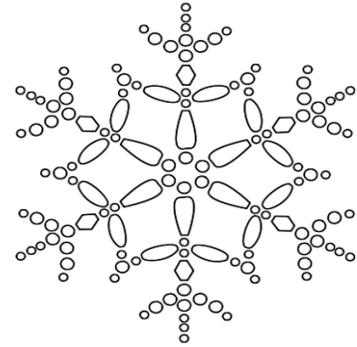


THE SPIRE

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2017



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the December 2011 issue of Harper's Magazine, Alan Lightman, a physicist and novelist who teaches at MIT wrote a provocative article entitled: "The Accidental Universe: Science's Crisis of Faith". In it he notes that science has thought, until recently, that all seemingly random phenomena in the cosmos – "the hue of the sky, the orbits of planets, the angle of the wake of a boat moving through a lake, the six sided patterns of snowflakes . . . the temperature of boiling water, the size of raindrops, the circular shape of the sun" – are the necessary consequences of fundamental laws of nature, and that what once was considered random can be fit, rather neatly, into a monolithic scientific worldview. The comforting idea that the universe can be explained in terms of a few mathematical truths has begun to dissolve in the minds of the best and brightest of theoretical physicists.

One of the problems to the here-to-for scientific hegemony has been the puzzle which the idea of a purposeful God seems to answer. Why is it, the MIT physicist, Alan Guth, asks, that if the nuclear force were a few percentage points stronger than it actually is, all hydrogen atoms would have melded in the infant universe, and converted into helium, thus robbing the universe of life giving water. On the other side, if the nuclear force were substantially weaker than it is, the complex atomic structure would dissipate, and biology would not exist. A second example is the fine-tuned relationships between electromagnetic and gravitational forces. If they were anything other than what they are – in other words, if they

were in an infinitesimally small, but different, configuration to what we have – then the universe would not have any exploding stars which emit life giving elements necessary for the emergence of life. If fundamental parameters were just slightly off, no life would exist.

Recently, theoretical physicists have focused on what is called "dark energy". Although scientists don't know what it is, they believe that it accounts for more than three quarters of the energy in the universe. Nevertheless what they can agree upon, also points to Intelligent Design: If the amount of dark energy in our universe was slightly less than what it is, the fledgling universe would implode so quickly there would be no time to form even simple atoms. If there were a bit more of it, the universe would speed up so rapidly that the matter in the young universe would fly apart and dissipate instead of coalescing into stars and the complex atoms they birth.

Thus "fine tuning" raises hackles among the majority of scientists who decry the idea of Intelligent Design. Nevertheless, a few brave souls, like Francis Collins, a leading geneticist and director of the National Institutes of Health, are outspoken mavericks in the scientific community. At a recent conference he noted: "To get our universe, with all of its potential for complexities or any kind of potential for any kind of life-form, everything has to be precisely defined on this knife edge of improbability . . . You have to see the hands of a creator who set the parameters to be just so because the creator was interested in something a little more complicated than random

(Continued on page 2)

particles.”

In order to counter the idea of Intelligent Design, physicists posit the multiverse theory which states that different fundamental laws apply to different universes. Thus water might not be essential to life in another universe. Thus why there is life in this universe is simply an accident and one need not posit a creator. The problem with this theory is that science cannot prove the existence of alternate universes. It has become AN ARTICLE OF FAITH for many in the scientific community. Sound familiar? And we are hammered by non-believers that science trumps Christianity because it is based in scientific principles and not faith! Baloney! We are now in the post-Christmas season known as the Epiphany. The first manifestation has traditionally been to focus on the magi, Babylonian astrologers most likely, who mapped the stars in order to find the promised messiah. Although pre-scientific, perhaps, in our modern sense of the word, they understood more clearly the purpose of the universe (and to Whom it points) than their 21st Century telescope gazing descendants.

In Christ’s service,

Doc Bob

Doc Bob



Happy New Year! We had a very successful October mission which allowed us to give money for the Giving Tree project, but we had enough left over to help a needy senior citizen with heating bills!

The January Mission of the month will be for The Food Bank of the Hudson Valley which is dedicated to alleviating hunger, while preventing the waste of wholesome food. It is a branch of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York and a member of Feeding America, the national food bank network, which has a high rating on Charity Navigator.

They have a Backpack program which provides bags filled with food that is child-friendly, shelf-stable, and easily-consumed. The Backpacks are discreetly distributed to participating children on Friday afternoons. I have seen this in action, so I know it works!

Rebecca Masters

January Events

January 1	Happy New Year	January 20	Youth Fusion Overnight In Schadewald Hall
January 5	Hurley Senior Citizens	January 22	Women’s Guild Potluck Lunch
January 6	Epiphany	January 27	Movies with Meaning
January 8	Ordination of Elders and Deacons	January 3, 17, 31	Women’s Ministries Bible Study
January 9	Consistory Meeting		
January 18	Men’s Group		

WOMEN'S GUILD

Happy New Year!! 2017. How quick the months fly by. This past month has been a very busy one!!

For one thing, we sold some pecans. Because of you we sold out of the milk & dark chocolate and the chocolate cluster pecans. We have about 12 bags of the plain pecans left. If you need an extra bag I will be selling them one more Sunday(1/18/17)& then they will be gone until next year. We thank you for your support!!

The annual Cookie Walk. I will have to admit I was nervous... will the weather hold out...will bakers bake cookies... will folks come out & purchase the cookies. Well, God is good as the weather was great...bakers BAKED cookies...& folks did come out to buy the cookies. The line was all the way out to the entrance of the hall. WOW!! We had some cookie left over at the end & someone purchased ALL of the remaining cookies for us. So we SOLD OUT!!! We have a wonderful & supporting congregation!!! Thank you!! Thank you!! Thank you!! To everyone!! We truly had the support of the WHOLE church!!

Thank you to everyone that purchased a poinsettia. The alter looked beautiful for Christmas. Thanks to Kathy Janson & Shirley Ruth for taking the orders. Thanks to Doris Alden & others(sorry I don't know all that assisted)in setting up the poinsettias. Thanks!!

Our calendar of events:

- March 4 2017 set up for Church birthday party
- March 5 2017 Annual Church birthday party
- March 26 2017 Meeting



Happy & Healthy New
Year,
Sandy Emrich-President

*A New Year...
as we resolve to do better
and to be better. Let us
also remember those who
filled our lives with love and
now reside with our Lord.
Stop down and visit the Garden.
God watches over all.*

STICKLEY GARDENS

FOR MORE INFORMATION – CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
LISA LONGTO (331-1438) CHAIRPERSON
JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER
ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)
SANDIE GREGORY (338-7626)
KATHY JANSEN, CONSISTORY LIAISON
REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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

January

BIRTHDAYS

Nicole Provenzano	4
Thomas Horvers	5
Carla Paton	8
Joe Ulrich	9
Marcy Rell	10
Dolores Wyncoop	12
MaryLou Christiana	12
Clarence Jansen	13
Doug Constant	15
Glenn Decker	17
Wally Cook	17
Linda Dux	18
Lee Gable	18
Wendy Helsley	19
Brandon Paton	20
Shannon Tucker	21
Michael Christiana	21

Alex Milne	22
Alma Strickland	24
Doris Alden	24
Kelly Maggiore	24
Sheila Jansen	25
Morgan Burgess	26
Tom Harkin	27
Doreen Lyke	28
Ryan Helm	28
Mitchell Kurtz	30

ANNIVERSARIES

Rev Charles & Esther Stickley	2
George & Renee Nekos	4
Tom & Ruth Harkin	6



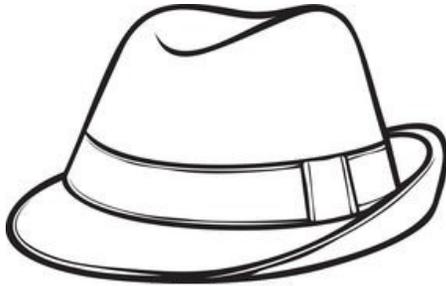
Social Solos will be dining at Noon on the **11th of January** at **Olive Garden** in Kingston.

For more information, contact Deb Zuill.



Looking for good fellowship?!

The Men's Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is January 18 at 7 pm. Come hang with us. See Wally Cook for details.



© Can Stock Photo

HATS & FOOD ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017

We have all worn many kinds of hats in our busy lives throughout the years. We invite our church membership and church goers to wear a hat to church. You can wear just one that keeps you warm, or one from your occupation (past or present) such as a nurses hat, fireman's hat, military service hats, chef's hat, Stone House Day hat, Easter hat, railroad hat, policeman hat, baseball hat, sailing hat or gardening hat, and the list goes on. Then after church we will enjoy a potluck lunch in Schadewald Hall and hear some stories from those who want to share. Sign up after church starting January 1 or call Pat Baker at 331-2556.

Organized by Women's Ministries



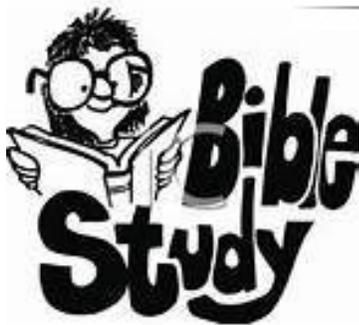
MOVIES WITH MEANING/ POT LUCK DINNER

JANUARY 27, 2017, 5 PM

Now Showing: "On Golden Pond"

Come for dinner; Stay for the movie and discussion!

See Sandy Emrich



Women's Ministry Bible Study is studying the book Really Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs. Women's Ministry Bible Study meets every other Tuesday at 1pm in the Dutch Room. For more information, contact Nancy Sweeney.

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DID YOU KNOW? A HISTORY . . .



The Hurley Quilting Group was started in the fall of 1994. I wanted to start a quilting group in our Church. Don Kent said, "Why don't you make a quilt to celebrate the 325th anniversary of the naming of Hurley in 1669?" I thought that was a good idea, so I went to Ulster Community College to check out their Bicentennial Quilt, which hangs in the Library at the Stone Ridge campus. Many women of the church got together to plan the anniversary quilt. None of us had ever done a project like this, and although I had some quilting experience, I had never taken on a project of this size and scope. We decided to make it similar to the Bicentennial quilt, where the squares are a certain size, appliqued and the sashing between the squares is solid green. At that time we did not know how many squares we would have; it would depend on how many women we would be able to involve. We went to work and decided on our own topics, for example, Cindy Sumerano wanted to do Sojourner Truth; Shirley Ruth wanted to do the Library; I did the Church. When you look at the quilt, notice all the different scenes that are depicted. Some are a little "crooked", like the Church. It is rumored that Shirley Ruth had an engineer design her Roosa-VanDeusen house so it would be just perfect! We embroidered the name of the quilter and the subject of the square underneath each square. As we arranged the squares, Cindy Sumerano discovered that the white squares formed the shape of a cross. The quilt was hand quilted after it was put together.

Doris Alden generously purchased the glass covering for the quilt in her mother's memory. Please take a look at the quilt next time you are in Shadewald Hall.

We have several picture albums full of pictures from the year we made this commemorative quilt plus pictures of all the quilts that we've made over the last 22 years.

The Quilting Group could use YOUR help!! We have made more than 20 quilts for the Church during the last 20 years, including one for Rev. Stickley when he retired and one for Rev. Gram to celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination. The rest have all been raffled off at Stone House Day. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Barbara Kindt at 331-8533 or talk to her in Church. We meet Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Come join in the laughter and fellowship.

Submitted by Ellen Richards



DID YOU KNOW THAT

"OLD FOLKS ARE WORTH A FORTUNE"?

With silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a lot more social with the passing of the years. Some might even call me a frivolous old gal. I'm seeing five gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go see John. Then Charley Horse comes along,

and when he is here, he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with Ben Gay. What a life!

PS The preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age, I should be thinking about the hereafter! I told him I do –All the time, no matter where I am – in the parlor, upstairs, in the kitchen or down in the basement – I ask myself "Now what am I here after?"

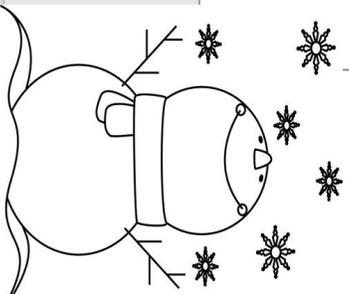
Suggested by Sonnie Howe

Hurley Reformed Church, Contacts, Hurley Reformed Church

Jan 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10am - Worship @</p> <p>10am - Women's Ministry @</p> <p>2pm - baby shower @</p>	<p>9:30am - Guild Quilters @</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</p> <p>5pm - Dog Training @ Hall</p> <p>7pm - Little League @</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>11am - Balance for Life @</p> <p>4:30pm - PC 101 @ Dutch</p> <p>7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p>	<p>7:30am - Bible Study @</p> <p>5:30pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</p> <p>6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p> <p>7pm - Kingston Area Soccer</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>1:30pm - Hurley Senior</p> <p>4:45pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>7pm - Sisters in Solution @</p> <p>7:30pm - 1st Capitol</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p>	<p>7pm - Motorcycle Club @</p>	<p>9am - dog training @</p> <p>10am - Genealogy @ Room</p> <p>12pm - Boy Scout Dinner :</p>
<p>10am - Worship @</p> <p>11am - SHD Committee @</p>	<p>9:30am - Guild Quilters @</p> <p>10am - Genealogy @ Rooms</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</p> <p>5pm - Dog Training @ Hall</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>11am - Balance for Life @</p> <p>6:30pm - nursery school</p> <p>7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p>	<p>7:30am - Bible Study @</p> <p>9am - Finance Committee</p> <p>5:30pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</p> <p>6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room</p> <p>7pm - Hurley Lions @ Dutch</p> <p>7pm - men's group @ Dutch</p> <p>7pm - SCLS -- Old</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>4:45pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>7pm - NE WoodWorkers @</p> <p>7pm - Sisters in Solution @</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p>	<p>Youth Group overnight @ Schadewald Hall</p>	
<p>10am - Worship @</p> <p>11am - Women's Ministries</p>	<p>9:30am - Guild Quilters @</p> <p>10:30am - Genealogy @</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</p> <p>5pm - Dog Training @ Hall</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>11am - Balance for Life @</p> <p>1pm - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p>	<p>7:30am - Bible Study @</p> <p>5:30pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</p> <p>6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room</p> <p>7pm - SCLS Old Testament</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>4:45pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>7pm - Hurley Heritage</p> <p>7pm - Sisters in Solution @</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p>	<p>movies with meaning/ pot</p>	
<p>potluck luncheon snow</p> <p>10am - Worship @</p>	<p>9:30am - Guild Quilters @</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</p> <p>5pm - Dog Training @ Hall</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>11am - Balance for Life @</p> <p>7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p>	<p>9:30am - Bible Study @</p> <p>5:30pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</p> <p>6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room</p> <p>7pm - SCLS Old Testament</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>4:45pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>7pm - Hurley Heritage</p> <p>7pm - Sisters in Solution @</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p>		

January 2017



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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

JANUARY 2017
THE SPIRE

