

# THE SPIRE

May 2025



In the middle of my muddling about the various ways in which the resurrection touches our lives and moves us not just on Easter but every day. I came across a rather amazing thing. Unfortunately like many really great trips the destination is the amazing part, and we don't have time to cover the twists and turns that led to this.

As we encounter Easter or at least the beginning of it, it follows many of the normal formats we have for grief and loss. As the women are on their way to the tomb they converse about how they are going to anoint Christ's body. You can almost feel the heaviness of the moment as they step by step move closer to the sad reality that Christ has died. BUT.....we all know that he isn't. Something amazing and life altering has happened. He is Risen! We could debate about how the women and then the disciples shouldn't have been all that surprised by finding the tomb like this or learning that Jesus had risen. I mean Jesus did after all prepare them for this moment.

But in this moment something happens. Death loses its power. With Christ rising from the dead and the promise made to us, God announces that the final power of life and death is not with death but with him. With the covenant promise of eternal life in Christ. In this death becomes not an ending but a transition into something new. On the one hand it can be scary since it is after all unknown, or a new thing. But on the other it means that our sadness we feel and our grief is a little bit different.

Now to my strange discovery. There is a cemetery located in Romania known as the Merry Cemetery. What makes it merry, well the headstones instead of being marble colored and gray, are bright and colorful. They also don't have traditional epitaphs or information on the stones either. Instead of a verse of scripture, along with the birth and death

date and person's name these often contain poems and bits of humor. The consensus at this particular cemetery is that death is not a solemn event.

Now we see elements of a shift in this belief in the New Orleans funeral march most of us have seen on TV or in other types of film. Such celebration has a brass band, and a second line which is encouraged to celebrate the life of the individual by dancing as they go. There are other celebratory traditions which other areas have. But it all brings us to the grand question, what does the Resurrection mean for us as we grieve and say goodbye?

Does it mean that a Merry cemetery is more apt? or less? Does it mean that we should put together a brass band wherever the church exists so that we can both celebrate the persons life but also celebrate their union with Christ?

The reality is that over 2000 years we have struggled with what the resurrection means for us as we engage with this reality. We hear the statement that death has been swallowed up in victory and its sting taken away. But does this change how we mourn? Does it change our engaging with the unknown, or at least the unexperienced? I'm not saying that we should rework or change how we grieve. But I would advocate us having a conversation about how the resurrection has changed our grief, how God has done something magnificent and turned grief and loss into a very different conversation. Grace and peace to you all.

Rev Bill



*God is our refuge and  
strength, an ever-present  
help in trouble...*

*Proverbs 18:10*

Feel God's presence in the  
surroundings at Stickley Gardens.  
Take time to reflect on those who  
passed before us. Their presence is  
in the peace we feel at the garden.

Through nature God teaches us:  
*Creativity. Strength. Love of Beauty.  
Attention to Detail. Tenacity.  
Orderliness. Redemption.*

*Please come visit, feel the peace and serenity.*

---

## STICKLEY GARDENS

---

FOR MORE INFORMATION - CONTACT ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER:

LISA LONGTO (532-7570) CHAIRPERSON

JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER

ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)

REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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



May 1	Hurley Seniors Meeting
May 4, 11, 18, 25	Worship
May 4	Communion
May 6, 13, 20, 27	Bible Study
May 12	Consistory Meeting
May 14	Social Solos



**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)

Bev Roosa is at the Terraces at Brookmeade

Lori Pinkham is Wingate at Ulster

Terry Conlin



### May

May 4	Allan Dumas and Terry Gaffken
May 11	Jeanne Quenzer and Maggie Sass
May 18	Chris Decker and Bill Baldinger
May 25	Marilyn More and Wally Cook



Our Mission for May is Mentor Me of Ulster County. At Mentor Me of Ulster County, they create life-changing connections between youth ages 6-17 and caring adult mentors who show up consistently, listen deeply, and open doors to new possibilities.

These goals are accomplished through the following:

- One-to-one mentoring relationships that build trust and confidence
- Small group mentoring that creates peer connections
- Family support that strengthens entire households
- Enriching activities that expand horizons
- Access to sports, arts, and extracurricular opportunities that many families couldn't otherwise.

The collection for the basket will be the Peoples Place lunchbox program. We will be collecting anything that would go into a healthy lunchbox, including juice boxes.



Deacon for May  
Is  
Jeanne Quenzer



Anyone interested in a piano  
please contact the church office  
or Rev. Bill.



Social Solos meets on Wednesday,  
May 14, 2025  
At noon

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



**Morning Worship**  
**Every Sunday**

Please join us for Worship  
every Sunday at 10am with Refresh-  
ments served after in the Hall.

Sign up sheets are posted in the Hall for  
flowers and refreshments.





5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

Fall Shopping!

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025  
9AM - 4PM

# Crafts Fair

Christmas Shopping!

FOOD & DRINKS  
AVAILABLE

GENERAL ADMISSION = \$2 (UNDER 12 FREE)

VENDOR FEE = \$40 (INSIDE ONLY)

SPACE RESERVATIONS CALL

CHURCH OFFICE 845-331-4121

HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH • MAIN STREET, HURLEY NY



&



On Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, take the night off from cooking and pick up dinner at the Hurley Nursery School.

(All profits support our students.)

Choice of Chicken (\$17) or Ribs (\$19) + choice of 2 sides (Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Mac-n-Cheese, or Slaw) – *sides chosen at pick up*, cornbread/butter, water, and a cookie.

Order forms and flyer are in the Fundraising bin on the wall across from the church office.  
(Orders due May 9<sup>th</sup>)

You can also call/email the school 845-339-1036 / [info@hurleynurseryschool.org](mailto:info@hurleynurseryschool.org) to order.



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
Jayne Ulrich	10
Marilyn Cox	11
Robin Brennan	14
Barbara Hornbeck	14
Les Frost	16
Taylor Robey	21
Ricki Maggione	27
Lily DeKoskie	27
Brian Donnelly	28
Mackenzie Schoonmaker	28



Glenn & Debbie Decker	6
Kathy & Bob Pfeiffer	6
Christa & Terry Conlin	9
Marilyn & John More	9
Joe & Kathy Burns	15
Kevin & Jeanne Quenzer	17
Wayne & Karen Waligurski	20
Donna & Peter Harder	30



Our former pastor, Dr. Bob Gram has been nominated for the top 6 finalist for the Chrono-gram's Readers Choice Author Award. If you would like to submit a vote please go to [https://www.cronogram.com/ HUDSONVALLEY/awards/Page#//](https://www.cronogram.com/ HUDSONVALLEY/awards/Page#/). From there you can navigate to "People" and then "Author", where you will find Bob's name. You need only provide an email and can vote daily until May 15th.

# A FOOD RIDDLE

How much do you know about food in the Bible? Answer the questions below, then use the circled letters to solve the riddle at the bottom of the page.



In a parable about prayer, Jesus said a loving father would not give his son a scorpion if he asked for this: (Hint: Luke 11:12)

— — — — —

A widow had only a handful of flour and a little of this left to make bread - but God provided for her when she shared her food with Elijah (1 Kings 17:16)

— — — — —

When a boy shared his lunch with Jesus, Jesus fed 5,000 people with it. The boy had two fish and 5 of these: (John 6:9)

— — — — —

After Abigail's husband insulted David, she made peace with David by taking food to him and his men. How many cakes of figs did she take?: (1 Samuel 25:18)

— — — — —

The ravens fed Elijah in the wilderness, bringing him meat and this every morning and evening. (1 Kings 17:6)

— — — — —

What did Solomon say that churning milk makes? (Proverbs 30:33)

— — — — —

Jesse sent David to the battlefield to see how his brothers were and to give their commander ten of these: (1 Samuel 17:18)

— — — — —

John the Baptist ate a strange diet of wild honey and these: (Matthew 3:4)

— — — — —

I went from being something that people wore, to being something that people worshipped, and finally became something that people were forced to drink - but you wouldn't have liked to drink me. I am:

— — — — —  
(Want to read the whole story? See Exodus 32:1-8, 19-20)





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1:30pm - Hurley Senior 4:30pm - Karate Class	1pm - Knitters @ Dutch Room	10am - Karate Class @ Hall
10am - Worship 1pm - Event @ Hall	12:45pm - Tai Chi 6:30pm - Al-Anon @ Hall 7pm - 1st Capitol Corvettes	9am - Bible Study @ Dutch 4:30pm - Karate Class @ hall	8:30am - Meeting @ 9am - HNS-grandparents day	4:30pm - Karate Class 6pm - HNS-flower set up @	9am - HNS-flower pick up @ 1pm - Knitters @ Dutch Room	10am - Genealogy @ Room 10am - Karate Class @ Hall 10:30am - Funeral @ 12pm - Woodworkers @ Hall 3:30pm - Event
10am - Worship 1pm - Event @ Hall	11am - VFW @ Dutch Room 12:45pm - Tai Chi 6:30pm - Al-Anon @ Hall 7pm - Consistory @ Dutch	9am - Bible Study @ Dutch 4:30pm - Karate Class @ hall	8:30am - Meeting @ 12pm - social solos @ Lunch 7pm - Radio Club @ Hall	4:30pm - Karate Class	1pm - Knitters @ Dutch Room	10am - Karate Class @ Hall
10am - Worship	10am - Genealogy @ Rooms 12:45pm - Tai Chi 6:30pm - Al-Anon @ Hall	9am - Bible Study @ Dutch 4:30pm - Karate Class @ hall 5pm - Kidspace @ Kitchen 6pm - Nursery School Board	8:30am - Meeting @ 9am - HNS @ Hall	4:30pm - Karate Class	1pm - Knitters @ Dutch Room	10am - Karate Class @ Hall
10am - Worship	<b>Memorial Day</b> 10:30am - Genealogy @ 12:45pm - Tai Chi 6:30pm - Al-Anon @ Hall	9am - Bible Study @ Dutch 4:30pm - Karate Class @ hall	8:30am - Meeting @	4:30pm - Karate Class	1pm - Knitters @ Dutch Room	10am - Karate Class @ Hall

PO Box 328  
11 Main Street  
Hurley NY 12443

Phone: 845-331-4121

E-mail: [admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org](mailto:admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org)

Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich  
Pastor

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

KINGSTON, NY

PERMIT #44301

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

**eSpire:** *In order to save money and reduce our impact on the environment, you may receive The Spire by email. Please request electronic distribution by emailing [admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org](mailto:admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org). If you no longer wish to receive the Spire please let us know at the same email address or call the church office and we will remove you from our mailing list.*

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

THE SPIRE  
MAY 2025

