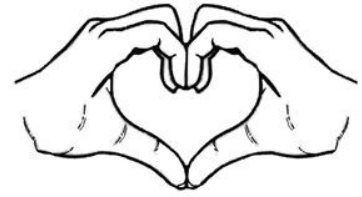


# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2020



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## FORGOTTEN?

Several years ago, I was headed to a classis executive meeting and the route I had to take was not on main roads. It was along farmland and through tiny little towns of around 500 or fewer people. Most of them didn't even have a gas station which made navigating the trip harder but not too difficult. The road was not straight, not because of hills and mountains but because of the farms and county lines. As I drove, I remembered a story I had been told about how in one area you could tell that one county didn't quite agree with another about where the road should meet and so there was a jog to the right or to the left to adjust.

As I scanned the road ahead I noticed what looked like the spire of a church. Now there was no town nearby. The closest was at least 5 miles back or 10 miles ahead. From what my eyes could see there weren't even a large number of farm houses or cross roads which might lead to those houses. To say the least I was a bit confused at the location of the church. I checked my mirrors and scanned the road ahead. For some reason this building was beginning to intrigue me and I wanted to be sure that I could slow down as I went past.

As it came closer I noticed certain features of it. The ground was mounded on either side, which seemed a bit of brilliance in tornado country. The steeple stood closest to the road and a gravel parking lot was on the one side. On the other was a cemetery. From my scan of the cemetery I saw headstones which were newer and some which were older. The cemetery even had its own separate entrance, which surprisingly, or perhaps not, showed more wear and use than the parking lot of the church itself. As I got closer, I noticed what were square yellow signs scattered over the property. There was one on each church door, and a few in the parking lot. The closer and closer I came the clearer the signs became: "No Trespassing" I glanced at the clock and realized that I

needed to speed up to get to the meeting but I couldn't shake the image of that church covered in signs.

I never was able to find out the full story of that church. Did its membership slowly age out and die off? Did they have a problem with trespassers? Did the church split as they sometimes do over theology or personal issues? Even the minister in the classis who lived and worked two towns over wasn't able to answer for me what their story was.

I think what bothered me the most as I drove past it on the return trip was not that a church seemingly had closed. The reality of church closures had become too real over the years of my ministry. Instead it was the ease with which this was forgotten. I once had to stop for gas in the town closest to it. While paying I asked the attendant what the story was behind that vacant church. He smiled and chuckled to himself, handed me the receipt and made a comment about how more people care about it being closed than cared about it living. That was the summation of their story.

Scripture tells the story of God and humanity walking together. We read in Genesis how God was with Noah and Abraham. We read in the Gospels of how God walked among us. History is the collection of everyone's story. Some of those stories are sad like the story of the No Trespassing church. The challenge is what will our story be. We should strive with confidence to serve God. To write our own story with God. Will we make mistakes, well yes. But the challenge is not to live a life where you never make a mistake, but to serve God as best you can.

Amen



**FEBRUARY EVENTS**

February 2	Super Bowl Chili
February 4, 11, 18, 25	Tuesday Bible Study
February 5, 19	Women's Bible Study
February 9	Scout Sunday
February 10	Consistory
February 12	Social Solos
February 16	Church Birthday Party
February 25	Brooks BBQ
February 26	Ash Wednesday
February 29	Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner

**GREETERS & USHERS FOR FEBRUARY**

February 2	Greeters: Bryan and Leigh Hill Ushers: Sandra Gregory and Kathy Jansen
February 9	Greeters: Boy Scout Troop 20 Ushers: Sandy Emrich and Lisa Longto
February 16	Greeters: Nancy and Richard Anderson Ushers: Glenn Decker and Roberta Falatyn
February 23	Greeters: Doris Alden and Linda Moon Ushers: David Kent and Russ Glass

**FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY**

February 2	Lee Gable
February 9	Kelly Maggiore
February 16	Longtos
February 23	Marilyn Lowe

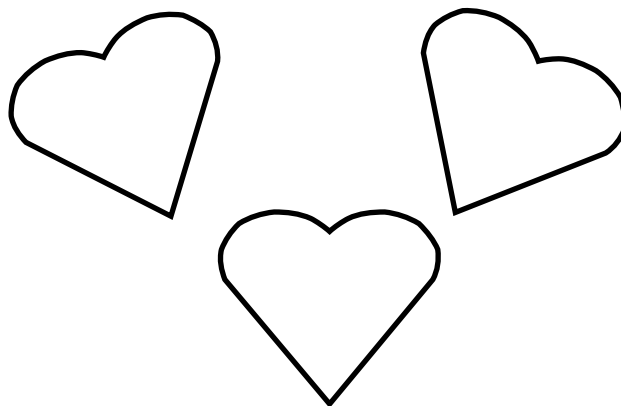
**REFRESHMENTS FOR FEBRUARY**

February 2	The Deckers
February 9	Kelly Maggiore
February 16	
February 23	The Dockeries

**ADDED TO THE LIST OF SAINTS:**

Richard Baker  
Richard Schmedake  
Annette (Poppy) Bostic

"Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4



## February BIRTHDAYS



Chris Decker	2		
Drew Wonderly	3		
Robert Kindt, Sr.	4		
Ron Burns	7	Todd Rubino	13
Morgan Schaffrick	7	Friedel Borst	14
Molly Nicholas	8	John Tucker	19
Shannon Butler Goodrich	8	Leslie Shambo	19
Christie Prentice	10	Donna Horvers	19
John Mizel	12	Amanda Horvers	19
Steve Helm	12	Lisa Longto	20
Colette Woodard	13	Shirley Ruth	27
Eugene Groelle	13	Nikki Cline	29



Our Mission of the Month for February will be Rev. Eric Titus and family. Eric is the former supervisor of HRC and is currently battling for his life. He has as recently as this week undergone his second liver transplant and a kidney transplant. Through his time of illness his family has taken on much economic hardship. We are presented with a unique opportunity to walk beside not just the Titus family but the congregation of St John's Reformed Church.

The twinkle of snow flakes and the sparkle of ice adorn our garden area. God shows us beauty in many forms, sometimes you just need to stop and find it. Nature's beauty along with a warm and loving family is a testament to his grace shining on you. We need to make time in our busy lives to appreciate both.

Please stop and visit Stickley Gardens, a place where our church family is remembered forever.

### 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)

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

Keep them in your prayers.

Phil Greer is in Golden Hill; AnneMarie Kurtz is home; Lee Gable is home; Alice and Frank Presti are at 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.



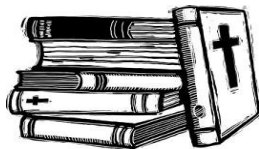


## NEWS FROM PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY COMMITTEE

### Mark your calendars:

1. On **February 16** during coffee hour will be the **annual church birthday party**. This is where 12 tables will be decorated for each month & we celebrate everyone's birthday with a cake & good wishes. I am in need of table decorators. At this time I only have the months of January, February & May taken. Please contact me if you are able to decorate a table & which month you would like. Thanks!! This is a great time that everyone looks forward to every year!!
2. On **February 25**. Brooks BBQ \$12 per dinner.
3. On **March 27** from 5 pm till 7 pm will be a Fish & Chips dinner. Your meal will include fresh fried fish, French fries, coleslaw, a beverage & a dessert. Take outs will be available for this dinner as well. The cost is \$14. Reservations are **STRONGLY** recommended. At the end of February reservations will be starting & you truly do not want to miss out on this delicious meal!! We will also need help with this dinner so, please see myself to lend a hand. Thanks!!
4. On **April 25** we will be holding a Penny Social. We are in need to donations for this. Donations will be accepted starting March 1. You can place your gently used or new items in Rev Bill's garage. Look for the designated area please as we don't want to get rid of something that Liam just loves... thanks. This will be taking place of the church yard sale collection (more on this in the upcoming spire). We are also in need of TALL cups for the tickets to go into, gift certificates from local business that we can include in the Penny Social but at a higher ticket value & help with this event. Please see myself for further information.

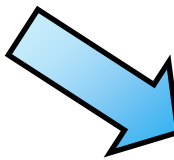
Thanks! Sandy Emrich



### WOMEN'S Bible Study

#### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Starting February 5th, we will be discussing Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton. Discussion will be led by Lydia Newcombe. Please come. Refreshments provided. Beginning in February, Women's Bible Study will be meeting the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 10 am to 12 noon. Rev. Deb Zuill

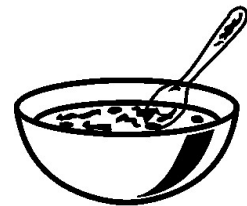


**Next Lunch date:**

**February 12, 2020**

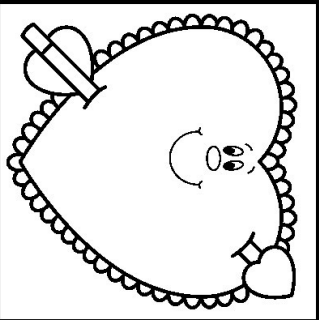
**12 Noon.**

**Place: TBA**

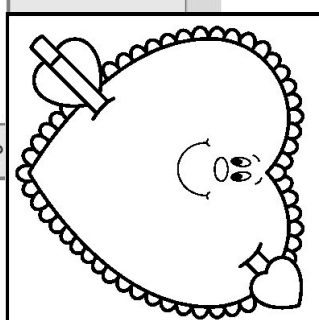


### SOUP'S ON.

The Soup Elves are preparing chili for Sunday, February 2  
Just in time for Super Bowl  
\$8.00 a quart



# February 2020



(Eastern Time - New York)

Sat

31

1

9am - soup making  
2pm - birthday party

7

8

10am - Genealogy @

10am - Worship @  
11am - Prayer Chain

**Nursery school**  
3pm - Quilting @  
7pm - 1st Capitol  
7:30pm - Al-Anon @

9am - Bible Study @  
11am - balance  
4:30pm - PC 101 @  
7pm - Boy Scouts

9am - Nursery  
10am - women's  
6pm - Cub Scouts @  
7pm - Boy Scouts

9:30am - Badminton  
1:30pm - Hurley

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

**safe church training**  
10am - Worship @  
11am - Women's

11am - VFW @  
3pm - Quilting @  
7pm - Consistory @  
7pm - Hudson Valley  
7:30pm - Al-Anon @

9am - Bible Study @  
11am - balance  
6:30pm - RCA  
7pm - Boy Scouts

9am - aarp taxes @  
9:30am - quilting @  
12pm - social solos  
6pm - Cub Scouts @  
6:30pm - Local 1582

9am - aarp taxes @  
9:30am - Badminton

7pm - Motorcycle

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

**Church Birthday**  
10am - Worship @

10am - Genealogy @  
3pm - Quilting @  
7:30pm - Al-Anon @

9am - Bible Study @  
11am - balance  
6pm - Nursery  
6:30pm - RCA  
7pm - Boy Scouts

9am - aarp taxes @  
10am - women's  
6pm - Cub Scouts @  
7pm - Hurley Lions

9am - aarp taxes @  
9:30am - Badminton  
7pm - NE

5pm - baps @

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

10am - Worship @  
10:30am - Genealog  
1pm - basket class  
3pm - Quilting @  
4:30pm - Dog  
7:30pm - Al-Anon @

**Brooks BBQ**  
9am - Bible Study @  
11am - balance  
4:15pm - dog  
6:30pm - RCA  
7pm - Boy Scouts

**Ash Wednesday**  
9am - aarp taxes @  
9:30am - quilting @  
6pm - Cub Scouts @

9am - aarp taxes @  
9:30am - Badminton  
4:45pm - Dog

5:30pm - pc101

**boy scout troop 20**

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Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich  
Pastor

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

THE SPIRE  
FEBRUARY 2020

