

THE SPIRE

Summer 2026



It's six in the morning and my alarm is going off. The first words in my head are not exactly polite, and my instinct is to simply roll over and snooze the alarm. But I get up and get on my clothes. I then put my grind guard away, take a moment and chat with Barb and head downstairs. Next come my shoes, camel-back, hat, sunglasses and air pod in one ear, and off I go. Since the end of school, I have been jogging and walking the rail trail from the church all the way out to Washington Ave.

While I do not like running or jogging, there are aspects that I love. From the occasional sighting of a deer, to the uncountable bunnies who seem to run along with me only to dart into the brush as I get closer, even the wildflowers make the jog less like exercise and a task. There are little things that make the little over six-mile trek more manageable or at least more enjoyable.

You might wonder why it is that I go and do something that I don't enjoy six days out of the week (I take Sundays as a day of rest). The answer is because its exercise, and I enjoy an aspect of my time. There is just something about being out and hearing the sound of the wind blowing in the Queen Anne's Lace. There is just something amazing about listening to the different birds, robins, kill deer, gold finches and the like as they sing their morning songs. As I move past the culverts, I can hear the water rushing, and the wetlands are full of frogs singing their songs. Even the music on my air pod is drowned out by the sounds of creation. It's a time of just me, creation and God.

But like life, there are some unpleasant noises that reverberate over the fields. You'd be amazed how the trucks j braking on 209 can carry over them. Or how absolutely loud the sound of a group of Semis can be as they roar together down the thruway. Even the blare of the horn from the fire company can be heard over two miles down the trail. It takes a lot of concentration to hear the sounds of nature and not have them drowned out by the noise. The reality is that a goldfinch cannot compete with a pack of trucks, and a deer lazily walking across the path while beautiful doesn't

snap your head around like the screech of someone braking rapidly on a road.

There are days when it's more difficult to focus on moving forward and accomplishing the task. There are a lot of names that the distractions may have. Noises that are out of place on the trail, pain anywhere, a child on roller skates who insists on asking question after question after question. All of these and their many cousins all seem to happen and distract. The challenge is being able to exist and continue while those distractions occur, move forward and be focused in spite of the distractions.

How do we keep our faith as free from distractions as possible? Practice. Both the practice of constant use of coping methods, little things that bring us back into focus, as well as spiritual practices. Taking time and placing focus on prayer, on reading scripture, on doing the little things that increase and sustain our faith. The more we actively do these things the better we are at keeping focused on our faith and God. Life is filled with many more distractions than a run along the rail trail. The noise is louder and the challenge of keeping focus is even greater as we work and seek to keep on our faith track. It doesn't mean that we will always manage to silence the distractions or succeed in keeping our focus on God and serving God. But the more we practice and engage in the practices of the spirit the more we are able to keep on track and keep on growing in our faith.

Take the time to find your faith focus. Make the effort to not let the distractions diminish or sidetrack your faith. And most of all may it flourish and grow, like creation does after a good rain. Amen



It's Truly a Garden

... of flowers and bushes.

... of quiet and peace.

Come, sit and listen
to the soothing sounds
of the fountain
and turn off the noise
and clamor of the world.

This is a place of
quiet peace and colorful
beauty that reveals
His love and
care for all of us.

Enjoy the Serenity.

STICKLEY GARDENS

FOR MORE INFORMATION – CONTACT ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER:

LISA LONGTO (845-532-7570) CHAIRPERSON
JIM PIRRO (845-383-0079) TREASURER
ESTHER STICKLEY (845-331-2919)
REV STICKLEY (845-331-2919) SECRETARY
KATHY JANSEN (845-532-0908)
JAMES SASS (845-849-4937)

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



Deacon Ministry

DEACON FOR AUGUST
IS
AILEEN HELSLEY



**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)

Lori Pinkham is Wingate at Ulster

Terry Conlin

Russ Glass

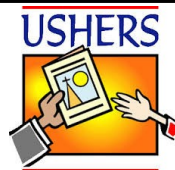


Social Solos meets on August 12, 2026

@ noon

Anyone wishing to join please contact

Rev. Deb Zuill for an invite at
attitudema50@aol.com or 845-247-9157



August

August 2 Maggie Sass and Kathy Jansen

August 9 Aileen Helsley and Russ Voigtlaender

August 16 Christ Decker and Bill Baldinger

August 23 Wally Cook and Jim Gregory

August 30 Terry Gaffken and Bonnie Dumas

EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

August 2	Communion
August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Worship
August 4, 11, 18, 25	Bible Study
August 7, 14, 21, 28	Sew and So & Knitters
August 10	Consistory Meeting
August 12	Social Solos
August 30	Church Cook out
Tues, Thurs & Sat.	Karate
September 8	Brooks BBQ
October 3	Bingo

MISSIONS

...at home and around the world

The Mission for August will be MyKingstonKids.

MyKingstonKids is a creative, community-driven non-profit organization that provides free family events, youth programs, and mental wellness activities. This non-profit is actively working to replace damaged inventory they lost during a severe thunderstorm on July 4th. The storm caused damage to equipment, tents, and valuable gear they use to host their free programs.



When the time comes and you are faced with a funeral of a loved one, or a celebration of a baptism the Hurley Reformed Church would like to offer a hand.

The Celebration Committee is happy to help our church members with the repast after the funeral service or the celebration for the baptism. We will do the set-up of the hall, serve the food (although we cannot supply the food), and we will do all the clean up afterward.

If you would like more information about this, please speak with Rev. Appleyard-Pekich.



Please join us for Worship every Sunday at 10am with Refreshments served after in the Hall.
Sign up sheets are posted in the Hall for flowers and refreshments.



If you are unable to attend Worship in person please join us through our Zoom link. It can be found on our webpage and our Facebook page



Please send any updates for our prayer chain to
 Pat Baker at 845-331-2556
 or pbaker727@yahoo.com

July

Bonnie Dumas	3
Rachel Cline	4
Bill Beesmer	4
Nancy Salzmann	5
Teagan Helsley	6
Debbie Tucker	6
Kaitlyn LeLay	12
Nicholas Rockwell	13
Alyssa Kurtz	14
Bryan Hill	15
Lori Decker	16
Jennifer Bell	20
Win Morrison	20
Russ Voigtlaender	24
Dan Stott	24
Brayden Horvers	24
Daniel Nekos	25
Midge Stott	27
Spencer Herzog	28
Caitlin Cox	28
Matthew Horvers	28



August

Jim Pirro	2
Reid Jordan	3
Donna Harder	10
Florence Kurtz	10
Frank Pinckney	12
Rev. Charles Stickley	13
Kathleen Jansen	15
Aubrey Horvers	16
Lily Dockery	18
Roslie Gilpatric	19
Michael Weber	19
Alison Cline	22
William Schiff	24
Barbara Kindt	28
Gary Longto	28
Sara Appleyard-Pekich	29



July

Joyce & Frank Pinckney	6
Rev. Bill and Sara Appleyard-Pekich	11
Rebecca & Allan Masters	27

August

Bryan & Leigh Hill	1
Hal & Kathy Hauck	6
Kathy & Ted Musialkiewicz	16
Cindy & Dino Sumerano	30

*All proceeds benefit the
Hurley Reformed Church, Main St, Hurley NY*

Brook's Chicken BBQ

Drive-Up Take-Out

from Oneonta, NY

Sept 8, 2026
4:00pm – 6:00pm

*1/2 chicken, coleslaw,
baked potato, dinner
roll & dessert*

\$15.00
Cash or Check

To Pre-Order Please Call By 9/6/26
845-331-4121

Our Graduates!

-Brandon Douglas Gregory, son of Mr. & Mrs. James T. Gregory Jr. of Franklin NY, and grandson of James T. Gregory and the late Sandra Gregory of Hurley, will graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point, on May 23, 2026, with a BS Degree in Economics. Brandon has been assigned to the Field Artillery branch. Following his graduation he will have his commissioning ceremony at Lusk Reservoir with his parents pinning his lieutenant bars on his shoulder. Brandon's brother, 1st Lt. Tyler Gregory will read the official declaration of his appointment to the rank of 2nd Lt.

After the graduation, Brandon will prepare for his July 4th wedding to his high school sweetheart, Kylie Mussaw. After 5 months of officer training at Fort Sill, OK Brandon and Kylie will be relocated to Schofield Barracks Hawaii.

-Marlie Grant, Barb Hornbeck's niece will be graduating in June from Clayton A. Bouton high school in Voorheesville, NY. In September, she will be attending the Honors College at the University of New Hampshire.

-Amy More, Marilyn More's granddaughter, will be graduating on May 10th with a B.S. degree from Quinnipiac University. She will return there in the fall to continue working toward her Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

-Anthony Nicoletti, Diane Nicoletti's grandson, will graduate from Lincoln Tech in East Windsor CT on June 12th from the Welding Technology Training Program.

-Allan Mason Dumas IV, Bonnie and Allan Dumas' son has graduated from SUNY Brockport with a Master of Science degree in College Student Affairs and Development.

-Marla and Brogan McCain, Barbara Bondar and Bill Hannis grandchildren, graduated from FIT, as 1/2 of their studies are completed. Two years to go!

Graci Reyes/Bondar graduates from Zena Democratic School in June, and has been accepted at Bard College.

-Teagan Helsley, Aileen Helsley's daughter, is graduating from Kingston High School and will be continuing her education at Eastern Connecticut State University to study Nursing. She also plans to play Division III Flag Football.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	August			31	1
					Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-3pm	Karate Class 9am-11am @
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Worship 10am-11am	1st Capitol Corvettes 7 pm- AtAnon 6:30pm-8pm @ Hall	Bible Study 9am-10am @ Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Meeting 8:30am-9:30am @	Hurley Senior Citizens 1: Karate Class4:30pm-5:30pm	Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-3pm	Event 11:30am-3:30pm* Event 5pm-9pm Genealogy 10am-2:30pm @ Karate Class 9am-11am @
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Worship 10am-11am	AtAnon 6:30pm-8pm @ Hall Consistory 7 pm-9pm @ Dutch VFW 11am-12:30pm @ Dutch	Bible Study 9am-10am @ Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Local 1582 Trailways 5pm- Meeting 8:30am-9:30am @ Radio Club 7 pm-9:30pm @ social solos 12pm-2pm @	Karate Class4:30pm-5:30pm	Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-3pm	Karate Class 9am-11am @
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Event 12:30-4:30pm @ Hall Worship 10am-11am	AtAnon 6:30pm-8pm @ Hall Genealogy 10am-2:30pm @	Bible Study 9am-10am @ HNS Orientation 9am-11am Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Meeting 8:30am-9:30am @	Karate Class4:30pm-5:30pm	Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-3pm	Karate Class 9am-11am @ Library Event 12pm-2pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Worship 10am-11am	AtAnon 6:30pm-8pm @ Hall Genealogy 10:30am-2:30pm	Bible Study 9am-10am @ HNS Board Mtg 6pm-9pm @ Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Kidspace 5:30pm-7 pm @ Meeting 8:30am-9:30am @	Karate Class4:30pm-5:30pm Kidspace 5:30pm-7pm @	Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-3pm	Karate Class 9am-11am @
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Church Cookout 11am-2pm Worship 10am-11am	AtAnon 6:30pm-8pm @ Hall	Bible Study 9am-10am @ Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm				

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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

