

THE SPIRE

March 2026



As I sat down and checked the tracker to see what Olympic events were happening today, I started thinking about watching sports. To watch an athlete, game or match can be enjoyable and interesting. But then there can be a wrinkle to it. When someone you know or care about is the one who is competing it becomes a little different. If you were expecting me to write something about Lent or about spiritual practices in Lent my apologies. The reality is that too many people we all know, too many people we care about in our world and in our lives are going through it. Sitting down and just thinking about the people and families who were going through difficult times left me exhausted and feeling overwhelmed.

This winter Will wrestled for the first time. And it was hard for Sara and I to watch. Not because of the wins and losses side of things, but because you are watching your child get grappled and at times tossed around. Early on Sara showed me a video of one of our nephews going airborne while wrestling. All you really can do is sit there and watch from the sidelines. Sure you can shout words of encouragement. You can clap, and other forms of cheering. But the reality is you just have to sit there and watch as your child and others you know go through it, get pinned, tossed and the like.

There is a powerlessness that happens in it. Once I found myself trying to get Will to flip over by moving my hands, as if I was a Jedi and was trying to use the force to get him flipped. I kept on telling him to flip over. Sadly, I couldn't. I just had to sit there and watch. Something that I don't do well at the best of times.

It's hard when we see someone we know and care about go through something no matter how large or small it might be. Whether it is struggles with addiction, challenges at work and in life. You don't want to sit still and do nothing you want to do something to assist or help. You don't feel as if you can sit idly by and let someone make this that or the other decision, or you cannot do anything in the moment.

Powerlessness in any situation is never easy and even the feeling of powerlessness is just as bad. When we feel powerless, when someone is grieving, or whatever they are going through we struggle to simply be silent and let them guide us with what they need or we can do. We make statements about how they'll get through it or one of the many platitudes we have societally written which make us feel better by saying them. But does it really help. One of my favorite memories was of hearing my youth minister chew out someone because to quote him, "These kids just lost their Dad, and they don't need to hear anything like that right now."

But the reality is that the person we are concerned about is not without power. We are also not really powerless either. But it requires us to do something different something otherworldly. When we know someone who is going through the blender of life pray for them. Not just one passing prayer, but continued and sustained prayer. Not just a day or two of prayer but days, weeks, months and even years of prayer. Don't ever stop praying for them, don't ever let powerlessness win out. There is power in prayers. Not just in the power of actually doing something, but in knowing that a higher power, THE higher power is at work and is present in whatever moment it might be.

Claim your power brother and sisters. Call on God who loves us and cares for us and looks after us every day. Trust that God is at work and through him we are never powerless, Amen.



BETTE MIDLER sings,

*“just remember
that beneath
the bitter snows,
lies a seed that
in the Spring
becomes a Rose.”*

We know that with Spring
will come the colors of the
rainbow in the flowers that
will wave in the warm breezes.

Spring comes to remind us
of Life, in a resurrected Lord
who greets us in the early
morning hours at the open tomb.

Visit the Gardens and just sit
and take a moment to
contemplate the promise given to
those placed in the columbarium
and to each of us as well.

“I go to prepare a place for you,
that where I am, you may be also.”

Welcome Spring!

STICKLEY GARDENS

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 Ministry

DEACON FOR MARCH
IS
TERRY GAFFKEN



Prayer Requests

**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

Marilyn and the More Family



USHERS' SCHEDULE

March

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| March 1 | Aileen Helsley and Russ Voigtlaender |
| March 8 | Jeanne Quenzer and Dino Sumerano |
| March 15 | Wally Cook and Jim Gregory |
| March 22 | Terry Gaffken and Bonnie Dumas |
| March 29 | Aileen Helsley and Russ Voigtlaender |

UPCOMING Events

March 1	Communion
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Worship
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Bible Study
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	TaiChi @1pm
March 6, 13, 20, 27	Sew and So & Knitters
March 4	Soup for Seniors @ West Hurley Fire House
March 8	Presentation of HRC history
March 9	Consistory Meeting
March 11	Social Solos
March 18	Soup for Seniors @ Hurley Fire House
Tues, Thurs & Sat.	Karate
March 22	Easter plant sale forms due

Social Solos

Social Solos meets on Wednesday,
March 11, 2026

At noon

Anyone wishing to join please contact
Rev. Deb Zuill for an invite at
attitudema50@aol.com or 845-247-9157

EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

**Come celebrate our
225th Anniversary with us!**

- 225th Community celebration-May 30th from 10am-2pm
- 225th Worship Celebration June 7th-During normal worship
- Church Cookout- August 30th after Worship



When the time comes and you are faced with a funeral of a loved one, or a celebration of a baptism the Hurley Reformed Church would like to offer a hand.

The Celebration Committee is happy to help you with the repast after the funeral service or the celebration for the baptism. We will do the set-up of the hall, serve the food (although we cannot supply the food), and we will do all the clean up afterward.

If you would like more information about this, please speak with Rev. Appleyard-Pekich.



HRC History Presentation

Join us during coffee hour on
March 8th for presentation on
the history of our church.



Craig Jansen	2
Allie Colby	2
Linda Bognar	3
Dennis Horvers	5
Marianne Mizel	7
Mikayla Decker	8
Julia Wolf	10
Danielle Wolf	10
Kim Burgess	13
Deborah Zuill	14
Allan Masters	14
Jace Provenzano	17
Frank Warren	17
Joyce Pinckney	18
Dino Sumerano	18
Angie Rockwell	19
Justin Nekos	21
William Gaffken	23
David Kent	23
Gretchen Giles	24
Deidre Sills	25
Ellen Morone	31
Logan Brennan	31



Emily & Art Harder 16

MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



The Mission for March will be the Deacons Fund. All money collected will be put into that fund to be used at the discretion of the Minister.

The basket items will be personal care items. All items collected between March 2-April 9 will be given to the Town of Ulster Supply Drive, a program initiated by the Institute of Family health. Items may include: Menstrual products, diapers and baby wipes, deodorant, soap, shampoo, hand lotion, toothbrushes, hairbrushes, shaving cream.

PERSONAL CARE SUPPLY DRIVE

MARCH 2 - APRIL 9



Senator Michelle Hinchey
— in partnership with —
The Institute for Family Health



WE'RE COLLECTING:

- Menstrual products
- Diapers and baby wipes
- Deodorant
- Soap and body wash
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Hand and body lotion
- Hair brushes
- Shaving cream and razors
- Shower shoes and caps
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste and floss

DROP-OFF: 721 BROADWAY, SUITE 150, KINGSTON, NY
HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY | 9 AM - 5 PM



Please send any updates for our prayer chain to

Pat Baker at

845-331-2556

or

pbaker727@yahoo.com



EASTER PLANTS



_____	6" Easter lily	\$9.50
_____	6" Tulip	\$8.50
_____	6" Daffodil	\$8.50
_____	6" Hyacinth	\$8.50
_____	5" Mini Daffodil	\$4.50
_____	4" Primrose	\$3.00
_____	5" Pansy	\$3.50

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 is getting full.
Please make checks payable to: Hurley Reformed Church.
Give to Kathy Jansen after worship or mail to:
223 Hidden Valley Road, Kingston, NY 12401



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am - 11am Worship 12:30pm - Event	2 1pm - 3:30pm-TaiChi @ Hall 6:30pm - 8pm Al-Anon @ Hall 7pm - 9pm 1st Capitol	3 9am - 10am Bible Study @ 4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class	4 8:30am - 9:30am Meeting @	5 1:30pm - 3:30pm Hurley 4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class 6pm - HNS-boardroom	6 8am - 3pm Sew and So 1pm - 4pm Knitters @ Dutch	7 9am - 10:30am Karate Class
8 10am - 11am Worship 11am - Presentation on HRC	9 11am - 12:30pm VFW @ 1pm - 3:30pm-TaiChi @ Hall 6:30pm - 8pm Al-Anon @ Hall 7pm - 9pm Consistory @	10 9am - 10am Bible Study @ 4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class	11 8:30am - 9:30am Meeting @ 12pm - 2pm social solos @ 7pm - 9:30pm Radio Club @	12 4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class	13 8am - 3pm Sew and So 1pm - 4pm Knitters @ Dutch	14 9am - 10:30am Karate Class 10am - 2:30pm Genealogy @ 11:30am - Event
15 10am - 11am Worship	16 10am - 2:30pm Genealogy @ 1pm - 3:30pm-TaiChi @ Hall 6:30pm - 8pm Al-Anon @ Hall	17 9am - 10am Bible Study @ 4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class	18 8:30am - 9:30am Meeting @	19 4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class	20 8am - 3pm Sew and So 9am - HNS 1pm - 4pm Knitters @ Dutch	21 9am - 10:30am Karate Class 11am - John More Funeral
22 10am - 11am Worship	23 10:30am - 2:30pm Genealogy 1pm - 3:30pm-TaiChi @ Hall 6:30pm - 8pm Al-Anon @ Hall	24 9am - 10am Bible Study @ 4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class 6pm - 9pm Nursery School	25 8:30am - 9:30am Meeting @ 9am - HNS-Egg Hunt 5:30pm - Kidspeace @	26 7am - Parking Lot Usage-Day 4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class 5:30pm - Kidspeace @	27 8am - 3pm Sew and So 1pm - 4pm Knitters @ Dutch	28 9am - 10:30am Karate Class 11:30am - Event??
29 10am - 11am Worship	30 1pm - 3:30pm-TaiChi @ Hall 6:30pm - 8pm Al-Anon @ Hall	31 9am - 10am Bible Study @ 4:30pm - 5:30pm Karate Class	1	2	3	4



Below is a recipe for Resurrection Cookies, which was given to us by Rev. Charles Stickley. It was printed in our "200 years of Tasteful Traditions" cookbook when we celebrated the church's 200th anniversary.

1 c. whole pecans

3 egg whites

1 c. sugar

1 tsp. vinegar

pinch of salt

Read the whole recipe before beginning. Try to do together on the night before Easter Sunday. You will also need a wooden spoon, a Bible, a zip-lock baggie and tape.

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Place pecans in the zip-lock baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, he was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.

Let the children smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.

Add egg whites to the vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 11 to 15 minutes, until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper-covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body laid. Put cookie sheet in oven. Close the door and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of the tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66.

Go to bed! Explain to the children that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Resurrection morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie! Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Resurrection, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9

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 _____

PO Box 328
11 Main Street
Hurley NY 12443

Phone: 845-331-4121

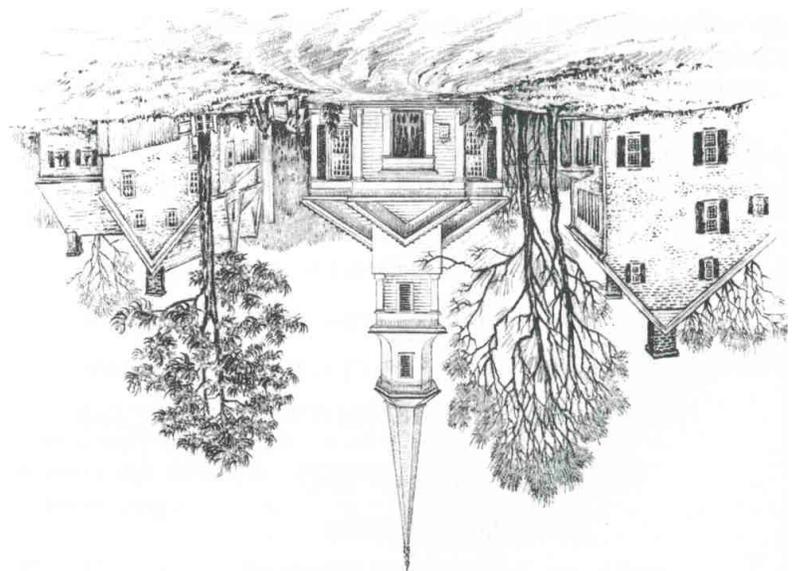
E-mail: admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org

Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich
Pastor

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

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