

THE SPIRE

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JUNE 2020



You take the win

Years ago I got a bit of a wake up call. It was in the wake of my final game of High School football. It had been a very close game, and the guy quarterbacking the opposing team later went on to win the Division II player of the year and win a national title in 2002. We were losing and suddenly as I broke through the line the ball popped out of the hand of the running back. This wasn't surprising since it had been drizzling all day. There was thirty yards to the goal line and no one that I could see. Instead of trying to scoop it up and run and score I dove on the ball and made sure that we took possession.

The down side came four plays later when we missed the field goal. With little time left we needed to do something. And Colin Christopher did, again the ball squirted out and our All State tight end ran it in for a touchdown. With seconds left we still had to stop that quarterback from throwing what seemed like a dozen Hail Mary's, but we ended up winning. As we walked off the field I was pretty dejected, I looked at that fumble recovery I had as a failure because we didn't score and my view was that I almost cost us the game because I didn't try to run it in those 30 yards.

Coach Johnson came over to me and put his arm over my shoulder pad. "Bill," he said, "A lot of things happened today that might have made those last minutes less stressful. I could beat myself up for a dozen of plays I called. But sometimes you just have to take the win." You just have to take the win. What he meant was to be satisfied to not look for perfection because perfection was going to be too elusive and never be attainable. Taking the win meant walking away accepting the imperfection which existed and seeing the winning was enough. It meant realizing that imperfection would exist

That concept has hung around with me for these several months. We have faced some very try-

ing circumstances and suffered a significant level of loss. We have lost over 90 thousand people. Nursing homes have become wildfires of loss and grief. Suffering has occurred at a level I have never seen in my life. We have been staying home and not going out. Businesses have been shut down unless they are essential, and to keep others safe we are wearing masks. We have sacrificed for the good of our community, for others we have stayed home. And yet we still have lost.

Perfection or the ideals of being the body of Christ under these circumstances is impossible. When one of our brothers and sisters loses someone they love, normally we physically and emotionally wrap our arms around them. But we can't. It isn't safe for them or for us. Our worship is via Zoom and over the radio as we gather in the parking lot. There are glitches and imperfections. The minister stumbles or rushes through the liturgy. The sound of the piano comes through as tinny and moves in and out. This week the Zoom broadcast had no audio for much of it.

Imperfections abound, but through those imperfections the church endures. Those imperfections are not going to go away as we begin to reopen and look to other ways in which we might be together and yet be socially distanced. We should still remember that in spite of those imperfections we are still here. We are still worshiping; the church is still here. Hurley Reformed is more than its building. It is its people: those people who gather together by zoom and radio. We have lost so much over this time, but we do endure, and we will be together soon. Let us continue to lift up one another in prayer, support one another in the ways we can and remain patient.

Blessings,
Rev. Bill



JUNE EVENTS

May 31	Pentecost
June 7, 14, 21, 28	Worship
June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Bible Study by Zoom
June 21	Children's Day
June 21	Father's Day
June 28	Graduation Sunday

USHERS FOR JUNE

June 7

Ushers: Sandie Gregory and Kathy Jansen

June 14

Ushers: Sandy Emrich and Lisa Longto

June 21

Ushers: Glenn Decker and Roberta Falatyn

June 28

Ushers: David Kent and Russ Glass

***REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO
NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN
THEIR DAY TO DAY NEEDS:***



Keep them in your prayers.

Linda Cook is home.

Eugene Groelle is in a rehab.

Jim and Sheila Craven are at home.

Jerry Wyncoop is at home;

Alice Presti is at Thompson House;

Bev Roosa is at the Terraces at Brookmeade;

MaryLou Vogt is in Hudson Valley Senior Residence;

Shirley Ruth is in Mountain Valley Manor;

Fred Horvers at TenBroeck;

Lori Pinkham in Wingate at Ulster;

Anthony DiPietro (son of MaryAnn DiPietro),

Marie Dressel; Phil Greer.



ADDED TO THE LIST OF SAINTS:

Juanita Bilyou

Friedel Borst

Linda Wolven Eppard

Scott Fletcher

Audrey Hornbeck

Patricia Manley

Delores McGoldrick

Bill Merrill

Helen Richter

Robert Sgroi

Dick Shook

Bob Williams

Jared Wonderley

. "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."
Psalm 73:26



June's mission of the month is the American Cancer Society.

Regarding reopening

As many of you are aware, we are in the Mid-Hudson region of New York State's phased reopening (NY Forward). Our County Executive, Pat Ryan and the Dutchess County Executive, Marc Molinaro, are petitioning to have us severed from that region and joined to the capital region. Until that comes, know that we are working on a plan for when we are able to gather together in the building. But until then we are advised to continue to worship as we are.

I have been communication with state and local officials about exactly what phase of reopening churches will be placed in and have been advised that Church reopenings will happen during Phase 4.

The Reopening Committee and I face many concerns. The primary concern is how to return safely. Certain difficulties exist as we reenter the building. One is that we only have four restrooms which have only 7 toilets. How can this serve our whole congregation? Another issue is that we need to maintain a safe distance of 6 feet from each other. This means that we can't sit in our usual pews. I went into the sanctuary the other day and measured. We will have to sit every third pew to keep this distance.

Also as some of you will have read, certain choirs met and had one last practice before quarantines. They practiced social distancing and still had major outbreaks among them. This led to studies concerning singing and the virus; it has turned out that singing is as dangerous to spread the virus as coughing.

And then there is our cooling system, which is a huge fan which sucks air through windows in the front of the sanctuary and drags it out of the building. If someone in the front pew coughs, this could mean that their air projectiles could travel backwards to those seated behind them.

This leaves us with difficulties, but ones we can identify and find ways to cope safely. It also leaves us with the reality that "normal" is a longer way off than returning to the building. I would like to ask for your patience as we have to set certain things aside in order to worship together. The main goal of all of this is to keep not just ourselves but one another safe.

Rev Bill

Budget update alert! You can help!

- These are difficult times. The COVID-19 has wrecked havoc on our health, our jobs, our economy and yes even on the Hurley Reformed Church.
- We have suffered a terrible human toll in the loss of a beloved members of our church and our community during this pandemic.
- We have worked to adapt to our new situation by continuing to worship together via "drive-in" church worship services and through zoom. Thanks to the able work of the tech committee and the Consistory guided by Rev. Bill we are maintaining our mutual support for our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- We anticipate a substantial income shortfall for the 2020 budget year. The closure of our building will result in a near complete loss of building use income. We also canceled Stone House Day for the first time in memory. All other fundraising activities have thus far been canceled also. Our investment portfolio is largely dependent on the volatile stock market.

- One piece of good news is that we were recently awarded a Payroll Protection Program loan/grant for \$17,500 to be applied to our payroll expenses.

- Every bit helps; therefore we are making this appeal to our church family to support in an effort we are calling HRC COVID-19 Recovery Fund.

- We all have expenses and currently tithe to the church already. If the spirit moves your heart and you are able, a contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you and may God keep us strong through this ordeal.

Glenn Decker, Chair,
Finance and Administration Committee
on behalf of the Consistory and Rev. Bill.



"Billy says he doesn't hafta go to church anymore 'cause his phone has an app for that!"

Reminders:

1. Access to Sunday worship service is available through **Zoom**. Contact Rev. Bill for invitation.
2. **Graduation Sunday is June 28**. We want to honor our graduates on that day. Know someone **who is graduating**? Let us know so that we can put their information in the bulletin.

*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 (331-1438) CHAIRPERSON
JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER
ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)
SANDIE GREGORY (338-7626)
REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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

Walk for Water - Mark your calendar!

Once again, we are participating in the Hudson Valley Walk for Water with Grace Evangelica Katrine. This time we will be having it here in Hurley! We will start at the Church and walk all Details of the route are to be determined. The date is **Saturday, September 19 at 10 am**. If we hold a "live" event, there is a way to do it as a virtual walk!



Walk for Water is an opportunity to help support water purification systems for communities along the Amazon River in Peru. Despite living near the Amazon River, one of the largest rivers in the world, these communities have extremely limited access to safe drinking water. Over the years, the Amazon River has been contaminated by sewage, agricultural pollution, and wastes from oil and gas extractions. Even the area's shallow wells contain dangerous concentrations of arsenic, manganese, and aluminum. All proceeds to help these communities will be donated to the Water Mission of Charleston, SC. (See their website: watermission.org and see why they receive the highest charity navigator rating.)

Rebecca Masters

June

BIRTHDAYS

Abigail Conlin	1	Kyla Burns	18	Dakota Butler	27
Su Wonderly	2	Allan Dumas, IV	19	James Gregory	28
Dorothy Draper	7	Luke Helm	19		
Makenzie Rell	8	Marilyn Lowe	21	ANNIVERSARIES	
Rebecca Masters	8	Brandt Kurtz	21	Drew & Su Wonderly	12
Bobbi Checksfield	8	Patti Gilpatric	23	Wally & Linda Cook	14
David Giles	8	Aaron Ulrich	24	Barbara & Bob Kindt	17
Dennis Croswell	9	Shawn Hinsdale	24	Bobbi & Don Checksfield	21
Mimi Croswell	11	Cailin Ryan	24	Frieda & Doug Constant	23
Matthew Moon, Jr	12	Aileen Helsley	25	Terry & John Gaffken	23
William (Liam) Appleyard-Pekich	13	Elizabeth Salzmann	25	Steve & Phyllis Bliss	27
Sarah Longto	14	Charles Woodard	26	Steve & Valerie Nekos	29
Bobby Ryan	15	Steven Kurtz	26	Todd & Katrina Rubino	30
Annemarie Kurtz	15	Gregory Merrill	27		
		Dolores Wolven	27		

Hurley Reformed Church, Hurley Reformed Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Friday	Saturday
31 Pentecost 10am - Worship @	1	2 9am - Bible Study @	3	4		
7 10am - Worship @	8 7pm - Consistory @	9 9am - Bible Study @	10	11	12	13
14 10am - Worship @	15	16 9am - Bible Study @	17	18	19	20
21 Children's Day Father's Day 10am - Worship @	22	23 9am - Bible Study @	24	25	26	27
28 10am - Worship @	29	30 9am - Bible Study @	1	2	3	4

June 2020

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Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich
Pastor

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

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