

THE SPIRE

October 2026



There is a really bad joke that people often tell when they enter into the church. It's one that I don't believe is particularly original and likely one that every, single minister has heard far too often in their time in ministry. It usually begins a little something like this. The person walks into the building, and either makes a demonstrative movement, or simply shifts their eyes upward. The next words they say usually amounts to, "Oh my Lord the building is still standing." It is as if their very presence will cause God to collapse the building. It's never been made clear why this is such a moment. Is it how one views oneself that there is no greater a sinner than they? Or is it because they cannot view a God who is forgiving enough to forgive them? Or it may even be something entirely different.

Personally, while I smile at this joke, I'm usually screaming on the inside. The screaming isn't because of the person but because of how their idea misses the mark. Now we all tell jokes that perhaps land on the wrong audience or maybe they aren't funny. But this joke has a few issues that we may need to clear up with our friends and even family who crack them.

The first misconception is how God views a sinner entering the building. Not to lean too heavily in this moment on the Parable of the Prodigal Son, but for the person cracking the joke I would hope that they would understand that God's response to them entering the church would be one of joy. Sure you might be there for a meeting, to pick someone up or whatever. But that is never how God sees it. God sees you entering the building as an opportunity, a moment where the irresistible grace of God might start to tap on their shoulder. It could be the opportunity that the Holy Spirit has been waiting for to nudge and guide you to a more active role within a church family maybe not tied

to the building that they entered.

Next is the idea about who they are. The misconception here is that somehow you, that is the person joking is the worst to have ever entered the building. Not to in any way speak ill of any who have gone before but to think that there has never, in the history of that church been someone who was a worse sinner than you darken the door is laughable. Of course we are aware of our own shortcomings and have a level of difficulty reckoning with the truth and reality of our past, but with that being said it is highly unlikely that you are the worst sinner. Take a moment and think about the history of each congregation. They don't have to be a congregation of 1000 to tip the numbers in your favor of not being the greatest sinner, but sheer history and time leans that title away from you.

The last piece is what this all points us toward. And that is that rightly or wrongly there is a perspective problem of the church. We may have all heard the phrase that the church is not a museum for saints but a hospital for sinners, but do we live that out? Do we treat those who enter as if they are the son who was lost but now has been found, rushing to them greeting them with an overwhelming level of joy. Or to behave as if we this building and this body are like the MET? There is something beautiful that happens when one worries about entering a church and is greeted like a lost child who has now been found. May we work to educate, welcome, and love any who come and visit us whatever their reason for their visit may be. Amen



*A*s the soothing waters
dance over the sides of the
fountain, the air feels crisp and
the nights come on earlier,
we experience the change.
The seasons, like life, flows
by us faster than ever.

We owe it to ourselves to get
quiet and reflect on the past
and all its gifts. It provides us
with strength for the future.
Come sit for awhile, the benches
are waiting ... feel the strength
of those who have passed before
us and the love that God shows
us through their memories.

The seasons may be
a time of change but
God's love is constant ...
in the past, with us now,
and blessing us in our futures.

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 OCTOBER
IS
JEANNE QUENZER



**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 October 14, 2026

@ noon

Anyone wishing to join please contact
Rev. Deb Zuill for an invite at
attitudema50@aol.com or 845-247-9157



October

Oct. 4 Wally Cook and Jim Gregory

Oct. 11 Terry Gaffken and Bonnie Dumas

Oct. 18 Jeanne Quenzer and Dino Sumerano

Oct. 25 Maggie Sass and Kathy Jansen

October Happenings

October 4	Communion
October 4,11,18,25	Worship
October 6,13,20,27	Bible Study
October 2,9,16,23,30	Sew and So & Knitters
October 14	Social Solos
October 12	Consistory Meeting
Tues, Thurs & Sat.	Karate

MISSIONS

...at home and around the world

The Mission for October is
Samaritan's Purse Operation
Christmas Child.

Operation Christmas Child has collected shoeboxes since 1993, filled with toys, school supplies, and personal items for children around the world. The project delivers the joy of their first gift ever and also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.



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



Kyle Davenport	2
Amy Ryan	2
Megan Weber	2
Christa Conlin	3
Barbara Appleyard-Pekich	4
Leigh Hill	4
Alissa Sumerano	5
Terry Voigtlaender	7
Madeline Sass	7
Hannah Shambo	8
Terry Gaffken	10
Stanley Brooks	14
Marilyn More	15
Diana Cline	17
Maria Rutski	18
Juanita Rockwell	20
Ryan Milne	20
Ron Chrisey	20
Julia Tucker	21
Katie Christiana	22
Sarah Harder	22
Kelsey Christiana	24
Linda Cook	25
Julia Helm	27
Jordan Cline	28
Nancy Sweeney	28



Pat & Robin Brennan	3
Kathy & Craig Jansen	7
Charles & Colette Woodard	8
Wendy & Steve Helsey	19
John & Marianne Mizel	21
Jim & Maggie Sass	23
Emily & Art Harder	26



We're pleased to introduce Zeffy, our new online giving system!

Zeffy provides a simple and secure way to support our church through online donations and giving.

To give online, visit our church website and click "Donate" at the bottom of the page.

Thank you for your generosity and for supporting our church!

Our Carillon



The steeple bell dates back to the 1854 construction of the Hurley Reformed Church. Originally rung with a clapper and ropes, these were later replaced by a mechanical striker. The original brass bell remains in the church steeple, reflecting the congregation's history of worship and community.

Today's Carillon replaces the bell with a computer and 1200-watt amplifier, playing chimes and hymns through four large horn speakers high in the steeple. The system was installed in 1981.

The Carillon plays Westminster chimes at the top of each hour from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm, followed by Flemish bell strikes counting the current hour. At 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm, this is followed by five minutes of traditional hymns randomly selected from a collection of fifty. On each half hour, a single Flemish bell is played.

Each Sunday at 9:50 am, a "Call to Worship"- thirty seconds of Flemish bells- is played before the church service.

On special occasions, traditional hymns are replaced by hymns appropriate to the occasion. Examples include:

Memorial Day - Battle Hymn of the Republic

Easter - Christ the Lord is Risen Again

Independence Day - The Star-Spangled Banner

Thanksgiving - We praise thee, O God

Christmas - Joy to the World

The IT Team

Pecans are Coming!

We are once again selling pecans at church. We will have plain, milk, dark and caramel cluster, all for \$15 per bag. Pre-sales will start on Oct. 4, with a sign-up sheet available during coffee hour. The pecans should arrive in early November.

These fan favorites go quickly so don't miss your opportunity to get yours!

Thank you!



Pecans Sale

While Supplies Last

CONTACT **JEANNE** AT **845-417-5676**
SALES AFTER WORSHIP STARTING IN OCTOBER
HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH • MAIN STREET, HURLEY NY



ALL VARIETIES - \$15.00 PER BAG
MILK CHOCOLATE
DARK CHOCOLATE
CARAMEL PECAN CLUSTERS
PLAIN



Rev Stckley will join us after worship next Sunday Oct. 11 to reminisce about church stories affecting our 225 anniversary. It will be a great oral history set in an informal round table after coffee hour.

Join our Youth Group that will meet from 5-6:30 on the Second and Fourth



Hurley Reformed Church — Main Street, Hurley, NY



Cookie Walk!

12-13-26 after worship
\$8.00 per lb.

Bakers Needed!

Contact Jeanne Quenzer 845-417-5676



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27			30	1	2	3
			Kidspace 5:30pm-7pm @ Meeting 8:30am-9:30am @	Hurley Senior Citizens 1: Karate Class4:30pm-5:30pm Meeting 3pm-4pm OFA 9:30am-12:20pm	Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-3pm	Karate Class 9am-11am @
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 10am-11am	1st Capitol Corvettes 7pm- At-Anon 6:30pm-8pm @ Hall	Bible Study 9am-10am @ Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Meeting 8:30am-9:30am @	Karate Class4:30pm-5:30pm OFA 9:30am-12:30pm	Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-3pm	Event 11:30am-3:30pm Genealogy 10am-2:30pm @ Karate Class 9am-11am @
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Event 12:30pm-4:30pm Worship 10am-11am Youth Group 5pm-6:30pm	At-Anon 6:30pm-8pm @ Hall Consistory 7pm-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 7pm-9:30pm @ social solos 12pm-2pm @	HNS Board Mtg 6pm-9pm @ Karate Class4:30pm-5:30pm OFA 9:30am-12:30pm	Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-3pm	Karate Class 9am-11am @
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 10am-11am	At-Anon 6:30pm-8pm @ Hall Genealogy 10am-2:30pm @	Bible Study 9am-10am @ Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Meeting 8:30am-9:30am @	HNS Truck or Treat 3pm Karate Class4:30pm-5:30pm OFA 9:30am-12:30pm	Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-3pm	Karate Class 9am-11am @
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship 10am-11am Youth Group 5pm-6:30pm	At-Anon 6:30pm-8pm @ Hall Genealogy 10:30am-2:30pm HNS rain date 3pm	Bible Study 9am-10am @ Karate Class 4:30pm-5:30pm	Kidspace 5:30pm-7pm @ Meeting 8:30am-9:30am @	HNS 5pm-9pm Karate Class4:30pm-5:30pm Kidspace 5:30pm-7pm @ OFA 9:30am-12:30pm	HNS 9am-3pm Knitters 1pm-4pm @ Dutch Sew and So 8am-3pm	Karate Class 9am-11am @

PO Box 328
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E-mail: admin@HurleyReformedChurch.org

Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich
Pastor

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HURLEY REFORMED CHURCH
Hurley New York 12443
Rev. William Appleyard-Pekich
Pastor

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