



# POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## The Journey

JUNE 2023

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### TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JODY	2
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS & SCHEDULING NEWS	3
KOINONIA: SPRING SCHEDULE	3
DISMANTLING RACISM NEWS	3
THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW	3
CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS	3
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	3
FEASTING ON FINANCE	4
STEWARDSHIP	5
SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP: PIECE #	5
FITTING TOGETHER OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP PUZZLE FOR 2023	5
COMING SOON – INTERIM PLEDGE STATEMENTS	5
IMPORTANT DATES FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	6
MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH COORDINATOR	6
MIDWEEK MEDITATIVE MOMENT	7
HYMN BACKGROUNDS	7
CHORTLE	7
THE GARDEN GROUP REPORTING	8
URGENT – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!	8
BACKUP FOR THE JOURNEY'S EDITOR	8
TALLYING PUMC'S OFFERINGS	8
A THOUGHT	8
THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM CLOSE SEND ITS THANKS	9
KIDS' CORNER	9
JUNE	10
CALENDAR	10

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JODY

Number 6:24-26

The *Lord* bless you and keep you; the *Lord* make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the *Lord* lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Greetings Family and Friends of PUMC!

Several years ago I wrote a paper at Luther Seminary titled, *The Itinerant System: The Method(ists) Behind the Madness*. The subtitle was “Methodist Itinerancy As Missional Theology”. I’m not sure how it got published online, but it has since been footnoted on the [John Wesley](#) Wikipedia page, which is probably about as close to famous as I’ll ever come. In that paper I argue (and it isn’t a popular argument among all Methodists) that there is a missional function behind our appointment system and beautiful grace to be found in the moments of transition between clergy and church communities. Here is a quote from my paper:

“As a Mission strategy, the itinerant system develops and encourages strong lay leadership in mission to the world (the priesthood of all believers), creates ever changing opportunities for churches to re- examine their methodologies in mission, promotes the conversation of diverse visions between pastors and congregations, creates healthy challenges to the status quo for congregations and pastors, and ultimately allows for relationships through which the gospel of *God’s* love, as seen and lived in *Christ*, can be shared.”

I fully believe what I wrote then, and at the same time recognize that it’s hard to say goodbye. This is the bittersweet dimension of serving this denomination. Changes like this involve a letting go of one another so that we can most fully take hold of the new future *God* is unfolding before us. It’s never a complete letting go. As sisters and brothers in *Christ*, we are forever bound together by our faith. But things will be different. All matters pastoral in nature will be referred to [Reverend Gabor](#), who I welcome, support and hold in my prayers as your new pastor.

Some of you have reached out recently to discuss the difficulties of pastoral transitions. I am aware of a heightened sense of obligation within myself to prepare you as the reality of the transition draws nearer. So this, my final newsletter offering, are some parting words of support for you in this future to which you are now being called. What I offer is a benediction.

Benediction in the Latin literally means to speak well of or bestow good wishes upon. While it is often found at the end of a church service, it should not be thought of as the last word, but an invitation forward. The words above from the Book of Numbers are what’s called the Aaronic Blessing, still used today in many Jewish homes and synagogues. I echo this priestly desire for you as *God’s* people –

May *God* keep you forever close to *God’s* heart . . .  
May the light of *God’s* inextinguishable love burn forever in you . . .  
May *God’s* peace which surpasses all understanding embrace you . . .

In the end, this is not an end at all. Though I prepare to say “goodbye”, I do so in the fullest meaning of that word, wishing for you that *God* may be with you always. [John Wesley](#) proclaimed with his final breaths, “Best of all, *God* is with us.” May you never forget that simple but profound truth. May it carry you into a glorious future and help you fulfill the potential *God* has imbued the PUMC community with. And may you know along the way that I continue to cheer for you and love you all. Thanks be to *God*!

Thank you. Just, thank you.

In *Christ* as best as I know how,  
Pastor Jody Spiak \_\_\_\_\_



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS & SCHEDULING NEWS

### KOINONIA: SPRING SCHEDULE

June 28<sup>th</sup> — 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 importance, 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. June 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm TBD

### THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- PUMC will be host to the Southern Dutchess Cooperative Parish Wide Picnic on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. More details to follow.
- PUMC's Children's Day will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> during our 10am worship.
- New York Annual Conference will be held from June 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> at Hofstra University. *Kaye Schrock, Gael Morey* and *Janet Houston* will represent PUMC.
- Dutchess County Interfaith Council Music Festival — June 11<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm (Race amity opportunity).
- That “God is love” (1 John 4:8b.)

## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

[Elizabeth Harrel, Recording Secretary]

A meeting of the Church Council was held on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Highlights included:

- Name tags on lanyards will be purchased for the congregation and clip-on name tags will be made for the children.
- Additional pledges are still being received and we are close to our goal.
- The Finance Committee recommended allocating part of the Paycheck Protection Program funds to support missions within the church and in the community. Payments of \$37,433 were approved.
- New leaders are being sought to serve as vice chairs of the Council, Finance Committee and Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Center and a new chair is needed for the Worship Committee.
- Written directions for church equipment will be compiled in a notebook and “cheat sheets” will be available in each location.
- Contact tracing will be eliminated.
- A Program meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> which will focus on decreasing the use of plastic in the church. Members of the congregation will be invited to attend.



## FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Friendship Circle will hold the last meeting of the program year on Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall at 1pm. We'll have a chance to join *Carla Vinson* as she shares “In Search of the Northern Lights with Churches Along the Way.” She'll be giving us highlights of her recent trip to Norway, and we'll feast on the American version of a popular Norwegian dessert. Our business meeting will focus on all we've accomplished this year and start to make plans for next fall. All are welcome!

# FEASTING ON FINANCE

## Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church "Vision Prayer"

Almighty God, You are transforming us through *Jesus Christ*. Now let Your *Holy Spirit* guide us as disciples who long to follow You passionately, worship You wholeheartedly, serve You joyfully and love others genuinely. Equip us to share the Gospel message boldly and graciously, so that all might come to know the transforming grace of *Jesus Christ* in whose name we pray. Amen

### Ephesians 3:20

To him who by means of his power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of: to God be the glory in the church and in *Christ Jesus* for all time, forever and ever!

We, the Finance Committee, are seeking **your thoughts and ideas on the mission and ministry of Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church.**

### NOW, ON TO FINANCES

#### From the PUMC Balance Sheet dated April 30, 2023

	<u>Checking</u>		<u>Savings</u>
00540 Non-Restricted	\$114,596.59	00600 Seeds of Strength	\$33,003.05
00541 Restricted	<u>25,277.93</u>		

#### From the PUMC P&L dated April 30, 2023

Revenues	127,243.81
Expenses	<u>127,652.96</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-\$409.15

#### Budget Actual vs Planned

- as of April 30<sup>th</sup> we are 4 months, or **33.33%**, into the 12 month **fiscal year**.
- 32.6% of Total Fiscal Year Revenue, to date.
- 32.7% of Total Fiscal Year Expense, to date

FYI, apportionment payments are paid monthly and are current as of April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Some of what your Finance Committee looks forward to in 2023 includes:

- **Audit of 2022 Church Finances** data collection is complete. Written reports are in process.
- **Shred Event** — Was held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, to reduce the volume of unneeded paper records. One bin of PUMC records and 1 bin of members' records were shredded.
- **Employee Retention Credit (ERC)** is part of the Paycheck Protection Program of the CARES Act. This is a reimbursement credit against part of our employee salaries for CNS, HTASC and PUMC in both 2020 and 2021. Any ERC funds received will be distributed pro-rata to CNS, HTASC & PUMC.
- **2024 Budget** — In September, the Finance Committee will begin developing the 2024 Budget.
- **United Methodist Special Sunday's in 2023**
  - 01-15-2023 Human Relations Sunday
  - 03-19-2023 UMCOR Sunday
  - 04-23-2023 Native American Ministries Sunday
  - 06-04-2023 Peace with Justice Sunday
  - 10-01-2023 World Communion Sunday
  - 11-26-2023 United Methodist Student Day Sunday

As always, feel free to contact me.

In service,  
Will Cass \_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Committee Chair





## STEWARDSHIP

(Beth Borchert)



### SPOTLIGHT ON STEWARDSHIP: PIECE # 5 – TEMPLE

I grew up with the tradition of putting on my “Sunday Best” to go to worship services at my church. I loved this tradition! It was a wonderful opportunity to feel good about my “fearfully and wonderfully made”, but decidedly less-than-perfect body. I still like putting on my Sunday Best for church. Scripture says your body is a temple, so I try to keep it clean and neat. These days, however, I am a little more focused on taking care of the inside of my temple: my health and my spiritual growth. *God* wants us to glorify *God* with our body AND spirit.

A lot of people here at PUMC are good at caring for their temple. The Strength and Balance group is a great example of folks who do what they can to help their bodies stay strong and healthy. The contemplative prayer group is a great example of folks who enrich their spirit with prayer and meditation. There are numerous Bible studies which, again, enrich our minds and spirits as we look for a deeper understanding of *God’s* word. When we take care of our bodies – inside and out - we not only glorify *God*, we are also better prepared to serve *God*.

So, this month I am asking myself, “How can I better care for my physical and spiritual temple?” How about you?

I Corinthians 6:19 (NRSV)

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the *Holy Spirit* within you, which you have from *God*, and that you are not your own?”

Peter 2:5 (NRSV)

“ . . . like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to *God* through *Jesus Christ*.”

### FITTING TOGETHER OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP PUZZLE FOR 2023

Pledged giving through April 30, 2023 was \$94,809 or 40.3% of our budget goal (\$235,000). Non-Pledged giving through April 30, 2023 was \$12,596 or 16.8% of our budget goal (\$75,000). Our combined giving is more than 34% of our budget goal, which is exactly where we hoped to be after four months of giving. Praise *God* for helping the pieces of our financial stewardship puzzle come together so nicely! Thank you for your continuing and consistent support.

### COMING SOON – INTERIM PLEDGE STATEMENTS

The Stewardship Committee will provide interim pledge statements in June. This will allow pledging families to review their annual giving record through May 31, 2023. If you have any questions about — or corrections to — your statement, you can contact our Financial Secretary, Kaye Schrock. Statements will be ready by Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>. To save on postage, they will be available after church on June 25<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Any remaining statements will be mailed by July 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have not yet pledged, but give regularly and would like a statement, Kaye will be happy to prepare an interim giving statement for you upon request.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

- Sat, June 17 - Volunteer Meeting
- Sun, July 9 - Decorating After Church
- Mon, July 10 - Start of Vacation Bible School (July 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm – 8:00pm)



## MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH COORDINATOR

Hello Church!



The youth have been busy! The biggest thing they have done is working hard on their new closet! A huge thank you to *Barb Adams* for helping us! The youth were very proud of all their work, as they should be.



However, June is coming, and that means two things. It means our weekly meetings will break for the summer. Our last meeting will be June 11<sup>th</sup>. However, we will be doing Vacation Bible School, and I am working on at least one youth and family event for the summer! So, stay tuned! It also means I have been in this position for a year. I've learned and grown a lot, with still a lot more to do. I am currently working to overcome my issues with driving so I can attend church a lot more! Hopefully by the end of the summer it will be worked out, prayers much appreciated!

Thank you church for an amazing youth group year, and for your continued support!

Blessings,  
*Courtney Mulkins*  
Youth Coordinator



## MIDWEEK MEDITATIVE MOMENT

Our Contemplative Circle experiment during Lent was rich and rewarding, but it revealed some challenges. Therefore, we propose to change the name and format. We will offer a 30-minute quiet time on Wednesdays at noon, a safe place for you to companion with *God*, one another, and a spiritual writer. This Midweek Meditative Moment is an occasion for spiritual growth, a safe place to share your journey or simply wait in silence for *God's Spirit* to move in your heart. All are welcome. The Zoom link is posted on the PUMC website. Hope you can join us soon.

### HYMN BACKGROUNDS <sup>1</sup>

[Jennifer Harmer]

It's June and we are headed into a time of transition. Growing up there was a transition between the "church year" and "summer" when attendance was much lighter and we would sing the hymn "God Be With You" from time to time at that last service in June. But it also resonates with me as a hymn sung when saying good bye to a Pastor or a District Superintendent.

Written by *Jeremiah Eames Rankin* (1828-1904), a Congregational Minister in 1880, this hymn was written as a Christian good-bye. It was first sung in the First Congregational Church where *Rankin* was minister for fifteen years. He composed the hymn on the basis of the etymology of "good-bye," which means "God be with you."

Unlike other hymns I've written about, this song has only been associated with one tune, appropriately named "God Be With You." The tune's composer, *William G. Tomer* (1833-1896), serviced as music director for Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. According to Hymnary.org, *Rankin* wrote the first stanza of the song before sending it to two different men for music. *Tomer's* tune best suited the words, and so *Rankin* wrote the remaining stanzas. It is currently published in 1,134 hymnals.

Though the hymn is more commonly associated with services or times of farewell, it is also a suggested hymn during the Christmas Season in all lectionary years and also in Ordinary Time in Lectionary Year A.

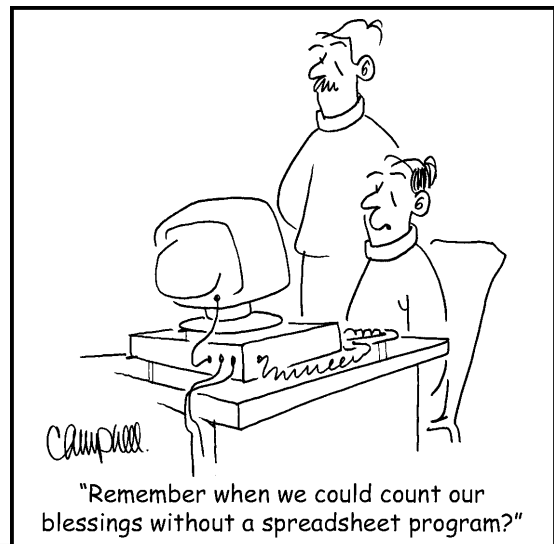
As June winds down and we prepare for *Pastor Jody's* leaving, let us not think of him and his family's leaving as a time to say "good bye" but rather, "God Be with You until we meet again."

<sup>1</sup>References from Hymnary.org

## CHORTLE



"Thanks for calling the Believer's Support Line. For a word of encouragement, press one. For a verbal pat on the back, press two. For immediate praise and adulation, press three. For a faith that worketh patience, press on!"



"Remember when we could count our blessings without a spreadsheet program?"

## THE GARDEN GROUP REPORTING

N&P Landscaping, owned by *Mr. Pedro Acosta*, is currently maintaining the PUMC lawn. In April, the PUMC Board of Trustees agreed to contract with *Mr. Acosta* to edge and mulch around the perimeter of the courtyard where the Garden Group placed a number of native plants last year. *Mr. Acosta* and his team also mulched the planted areas along the north walls of our church building .

The Garden Group wishes to acknowledge N&P Landscaping for the superb job that they have done with the PUMC property and to also thank the Board of Trustees for their financial support. The mulch will help prevent weeds in the native plants gardens and, very importantly, assist in holding in ground moisture during the upcoming hot summer months.



— VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!  
(RESPONSE TO EDITOR@POKUMC.ORG)

### BACKUP FOR THE JOURNEY'S EDITOR

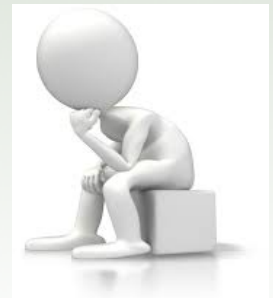
Want to try something new or revisit a previous newsletter experience ? Do you have some computer skills, a creative bent, and like to work with a fine group of people? You might want to consider becoming a backup to the Editor of PUMC's newsletter *The Journey* (and eventual Editor). On the job training is provided before any solo flight.

### 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.

## A THOUGHT

You can't change the past, but you can ruin the present  
by worrying over the future!





THANK YOU

"The family of *William Close* sends its thanks to our church family for their caring and support over the years. All the cards, phone calls, visits, goodies, flowers, carolers and, most importantly, friendship shown to our father was very much appreciated. He certainly loved all of it. *God* bless you all."

KIDS' CORNER

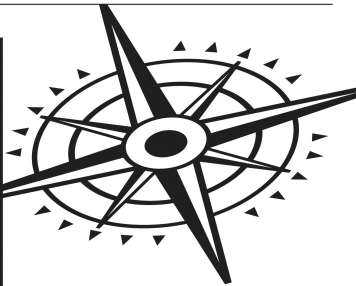


SEPARATION FROM SIN

David praises God for his love and compassion. What does God do for people who fear him?

Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.

FROM as is can	NORTH from far	at the EAST FROM
is South AS	is do far EAST	the THIS up AS
WEST THAT is East	far down WEST	THE be West AS



... so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12, NIV

Answer: As far as the east is from the west

Puzzle!

Jesus instructs us to give and serve. What does Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tell us *not* to do? To find out, cross out all the following letters. Then write the remaining letters in order on the spaces below.

B J K Q X Z

BWJITJHQHOB LZDGBBOOK  
DKFQROMTBHJOBSQEXZT  
OKXWJHOBMIZTIJSDQKU  
EWXBHEQNITKISIZNYOU  
RPJZOWBEQRTOAXCZTXJ

DO NOT \_\_\_\_\_

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answer: Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Proverbs 3:27, NIV



<b>CALENDAR</b>		
<b>Thursday, June 1, 2023</b>	<b>Monday, June 5, 2023</b>	<b>Saturday, June 10, 2023</b>
5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 7:00PM CHOIR	9:00AM MONDAY STUDY GROUP 10:00AM EXERCISE 6:00PM DCIC REHEARSAL 6:30PM POUGH GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS	8:30AM GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS
<b>Friday, June 2, 2023</b>	<b>Tuesday, June 6, 2023</b>	<b>Sunday, June 11, 2023</b>
10:00AM EXERCISE	1:00PM ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 6:00PM JOYFUL RINGERS	<b>DCIC MUSIC FESTIVAL</b> 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
<b>Saturday, June 3, 2023</b>	<b>Wednesday, June 7, 2023</b>	<b>Monday, June 12, 2023</b>
8:30AM GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS 11:00AM PARISH PICNIC 1:00PM CHILDREN'S DAY REHEARSAL	7:30AM MORNING PRAYERS 12:00PM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) 1:30PM NANCY'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM CHURCH COUNCIL	9:00AM MONDAY STUDY GROUP 10:00AM EXERCISE 1:00PM FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE 6:30PM POUGH GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS 7:00PM TED TALK WATCH PARTY
<b>Sunday, June 4, 2023</b>	<b>Thursday, June 8, 2023</b>	<b>Tuesday, June 13, 2023</b>
<b>CHILDREN'S DAY</b> 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 6:00PM YOUTH GROUP	11:00AM PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM) 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 7:00PM CHOIR	1:00PM ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 6:00PM JOYFUL RINGERS
	<b>Friday, June 9, 2023</b>	
	10:00AM EXERCISE	

## CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

Wednesday, June 14, 2023	Monday, June 19, 2023	Sunday, June 25, 2023
<b>THE JOURNEY DEADLINE</b> 7:30AM MORNING PRAYERS 9:00AM CNS GRADUATION 12:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) 1:00PM SANDY'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM SPRC	<b>JUNETEENTH</b> 9:00AM MONDAY STUDY GROUP 10:00AM EXERCISE 6:30PM POUGH GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS	<b>GRADUATION SUNDAY</b> 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
<b>Thursday, June 15, 2023</b>	<b>Tuesday, June 20, 2023</b>	<b>Monday, June 26, 2023</b>
11:00AM PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM) 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 7:00PM CHOIR	1:00PM ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 6:00PM JOYFUL RINGERS 7:30PM DISMANTLING RACISM	9:00AM MONDAY STUDY GROUP 10:00AM EXERCISE 6:30PM POUGH GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS
<b>Friday, June 16, 2023</b>	<b>Wednesday, June 21, 2023</b>	<b>Tuesday, June 27, 2023</b>
10:00AM EXERCISE	7:30AM MORNING PRAYERS 12:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) 1:30PM NANCY'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM FINANCE	1:00PM ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 5:30PM KOINONIA PICNIC 6:00PM JOYFUL RINGERS
<b>Saturday, June 17, 2023</b>	<b>Thursday, June 22, 2023</b>	<b>Wednesday, June 28, 2023</b>
8:30AM GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS 1:30PM VBS MEETING	11:00AM PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM) 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 7:00PM EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH 7:00PM CHOIR	7:30AM MORNING PRAYERS 12:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE CIRCLES (ZOOM) 1:00PM SANDY'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM TRUSTEES
<b>Sunday, June 18, 2023</b>	<b>Friday, June 23, 2023</b>	<b>Thursday, June 29, 2023</b>
<b>FATHER'S DAY</b> 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	8:30AM COLLATING/MAILING THE JOURNEY 10:00AM EXERCISE	11:00AM PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM) 5:30PM PRIMARY PURPOSE AA 7:00PM CHOIR
	<b>Saturday, June 24, 2023</b>	<b>Friday, June 30, 2023</b>
	<b>HOMELESS SHELTER</b> 8:30AM GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS	10:00AM EXERCISE