

# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 5

MAY 2016



## POLITICAL TIFFS

Hasn't it been fun watching presidential candidates do what they do best—vie to convince us that they're the right person for the greatest leadership position in the world. From the beginning melodrama has reigned during each of the innumerable Republican debates. We've been treated to name calling, attacks on character, and between these verbal slug-fests, photos comparing two of the candidates' wives in terms of looks rather than their positions on the Iran Nuclear Arms treaty.

The Democratic debates finally heated up in April as Bernie Sanders and hitherto, a somewhat somnambulant Hillary began to duke it out, in an attempt, perhaps, to get in tune with the headline grabbing stridency of their Republican opponents.

The anger at various venues has spilled onto their supporters. It seems as if each political pit stop becomes the locus for placard bearing protestors as well as supporters. A punch or two has been thrown here and there, and some people have been shown the exit unceremoniously.

Although television pundits try to make this out to be rather extraordinary I think the process of presidential pickings has always been larded with personal attack, violence promoting rhetoric, and aphorisms instead of answers to complex questions. During the Viet Nam era, presidential runs were more bruising than what we witness today, I believe. And the hatred dished out to Abraham Lincoln during both runs for office was visceral from his own Republican party as well as his Democratic opponents. So perhaps we can add to death, and taxes something else that never

I want to put a biblical passage or two which underscores the positions, and perhaps the character of the presidential contenders.

changes. I'm unsure who I'm voting for, but, in tribute to my mother, who definitely had strong political views, but also tried to find good in everyone, I want to try to do the latter as I review the candidates. And in fact I want to put a biblical passage or two which underscores the positions, and perhaps the character of the presidential contenders. Here goes:

**Bernie Sanders:** I like Bernie because age is no barrier to passion. It's neat to see that he is particularly appealing to the youngest voters. Here are some biblical passages which I find congruent to his message: “For the love of money is the root of all evil” (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:10).

“Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter!” (James 5:1-5).

“How hard it is for people who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God” (Luke 18:24-25).

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Hillary Clinton:** I like Hillary because she has stepped out of the shadows of her husband's legacy and forged a path toward the White House which, not too long ago, would have been unthinkable given her gender.. On October 7, 1973 I was privileged to be ordained with the first woman to be thus honored in the Reformed Church, Joyce Stedje-Fowler. I've always admired women who understand they are just as qualified as the opposite sex. Hillary has also been involved in the Civil Rights movement.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28-29

**Ted Cruz:** What I like about Ted is that, although he's a graduate of an Ivy League college, he never touts his academic credentials. He also has an evangelical fervor for Christianity. Like the president he seeks to replace, he's astute in building effective grass roots organization in various states, and understands how the political game is played.

"Jesus said, 'But whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven'" (Matthew 10:32).

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

"Jesus said, 'Be as wise as serpents, and innocent as doves, for I am sending you out as sheep among wolves'" (Matthew 10:16).

**John Kaisich:** What I like about the former governor of Ohio is that he is reasoned and thoughtful. He does not insult his opponents. He is the last governor to have produced a balanced budget. He also seems unprepossessing. On one occasion, for example, he made a masterful mess trying to eat pizza with a fork in Brooklyn. The press had a field day, but the media's joke at his expense didn't seem to phase him. He's the kind of guy in whose company I'd enjoy slopping down a slice.

"For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones" Proverbs 2:6-8

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen...Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, forgiving one another just as Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4: 29, 32).

"Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances have come between yourselves" (Colossians 3:12-13).

"A hot tempered man stirs up dissension, but a quiet man calms a quarrel" (Proverbs 15:18).

**Donald Trump:** I like Mr. Trump's confidence and work ethic. I also like the fact that he is the avatar of political incorrectness when he opens his mouth. He doesn't necessarily tell people what they want to hear, but what he strongly believes.

"Whatever your hand finds to do it with all your might." Ecclesiastes 9:10

"Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear.; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident." Psalm 27:3

"May the Lord cut off all flattering lips." Psalm 12:3

So I've tried to focus on positive features I find in our candidates. An interesting game might be to see how many attributes they share. I believe they're all good family folks--at least when they have time! And although the means to the end of making significant contributions to our country may vary widely among them, I'd like to believe that all operate from positions of selflessness and idealism as much as egotism. They all have strengths. Although I count it a great joy being your pastor, ministry can be demanding even in a small church like ours. I have no idea of the skill sets needed to run a country. God bless them all.

In Christ's service,

*Doc Bob*

Doc Bob



## Mission of the Month

Our MARCH Mission of the month was wonderfully successful. In addition to the donation by our band of water walkers, our Church raised over \$1000 for the Water Mission of South Carolina that “builds and implements safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) solutions for people in developing countries and disaster areas.” Our April Mission will enable needy students to attend a week or more of YMCA camp.

Our May Mission is one of our favorites. We will be collecting money to shop for needed supplementary food for kids who live in our local shelter motels. These kids often do not have snack to bring for snack time or field trips at school. In addition, during days there is no school, they do not get their lunches. So please give generously so we can fill up the supply closet for summer break!

Rebecca Masters



## *Hospitality Committee: SAVE THE DATE information.*

The Hospitality Committee has some events for anyone and everyone to join during the summer months. **Mark your calendar now!!!** Further details and times will be posted on the Church website as well as in the bulletin as each event draws closer.

**May 22 Doc Bob send off picnic** at his house. (Don't worry Doc Bob- you don't have to lift a finger!)

**June 12 Church and Sunday school picnic** at Town of Hurley Park on Dug Hill Road.

**July 9 Stone House Day-** join in the fun by participating as a volunteer or tour the homes is you haven't yet! **This is a big fund raiser, so any help is appreciated!**

**July 16 Cook out at the Parsonage-** BYO MEAT or veggie burger and a salad or dessert to share

**August 28 Pizza pot luck and games night** at Church Hall

## *April showers bring May flowers...*

It will not be long before  
the Columbarium will be a blanket  
of flowers of all kinds and colors.  
The blooms are a reminder of God's  
constant love that comes in all seasons  
of life, both here and now and in  
the hope and promise of eternity  
for those who rest in Stickley Gardens.

## *Welcome Spring!!*

### STICKLEY GARDENS

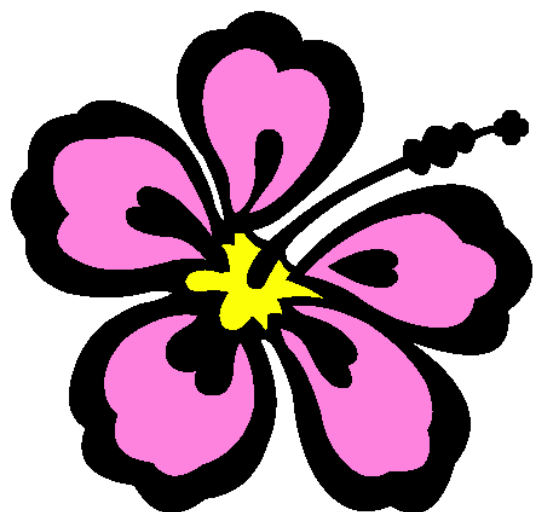
FOR MORE INFORMATION - CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

LISA LONGO (331-1438) CHAIRPERSON  
JIM PINRO (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)

## May Events

May 3/4	Bible Study: Everyday Ethics
May 7	Hike at Minnewaska
May 8	Happy Mother's Day!
May 10/11	Bible Study: Everyday Ethics
May 15	Pentecost
May 20	Potluck Dinner/Movie Night
May 22	Doc Bob's Send off Picnic
May 24/25	Bible Study: Everyday Ethics
May 30	Memorial Day



## Today

by Billy Collins

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,  
 so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze  
 that it made you want to throw  
 open all the windows in the house  
 and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,  
 indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,  
 a day when the cool brick paths  
 and the garden sprouting tulips  
 seemed so etched in sunlight  
 that you felt like taking  
 a hammer to the glass paperweight  
 on the living room end table,  
 releasing the inhabitants  
 from their snow-covered cottage  
 so they could walk out,  
 holding hands and squinting  
 into this larger dome of blue and white,  
 well, today is just that kind of day.

# May

## BIRTHDAYS

<i>Cole Jordan</i>	<i>May 1</i>
<i>Terry Conlin</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Kristen Helm</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Mikayla Mellin</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Lori Baker</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Kathy Burns</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Jonathan Helsley</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>George Nekos, Jr.</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Elizabeth Wilson</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Dolores McGoldrick</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Jayne Ulrich</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Marilyn Cox</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Charles Jansen</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Robin Brennan</i>	<i>14</i>

*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

Note: Linda Shook does not  
want her birthday

## ANNIVERSARIES

*Jim & Sheila Craven* May 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

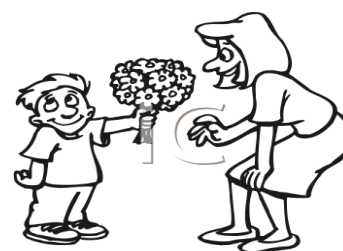
*Wayne & Karen Waligurski* 20

*Christine & Bill Henning* 22

*Donna & Peter Harder* 30



## Happy Mother's Day



Pentecost Sunday is May 15. Don't  
forget your geraniums.

# News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.



The Hurley Fire Department Woman's Auxiliary thanks the Hurley Reformed Church for its donation to our Loan Closet. — Doris Alden

## Pot Luck Dinner & A Movie



On April 29 we watched "The Hundred Foot Journey", had a wonderful pot luck dinner, and fellowshiped with new & old friends. If you missed it, you will have another chance to join us on May 20 at 5:30 pm when we see the movie "Philomena". This will be our last gathering for the spring, so don't miss out. Sign-ups for this will be held on May 8 & 15.

If folks could please arrive at 5 pm to help setup that would be greatly appreciated. Please bring your own place setting. We will provide you with a beverage, dessert(s) and this great movie. There will be a goodwill offering for the restoration of the parsonages second floor bathroom.

See you there!  
Sandy Emrich



Looking for good fellowship?!

The Men's Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is May 18 at 7 pm.

Come hang with us.

See Wally Cook for details.



# News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.

## PARSONAGE RENOVATION PROJECT

Our parsonage is one of the architectural jewels of our state let alone our village. Through the voluntary efforts of church members, much work has been done on less than a shoestring budget. More than any other part in our stone manse, however, the upstairs bathroom has fared the worst and will be the main focus of the repairs for now. Photos can be seen in Schadewald Hall today illustrating the extent of damage.

We seek donations from individuals who are concerned that this historic structure which has played a central role in the life of our congregation be maintained. The parsonage not only houses pastors. It also witnessed baptisms, weddings, and funerals underneath its roof during an earlier era. Thus it remains both a historic and sacred space.

The hope is to do the renovations while Doc Bob is on sabbatical this summer.

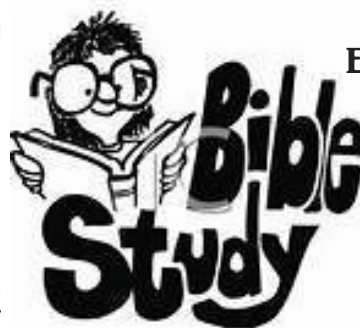
Checks can be made to the Hurley Reformed Church and earmarked HRC Preservation Fund.

## MOVIES WITH MEANING

Showing: "Philomena"

Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm. Movie to follow.

In 1952, Irish teenager Philomena (Judi Dench) became pregnant out of wedlock and was sent to a convent. When her baby, Anthony, was a toddler, the nuns took Philomena's child away from her and put him up for adoption in the United States. For the next 50 years, she searched tirelessly for her son. When former BBC correspondent Martin Sixsmith (Steve Coogan) learns of the story, he becomes her ally. They travel together to America to find Anthony and become unexpectedly close in the process.



## ETHICS IN EVERYDAY LIFE

May 3-4: *A Biblical Diet: The Ethics of Food Production and Consumption*

This study will examine contemporary food practices in light of food's role in some of the Bible's early stories. These stories show that eating not only concerns our health or sense of pleasure; food production and distribution also raise ethical questions for both our ancient ancestors and for us today.

May 10-11: *Medical Ethics 101*

This study will examine the four foundational principles that guide decision making in medical ethics today and examine how we can integrate our faith into decisions about medical care

May 17-18: no classes

May 24-25: *The Ethics of Lying*

This study will examine definitions of lying, degrees of lying, and the ethics of lying. We will explore various components of lying and our own views of lying.

Looking ahead:

May 31/June 1 and June 7-8 *Archaeology 101*

These sessions will provide an overview of archaeology of the ancient Near Eastern Biblical lands and Rev. Ruth's experiences at a dig in Jordan.



## STONE HOUSE DAY

Stone House Day 2016 is coming up on July 9. For those of you who have newly joined our Church, Stone House Day is our main fundraiser, and is a wonderful opportunity to participate and meet new people. We will need lots of help: docents in all the houses, help in the cafeteria, kitchen and dining room, Granny's Garret in the basement, parking lot and lots of other things. We will need all of you to make this a successful and wonderful day.

We will have 8 stone houses open to the public (as you probably know all the stone houses in the area are privately owned and lived in) and they are only open one day a year. We also have a "festival" of colonial crafts, children's crafts, a colonial militia, musical and theatrical performances, etc. If you like to talk to people and would like to show them around one of these houses, or if you like to cook or serve or clean up, please let me know as soon as possible. If you have never been a docent (host/hostess), we will have a short workshop before the event, probably after church service on July 3 in the Dutch Room. It will only take about 20 minutes or

so. The hours for the docents are either 10 - 1, or 1 to 4, and we have lots of "colonial" looking outfits for you to wear.

If you have worked in the Kitchen on previous Stone House Days, and would like to do that again this year, please speak to Roberta Falatyn or me in Church, since we are trying to get our Kitchen organized at this time. We serve about 400 people, and always get rave reviews, so please participate if you can. It is a big undertaking, and we need help both on Friday, for prep work, and on Saturday. If you would like to work half a day, that can be arranged, of course. We have had comments saying that we should all wear "outfits", and we have enough for everybody.

We also have Granny's Garrett where we sell antiques and jewelry and some church commemoratives, as well as a Bake Sale (upstairs on the stage), and a quilt raffle, made by the ladies of the Church. We love to have young people involved, so if you have a teenager in your house who would like to help, we would love it.

Sincerely,

Ellen Richards,  
Chairperson  
331-0674



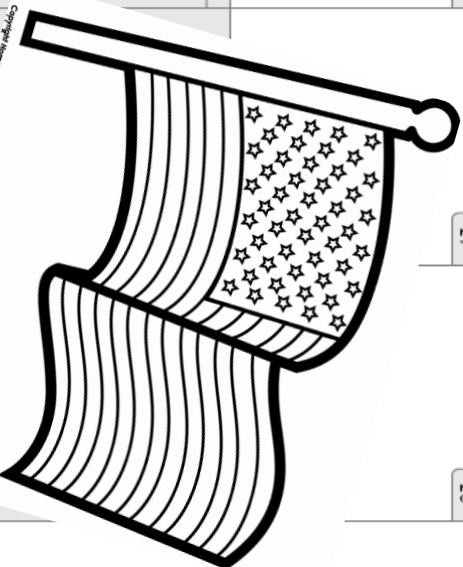


Forward 3, Contacts, Hurley Reformed Church

May 2016 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10am - Worship @ 1</p> <p>11am - Prayer Chain @</p> <p>11am - SHD Committee @</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 - Guild Quilters @ 3</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>10am - sels church history</p> <p>11am - Balance for Life @</p> <p>1pm - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>4pm - Hurley Purters @</p> <p>4:30pm - PC 101 @ Dutch</p>	<p>7:30am - Bible Study @ 4</p> <p>5:30pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</p> <p>6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room</p> <p>6:30pm - Girl Scout</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p> <p>7pm - Kingston Area Soccer</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @ 5</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>Eagle Court -- Schindler @ Schadewald Hall</p> <p>Hike to Minnewaska @</p>	
<p>10am - Worship @ 8</p> <p>11am - LeAnne Warren</p> <p>11am - VFW @ Dutch Room</p> <p>12pm - Reception @</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</p> <p>5pm - Dog Training @ Hall</p> <p>7pm - Consistory @ Dutch</p> <p>7pm - Hudson Valley</p>	<p>9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 9</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>11am - Balance for Life @</p> <p>4pm - Hurley Purters @</p> <p>7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p> <p>7pm - sels church history 2</p>	<p>7:30am - Bible Study @ 10</p> <p>5:30pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</p> <p>6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room</p> <p>7pm - Local 1582 @ Room 9</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @ 11</p> <p>4:45pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>7pm - Sisters in Solution @</p>	<p>7pm - Motorcycle Club @ 12</p> <p>10am - Genealogy @ Room</p> <p>11am - baptism @</p>		
<p>10am - Worship @ 15</p> <p>11am - Women's Ministry @</p>	<p>10am - Genealogy @ Rooms</p> <p>1pm - Basket Class @</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</p> <p>5pm - Dog Training @ Hall</p> <p>6pm - Hudson Valley</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</p>	<p>9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 17</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>11am - Balance for Life @</p> <p>1pm - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>4pm - Hurley Purters @</p> <p>6pm - nursery school board</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p> <p>7pm - sels church history 2</p>	<p>9am - Finance Committee @ 18</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>9:30am - Badminton @ 19</p> <p>4:45pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>7pm - NE WoodWorkers @</p> <p>7pm - Sisters in Solution @</p>	<p>movie night @ Schadewald Hall</p>	
<p>10am - Worship @ 22</p> <p>11am - Women's guild @</p> <p>1pm - Send off Picnic @</p>	<p>10:30am - Genealogy @</p> <p>1pm - basket class @</p> <p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</p> <p>5pm - Dog Training @ Hall</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</p>	<p>9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 24</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>11am - Balance for Life @</p> <p>4pm - Hurley Purters @</p> <p>7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p>	<p>7:30am - Bible Study @ 25</p> <p>5:30pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Den @</p> <p>6pm - Den 1 Bears @ Room</p>	<p>9:30am - Badminton @ 26</p> <p>4:45pm - Dog Training @</p> <p>7pm - Hurley Heritage</p> <p>7pm - Sisters in Solution @</p>		
<p>10am - Worship @ 29</p>	<p>3pm - Quilting @ Dutch</p> <p>5pm - Dog Training @ Hall</p> <p>7:30pm - Al-Anon @ Room</p>	<p>9:30am - Guild Quilters @ 31</p> <p>9:30am - Badminton @</p> <p>11am - Balance for Life @</p> <p>1pm - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>4pm - Hurley Purters @</p> <p>7pm - Bible Study @ Dutch</p> <p>7pm - Boy Scouts Troop 20</p>	<p>1 1</p>	<p>2 2</p>		

May 2016



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THE SPIRE  
MAY 2016  
HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH  
Hurley New York 12443  
The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW  
Pastor

