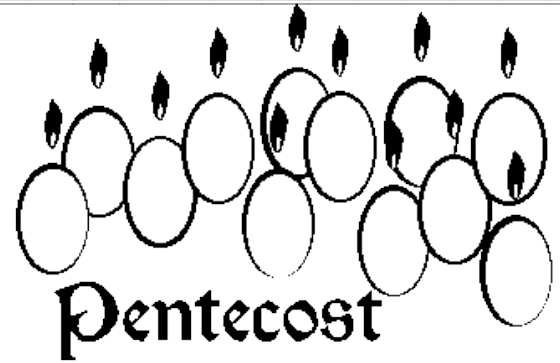


# THE SPIRE

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 5

MAY 2015



## From Fear to Pentecost Courage

Pentecost is the festival celebrating the fiery, windy Spirit of God. In ancient Israel, it was known as the Feast of Weeks. Celebrated 50 days after Passover — the holy period when Jesus died — pilgrims gathered in Jerusalem from the Mediterranean world to thank God for the Spring harvest, and His bounteous care throughout the year. Pentecost represented Moses' reception of the 10 Commandments on Mount Sinai. Two thousand years ago, in Jesus' day, a growing universalism pervaded the Feast. Jews perceived that God's stone-inscribed law blessed the world as well as Israel.

In the Gospel of John, and in the book of Acts, we encounter disciples in hiding. They were afraid of arrest and persecution. IN spite of Christ's resurrection, they may have wondered whether a cross awaited them. Jesus had predicted such when he said, "Servants are not greater than their master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you" (John 13:20). Imagine their whispering huddle. I imagine collective eyes daring from wall to wall wondering how much neighbors knew. Decades ago, I visited the home in Amsterdam where Anne Frank and her family hid, trying to avoid the Nazi roundup of Jews during the Second World War. I remember darkness and narrow space; the floorboards still creaked. I believe a similar claustrophobic fear grasped the disciples causing them to move slowly, and lightly in their confine. Before the crucifixion, Peter was nearly caught.

He escaped by denying Jesus three times (Luke 22:54-62). He even cursed and swore an oath that he had no knowledge of his Lord. Did Peter's "Near Death Experience" influence the others? Certainly. Terror reigned among Jesus' disciples.

Everything changed at Pentecost. God gave the Spirit instead of the Mosaic Law, and birthed the Church we serve and love. The Spirit came upon them like a "rush of violent wind" (Acts 2:2) in that room where anxiety once ruled. Suddenly the disciples ran to the streets, proclaiming good news in languages they didn't understand. Fulfilling the role of Moses, once again God's love was proclaimed to the world by untutored Galileans. Men and women from various nations gathered in Jerusalem, and heard God's saving hope in their native tongue. Just as important, the Spirit empowers the disciples to stand tall and speak God's truth. They were unconcerned with the consequences. Fear relinquished its grip. If we are open, God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, will alight on each of us, providing the courage to meet the challenges of each day. Let us pray that God's Spirit will spur us to preach good news, and embody Christ's hope.

This year Pentecost falls on Sunday, May 24. Please join us as we celebrate that the Holy Spirit moves us from fear to courage, and, yes, to joy and hope.

In Christ's Service,  
Doctor Bob Gram



### Mission News:

Our Mission committee has many plans for the rest of the year, but if anyone has a suggestion or knows of a place in need, there are a couple months we can fill in. See one of the committee members: Linda Caddy, Deborah Tucker, Kathy Jansen, Cindy Sumerano or Rebecca Masters

Our collection for March enabled us to donate \$450 for the Family of Woodstock teen shelter.

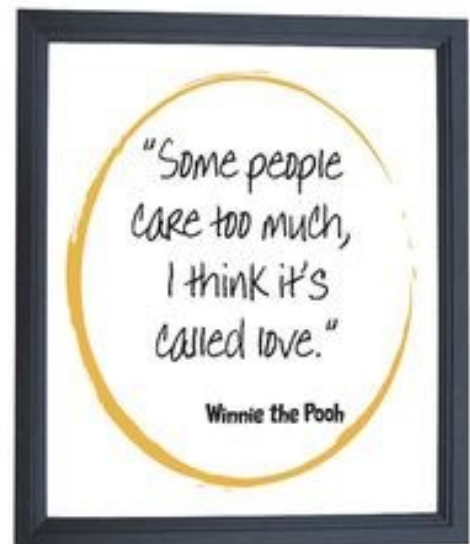
Our collection for May will be for the children living in the shelter motels. This is money we directly use to buy food for the children for snacks and drinks for school, as well supplemental food items for days when there is no school. We are unsure if this program will continue much longer, so please donate generously so we can stock them up as much as possible.

Rebecca Masters, Chair



### Monthly Soup Sunday.

The Super Soup Makers will take a time-out until September!!! You can get your warmth from the sunshine until then. Thanks to the congregation for supporting this fundraiser!



BETTE MIDLER sings,

*"just remember  
that beneath  
the bitter snows,  
lies a seed that  
in the Spring  
becomes a Rose."*

I don't remember roses in Stickley Gardens  
but I know that with Spring will come  
the colors of the rainbow in the flowers  
that will wave in the warm breezes.  
Spring comes to remind us of Life, in a  
resurrected Lord who greets us in the  
early morning hours at the open tomb.

Visit the Gardens and just sit and take  
a moment to contemplate the promise  
given to those placed in the columbarium  
and to each of us as well.

*"I go to prepare a place for you,  
that where I am, you may be also."*

*Welcome Spring!*

## STICKLEY GARDENS

FOR MORE INFORMATION – CONTACT ANY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

LISA LONGTO (331-1438) CHAIRPERSON  
JIM PIRRO (383-0079) TREASURER  
ESTHER STICKLEY (331-2919)  
SANDIE GREGORY (338-7626)  
JIM CRAVEN, CONSISTORY LIASON  
REV STICKLEY, SECRETARY

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



## Spring Clean up Day

May 2, 2015

8:45 Coffee and Assignments

9: 00 Work Begins

For more information, talk to Dennis  
Croswell

## Boxtops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels



We are continuing to collect Boxtops for  
Education and have added Campbell Soup la-  
bels. Collection boxes are in Schadewald Hall.  
These are given to Myers School for its use.  
Any questions, see Aileen Helsley.

# News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.

## Women's Guild

Spring has finally arrived. It is so nice to see color around the area besides white. The color that the sanctuary had on Easter Sunday was especially lovely. Thank you to everyone that purchased a flower(s) & thank you to the ladies that decorated the sanctuary. What a great way to welcome in Spring.

There will be a pot luck luncheon that will be held after church on May 17. All are welcomed to attend. Just bring a dish to share as well as your place setting & enjoy a wonderful fellowship time.

Pentecost Sunday is coming up on May 24. Please bring in a red geranium to decorate the alter & then that flower will be planted around the church or parsonage. Thank you!

Stone House Day is fast approaching. The Guild will be holding a bake sale and we are in need of ladies to bake an item or two for this sale. We will also be selling knives, shirts, jewelry and an indoor sale of gently used items. Thank for your help & support.

### Our calendar of events:

- 5/16/15 Set up for pot luck luncheon
- 5/17/15 Pot Luck luncheon
- 5/24/15 Bring a geranium to church
- 6/14/15 Meeting

God Bless,  
Sandy Emrich-President



Looking for good fellowship?!

The Men's Group meets the third Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is May 20 at 7 pm.

Come hang with us.

See Wally Cook for details.

## The Strawberry Fiddlers are sending the Raspberries



to entertain us here in Schadewald Hall on Saturday evening, May 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now after worship service

or call Sonnie at 338-8442 to reserve.

Adults \$15 and Students \$10. Anyone willing to make brownies or cookies to sell at intermission, please sign up. Thanks.



# May

## BIRTHDAYS

Finn Sullivan	1
Cole Jordan	1
Terry Conlin	2
Kristin Helm	2
Mikayla Mellin	2
Lori Baker	3
Kathy Burns	4
Jonathon Helsley	5
George Nekos, Jr	5
Elizabeth Wilson	7
Delores McGoldrick	8
Marilyn Cox	11
Charles Jansen	11

Robin Brennan	14
Barbara Hornbeck	14
May Kowalenko	15



Kathleen Mayfield	15
Les Frost	16
Ruth Harkin	16
Jo Sullivan	17
Taylor Robey	21
Linda Shook	26

Lily DeKoskie	27
Brian Donnelly	28
Mackenzie Schoonmaker	28
Jerry Wyncoop	30

## ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Sheila Craven	5
Glenn & Debbie Decker	6
Kathy & Bob Pfeiffer	6
Christa & Terry Conlin	9
Marilyn & John More	9
Alice & Frank Presti	10
Jennifer & Thomas Mann	11
Joe & Kathy Burns	15
Wayne & Karen Waligurski	20
Christine & Bill Henning	22
Donna & Peter Harder	30

## Stone House Day

This year we have rack cards instead of brochures to advertise Stone House Day. Please pick some up and take them with you wherever you go. They can be handed out, posted or put in a rack. It's never too early to promote Stone House Day. Thank you.

Ellen Richards



## Prayer Shawl Ministry



The purpose of this ministry is to bring comfort and a warm embrace to the person in need. The knitter of a shawl provides loving thoughts that are put into the making of the shawl.

Please contact Lee Gable, 246-3751, if there is a need of a shawl or if you would like to knit or crochet one.

May 17, 2015

## After Worship Service

All are welcomed to attend.

Bring a dish to share as well as your place setting.

Enjoy a wonderful fellowship time.

# News Bytes

Information you should know ; Opportunities for Fellowship.

## Youth Group News

**W**e are participating in the **Relay for Life this year. It is on June 13th** and it will not be an all nighter. If you are interested in participating please let Christine Henning, Sierra Butler or John Henning know!

Meeting: May 17

## Women's Ministries

The Women of this Ministry remain excited and eager in continuing to do God's work. We invite other women in our church to come and join us. Our Outreach program has met with much success. Please let us know how we may help you. There are brochures outside of the sanctuary that lists what we do.. We meet every 2nd. Sunday. Our future plan is to begin a Women's Bible Study. Yours In Christ,

Deb Zuill



## Prayer Chain

The Women of the Prayer Chain find that their work is never done. We thank God for the victories and praise Him for the successes yet to come. As you may know, your requests when given to us are on our lists for 6 months. We appreciate the updates that we receive. Thank you for your continued faith in us. We continue to pray your strength in the LORD! We meet every 1st Sunday.

Deb Zuill

Pentecost  
Sunday is  
May 24.



Don't  
Forget  
the  
Geraniums!

Coming soon:

## Big Breakfast

May 30, 2015

8:00-10:00 am

Watch the Bulletin and Bulletin Board for  
more information.



Forward 3, Hurley Reformed Church

May 2015 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain 3pm - daisy girl	27 5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Little League 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	28 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purters 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	29 7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Boy Scouts 7:45pm - Bagpiper	30 9:30am - Badminton 1:30pm - Hurley 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Choir	1 7pm - Motorcycle	2 Spring Cleanup Day
3 10am - Worship @ 11am - Prayer Chain 3pm - daisy girl	4 5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Little League 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	5 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purters 4:30pm - PC 101 @ 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	6 7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 6:30pm - Girl Scout 7pm - Boy Scouts 7:45pm - Bagpiper	7 9:30am - Badminton 1:30pm - Hurley 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - 1st Capitol 7:30pm - Choir	8 7pm - Motorcycle	9 boysenberry and 10am - Genealogy @
10 10am - Worship @ 11am - VFW @ 1:30pm - Basket 5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Consistory @ 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	11 11am - VFW @ 1:30pm - Basket 5pm - Dog Training 7pm - Consistory @ 7pm - Hudson Valley 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	12 8:30am - Hillside 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purters 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	13 7:30am - Bible 10am - Hurley 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	14 9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - Overeaters 7:30pm - Choir	15 set up for luncheon 9:30am - Bike Rodeo	16
17 10am - Worship @ 11am - Luncheon 11:20am - Stone 3pm - daisy girl	18 10am - Genealogy @ 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	19 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purters 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	20 7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7pm - Hurley Lions 7pm - Men's group 7:45pm - Bagpiper	21 9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - Overeaters 7pm - NE 7:30pm - Choir	22	23
24 10am - Worship @	25 10:30am - Genealog 5pm - Dog Training 7:30pm - Al-Anon @	26 9:30am - Badminton 4pm - Hurley Purters 7pm - Bible Study @ 7pm - Boy Scouts	27 7:30am - Bible 5:30pm - Dog 6pm - Cub Scout 6pm - Den 1 Bears @ 7:45pm - Bagpiper	28 9:30am - Badminton 3pm - Quilting @ 4:45pm - Dog 6pm - Overeaters 7pm - Hurley 7:30pm - Choir	29 Big Breakfast	30
31 10am - Worship @ 3pm - daisy girl	1	2	3	4	5	6

May 2015

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The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Gram, LCSW  
Pastor

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