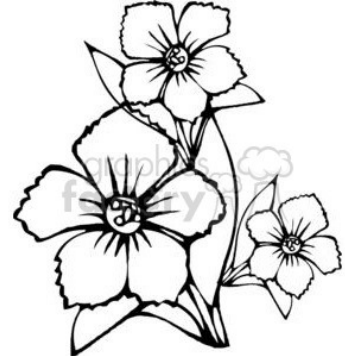


THE SPIRE

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 5

MAY 2017



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The apostle Paul writes to the churches in Galatia: "For freedom, Christ has set us free. Stand for, therefore, and do not submit to the yoke of a slavery (5:1). Yet it seems that today we have too much freedom. As we remember the Passover of our Lord where he broke bread and drank wine in a way which transformed the Passover celebration itself, we are also reminded of what followed the initial events which

caused the annual celebration: The escape from Egypt, and then the 'freedom' of the Israelites in the Wilderness of Sinai. In that barren land they were no longer subject to their Egyptian taskmasters, but rather held captive by their ever changing desires.

God gave them food and drink, but it was never enough. They wanted more choices. Instead of manna, which God provided daily, they desired a host of delicacies from Egypt: leeks, onions, meat--food which the Egyptians never provided. But wishful thinking dies hard, and it was thought that if they had more choices to consume--sparkling water instead of the water, tapped from a rock, which God provided, they'd be happier. Perrier for one and all! If they had more idols and may poles to dance around, mimicking their former captors and their idol manufacturing ways--they'd be complete. Maybe one Golden Calf, sculpted by Aaron would dull the monotony of wilderness life. Who knows? A dozen might be better--and such calves lined the streets and thoroughfares of Egyptian cities.

Fortunately God did not yield to their misguided attempts which too much freedom offers. Today

we have more freedom of choice than any time in human history and where has it gotten us? A recent double blind study from Columbia University compared a group of students who were given many options and compared their happiness quotient to another group which had far less choice in terms of things to buy, social activities, etc. The latter 'scaled down' group seemed happier according to the research scientists.

Choice overload short circuits the brain and we end up making no choice at all, paralyzed, it seems, with endless, and competing opportunities.

In his book, 'The Paradox of Choice', American psychologist Barry Schwartz notes that 'choice overload' is dangerous because it breeds the fear that there are several options out there which are better than the one we're examining. Choice overload short circuits the brain and we end up making no choice at all, paralyzed, it seems, with endless, and competing opportunities.

I believe Jesus understood the dangers of freedom of choice. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus states, "So do not worry saying, 'What shall we eat or what shall we drink' or 'What shall we wear?' . . ." But seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well." Jesus helps us to keep it as simple as possible. Whenever we are overwhelmed by too much choice--a veritable host of conflicting demands-- may we spend time with the Master. For in dialogue with him, the choice making cares seem to fade.

Peace,

Doe Bob

MAY EVENTS

May 1, 8	Basket Classes
May 4	Senior Citizens
May 6	Mother Daughter Tea
May 6	Heritage Society opens for season
May 7	Prayer Chain
May 8	Consistory
May 9, 23	Women's Bible Study
May 10	Social Solos
May 14	Mother's Day Women's Ministries
May 17	Men's Group
May 21	Women's Guild
June 3	Town of Hurley Yard Sale
June 3	Blood Drive in Memory of Rebecca DeKosky

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

He does it again...

God gives us all kinds of reminders
as the trees bud, the flowers are in
bloom, the songs of birds fill the air...

Re-creation!

God touches His creation and new life
springs forth all around us but also
in His promise to us. Take a moment
at the Columbarium to sit and reflect
upon all that He shares with us...
in life and in the promise of new life.

1ST QUARTER FINANCIAL NOTES

Our income for the 13 weeks ending March 31, 2017 was somewhat less than the same period in 2016.

Comparing the income from all envelope offerings and the loose plate collections we find that the 2017 income is eight percent less than the 2016 income.

Jim Craven
Finance Committee

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)

LINDA DIDO, CONSISTORY LIAISON

REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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



Hurley Reformed Church
Main Street, Hurley, NY 12443 • HurleyReformedChurch.org

YARD SALE

SATURDAY 6-3-17

Space Rental in Parking Lot

Space Only = \$15 Space With 1 Table = \$25

To rent a space – call Sandy at 845-687-4006
Spaces are on a first come basis.



THE YOUTH GROUP WILL BE SELLING
HOT DOGS & WATER



Town of Hurley Yard Sale is the Same Day

May

BIRTHDAYS

Cole Jordan	1
Terry Conlin	2
Kristen Helm	2
Mikayla Mellin	2
Lori Baker	3
Kathy Burns	4
Jonathan Helsley	5
George Nekos, Jr.	5
Elizabeth Wilson	7
Delores McGoldrick	8
Jane Ulrich	10
Marilyn Cox	11
Charles Jansen	11
Robin Brennan	14
Barbara Hornbeck	14
May Kowalenko	15
Kathleen Mayfield	15
Les Frost	16
Ruth Harkin	16
Taylor Robey	21
Ricki Maggiore	27

Lily DeKoskie	27
Brian Donnelly	28
Mackenzie Schoonmaker	28
Jerry Wyncoop	30

ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Sheila Craven	5
Glenn & Debbie Decker	6
Kathy & Bob Pfeiffer	6
Elaine & David Szekeres	8
Christa & Terry Conlin	9
Marilyn & John More	9
Alice & Frank Presti	10
Jennifer & Thomas Mann	11
Janet & Jake Croswell	13
Joe & Kathy Burns	15
Kevin & Jeanne Quenzer	17
Wayne & Karen Waligurski	20
Donna & Peter Harder	30



Looking for good fellowship?!

The Men's Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is May 17 at 7 pm. Come hang with us. See Paul Vonderheide for details.



Social Solos will meet for our monthly lunch date on May 10 at 12 noon. Check the bulletin for place.

HURLEY NURSERY SCHOOL ENROLLING NOW

The Hurley Nursery School is enrolling students for the 2017-2018 school year. The school is a small non-profit organization in the town of Hurley in the Hurley Reformed Church. Hurley Nursery School is a part of Kingston City Schools' Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program. The program is designed to offer students the opportunity to gradually increase their time at school in order to create a smooth transition to full day kindergarten. The school philosophy is learn to play, play to learn and that can clearly be seen upon entering the classroom. Students are held to the standards set by the Kingston UPK guidelines, but complete those standards through exploration and play.

WHAT PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED?

Many families begin their child's school experience by attending Toddler Time, held on Tuesdays from 10AM - 11AM. During this class, the child is accompanied by their grown up and complete a brief version of the more structured classes for older children. Toddler Time consists of a brief circle time with a story, free time to play, completion of a craft that practices specific skills such as fine motor coordination, a snack, and finally participation in the closing, good-bye song. Families must preregister for the weekly classes and there is a weekly fee.

The first experience many students have on their own in the classroom is during the AM class, for students who turn three before December first of that school year. Class meets three times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Students learn the expectation of the classroom and have a daily routine. Students learn the responsibility of helping out in the classroom with daily jobs and cleaning up toys after play time and clearing their place after snack. Projects are designed around themes and children are exposed to the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum. Families are welcomed into the classroom throughout the year for celebrations and performances by the students.

The 4PM class (UPK) builds on the skills learned in the AM class with more exposure to curriculum and greater opportunities to practice proficiency. Class meets in the afternoon five days a week, allowing students to adjust to school on a daily basis, before reaching kindergarten. The students in the class establish a sense of community amongst themselves as well as with the surrounding Town of Hurley. The students become familiar with the workings of the town through a close partnership with the fire department, post office and library.

TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE STAFF...

Lead teacher, Diane Cotter has over 20 years teaching experience and specializes in early childhood literacy and special education. Mrs. Cotter individualizes instruction from students who are beginning to identify letters to those who are beginning to read. Her class projects are intentionally planned with specific skills and goals in mind. Mrs. Cotter gets kids excited about the classroom with silly celebrations and unexpected themes mingled with the traditional pre-school expectations. If you are interested in talking with her about your child's preschool. For more information, contact 845-339-1036 or www.hurleynurseryschool.org.



Toddler Time

10AM - 11AM - Tuesday

3 Year Old Class

9AM - 11:30 AM - Monday s Wednesday s Friday

4 Year Old Class

Kingston City Schools Universal Pre-K or Self Pay
12:30PM - 3:00 PM - Monday - Friday

News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.



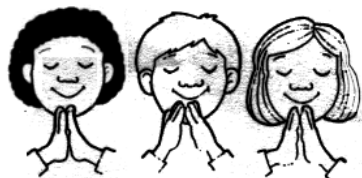
OUR MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL was the People's Place Program "Summer Bag Lunch". The committee will be buying juice boxes and cereal bars as recommended by Christine Hein, the director of the People's Place Food Pantry. Believe it or not, she said the need for just those two items was so great last year that our contribution will probably just cover the costs for juice and bars. It is a wonderful feeling to know help is coming their way. Keep up the good deeds, everyone!

THIS MONTH'S MISSION is to help our Youth Group with expenses for their trip to Whitesburg, Kentucky to help with an organization called HOMES, which builds, repairs, etc. poor neighborhoods. What a wonderful opportunity for our young people.

Marilyn Lowe



OUR YOUTH GROUP is going to Kentucky this July. They are leaving on July 15, arriving July 17 and will be heading for home on July 22. They are to serve with HOMES, Housing Oriented Ministries Established for Service. HOMES is located in Whitesburg, Kentucky and they "strive to provide affordable housing solutions to families in our service area." The group will take direction from HOMES staff and work on home improvements, or demolition. The neighborhood we will be serving is very poor and in need of help with affordable housing and home maintenance. We will be given our assignment closer to the trip.



PRAYER CHAIN meets on the first Sunday of the month directly after worship and fellowship. If you have something to bring to our attention, see Debbie Zuill.

SUNDAY MORNING & BEYOND
APRIL 17, 2012 BY ASHLEY-ANNE MASTERS
PRAYER FOR PARENTS & THOSE WHO WANT TO BE

For those who got pregnant right away and those who have been trying for years...

For those who entrust their babies to the care of another family...

For those who cannot wait to welcome a baby into their home and those who are terrified they are not fit to be parents...

For those whose child will get a soccer scholarship and those whose child will never run...

For those who proudly pose for pregnant photos and those who shamefully hide their bellies...

For those who are proud to be fathers and those who hope the DNA tests are incorrect...

For those who pay child support and those who need child support...

For those who fight with teenage daughters and those whose daughters have run away...

For those who cannot pay for college and those who cannot pay for medical care...

For those who home school and those who fear their children won't make it home from school...

For those who think their son is the best surprise of their life...

For those whose children are in prison and those whose children want to be corrections officers...

For those whose baby doesn't live outside of the womb and those whose wombs are empty...

For those taking hormones and those who feel exhausted from hormone changes...

For those grieving what will never be and those amazed by what life has become...

For those who are single parents and those who are now step parents...

For those who have an empty nest and for those whose nest was never full...

For the couple who is closer than ever and the couple getting divorced...

For all of your children of all ages, hold them close and give them life... Amen.

Editor's Note: Permission is granted by the author to use this prayer in written or spoken form as long as "Written by Rev. Ashley-Anne Masters" appears somewhere in the order of service or bulletin.



11-16

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www.familycircle.com

By
and
JEFF
KEANE

"Well, YES, I'd like to be the ideal mother. But, frankly, I'm just too busy raising my children."

Mother's Love

Her love is like
an island in life's ocean,
vast and wide
A peaceful, quiet shelter
From the wind, the rain, the tide.
'Tis bound on the north by Hope,
By Patience on the West,
By tender Counsel on the South
And on the East by Rest.
Above it like a beacon light
Shine Faith, and Truth, and Prayer;
And thro' the changing scenes of life
I find a haven there.

Author Unknown

A Practical Mom

can go to Bible study every Sunday
and swear she's still not convinced,
but she likes to be around people who are.
We have the same conversation
every few years—I'll ask her if she stops
to admire the perfect leaves
of the Japanese maple
she waters in her backyard,
or tell her how I can gaze for hours
at a desert sky and know this
as divine. Nature, she says,
doesn't hold her interest. Not nearly
as much as the greens, pinks, and grays
of a Diebenkorn abstract, or the antique
Tiffany lamp she finds in San Francisco.
She spends hours with her vegetables,
tasting the tomatoes she's picked that morning
or checking to see which radishes are big enough to pull.
Lately everything she touches bears fruit,
from new-green string beans to winning
golf strokes, glamorous hats she designs and sews,
soaring stocks with their multiplying shares.
These are the things she can count in her hands,
the tangibles to feed and pass on to daughters
and grandchildren who can't keep up with all
the risky numbers she depends on, the blood-sugar counts
and daily insulin injections, the monthly tests
of precancerous cells in her liver and lungs.
She's a mathematical wonder with so many calculations
kept alive in her head, adding and subtracting
when everyone else is asleep.

BY Amy Uyematsu



WE SALUTE OUR VETERANS THIS MEMORIAL DAY

We salute every soldier who's
served this great nation.
And offer a heart of thanks
and appreciation!

We salute each member
of our armed forces.
And are thankful for their
efforts and resources!

We salute the many who
protect our borders too.
We'd be in trouble...
If not for people like YOU!

We salute every son
and daughter lost in a war.
YOU are what serving this
country is meant for!

We salute the officers who've
guided our women and men.
Our prayers are with you!
And our love from within!

We salute our veterans!
Wherever they may be!
Those who served on
land, air and sea!

Offering prayer to the
Lord is our belief...
That he will guide our
Commander-in-Chief!

As we observe Memorial Day this year...
Let's offer our soldiers
love, hope and cheer!

May God bless them in
all they endeavor
And his peace be with them
today and forever!!

By Jim Pemberton, 2013

Hurley Reformed Church, Contacts, Hurley Reformed Church

May 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>30</p> <p>9:30am - Guild Quilters 1pm - Basket Class @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7pm - Excel 7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @ 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30am - Bible Study @ 8:30am - nursery 5:30pm - Dog Training 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @ 11:30pm - Hurley Senior 4:45pm - Dog Training 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5pm - set up for mother daughter</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7pm - Motorcycle Club</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10am - Genealogy @</p>
<p>7</p> <p>10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain @</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30am - Guild Quilters 11am - VFW @ Dutch 1pm - Basket Class @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7pm - Consistory @ 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30am - Hillside Acres 9:30am - Badminton @ 1pm - Women's Bible 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30am - Bible Study @ 12pm - social solos @ 5:30pm - Dog Training 7pm - Local 1582 @</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7pm - Motorcycle Club</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Wedding 10am - Genealogy @</p>
<p>14</p> <p>10am - Worship @ 11am - Women's</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30am - Guild Quilters 10am - Genealogy @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @ 6:30pm - nursery 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30am - Bible Study @ 9am - Finance 5:30pm - Dog Training 7pm - Hurley Lions @ 7pm - men's group @</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training 7pm - NE Woodworkers 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Wedding</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Wedding</p>
<p>21</p> <p>10am - Worship @ 11am - SHD Committee 11am - Women's Guild 2pm - Bridal Shower @</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30am - Guild Quilters 10:30am - Genealogy @ 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @ 1pm - Women's Bible 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @ 4:45pm - Dog Training 7pm - Hurley Heritage 7pm - Sisters in 7:30pm - Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12pm - Therapy Dog</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12pm - Therapy Dog</p>
<p>28</p> <p>10am - Worship @ 11am - SHD Committee</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30am - Guild Quilters 3pm - Quilting @ Dutch 5pm - Dog Training @ 7:30pm - Al-Anon @</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @ 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts Troop</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:30am - Bible Study @ 5:30pm - Dog Training</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>

May 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

MAY 2017

THE SPIRE

