

THE SPIRE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER 2020



I'll be honest, I miss all of you. Some I see as a name on a screen on Sundays. Some I see and wave to as your car pulls into the parking lot. Still others I see after worship as you drive off. Finally there are those who I have spoken with on the phone who are going out sparingly. But it's not the same. I know one minister who had a consistory member fashioned cutouts of congregants for the sanctuary, so that the minister wasn't "alone" during their online worship service. They confessed that it both helps but also make them feel better but also more lonely.

It all seems strange and different. When we see arrows indicating directional flow down the aisles at the grocery store it is not normal. Neither is it normal to see a person walk backwards down those aisles so that they can walk the way they want and still I guess follow the traffic arrow. There are so many things which occur which in the moment they happen many of us just look and shake our heads.

In times as strange as these it is very easy to find ourselves reaching and grasping for the return of normal. But the hard realization is that even if things return to the way that they were, the effects of these months will be with us. We cannot erase what was and what happened. No matter how awful and terrible what happened did in fact happen. That is the difficulty when we say that phrase return to normal. Normal carries with it two factors things and us returning to what they were. Things might return to what they were, but will we? Will we be able to erase our experiences? Instead we need to do something that is never easy, we need to lean on God, and ask for God to help us move forward.

The problem is that we are a world which is in the throes of grief. We are grieving people who we have lost or who have had their lives shifted by this virus. But we are also grieving what was and what has been. Grief is powerful and has many stages that come and go ebbing and flowing like the a creek, or

river. And it also brings out the best and the worst in us. We are actively and communally grieving and yet we are also all going at different speeds of grief as well as not all being at the same stage of grief. And it also leaves us with the question of how to grieve together and care for one another when we are all in the midst of grief.

Often when I think of grief I think of two instances and one moment of grief where I saw people's worst. My Grandpa had had a stroke which slowly had diminished his body and mind, and eventually killed him. As we stood in the funeral home during the visitation my brother and I, were approached by my father's cousin. Now he at the time was a politician at the state level of government and was not in that moment his best. He reached out his hand and in as oily a way a possible told us how glad he was to see us. His grief at losing an uncle kept him stuck in politician mode.

But the piece de resistance came when we got to graveside. I was asked by a great-Aunt to show her where her parents graves were. On having shown her there I rejoined the rest of the immediate family. Suddenly we were all appalled when my Grandpa's two sisters started shouting at one another about the names on their parents headstones. Remember grief does not always find us or leave us at our best.

Now more than ever we need grieve better. We need to have more moments where our grief for what was brings out the best in us and not the worst. We need to understand that while each of us is experiencing this moment differently and at different stages along the way, there is a communal grief which we are all experiencing. Let us together allow Christ to heal, allow him to catch our tears, and be a shoulder for all to cry on. Our world is in need of people binding up wounds, and not yelling about headstones. Amen. Rev Bill

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September 6, 13, 20, 27	Worship
September 6	Communion
September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Bible Study by Zoom
September 7	Labor Day
September 13	Sunday School begins
September 15	Brooks BBQ

USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 6

Ushers: Sandra Gregory and Lisa Longto

September 13

Ushers: Glenn Decker and Roberta Falatyn

September 20

Ushers: David Kent and Russ Glass

September 27

Ushers: Jim Pirro and Doug Constant



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

Keep them in your prayers.

Deb Zuill is recuperating from gall bladder surgery at home.

Doug Constant is recuperating at home.

Linda Cook is home.

Eugene Groelle is in a rehab at Woodland Ponds.

Jim and Sheila Craven are at home.

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;

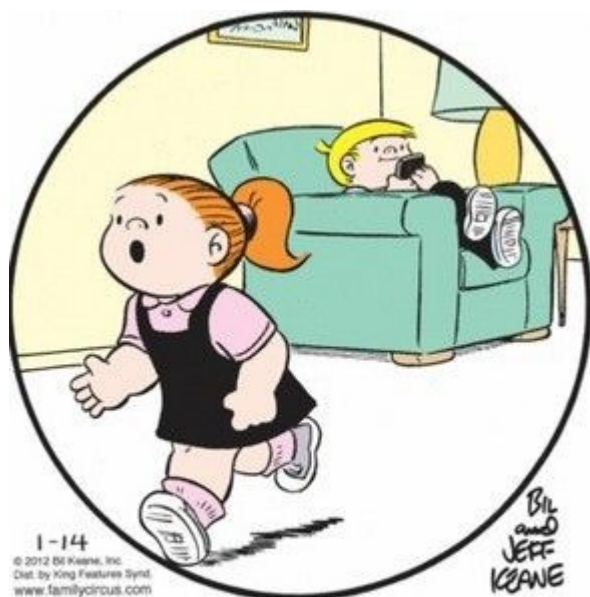
Phil Greer.



September's mission of the month is Hospice.

DEACON OF THE MONTH:

Deacon of the Month is Lisa Longto. Contact Lisa if you need a Deacon's assistance.



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

Reminder:

Access to Sunday worship service is available through **Zoom**. Contact Rev. Bill for invitation.

*The grass withers and
the flowers fade, but the
Word of The Lord endures.*

The colors of the spring and summer flowers begin to fade and the splendor of Fall bursts upon the scene in Stickley Gardens. We thank those of the committee who have tenderly cared for all of them in past weeks and now await the bright hues of another season. Seasons may change – the flowers may change – but the constant and abiding love is here in the peaceful surroundings of the gardens.

Sit and relax a bit and know –

*He Always Abides
and Never Changes.*

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—September 19, 2020

As of now, **The Hudson Valley Walk for Water** is on. If you want to do the in-person option, arrive at the Church any time between 9-12. People will be spaced apart and you and whoever you are with, will start walking as soon as you sign in. Make sure you register in the parking lot and let them know you are a member of the HURLEY H2O team. Our mission funds will pay for our team members.

If you prefer to walk remotely, you can go to the Church website for a link on how to do that. You can do your walk any time on the 19th or 20h.

The distance for the live walk can be either 1 or 2 miles (or shorter if you prefer). It will be mostly on the rail trail and the turn around points will be marked.

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



The Sunday School has continued to meet bi-weekly over the summer via Zoom. This is different than previous years' when we would take a hiatus for the summer months. We have had great participation and it has been wonderful to catch up, connect with our friends and see each other's faces! This fellowship time has been even more important than ever before.

The Youth Group and Sunday School are hoping to do an outdoor movie and pizza night in the coming weeks. We will also participate in the Walk for Water, either in person or virtually.

New Address

Alice Presti has moved to North Carolina to be closer to her daughter, Holly. Her new address is

Attn: Alice Presti Room 310
Aston Park Health Care Center, Inc.
380 Brevard Rd.
Asheville, NC 28806
Telephone: 828-253-4437 ext 222

Thank You

From Delores Wyncoop:
Thank you for all the prayers and cards for both my husband, Jerry Wyncoop, and my daughter Linda Wolven Eppard. Greatly appreciated. – Dolores Wyncoop

Some thoughts from Consistory

- Do you remember "Coffee Hour?" I do. Although it seems a distant memory. To remind you, it was a time of catching up with friends, meeting new people, and yes, recruiting "volunteers" for greeters, the next Coffee Hour refreshments, church clean up days, and helping hands for fund raising events. We could shake hands, hug friends, and cheer each other up as a group. That is now on hold.
- Church finances continue to be watched closely and I am cautiously optimistic when I say we are maintaining a stable operational budget. Some expenses are down due to less activity and the necessary building closure. Personnel expenses, ongoing utilities, and insurance expenses are on budget. We have benefited greatly by the Federal Payroll Protection Program loan/grant as well as generous angel and estate gifts. Investments are stable. Major income losses have hurt our bottom line: building use donations; closure of the clothing shed; cancellation of Stone House Day; and other fund-raising activities, i.e., dinners, town wide yard sale, etc.
- Despite all the challenges and obstacles we face we maintain our faith, our worship, and our support for each other and our community. One good example is the food distribution program instituted in Ulster County during which our church worked with the town to be a staging area for delivery/pick up. Church volunteers drove throughout Hurley to deliver meals to those confined by the pandemic. We held a Chicken Dinner Drive Thru Take Out and we will host Brooks Barbecue in September. We continue to worship weekly with our FM radio ministry in our parking lot and via Zoom.
- I speak for myself and I am certain Rev. Bill and the Consistory agree that if you have thoughts, concerns or suggestions please reach out to us through the church office or directly. The bulletin displays the Deacon of the Month with contact information.

Keep the faith and reach out to each other in support or to share a need or offer a suggestion. We are on this earth for each other and for God. May God bless our efforts and each one of us.

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

Drive-Up
Take-Out

BROOKS'
HOUSE OF BAR-B-Q

Drive-Up
Take-Out

The
Famous
Brook's
Chicken BBQ from
Oneonta, NY

All proceeds benefit the Hurley Reformed Church

September 15, 2020
4:00pm - 6:30pm

Hurley Reformed Church, Main St, Hurley NY

*Includes: 1/2 chicken, baked
potato, coleslaw, dinner
roll, bottled water & dessert*

\$14.00



For Tickets Call: **845-687-4006**

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Cindy Sumerano	3
Bailey Jordan	3
Russ Glass	4
Halie Brennan	6
Melinda Herzog	6
Bradley Horvers	6
Wayzeta Stickley-Strouse	9
Fred Horvers	10
Daniella Helsley	14
Philip Greer	17
Tessa Hauck	19
Ron Every	19

Kellen Hauck	19
Marissa Rell	20
Jim Craven	20
Bradley Hill	22
Helen Sgroi	24
Jim Mayfield	24
Alice Presti	24
Charles Woodard	24
Wendy Stickley-Ocker	26
Darrell Nicholas	27
Christina Longto	28
Debbie Decker	29
Sheila Craven	30

ANNIVERSARIES

Mark & Beth Woodard	2
Dennis & Mimi Croswell	11
Bill & Jane Merrill	13
John & Debbie Tucker	14
Jay & Kim Burgess	17
Lori & John Decker	22
Dennis & Donna Horvers	23
Dean & Bernadette Baker	23



A tutorial from Lori Baker:

How to view this week's church bulletin during Sunday Zoom Meeting of Hurley Reformed Church Sunday Service

After you have joined the Zoom Meeting:

Minimize the Zoom Meeting screen by using your cursor and clicking onto the minimize symbol at the top right of the zoom screen. (Rev. Bill will be visual at the right in a smaller screen.)

Then move your cursor to the new tab symbol "+" at the top of your screen to access the "Search" engine.

Type "Hurley Reformed Church Hurley New York" into the internet "Search" engine and click on-

to the "Hurley Reformed Church" site from the list.

Once on the church website, look to the right and find: The Sunday's bulletin is available here. Click on the current date listed.

This will bring you to the current PDF bulletin. Scroll down to view any of the pages during the service. (Rev. Bill will remain visually at the right. If you wish to make him larger: hover your cursor over his visual picture, you will see a small square appear at the far right, click on-to the square and Rev. Bill's picture will return to the size you originally had it)

You can view the church website by clicking onto the minimize symbol "-" at the top right of the zoom screen anytime during the church service.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		9am - Bible Study @ 4:15pm - dog	6pm - Cub Scouts @	4:45pm - Dog		
10am - Worship @ 4:30pm - Dog 7:30pm - AI-Anon @	7 9am - Bible Study @ 4:15pm - dog	8 9am - Bible Study @ 4:15pm - dog	9 4:45pm - Dog	10 4:45pm - Dog	11 1pm - woodworkers	12 woodworkers show
10am - Sunday 10am - Worship @ 4:30pm - Dog 7pm - Consistory @ 7:30pm - AI-Anon @	13 4:30pm - Dog 7pm - Consistory @ 7:30pm - AI-Anon @	14 Brooks bbq 9am - Bible Study @ 4:15pm - dog 6pm - Nursery	15 4:45pm - Dog	16 4:45pm - Dog	17 1pm - woodworkers	18 walk for water
10am - Worship @ 4:30pm - Dog 7:30pm - AI-Anon @	20 4:30pm - Dog 7:30pm - AI-Anon @	21 9am - Bible Study @ 4:15pm - dog	22 4:45pm - Dog	23 4:45pm - Dog	24 1pm - woodworkers	25 woodworkers show
10am - Worship @ 4:30pm - Dog 7:30pm - AI-Anon @	27 4:30pm - Dog 7:30pm - AI-Anon @	28 9am - Bible Study @ 4:15pm - dog	29 4:45pm - Dog	30 4:45pm - Dog	1 1pm - woodworkers	2 walk for water
<div>September 2020</div>						

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Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich
Pastor

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