



POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The Journey

MAY 2023

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JODY

“Friends love all the time, and kinsfolk are born for times of trouble.” — Proverbs 17:17

Greetings Family and Friends of PUMC!

Job, the Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and Proverbs are all from a genre of biblical writings called wisdom literature. They have a shared poetic flare in the original Hebrew. Though it doesn't always translate well into modern English, and it differs greatly from English poetry which is based on rhyme and meter, you can still catch glimpses of their poetic nature in the repetition, symmetry, and asymmetry which was characteristic of Hebrew poetry. Of the wisdom books, Proverbs might be described as “bite sized” nuggets of truth. This particular nugget about family might be bite sized, but potentially difficult to swallow none-the-less, especially as it is translated here.

It's almost certain that the psalmist meant something like, “your family will be there for you in hard times,” but this wording could easily be misunderstood as family being the source of trouble. Do you see it? I'll confess, when I first read it, I heard the second meaning in my brain. Whether it is ambiguity in the writing, lack of clarity in the translation, or a function of the readers interpretation, I can't entirely say. Probably a function of all those factors together. One might be tempted to call it a Freudian slip, if *Freud* had only been born about 19 centuries earlier. Knowing what we know of families, it's not a far jump.

Family can be, to say it politely, complicated. I hear people speak about “dysfunctional families” and I wonder to myself if I have ever met a fully functional one? I love my own family deeply, but it's certainly not us. I suspect it probably wouldn't take long for you to admit it's not you either. It's not a competition, of course. That's a race no one wins. I've never seen an award to anyone for “family who has their act most together,” which would probably more accurately be described as, “family acting most like they have it together.” I say this neither to agitate you nor excuse you, just as an honest observation, because growth almost always starts with an honest observation.

In May we have many things to celebrate in the church. Pentecost is one of my favorite holy days (and not just because I can justify wearing bright red shoes). Aldersgate is peculiar to those called Methodists, but increasingly important as we consider Methodism's future and what this movement is really all about. Memorial Day isn't strictly religious, but deeply meaningful for many. Let us not forget Mother's Day (more importantly, let us not forget our Mothers!). Mother's Day has strong roots in Methodism. For more on that, read about *Anna Jarvis*. On that day, Sunday May 14th, you'll note at that the top of our bulletin it will not refer to the day only as Mother's Day, but as the “Festival of the Christian Home.” In fact, the entire month of May is Christian Home month, and if you want some ideas for how your family might celebrate it, check this out: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/tips-for-better-family-time-during-christian-home-month>

Family is challenging, and it is beautiful. It is dysfunctional at times, and yet it offers our lives cohesion. It can be the source of great pain, and of immeasurable joy. Family deserves our attention, perhaps for even more than one month. Take some time and reflect on what family is, and what you can do to make your family life richer. Acknowledge where the struggles and heartaches are, but try to see also the hope. Whether it is your biological family, one you've adopted, or one you've been adopted into, let us celebrate family the way family is meant to be celebrated, together. May you all have a month full of blessing and love.

With gratitude for you all,
Pastor Jody Spiak



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS & SCHEDULING NEWS

KOINONIA: SPRING SCHEDULE

Our monthly gathering where we **build community, grow in faith** and **share God's love**.

- May — No Koinonia
- June 28th — BBQ Picnic/Church-wide Grill the Pastor (Q&A about all things religious/Christianity/spiritual)

DISMANTLING RACISM NEWS

MOVIES WITH MEANING — The Dismantling Racism Team is sponsoring movie nights focusing on topics of import, with both historic and contemporary relevance. After each movie there will be a brief time for discussion and fellowship. We have our first movie planned and ask you to stay tuned for more to follow.

- May 19th @ 7pm in Fellowship Hall — Farewell to Manzanar (Anti-Asian Racism/Interment Camps)
- June 16th @ 7pm TBD (Pride Month)



RACE UNITY CIRCLE

... is a group who holds meetings, trainings and conversations on important topics of justice. If you'd like to know more about what they're up to, check out their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/theraceunitycircle/>

FAMILY SERVICES SNUG

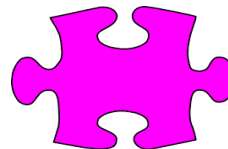
Wondering how you can get involved and affect positive change around gun violence? Check this local group out @ <https://www.facebook.com/snugpoughkeepsie/>. "SNUG is an evidence-based street outreach program based on the Cure Violence Model in Chicago, which treats gun violence like a disease by identifying its causes and interrupting its transmission. The program focuses on youth between the ages of 14 and 24 who are at high risk for involvement with gun violence. The SNUG team develops and implements risk-reduction strategies to reduce that involvement with the goal of saving lives and helping individuals turn their lives around." (From their website).

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- PUMC will be hosting the NYCT District Conference on May 7th, starting at 3pm (refreshments available at 2:30pm). Please register online through the NYAC.com website.
- May 24th is Aldersgate Day in United Methodism. Check out this article to learn more about it's meaning @ <https://www.umc.org/en/content/holy-spirit-moments-learning-from-wesley-at-aldersgate>.
- PUMC will be host to the Southern Dutchess Cooperative Parish Wide Picnic on June 3rd. More details to follow.
- PUMC's Children's Day will be held on June 4th during our 10am worship.
- Dutchess County Interfaith Council Music Festival — June 11th @ 3pm (Race amity opportunity).

STEWARDSHIP

(Beth Borchert)



SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP: PIECE # 4 – TRIBE

Many of you probably know that I am not a Poughkeepsie native. My first real encounter with Poughkeepsie was on a visit to my college roommate’s home, which is right down the road from PUMC. Ten years later, I moved here to raise my family. We moved here without having any blood relatives in the immediate area – even my roommate had moved away. So, like many of you who are also transplants, we knew we had to build a local family – a tribe, if you will. For us, that meant putting down roots in a church community. That’s when *God* led us to PUMC. Truly our church family has been a gift from *God*! We have been richly blessed with so many supportive relationships and (I hope) we have managed to be a blessing to others, too.

In the Old Testament, twelve tribes made up *God’s* chosen people. They had to learn to take really good care of each other in order to survive many hardships – including generations of slavery and 40 years of wandering in the desert! Likewise, the members of our church tribe need to take really good care of each other to survive the difficulties of our times – including a global pandemic. That care includes loving people like *Jesus* taught, as well as sharing the Good News about *Jesus*. I’ve both witnessed and experienced the loving care of this church family, over and over. This is a pretty amazing tribe. Honestly, we’re pretty good at caring for folks in our community “tribe”, too.

So, this month I am asking myself, “How can I better care for the members of my church and community ‘tribe’?” How about you?

Acts 16:31-34 (NIV) ³¹They replied, “Believe in the *Lord Jesus*, and you will be saved – you and your household.” ³²Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized. ³⁴The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in *God* – he and his whole household.

FITTING TOGETHER OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP PUZZLE FOR 2023

Pledged giving through March 31, 2023 was \$77,435 or 33.0% of our budget goal (\$235,000). Non-Pledged giving through March 31, 2023 was \$8,806 or 11.7% of our budget goal (\$75,000). Our combined giving is more than 25% of our budget goal, which is exactly where we hoped to be after three months of giving. Thank you for your continuing and consistent support of all the pieces of our church budget!

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Church Council met on Wednesday, April 5th. A brief summary includes:
The only order of business was the approval to spend up to \$5,000 from congregational funds to finish refurbishing the Youth Rooms.

The new format, with a focus on program every other month, was launched. *Lloyd Wright* facilitated a session on Church Growth and Evangelism. Key issues included:

- The committee consists of only 2 members and there is a need for a commitment from additional members.
- Evangelism focuses on establishing a relationship with others and sharing the Good Word.
- Current activities include the prison ministry, prison Tres Dias retreat, monthly Koinonia dinners, and Hugs and Prayers T-shirts.
- Many outreach activities were suggested, including flea markets, taking part in ongoing community events, special contests related to activities such as the Blessing of the Animals, puzzle swaps, movie nights, and family-focused dinners.
- Efforts should continue to both disseminate additional information about PUMC and invite people to take part in church worship, missions, and activities.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE



Please join us on May 8th at 1pm in Fellowship Hall. The program promises to be interesting. *Shannon Butler*, Adriaance Memorial Library's Historian, will present a program, *Historic Murders in Dutchess County*. It is based on her research and will cover the time period from the 18th Century to the early 20th Century.

CALLING ALL STELLAR ASTRONAUTS! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church

845-452-2933

July 10th – 14th

5:00pm – 8:00pm

Registration forms are available online @ pokumc.org and are due by May 31st.



A THOUGHT

God loves you because of who *God* is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.

MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH COORDINATOR



Hello Church!

I can't believe I am already writing to you about events in **May!** Where did the time go? Here is what we have planned for the youth

- May 7th — Curriculum and Fun Night!
- May 14th — No Youth Group (**Happy Mother's Day!**)
- May 21^s — *Pastor Jody* Returns — Come have a fun night with *Pastor Jody* with games and laughter!
- May 28th — Curriculum and Freedom Night! — Celebrate our freedom because of the ones who gave their lives for us!

Also, a huge thank you to *Patty Little* for advocating for our youth to receive some money to refurbish the youth rooms. Also, thank you Church Council for approving \$5000 for us to finish our rooms! Finally, thank you Church for your support of the youth always! We couldn't run this program without you!

Blessings,
Courtney Mulkins
Youth Coordinator



NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

“The moon shines bright, the stars give a light, a little before ‘tis day:
Our Heavenly *Father*, He called to us, and bids us awake and pray” ¹

Welcome May! This carol captures the true essence of May — it's a favorite of mine from long ago. It has six verses that are beautiful and is really a love song. But, the picture of the moon and stars has always been there for me for many years! I find in looking at the night sky such peace and know how great is our *GOD* who created this heaven, this earth, and us.

HIS great love is always with us! April and Easter is still with us. It was truly an inspiring Sunday! Our pastor's message, the wonderful Hymns, our Choir, the congregational singing of Handel's Hallelujah. **All so inspiring. A Sunday to remember! Welcome May!**

Another busy time in our church! Mother's Day, an Organ Concert, Pentecost, and Memorial Day. If you have an urge to join our choir as we prepare for May (and June!), please come join us! Contact me so that I can prepare a folder and binder for you. ALL ARE WELCOME!

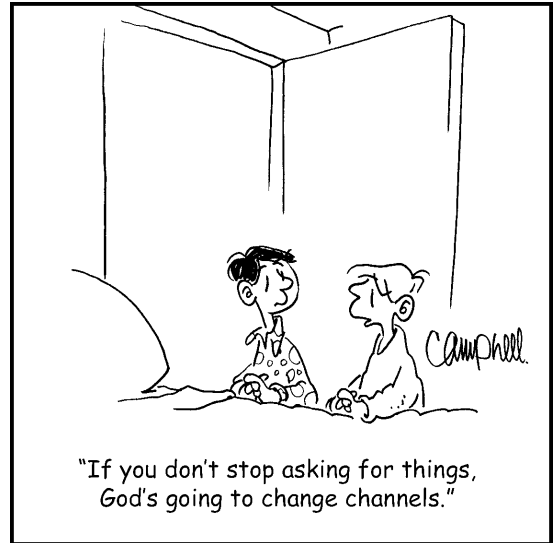
“My song is done and I must be gone, no longer can I stay:
so it's *GOD* bless you all, both great and small, and send you a joyful May.” ¹

In Christ's service,
Polly James
PUMC Choir Director



¹ A May-Day Carol, *Alfred Noyes*, English Poet, 1880-1958

CHORTLE



VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

(PLEASE RESPONSE TO EDITOR@POKUMC.ORG)

TALLYING PUMC'S OFFERINGS

We currently have 10 paired volunteers committed to counting the church offering once a month, **usually** after Sunday service. There are also three substitutes, who serve when a regular volunteer is unavailable, and an Administrative Counter. What is now needed are three volunteers, two as additional **Substitute Counters**, and one to serve as the **Administrative Counter's Backup**. Pick a Sunday, and we can arrange for you to observe the process. Note, once you volunteer you will always begin by being paired with someone experienced with the process.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

OUR MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES

Barbara Bates, Gladys Bierce, Janet Cole, Ron Cole, Dylan Coughlin, Sandra DeGuzman, Irene Feller, Emily Griess, Betsy Grover, Tom Halloran, Sandra Hansen, Pat Hughes, Donna Jonnigan, Danny Jones, Betty Longobardi, Marge Michaloski, Julia Miller, Kathleen Nicodemus, Michelle Olavarria, Karla Quinlan, Diana Silverman, Michelle Simonis, Jeff Tryon, Harold Veeder, Kerianne Wendover, Catherine White, Sarah-Grace White, Marilyn Zier.

FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH

Jonathan Brown, Georgia Kustas-Beurket, Cris and John Burke, Jerry Calvin, Jordan Fidler, Bryan Foy, Tom Humphries, Adonis Marzan, Hilary McAllister, Jean Slater, Robert Thompson-Gee, Ronald Tomaso, Jackie Triguero, Clifford Zier.

Also all those impacted by the Coronavirus, and the people in Ukraine.

MEMBERS OF OUR MILITARY (BOTH THE ACTIVE AND/OR RETIRED)

Airman Alexander Cymbar, Sheppard AFB Wichita Falls, Texas; **Joshua Lord**, 1-69 Infantry Medical Platoon Sergeant, NYC; **Randal Middleton**, Naples, Italy Naval Base, **Major Jason Oliver**, Texas.



PUZZLE

Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. HEAV | 6. OGETHE |
| 2. ABLE | 7. ES |
| 3. AY OF PENTECOS | 8. ONGUE |
| 4. ONGUE | 9. A |
| 5. PIRI | 10. IND |



“When the _____³ came, they were all _____⁶ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____¹⁰ came from _____¹ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____⁹ what seemed to be _____⁴ of fire that separated and came to _____⁷ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____⁵ and began to speak in other _____⁸ as the Spirit _____² them.”

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind

| CALENDAR | | |
|--|---|--|
| Monday, May 1, 2023 | Tuesday, May 9, 2023 | Wednesday, May 17, 2023 |
| 9:00AM MONDAY STUDY GROUP 10:00AM EXERCISE 6:00PM DCIC REHEARSAL 6:30PM POUGH GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS | 1:00PM ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 6:00PM JOYFUL RINGERS 7:30PM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) | 7:30AM MORNING PRAYERS 12:00PM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) 1:30PM NANCY'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM FINANCE |
| Tuesday, May 2, 2023 | Wednesday, May 10, 2023 | Thursday, May 18, 2023 |
| 1:00PM ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 6:00PM JOYFUL RINGERS 7:30PM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) | THE JOURNEY DEADLINE 7:30AM MORNING PRAYERS 12:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) 1:00PM SANDY'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM SPRC | 7:30AM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) 11:00AM PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM) 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 7:00PM CHOIR |
| Wednesday, May 3, 2023 | Thursday, May 11, 2023 | Friday, May 19, 2023 |
| 7:30AM MORNING PRAYERS 12:00PM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) 1:30PM NANCY'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM CHURCH COUNCIL | 7:30AM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES(ZOOM) 11:00AM PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM) 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 7:00PM CHOIR | 8:30AM COLLATING/MAILING THE JOURNEY 10:00AM EXERCISE |
| Thursday, May 4, 2023 | Friday, May 12, 2023 | Saturday, May 20, 2023 |
| 7:30AM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) 11:00AM PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM) 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 7:00PM CHOIR | 10:00AM EXERCISE | 8:30AM GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS |
| Friday, May 5, 2023 | Saturday, May 13, 2023 | Sunday, May 21, 2023 |
| 10:00AM EXERCISE 7:30PM NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS | 8:30AM GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS | 8:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICE 8:45AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00AM IN-PERSON & STREAMING SERVICE 10:00AM CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL 2:00PM PARKSIDE AA 3:00PM ORGAN CONCERT 6:00PM YOUTH GROUP |
| Saturday, May 6, 2023 | Sunday, May 14, 2023 | Monday, May 22, 2023 |
| ROSAURA EVENT 8:30AM GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS | MOTHER'S DAY 8:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICE 8:45AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00AM IN-PERSON & STREAMING SERVICE 10:00AM CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL 2:00PM PARKSIDE AA 6:00PM YOUTH GROUP | 9:00AM MONDAY STUDY GROUP 10:00AM EXERCISE 6:30PM POUGH GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS |
| Sunday, May 7, 2023 | Monday, May 15, 2023 | Tuesday, May 23, 2023 |
| 8:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICE 8:45AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00AM IN-PERSON & STREAMING SERVICE 10:00AM CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL 1:00PM SMITH AME SERVICE 2:00PM PARKSIDE AA 2:30PM DISTRICT CONFERENCE 6:00PM YOUTH GROUP | 9:00AM MONDAY STUDY GROUP 10:00AM EXERCISE 6:00PM DCIC REHEARSAL 6:30PM POUGH GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS | 1:00PM ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 6:00PM JOYFUL RINGERS 7:30PM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) |
| Monday, May 8, 2023 | Tuesday, May 16, 2023 | Wednesday, May 24, 2023 |
| 9:00AM MONDAY STUDY GROUP 10:00AM EXERCISE 1:00PM FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE 6:00PM DCIC REHEARSAL 6:30PM POUGH GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS 7:00PM TED TALK WATCH PARTY | 1:00PM ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 6:00PM JOYFUL RINGERS 7:00PM DISMANTLING RACISM 7:30PM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) | 7:30AM MORNING PRAYERS 12:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) 1:00PM SANDY'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM TRUSTEES |

CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

| Thursday, May 25, 2023 | Sunday, May 28, 2023 | Tuesday, May 30, 2023 |
|--|--|---|
| 7:30AM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) 11:00AM PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM) 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 7:00PM EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH 7:00PM CHOIR | 8:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER SERVICE 8:45AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00AM IN-PERSON & STREAMING SERVICE 10:00AM CHILDREN SUNDAY SCHOOL 2:00PM PARKSIDE AA 6:00PM YOUTH GROUP | 1:00PM ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 6:00PM JOYFUL RINGERS 7:30PM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) |
| Friday, May 26, 2023 | Monday, May 29, 2023 | Wednesday, May 31, 2023 |
| 10:00AM EXERCISE | | 7:30AM MORNING PRAYERS 12:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) |
| Saturday, May 27, 2023 | 9:00AM MONDAY STUDY GROUP 10:00AM EXERCISE 10:00AM MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE 6:00PM DCIC REHEARSAL 6:30PM POUGH GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS | |
| HOMELESS SHELTER 8:30AM GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS | | |