 9pm Event? @ need </div> </div>
<div> <div>21</div> <div> 10am - 11am Worship  11am - Sunday School </div> </div>	<div> <div>22</div> <div> 10:30am - 2:30pm Genealogy  1pm - 3:30pm-Taichi @ Hall  6:30pm - 8pm Al-Anon @ Hall </div> </div>	<div> <div>23</div> <div> 2pm - 3pm Bible Study @  4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class  8:30am - 9:30am Meeting @  7pm - 8pm Worship  9pm - 10pm Worship </div> </div>	<div> <div>24</div> <div> <div>Christmas Day</div> <div> 4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class </div> </div> </div>	<div> <div>25</div> <div> 8am - 3pm Sew and So  1pm - 4pm Knitters @ Dutch </div> </div>	<div> <div>26</div> <div> 9am - 10:30am Karate Class </div> </div>	<div> <div>27</div> </div>
<div> <div>28</div> <div> 10am - 11am Worship </div> </div>	<div> <div>29</div> <div> 1pm - 3:30pm-Taichi @ Hall  6:30pm - 8pm Al-Anon @ Hall </div> </div>	<div> <div>30</div> <div> 2pm - 3pm Bible Study @  4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class </div> </div>	<div> <div>31</div> <div> 8:30am - 9:30am Meeting @ </div> </div>			<div> <div>3</div> </div>



PO Box 328  
11 Main Street  
Hurley NY 12443

Phone: 845-331-4121

E-mail: [admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org](mailto:admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org)

Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich  
Pastor

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

KINGSTON, NY

PERMIT #44301

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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DECEMBER 2025  
HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH  
Hurley New York 12443  
Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich  
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