

# THE SPIRE

November 2023



Last Sunday was Reformation Day. To some it's a cool holiday that no one really knows about, and to others it is a celebration of a divisive moment. And to another segment it is something celebrated by a group of Christians that for the most part they know nothing about. For me the conversation of how this one moment can be seen in so many different ways really happened when I was talking about my profession of faith class with my grandfather. Bear in mind that his own back story was that he came from a staunchly Catholic family, and after an incident when his father was publicly shamed by their priest for not contributing when the mine was shut down and he was barely able to feed his family caused him to walk away.

I shared what I had learned from the creeds and confessions and how cool reformation day was for us and how excited I was about it. Please read in there that I was a teen who didn't trick or treat anymore. My joy stopped when my grandfather said, "I wouldn't be so joyful talking to your great Aunts about this." It was then that I really saw that one moment could be seen not the way I saw it, but from many other angles.

Now as this particularly pertains to this moment think about this scripturally. The prophets were tasked by God with telling the people that the perspective they held was not the right one that how they saw how they were wasn't how they saw it. Jesus comes to tell the pharisees that how they have perceived their faith and actions isn't correct. In each of these cases we see the issue that comes when we refuse to accept or understand that this bias of perspective exists. Jesus was executed, the prophets beaten and bloodied. All because the perspective wasn't seen

Now let me ask you about our own bias, the bias of being within the four walls of the sanctuary, or sanctuaries. How does the world see us, that is the church? Again I track back to family history and my Swedish great grandmother who would never have raised her children or attended a Lutheran church. Her lens or bias was based

on growing up in Sweden where the church and state were the same and her father either drank or donated all the family money to the states church. Her bias existed and by no means meant that all Lutheran churches were how she viewed them if any.

One of the great challenges to ministry is to not only see yourself but your community with as many perspectives as possible. To the churches own detriment it is something we usually have trouble seeing. We believe that everyone views the church or our own particular church home as we do. Sometimes that is true, but other times it misses the crucial details of past history in the community. When we assume that everyone is coming from our own angle or perspective we forget that perhaps some have been harmed by the church or have no background or even a negative background with the church.

The challenge for us is not to defend the angles from which others are coming from or to defend our own bias that exists. The challenge it to listen to those other perspectives those other points of view, those other ways in which the church, and perhaps even the church we love and are a part of is viewed. Instead of doing ministry to those who are like us, we might see that the room for ministry is much wider what we have thought. And that there is so much more for us as the church to do. Brothers and sisters talk about faith with a friend who approaches, God and the church a little differently than you do. You do not have to be of one accord, and agree with them, but listen to their story. Amen



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Nov. 5,12,19,26	Worship
Nov. 2	Hurley Seniors meeting
Nov. 5	Day Light Savings
Nov. 5	Communion
Nov. 7,14,21,28	Bible Study
Nov 8	Social Solos
Nov. 11	Veterans Day
Nov. 13	Consistory Meeting
Nov. 19	Congregational Meeting
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving



## USHERS' SCHEDULE

### For November

Nov. 5	Glenn Decker and Bob Kindt
Nov. 12	Dennis Croswell and Marilyn More
Nov. 19	Jeanne Quenzer and Bill Baldinger
Nov. 26	Linda Moon and Aileen Helsley



Deacon For November

is

Jeanne Quenzer

# Thanks!

This is the season to give thanks.

Families gather around the table

laden with a bounty of food

and give thanks.

But what about the rest of the year?

We need to give thanks to the Lord

for his love and many blessings.

The seasons may change but

the Lord is ever present.

## *We are Blessed.*

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## STICKLEY GARDENS

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FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER:

LISA LONGTO (532-7570) CHAIRPERSON

JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER

ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)

SANDIE GREGORY (338-7626)

LEE GABLE

REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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




## Birthdays of the Month

Chloe Dumas	14
William Schaffrick	14
Bill Merrill	16
Daniela Sumerano	16
Jay Burgess	17
Drew Milne	17
Julianna Schaffrick	17
Joe Burns	19
Eden Barnard	21
Kathy Musialkiewicz	23
Allan Dumas	28
Matthew Croswell	30
Art Harder	30



Todd & Julie Jordan	9
Leslie & Darryl Shambo	10
Sandie & Jim Gregory	30



The mission for November  
will be to collect money for Angel Food  
East, that will be used to purchase  
Thanksgiving meals.

We will also be collecting new and used  
adult and children coats.



## ***It's That Time Again!!!***

Once again it's time to place your orders for poinsettia plants to adorn the sanctuary for the Holiday season.

Plants are one size, one color, and one price: red at \$8.00 each.

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### POINSETTIAS

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8.00 each: Total due \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We are requesting that you take your plant home or deliver it to someone special.

Make Checks Payable to: **Hurley Reformed Church**

Give to Kathy Jansen after worship or mail to:

223 Hidden Valley Road, Kingston, NY 12401

***Payment must be received by December 3, 2023***







# Pecans Sale

*While Supplies Last*



**ALL VARIETIES - \$12.00 PER BAG**

**MILK CHOCOLATE  
PLAIN  
CARAMEL PECAN CLUSTERS**

**CONTACT JEANNE AT 845-417-5676**

**SALES AFTER WORSHIP STARTING NOV 5**

**HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH • MAIN STREET, HURLEY NY**



**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

Shirley Ruth is in Golden Hill

Lori Pinkham is Wingate at Ulster

Terry Conlin

David Kent

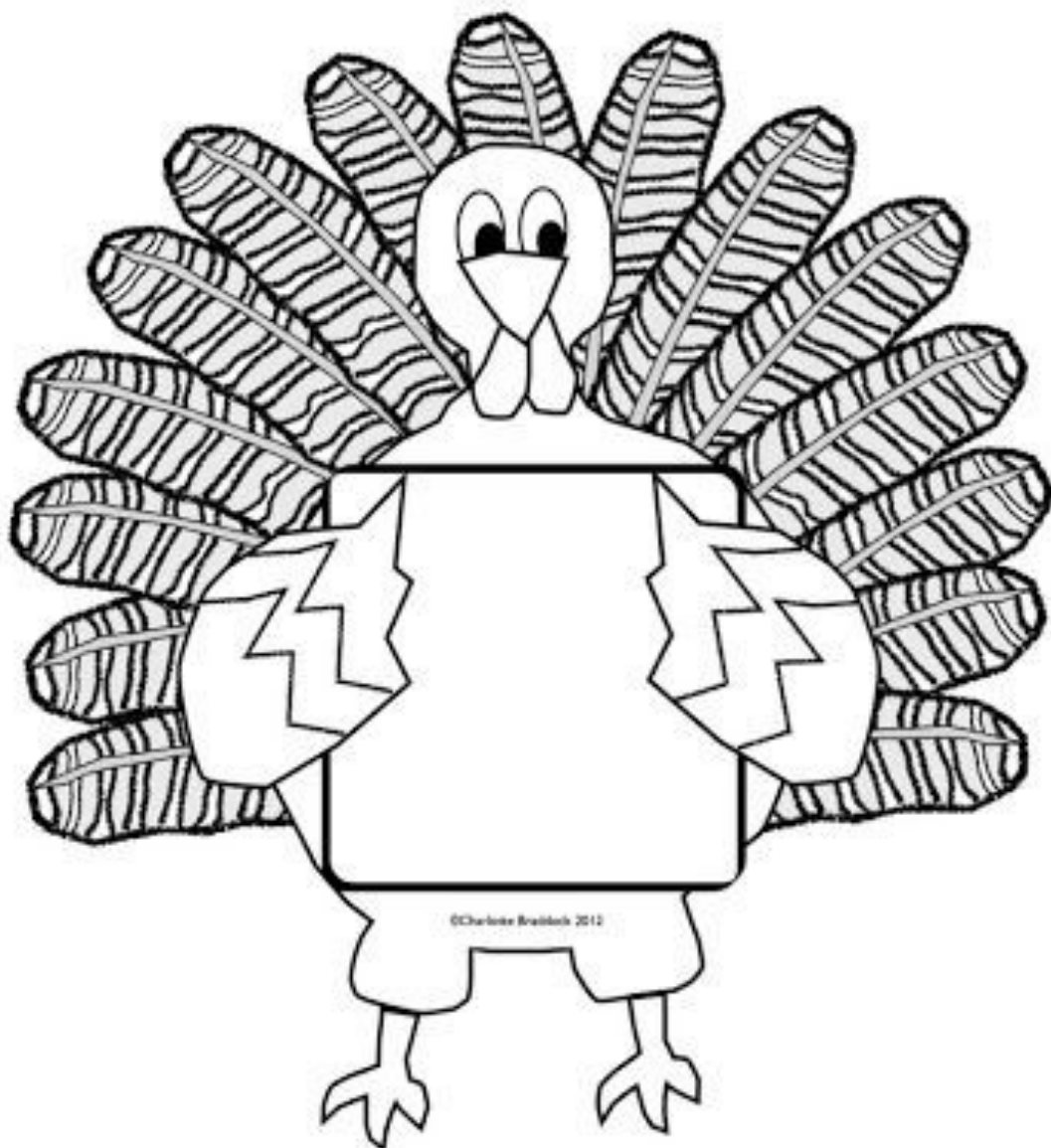
Shirley Burns

Please join us for Worship  
either in person or  
through zoom every Sunday at 10am  
with Refreshments served after in  
the Hall.

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

Directions: Color turkey, write what you are thankful for on the sign, and cut out the rectangular shape. These can be used for decorations at home or school.

I Thank God For:



Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



# November

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NOVEMBER 2023  
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Hurley New York 12443  
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