

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2016

## What Lent Means To Us

Lent is a very special season which follows Epiphany in the church calendar. Within 150 years of the death and resurrection of our Lord, churches throughout the Mediterranean world began to recognize the importance of commemorating Jesus' life, from wilderness temptation, to costly death. During Lent one becomes aware of the importance of the desert experience. Lent lasts for forty days, in recognition of Jesus' 40 day fast in the desert. Forty is significant in the Old Testament as well. Both Elijah and Moses fast for forty days. On a grander scale, the number represents years as well as days. Lent commemorates Israel's 40 year sojourn in the parched arena of Sinai after its liberation from Egypt. Because of this desert focus, Christians value fasting, 'marathon' praying, and other ascetic acts which draw us closer to our Lord.

This year I would like us to pay special attention to the thought that the wilderness experience of our Lord—in which Jesus recapitulates the desert wanderings of the children of Israel after liberation from Pharaoh's Egypt—symbolizes our lives. We are pilgrims heading toward the Promised Land. Ultimately that's heaven, but temporally it may mean grand oases: The goals, dreams, and joys which await us here as we negotiate, in and through faith, the tough aspects of life which may seem as barren as great uncharted voids, expanses of spiritual desert which strive to destroy the hope and joy which God wants for each of us as well as for God's world. We often must pilgrimage, as Jesus did literally, through wildernesses marked with devilish incursions and aspects of life which tempt and entice us to follow dead ends, or behaviors which threaten to mar the image of Christ within us, thereby diminishing ourselves and others in the process.

In light of our pilgrimage theme I will be completing a biblical series on Israel's pilgrimage from Egypt in mid-February. Beginning in early March, Rev. Ruth and I will be doing a series on Christian pilgrimage throughout the Christian era. I will be doing the history, while Rev. Ruth will be discussing what the idea means to each participant. I hope you will be able to attend all four sessions!

*“As I make my slow pilgrimage through the world, a certain sense of beautiful mystery seems to gather and grow.”*

*A. C. Benson*



*(Continued on page 2)*

Interestingly, Lent actually lasts 46 days. Why? Deep in its heart the church has always known that Sunday, the Lord's day, "Little Easter" – was not a day for fasting or penitential self examination. Sunday is a feast rather than a fast day; a day to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. So punctuating the forty day desert experience are the six Sundays of Lent on which the redemptive truth of the resurrection was remembered and celebrated.

*Not all those who wander  
are lost. — J. R. R. Tolkien*

My prayer for all of us is that we will experience Christ's resurrecting hand even in our most arid experiences. Even when we wander in a desert of our own making, or are trapped in the wilderness of events beyond our control, we will celebrate the hope of miraculous renewal. I pray that you will pick up one of our devotionals in the narthex of the church to help you grow in faith during this Lenten period. May we continue to grow in grace and truth during this holy season.

In Christ's service,

Rev. Gram



## Christian Pilgrimage: "What it Can Mean to you"

Rev. Ruth and Doc Bob will offer a four part series on Christian Pilgrimage starting in March.

When: Tuesday Evening,

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Date and Topic

**March 1st** *Christian Pilgrimage from the Second to the 13th Century* (Doc Bob)

**March 8** *Christian Pilgrimage: What does it mean to you? Part one* (Rev. Ruth)

**March 15** *Christian Pilgrimage from the 9th Century to Today* (Doc Bob)

**March 22** *Christian Pilgrimage: What Does it Mean to You? Part 2* (Rev. Ruth)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Clergy Renewal

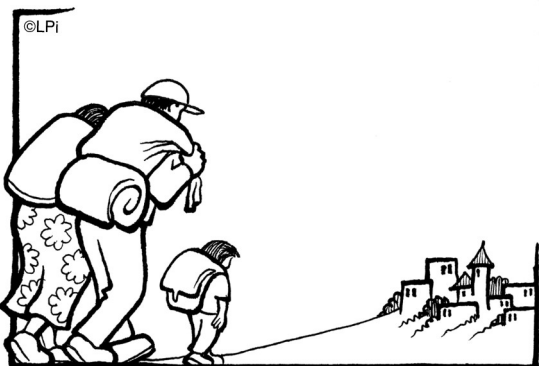
### PRE CLERGY RENEWAL

**Sunday, February 21** “WALKING THE CAMINO: SPIRITUAL GROWTH ON THE ANCIENT SPIRITUAL ROAD OF SAINT JAMES” 12-2:30 Parsonage Rev. James Alley will lead the discussion of his personal journey as he and his wife, Joan, walked the pilgrim's path for 8 weeks. He will show slides of his journey, and how we might consider such a pilgrimage (2017?) in the future. Rev. Alley received his B.A. From Princeton University, his M.A. From Brown University, and his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. He is recently retired after serving the Kaatsbaan and Blue Mountain Reformed Churches.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: **March 1, 8, 15** “A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE: FROM THE EGYPTIAN DESERT TO LABYRINTH WALKING IN SAN FRANCISCO” 7-8:30 pm. Dutch Room. Doc Bob will discuss the beginnings of the idea of pilgrimage as it was practiced by the earliest desert monks in Central Turkey as well as in Egypt. The course will also focus on the first pilgrim to the Holy Land, Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, who traveled from Rome to Jerusalem in the fourth Century, and pilgrimages, particularly in the Middle Ages which helped and defined our modern understanding of its importance. Finally we'll examine the concept of the Labyrinth and how the idea of meditative walking through a maze strengthened the faith of those who could not financially go on a pilgrimage.

WALKING A LABYRINTH. **March 20-26** Times to be Announced. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 20, and ends on Holy Saturday, March, 26<sup>th</sup>. We will either construct, or paint our own labyrinth or rent one so that there will be time in which you can walk a labyrinth as many pilgrims did especially during Holy Week. It will be located in Schadewald Hall.

DEVELOPING A WILDERNES SPIRITUALITY MINDSET AS WE HIKE UPWARD! This year, Thursday, May 5, marks the Ascension of the Lord day, celebrated by churches around the world. On the following **Saturday, May 7**, we will spend the day ascending a Catskill peak accompanied with readings and discussion of pilgrimage along the upward way. We will meet in the parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch for yourself, and cookie to share with someone else! (Rain Date: Saturday, May 12).



Don't want to cook?  
Pick-up Brooks!

**BROOKS'**  
HOUSE OF BAR-B-Q

"The best BBQ ever!"  
Yummmmmmm!

The Hurley Reformed Church Youth Group is sponsoring

The Famous  
**Brook's BBQ**  
of Oneonta, NY!

**March 1, 2016**  
**4:00 pm – 7:00 pm**  
at the Hurley Reformed Church

Dinners include:

1/2 Brook's famous chicken or ribs, baked potato, coleslaw, roll, butter, dessert & beverage.

Chicken  
or Ribs: **\$12.00**



Reservations call **Kathleen** at **845-514-2868**  
(don't be afraid to leave a message)!

## Meet Rev. Ruth Kent, Parish Associate

Rev. Ruth Kent is no stranger to Hurley Reformed Church. The daughter of Don and the late Mary Kent, and the sister of David Kent and Rebecca Masters, she was born in Kingston Hospital and baptized as a baby here at HRC. She recently returned to her roots and her family when she retired last August, and now makes her home in Rolling Meadows, scarcely more than a stone's throw from her first home on Conifer Lane,

Don's Air Force career took the family many places; Rev. Ruth attended seven schools, including most of high school in the Philippines. She graduated from the University of Denver with a double major (mathematics and human communications) and double minor (chemistry and philosophy). "Don't ask if me I'm left-brained or right-brained," she says, "I'm hopelessly confused." She first worked as a civilian computer specialist in several agencies for the US government. While working for the Navy during the Vietnam War, she was assigned to monitor computers on an aircraft carrier, where she was the only woman on board. "This was before women were assigned to Navy vessels, even hospital ships, and the living and working spaces were intermingled. I had to have an escort wherever I went on the ship, to warn the men of the presence of a female!"

After eight years with the government, Rev. Ruth changed direction to attend Harvard Law School. She spent the next twenty years dealing with on federal tax controversies in law firms in Washington DC. In the last few years of law practice, she spent an increasing amount of time on *pro bono* work for national elder law and end-of-life organizations. She earned advanced certification in bioethics from the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University and was appointed to the Clinical Ethics Committee of Children's National Medical Center in Washington. "We had the most gut-wrenching situations you can imagine. Most of our work was not technical ethics analysis, but helping people find their way through agonizing issues to make decisions about their children." As an outgrowth of her work on the ethics committee, she was asked to join the adjunct faculty of the George Washington Medical School, where she teaches in a mentoring program for medical students in their first three years. "Our purpose is to remind students that patients are real people, not just interesting assemblages of parts and symptoms."

The questions raised in hospital ethics took Rev. Ruth to Wesley Theological Seminary to study moral theology (Christian ethics). "I just wanted a different, and deeper, way to think about these issues. I didn't plan to change careers when I started, but you know the saying, 'We make plans and God laughs.'" God laughed, and she was ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2005. For the past ten years, until retiring in August, she served as Chaplain and Director for Spiritual Life at a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) in Washington DC. "Every stereotype about aging that was still in my head when I started was exploded as I watched people's vibrant and active lives in their 80s, 90s and 100s. Residents were thinkers, curious learners, artists, and poets, engaged in political and social action, and deeply concerned about the current state and future of the whole world. They were a constant source of inspiration."

While in seminary, Rev. Ruth went with a student group to an archaeology dig in Jordan and "fell in love with Jordan and with playing in the dirt." She has been back 8 times -- and will return this summer -- and is now a veteran who runs the field laboratory, cleaning and curating the artifacts. Wesley Seminary also emphasizes religion and the arts, encouraging the use of arts in worship. Rev. Ruth studied Improvisation of Biblical Narrative, and learned how to teach it to church groups. She also joined the liturgical dance group and has been an invited choreographer and dancer at arts festivals.

Rev. Ruth feels especially called to reconciliation ministries -- reaching across boundaries, "translating" the hopes and fears of groups to one another, encouraging people to see one another as creatures equal in the eyes and heart of God. She worked on the anti-racism teams of National Capital Presbytery and the Interfaith Conference of Washington, and served on the board of the Washington Theological Consortium, which supports distinctively Jewish-Christian and Muslim-Christian dialogue. She says, "In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 'Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.' Shedding light and showing love are calls to all of us who claim to follow Jesus."





Our November and December Missions were

very successful- Thanks to you we sent a lot of socks to the warming center along with over \$700. We contributed over \$1000 to the Refugee Relief efforts of Samaritan's Purse. It is a wonderful way to show the world what Christianity is all about.

Our February mission is to collect for the Woman's Auxiliary of Hurley Fire District #1. They have a loan closet which includes items like wheel chairs, walkers, crutches etc. They need contributions to help with repair, maintenance and replacement. The loan closet is a resource that can be used by anyone in the community.

Rebecca Masters

### Youth Group News

We have entered 2016 and we have a lot planned.

We will be making chili for Souper Bowl. Pick up your chili on Feb 7 after church.

We are hoping to attend the Special Olympics Games on Feb. 19th and 20th in Dutchess County.

We will be getting ready for our Brooks BBQ which will be on March 1st! It will be here before we know it. Please help us publicize as this money will allow the kids to participate in the Warwick Retreat in April and also will go towards any mission opportunities.

We have decided to do local missions this year and we will be planning a big mission trip for the summer of 2017. We are looking for people to assist us in planning the 2017 mission trip. I would

like to put together a Youth Mission Team. Please contact me if you are interested in being on this team. ([eyorelovesclouds@yahoo.com](mailto:eyorelovesclouds@yahoo.com))

We have been involved with Youth Fusion (the Youth Collaborative) and it has been a huge success. We have 50-60 people attending each month. On February 21, Flatbush will be hosting Youth Fusion and it will be held at our church.

#### **What is it?**

**a Dance Party hosted by Youth Fusion (Our collaborative Teen Group) for the folks who are "differently abled" and their caregivers!**

We are also participating in the Relay for Life on June 11.

The holidays are over and its time to hunker down for the cold weather. It won't be long until spring when all the flowers in the Columbarium bloom into beautiful color. Then once again, we will be able to visit our loved ones that rest there, and enjoy the serenity of Stickley Gardens.

*Think Warm Thoughts!*

#### **STICKLEY GARDENS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION - CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

LISA LONGO (331-1438) CHAIRPERSON

JIM PIRRO (383-2878) TREASURER

ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)

SANDIE GREGORY (338-7626)

JIM CRAVEN, CONSISTORY LIAISON

REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

A SACRED PLACE OF BEAUTY AND CONTEMPLATION.

(LOCATED ON THE SOUTH LEAN OF THE CHURCH)

## Women's Guild

Winter is here & baby is it cold outside! But the ladies are still busy doing & planning many exciting things.

**Pecan sales...** WOW... we sold out on 12/13. Thank you... thank you... for your support!! We truly appreciate it!

**Cookie Walk...** Thank you to ALL of the bakers! The cookies where delicious & looked wonderful!! There wasn't a bad one in the bunch!! Thanks to you for your support!!

After the cookie walk we meet to discuss our **annual benevolences**. Below is a list of the organizations we allocated funds to this year:

\$100 Warwick Center

\$100 People's Place

\$100 Hospice of Ulster County

\$100 Boys & Girls Club of Kingston

\$200 Clinton Avenue Methodist Church Helping Hands

\$200 Salvation Army

\$200 Family of Woodstock-Domestic Violence

\$200 Hurley Rescue Squad

We are so pleased that with your help & support we are able to give to these organizations!! We are all playing a part of these worthy organizations!!

**Annual birthday party...** a great time was had by all!! Thank you to the ladies that decorated each & every table!! Please check out the church's webpage and Facebook page for photos of the event!! A HUGE thank you to Sandie Gregory for helping me bake a 185 cupcakes for this!! Thank you to the gentlemen that helped take down the tables & chairs!! You were a great help!! A truly great way to fellowship with each other!!

The Guild will also be funding the installation of **hand railing** on either side of the altar. This will help everyone have an easier time going up & down the stairs!!

So, with a new year we are onto new things. What are they? We don't know but God will lead us to them & through them!!

<b><u>Our calendar of events:</u></b>	March 20	Meeting
	April 17	Meeting
	May 15	Pentecost Sunday
	May 22	Meeting
	June 26	Meeting
	July 9	Stone House Day
	July 31	Meeting
	November 20	Meeting
	December 10	Cookie Walk Setup
	December 11	Cookie Walk



God Bless,  
Sandy Emrich-President

# February

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Chris Decker	2
Drew Wonderly	3
Robert Kindt, Sr.	4
Ron Burns	7
Morgan Schaffrick	7
Molly Nicholas	8
Shannon Butler	8
Betty Pirro	8
Elsie Kemble	9
Christie Prentice	10
John Mizel	12
Steve Helm	12

Colette Woodard	13
Eugene Groelle	13
Todd Rubino	13
Friedel Borst	14
John Tucker	19
Leslie Shambo	19
Donna Horvers	19
Amanda Horvers	19
Lisa Longto	20
Shirley Ruth	27
Leanne Warren	28
Jake Crosswell	28
Nikki Cline	29
Lisa Rowdycz	29

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

Doris & Bob Alden	17
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### **Educational Opportunity: “Classics in Religion” at Kingston Library**

#### **March 2, 9, 16, 30, 2016 Zoroastrianism    *The Avesta* and Its Influences upon Abrahamic Traditions**

For over a thousand years - from about 500 BCE to 500 CE- the Zoroastrian religion was among the most widespread and powerful in the ancient world. It was predominant during the Babylonian exile of ancient Israel, and in recent years scholars have begun to investigate Zoroastrian influences on notions of monotheism, messianism, and eschatology in Second Temple Judaism, early Christianity and Islam. On March 2, 9, 16, and 30, the reading group will be introduced to the primary text of that faith, the Avesta, and the role the tradition played in the great Abrahamic faiths. The group will not meet on March 23 (Holy Week in the Western Christian calendar).

The Rev. **Ruth Kent** of Hurley, recently retired from 10 years as Director for Spiritual Life in an Interfaith community, will lead the series. She has often taught classes on world religions, the ancient Near East, the Dead Sea Scrolls, archaeology and ancient texts. She served on committees of the Interfaith Conference of Washington DC and on the board of the Washington Theological Consortium, which sponsors certificate programs in interfaith dialogue. She also worked on an archaeology project in Jordan for eight seasons.



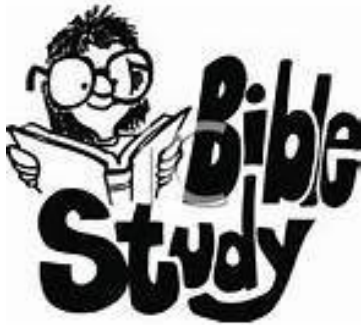
# News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.

Seminar at the  
Parsonage  
February 21  
1200-230

**“WALKING THE CAMINO: SPIRITUAL GROWTH ON THE ANCIENT SPIRITUAL ROAD OF SAINT JAMES”** Rev. James Alley and his wife Joan will describe the journey they took along the Camino de Santiago, a traditional pilgrimage route through Spain, and the personal spiritual journey that they experienced as they walked the path for six weeks. They will present a narrative and show slides of their journey. People have undertaken pilgrimages for thousands of years, with motives which have varied but have much in common. The discussion which follows can include ways that we today in the congregation and in general can undertake pilgrimage,

## Tuesday Bible Study in February and March



February 9: **The First Pilgrimage:** A Study of the Exodus from Egypt  
 March 1st **Christian Pilgrimage** from the Second to the 13th Century (Doc Bob)  
 March 8 **Christian Pilgrimage:** What does it mean to you? Part one (Rev. Ruth)  
 March 15 **Christian Pilgrimage** from the 14th Century to Today (Doc Bob)  
 March 22 **Christian Pilgrimage:** What Does it Mean to You? Part 2 (Rev. Ruth)



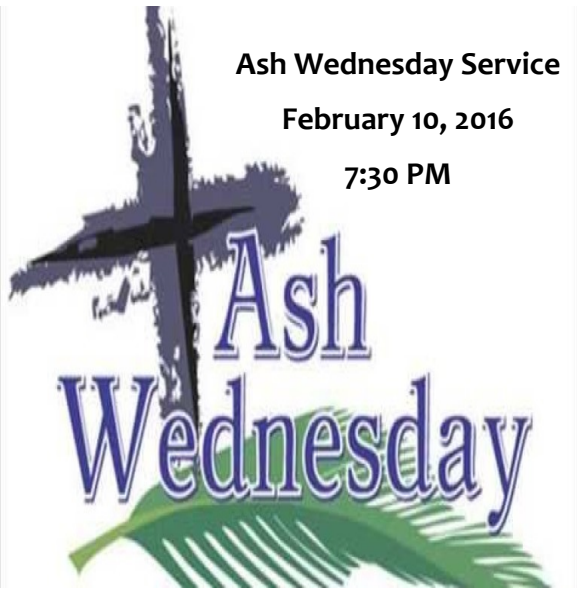
**WOMEN'S  
Bible Study**

**The Women's Ministries Bible study group** will meet March 8 and 22 (subject to change — watch the bulletin) at 1 PM in the Dutch Room. We continue our study of women in the Bible focusing on the “bad girls” who the Lord used to achieve his work. A delightful book is available as part of the study. Light refreshments are served. For further information, call Nancy Sweeney at 336-5267 or e-mail her at [sweeney.n11@gmail.com](mailto:sweeney.n11@gmail.com)



Some of our dedicated needle workers are starting to fill up a basket in the Narthex with "Prayer Squares". Prayer squares, like the prayer shawls, are prayerfully knitted, crocheted, quilted, and embroidered by members of our congregation.

If you feel the need of some extra prayer energy, please take a prayer square to carry with you in your pocket.



Looking for good fellowship?!

The Men's Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is February 17 at 7 pm.

Come hang with us.

See Wally Cook for details.



**EASTER PLANTS**

_____ LILIES	\$7.50
_____ Mini Roses	\$5.00
_____ Tulips	\$6.00
_____ Daffodils	\$6.00
_____ Hyacinths	\$6.00
_____ Mini Daffodils	\$2.50
_____ Primroses	\$3.00

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly:

Placed by: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

We encourage you to take your flowers home. The church garden and the rail trail berm are getting full.

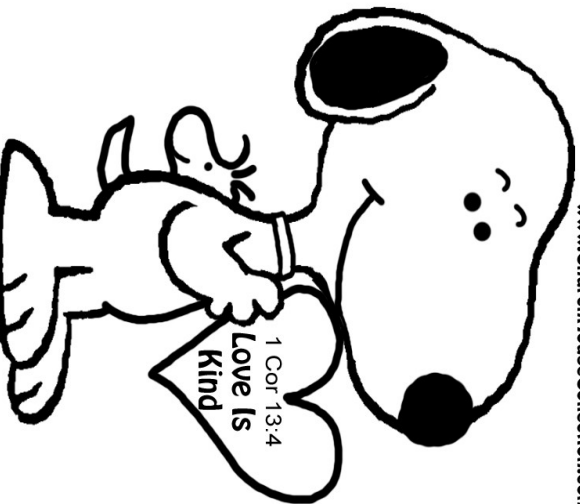
Please make checks payable to: HRC Women's Guild.

Mail or give your order by March 11, 2016 to:

Doris Alden  
236 East Drive  
Hurley NY 12443

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Dorothy on vacation</p> <p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ Hall 7pm - Little League @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 9:30am - Badminton @ 11am - Balance for Life @ 4pm - Hurley Purlers @ 4:30pm - PC 101 @ Dutch 5:30pm - Kingston 7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30am - Bible Study @ 9am - Finance Committee 9am - Tax Preparation by 5:30pm - Dog Training @ 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20 7pm - Kingston Area Soccer 7:45pm - Bagpiper Drum</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9am - Tax Preparation by 9:30am - Badminton @ 1:30pm - Hurley Senior 4:45pm - Dog Training @ 7pm - Sisters in Solution @ 7:30pm - 1st Capitol</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7pm - Motorcycle Club @</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10am - chili making -- 10am - Genealogy @ Room 6pm - Chinese new year @</p>
<p>7</p> <p>10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain @ 11am - SHD Committee @ 3pm - daisy girl scout troop 5pm - Super Bowl Party @</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11am - VFW @ Dutch Room 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ Hall 6pm - HVEFH INC @ Room 7pm - Consistory @ Dutch 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 9:30am - Badminton @ 11am - Balance for Life @ 1pm - Women's Bible Study 4pm - Hurley Purlers @ 7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30am - Bible Study @ 9am - Tax Preparation by 5:30pm - Dog Training @ 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room 7pm - Local 1582 @ Room 9 7:45pm - Bagpiper Drum</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9am - Tax Preparation by 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training @ 7pm - Sisters in Solution @</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's Ministry @ 12:30pm - birthday party @</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10am - Genealogy @ Rooms 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ Hall 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 9:30am - Badminton @ 11am - Balance for Life @ 4pm - Hurley Purlers @ 6pm - nursery school board 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30am - Bible Study @ 9am - Tax Preparation by 5:30pm - Dog Training @ 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room 7pm - Hurley Lions @ Dutch 7pm - men's group @ Dutch 7:45pm - Bagpiper Drum</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9am - Tax Preparation by 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training @ 7pm - NE WoodWorkers @ 7pm - Sisters in Solution @</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>sock hop prep or snow day</p>
<p>21</p> <p>10am - Worship @ 3pm - daisy girl scout troop 4pm - sock hop @</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:30am - Genealogy @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ Hall 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 9:30am - Badminton @ 11am - Balance for Life @ 1pm - Women's Bible Study 4pm - Hurley Purlers @ 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30am - Bible Study @ 9am - Tax Preparation by 5:30pm - Dog Training @ 6pm - Cub Scout Den @ 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room 7:45pm - Bagpiper Drum</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9am - Tax Preparation by 9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training @ 7pm - Sisters in Solution @</p>		
<p>28</p> <p>10am - Worship @ 5pm - Snow date for sock</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1pm - basket class @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ Hall 7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>		

# February 2016



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The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW  
Pastor

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Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW

Hurley New York 12443

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2016

THE SPIRE

