

# POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TELEPHONE (845) 452-2933 || WEBSITE POKUMC.COM || EMAIL OFFICE@POKUMC.ORG

## The Journey

FEBRUARY 2024

### PUMC STAFF

Kregg Gabor PASTOR  
Karyn Millham SECRETARY  
Polly James CHOIR DIRECTOR  
Stephen Siktberg ORGANIST  
Angela Soto-White CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES  
Neal Pickett CUSTODIAN

### PUMC VOLUNTEER

Pat McCullough HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

### PUMC AFFILIATES LEADERSHIP STAFF

Kat Viebrock COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL DIRECTOR  
Shaundraneka Gills DIRECTOR OF HARRIET TUBMAN  
ACADEMIC SKILLS CENTER

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### From the Editor



Happy February! My name is Karyn Millham and I will be taking over as the editor of The Journey (as well as continuing as the church secretary). Not surprisingly, a new editor means that there will be some changes now and as time goes on. Creating things is my favorite part of my job in the office, so this new part of the job is perfect for me.

I welcome any feedback you may have. **The deadline for the March Journey is February 14<sup>th</sup>....which is also Ash Wednesday.....and Valentine's Day.**



*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb<sup>2</sup> down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Revelation 22:1*

Even as I write, the snow is falling, and I am feeling blessed to be able to look out the window and watch it turn the scrubby old evergreens that are succumbing to invasive wood-boring beetles into almost picturesque works of art. Yet this contrast of coating what is an ugly reality is not lost on me.

I usually do between forty and sixty pages of reading for a sermon, even though I have preached numerous times on the lectionary texts. One of my usual stops is the website HomileticsOnline.com. For the Sunday I am working on they suggested an illustration taken from Henry G. Brinton's book, *Windows of the Heavens*. (I am not endorsing the book as I have not read it and don't intend to.) HomileticsOnline.com extendedly quotes Brinton:

*"Today's Scripture is the end of the story," he [the pastor,] says. "It is the goal to which God is moving, from the first day of creation to the end of time. ... God wants there to be harmony between water and cities, and between plant life and human developments. ... The city and the river and the tree of life all live in harmony. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."*

*Harley pauses to let that message sink in. "Begin with the end in mind."*

Brinton, H., & Wilton, C. (n.d.). *Wayfinding with Jesus*.  
Homiletics Online - Sermon Preparation Resource.

<https://www.homileticsonline.com/members/installment/93041449>

Notice that in our passage from Revelation, God does not abandon the natural order of creation. Trees, rivers, and waters are all a part of the beatific vision of God's restored and perfected creation. I wonder if central to humanity's redemption is not a restoration of that primal state of equilibrium and harmony we find at the beginning of creation. Unity with God brings solidarity with God's priorities and care for God's creation. Good stewards guard, guide, and defend the kingdom for the king until the king returns. Bad stewards plunder the kingdom and despoil its resources.

I think that God is looking for good stewards who see the blessings of this creation as capital to be invested and grown. Jesus came to point us to those eternal attributes of co-creators and co-inhabitants of the kingdom that is drawing near and breaking in. After all, what would you look for in eternal roommates? When I pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done..." I am aligning my priorities and worldview with that of God's priorities and worldview, no matter the inconvenience or disruption to my "norm."

So, as we enter the Lenten season, let's "begin with the end in mind." Holding out the reconciliation of humanity's existence with the harmony of nature, embracing the long generational view of the Kingdom of God drawing close as we live humbler lives and consume fewer resources.

In Jesus' name, let it be, AMEN.



## FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Friendship Circle will meet on February 12 in Fellowship Hall. Christine Wolcott, Program Development Manager at Anderson Center for Autism will give a presentation on the current state of autism and the programs and services that are available for individuals with autism. She will also discuss the needs in the autism community. Please bring your questions about autism and available services. Refreshments will be served.

*The Church Council met on Wednesday, January 3  
in Fellowship Hall. Highlights included:*

- Our Stewardship campaign was very successful throughout 2023 and we can expect approximately \$310,000 in income.
- The Hospitality Committee is planning a monthly dinner and will feature a pancake supper, a corned beef and cabbage dinner, and an Easter event.
- The Trustees are busy with the installation of a new handicapped-accessible bathroom, an update of the kitchen exhaust system, and basic building maintenance.
- The Worship Committee has been successfully assisting in mission activities and holiday events, refurbishing church decorations, and sponsoring special worship opportunities.
- Our new website is up and running and reflects the positive image of our church. A brief tutorial will be available to all members.
- Vacation Bible School will have an "Under the Sea" theme and will take place during 3 evenings next summer.
- After much careful deliberation by the Finance Committee and Trustees, as well as Council discussion, a budget for approximately \$386,000 was adopted. Expenses will be closely monitored and new funding sources will be sought.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.



## *Fellowship Discovery Luncheon*



**Our February Fellowship Discovery Luncheon will be on Tuesday, February 13 @ 12PM.** Please let us know (by Thursday, February 8) if you plan to attend by scanning the QR code or as always you can contact the office.

## **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

We are planning another trip to Lancaster, PA to see Daniel at the Sight and Sound Theatre. The trip is planned for October 25 and 26. More to follow!

# 16th ANNUAL COOKIE WALK

Saturday, February 10, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM



PUMC will again host the Cookie Walk to benefit the ministry work of local churches through Love INC. Love INC supports those less fortunate through its various ministries (personal care items, beds, pillows, linens, household goods and furniture) and its many classes.

Please sign up to bake cookies in support of this event. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. You may send an email to [CookieWalk2024@gmail.com](mailto:CookieWalk2024@gmail.com) to sign up as a baker or go to [bit.ly/2024CookieSign-Up](http://bit.ly/2024CookieSign-Up). Please let us know your Name, phone number and/or email, number of dozen cookies you intend to bake, and type of cookie(s) if you know it.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Join us for delicious food and fellowship!

February 13<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 – 7:00 pm

8\$ Suggested Donation

All proceeds will go to PUMC missions program



# SHROVE TUESDAY

## Altar Flowers



Altar Flowers

There are LOTS of openings for flowers. Please consider signing up to provide flowers. The cost is still \$45.00 and the flowers are yours to take after the service if you would like. This is a wonderful way to memorialize or honor a loved one. There is a yellow form on the bulletin board in the narthex with all the information you need or you can contact the church office.

## A Thank You From Veronica Gordon

I am extending my heartfelt thanks, and gratitude for all the prayers, visits, flowers, soups, cards, phone calls, and of course, the caroling group. Your positivity has help me sustained. I truly feel loved to be a part of such wonderful family. Please continue with your well wishes as I continue to heal. Blessings to all.





## NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

**“Love is little, Love is low,  
Love will make my spirit grow. Grow in peace,  
Grow in light; Love will do the thing that’s right.”**

Shaker Settlement Song, 1834

There is a poster outside the choir room door that reads **EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE**. Come into the room, feel the love, the warm welcome, the caring, grace, prayers, laughter, and MUSIC!

We made it through January and now the choir gets to honor February’s Black History Month with their favorite spirituals. Then, with Ash Wednesday we enter the season of Lent. The music focus gently turns to introspective songs-all the while preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter.

Do we have fun singing? practicing? learning new music?...**ABSOLUTELY!** This group of singers are the most committed of all the many choirs I have led! I love them!!! We in the music room frequently receive emails and cards thanking them for their music. Keep those coming; we love to hear from you in the congregation!

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE “LOVE WILL DO THE THING THAT’S RIGHT”**

### Pastor’s Bible Study



When our current Bible study is over (Discovering the Bible) is over we will move right on to..... **BASIC: WHO IS GOD**

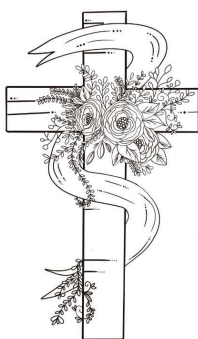
**BASIC: WE ARE CHURCH**

**Follower's Guide**

“Trends come and go in our culture and the church seems to follow. BASIC is a seven-part series of short films that challenges us to reclaim the church as Scripture describes it to be. This series speaks to those who have questions about the church and to those who may have lost interest in the church. ”

**Days: Tuesdays - 02/13, 02/20, 02/27, 03/05, 03/12, 03/19, 03/26**

**Time: 10:30am**



### Easter Flower Ordering Form: Deadline to order Monday, March 11

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \$13.00 each

I will take my flowers after the 10:45 am Service on Easter Sunday (circle one) YES NO

Return this form to the church office or call 452-2933 to order.

## Vacation Bible School!

Vacation Bible School will take place on the evenings of July 8 – 10 (3 days).

VERY IMPORTANT! In order for this event to take place, we are in need of several adult volunteers.

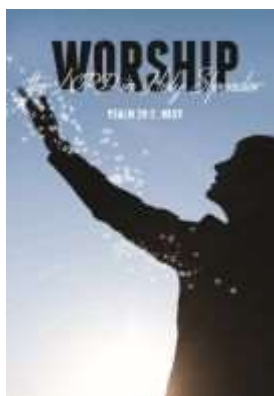
Contact Angela or the church office for more information or to volunteer



## From the Finance Committee



Our Finance Committee met to review the closeout of the 2023 fiscal year, start the 2024 fiscal year and to begin thinking about 2025. Fiscal 2023 ended about where we expected it to be, having spent approximately \$45,000 more than we took in. This spending was offset by Federal COVID grants, so our checking account stayed positive. As I mentioned last month, while we have sufficient funds to cover our spending in 2024, we will spend down all of our reserves to meet our budget, and we will be left with a significant hole for the 2025 budget. To help plan for the coming year, the Finance Committee will be reviewing income and spending during 2024, and we will also be developing several fundraisers to help us meet our Mission, Education, Youth and Children's programs. Our goal will be to raise \$15,000 over the course of the year, and we need your help to accomplish it!



## Worship News

- A review of Advent services and activities led to discussion regarding the low attendance to the Comfort & Joy Service. Further discussion will be held later in the year.
- The special Sundays for Jan., Feb., and March were discussed.
- Pam Terwilliger is gathering the offerings for the Lenten Devotional.
- Anne Bierce has agreed to help interested members to make the woven palms for the palm cross.
- Pastor Gregg has offered the path for Holy Week, including a service every day. There will be 2 services on Ash Wednesday. Pastor is considering a Seder for Maundy Thursday as well as the service to strip the sanctuary. Good Friday will be a Tenebrae Service. The congregation will be invited to join the prayer team circling the church 7 times on Holy Saturday. There will be a sunrise service on Easter Sunday (probably at Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery). Easter Service will observe Communion.
- Discussion followed regarding inviting instrumentalists (from the congregation) into our services. We also discussed highlighting various talents of our youth and children.
- Kaye brought up maybe a breakfast once a quarter; brunch was liked better. Discussion will be with Marcy and missions.
- Kaye also reported disposition of old wreaths and one "humble" Christmas tree. Work will be done on the new ones starting in October.

Humbly submitted by Kaye Schrock, Chair



Campbell

"We were on the way out the door before I remembered I needed something for the Valentine party at Sunday school."



**PANCAKES  
FOR SUPPER!!**

# Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- 14 - 7 = \_\_\_ Father
- 10 + 9 = \_\_\_ heavenly
- 9 + 9 = \_\_\_ the
- 12 + 12 = \_\_\_ blessing
- 2 - 1 = \_\_\_ Praise
- 7 + 7 = \_\_\_ has
- 11 + 11 = \_\_\_ every
- 13 + 13 = \_\_\_ Christ
- 8 + 8 = \_\_\_ us
- 10 + 10 = \_\_\_ realms
- 8 + 9 = \_\_\_ in
- 5 + 5 = \_\_\_ Lord
- 10 + 11 = \_\_\_ with

- 10 + 15 = \_\_\_ in
- 10 - 5 = \_\_\_ God
- 6 - 3 = \_\_\_ to
- 12 - 6 = \_\_\_ and
- 6 + 6 = \_\_\_ Christ
- 18 - 9 = \_\_\_ our
- 22 - 11 = \_\_\_ Jesus
- 1 + 1 = \_\_\_ be
- 7 + 6 = \_\_\_ who
- 2 + 2 = \_\_\_ the
- 10 + 5 = \_\_\_ blessed
- 4 + 4 = \_\_\_ of
- 10 + 13 = \_\_\_ spiritual

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1	2	3	4	5	6
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7	8	9	10	11	12
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
13	14	15	16	17	18
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
19	20	21	22	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
23	24	25	26	_____	_____

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV



**Thursday, February 1, 2024**

7:00PM CHOIR

**Friday, February 2, 2024**

10:00AM EXERCISE

**Saturday, February 3, 2024**

**Sunday, February 4, 2024**

**COMMUNION**

8:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER  
8:45AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:00AM WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:15AM HALO BELLS  
6:00PM YOUTH GROUP

**Monday, February 5, 2024**

9:00AM MONDAY STUDY GROUP  
10:00AM EXERCISE

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

10:30AM PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY  
1:00PM ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP  
6:00PM JOYFUL RINGERS  
6:30PM CURRENT EVENTS & WWJD

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024**

7:30AM MORNING PRAYERS  
1:30PM NANCY'S BIBLE STUDY  
7:00PM CHURCH COUNCIL

**Thursday, February 8, 2024**

5:00PM PASTA DINNER  
7:00PM CHOIR

**Friday, February 9, 2024**

10:00AM EXERCISE

**Saturday, February 10, 2024**

10:00AM COOKIE WALK

**Sunday, February 11, 2024**

8:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER  
8:45AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:00AM WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:15AM HALO BELLS  
2:00-6:00PM YOUTH GROUP

**Monday, February 12, 2024**

1:00PM FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

10:30PM PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY  
12:00PM FELL. DISCOVERY LUNCHEON  
1:00PM ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP  
5:00PM SHROVE PANCAKE SUPPER  
6:00PM JOYFUL RINGERS

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**THE JOURNEY DEADLINE**

7:30AM MORNING PRAYERS  
12:00PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE  
7:00PM ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

**Thursday, February 15, 2024**

7:00PM CHOIR

**Friday, February 16, 2024**

10:00AM EXERCISE

**Saturday, February 17, 2024**

9:00AM SCRIPTURE STROLL

**Sunday, February 18, 2024**

8:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER  
8:45AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:00AM WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:15AM HALO BELLS  
2:00PM PARKSIDE AA  
6:00PM YOUTH GROUP

**Monday, February 19, 2024**

**PRESIDENT'S DAY**

9:00AM MONDAY STUDY GROUP  
10:00AM EXERCISE

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

10:30AM PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY  
1:00PM ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP  
6:30PM JOYFUL RINGERS  
7:00PM SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Wednesday, February 21, 2024**

7:30AM MORNING PRAYERS  
1:30PM NANCY'S BIBLE STUDY  
7:00PM TRUSTEES

**Thursday, February 22, 2024**

5:00PM LAY SERVANT TRAINING  
7:00PM EVANGELISM & CHURCH GRO  
7:00PM CHOIR

**Friday, February 23, 2024**

**8:30 AM COLLATE JOURNEY**

10:00AM EXERCISE  
6:00PM MOVIES WITH MEANING

**Saturday, February 24, 2024**

**HOMELESS SHELTER**

**Sunday, February 25, 2024**

8:00AM CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER  
8:45AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
10:00AM WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL  
11:15AM HALO BELLS  
6:00PM YOUTH GROUP

**Monday, February 26, 2024**

9:00AM MONDAY STUDY GROUP  
10:00AM EXERCISE

**Tuesday, February 27, 2023**

10:30 PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY  
1:00PM ARTS & CRAFTS GROUP  
6:00PM JOYFUL RINGERS

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

7:30AM MORNING PRAYERS  
7:00PM TRUSTEES

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**

5:00PM LAY SERVANT TRAINING  
7:00PM CHOIR



Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church  
2381 New Hackensack Road  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-4260

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