

POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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# The Journey

April 2024

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DIRECTOR OF HARRIET

TUBMAN ACADEMIC SKILLS

CENTER

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<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup> by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

“Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!” flows the traditional Easter proclamation by the faithful. Jesus, whom the religious and secular authorities thought they had eliminated, God has raised to be the center of the spiritual universe, drawing all people to himself, as he claims in John 12:32. I love that image of drawing people to him. When rightly understood and thoroughly applied, there is a strong attraction to the Christian faith.

I heard of a US General who demonstrated two leadership models with a piece of string. He laid the string flat out on his desk. Then, from one end, he pushed. Predictably, the string bunched up to be pushed along in a mess by the point of his finger. He straightened the string out again. This time, he used his finger to pull the string along. As predictably, it remained straight, following his finger no matter where it led—his finger drew it along.

In Christ, God chose to draw us along rather than staying with the push of commandment and law. Drawing us along is the way that God decided to reconcile and bring peace between us and God. The cross, God’s passion, love, and grace, center and stabilize us, not personally only. We are communally drawn to each other the more Christ draws us to Himself. In Christ, we are centered, given purpose and direction, and offered a penultimate avenue for peace.

One other image that comes to mind is the Oort Cloud. This cloud is the cloud that surrounds our universe. It is the paradigm of chaos. In the Oort Cloud, debris expresses its energy by random flights in the hugeness of space or expends its energy through massive collisions and gravitational attractions to larger objects. The Oort Cloud is neither good nor bad. Objects do what objects do. That is all. But most of it is pointless, and only rarely, over millions of years, does it produce anything structured around a single point versus the exact opposite, a singularity known as a Black Hole. Once a Black Hole catches

the chaos of debris in its gravity, debris does not escape but becomes part of the mass to draw in more wayward debris.

The cross centers us and becomes our singularity where order and peace find their home. In Christ, we are no longer a group of lovely people doing beautiful things haphazardly in the universe's chaos, expanding and diluting our energies in infinite trajectories and collisions of fracturing diminution. When God draws us closer to Christ and takes us into his singularity, we find in him not only focus but peace. We become a committed part of the mission of the Church to draw all to Jesus's peace. No matter what happens, divisions or diversions arise, Jesus is our center, ultimate hope, and infinite horizon.

Christ is risen! God has made eternal peace with humanity. It is up to us to bring faith's singularity to the world. In Jesus' name, AMEN.

Yours in Christ, Kregg



## Church Council Highlights

The Church Council met on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Highlights included:

- Palms and Easter flowers have been ordered and a group led by Anne Bierce will make the Palm crosses.
- The pancake supper was very successful and those responsible were thanked for their efforts. Upcoming events include a special offering for the Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Program on March 17<sup>th</sup> and a tag sale on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Information will be provided on various payment options, including using the QR code and credit cards.
- Work on the handicapped bathroom is proceeding on schedule.
- Requests for donations from local businesses will be coordinated by the mission groups using them and a rotating schedule will be developed.
- The Social Justice Team was incorporated under the Missions Committee.

- In order to continue the viability of the church, a subcommittee was established to engage the congregation in the discussion, look at our vision, and develop a detailed proposal. Major changes will need to be made in order to attract a more diverse population and continue our community outreach.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Friendship Circle will hold its regular meeting on April 8th at 1:00 in the Fellowship room. In conjunction with the Eclipse we have Karl Loatman from the Mid-Hudson Astronomy Club. He will be giving a presentation on the Comet of 1680 as it relates to Fast Days in Albany and New Hampshire. He will also talk about Comet weathervanes on churches in the northeast and how it relates to Jonah in the Old Testament. He has been working on a book relating to this. Refreshments will be served.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM'S LENDING LIBRARY

The PUMC's **Social Justice Team** invites you to enjoy one of the books located in the church lounge, on the one shelf identified as **Lending Library**. Members of the **Team** are lending books from their personal libraries. The books were selected to augment your cultural and social justice knowledge and consciousness. If you choose to borrow a book please follow the ensuing procedure . . .

- Browse the books on **Lending Library** shelf
- Select one you wish to read.
- Locate the library card inside the book
- Print your name and the date on the card, using the provided pen.
- Place the card in the red box (please leave the pen).
- When you return the book, retrieve the card from the red box.
- Put it back in the book, and place the book back on the shelf.

Returning the book as soon as you finish reading, will provide others a similar reading opportunity.



## Important April Dates

- Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Current Events & WWJD @ 6:30pm  
Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Church Council @ 7pm  
Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Begin Collecting for Tag Sale  
Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Friendship Circle @ 1pm  
Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Fellowship Discovery Luncheon @ 12pm  
Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – Native American Ministries Sunday  
    SPRC @ 11:30am  
    Worship Ctte @ 11:30am  
Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> – Current Events & WWJD @ 6:30pm  
    Social Justice @ 7pm  
Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – April Journey Deadline  
    Finance @ 7pm  
Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – Spring Tag Sale @ 12pm – 6pm  
Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – Spring Tag Sale @ 8am – 4pm  
Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> – Trustees @ 7pm  
Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Collate Journey @ 8:30am  
Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – Homeless Shelter  
Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – Soaking Prayer @ 8am  
    Mother's Day Flower Orders Due

## Worship Committee



The worship committee worked behind the scenes with Pastor Gregg for Easter. Upcoming special Sundays will be observed. The flags are going to be cleaned. We will be discussing possible new ideas for worship to increase our congregation numbers.

Humbly submitted, Kaye Schrock, chair

# Children's Ministries News



## Vacation Bible School

Mon, July 8 – Wed, July 10 @ 5pm – 8pm

Dinner Included

Cost: 30\$ per family

There will also be an adult class led by Pastor Kregg.

### NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

**“The moon shines bright,  
the stars give light, a little before ‘tis day;  
our mighty Lord he looked on us and bid us to watch and pray”**

from The Sun's Morning Song  
Cyber Hymnal #7101  
(author unknown)



The music for this has been rolling around in my head, but I cannot find the hymn tune that I've known since my early days at Singing Eagle Lodge in New Hampshire. After our nightly prayers we had a moment of silence standing in our circle of ninety campers and watch the moon and stars through the tall pines. One of the councilors stayed with me while our campers scurried to bed. Thirty years ago that councilor and I sang this together-we are still good friends!

It is amazing what music can bring to our souls! Be it joyful or mournful-it can uplift our spirits and bring us peace. PUMC's choir room is full of all kinds of music (The Hokey Pokey or Handel's Hallelujah or the time this director stood on the piano bench to lead the Penguin Flipper Song.) Somehow music brings us together to worship, to praise, to pray, to laugh, to cry-the list goes on and WE SING! WE SING! WE SING!

Everyone is Welcome Here-come sing with us!!!

**“My song is done, I must be gone, I can no longer stay;  
God bless you all, both great and small, And send you a joyful May!”**

from The Sun's Morning Song

**SPRING BLESSINGS TO ALL! In Christ's Service, Polly James**

Sometimes you are granted such timing as Easter this year. It comes right at the end of March, so while I am sitting here writing a Journey article in Lent about an Easter hymn, the timing will be as such, I hope, that when you read this, it won't be too far from when we celebrated Easter.

“Up From the Grave He Arose” was written by Robert Lowry (1826-1899) in 1874. Lowry had a fondness for music in his early years, learning various musical instruments as a child. He entered ministry work at age 28, and was not only an excellent preacher, brilliant speaker, and a thorough Bible student but also had a rare administrative ability.

“Up From the Grave He Arose” uses the tune “Christ Arose” which was also composed by Lowry. He wrote the hymn and tune while he was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Lewisburg, PA and published it in Brightest and Best (1875), a church school songbook that was edited by Lowry and William Doane.

The hymn is suggested in every lectionary year for Easter Day. The verses and refrain present a contrast between the buried Jesus and the risen Jesus. It has been noted that the refrain is what makes the hymn very popular, and is a jubilant celebration of the Resurrection.

A fun fact about this hymn – in the first edition written, Lowry marked the refrain “Faster” which has now become a standard practice for playing and singing of the hymn.

(References from Hymnary.org)

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HVBB FUNDRAISING GALA- April 13<sup>th</sup>  
Hosted at: Mariapolis Luminosa- Hyde Park, NY

The Gala is our single largest and most important fundraiser. Please consider joining us for a fun night of stories, friends, food and of course... a competition culminating event. It is \$45/person, which includes: Appetizers, dinner, and dessert! Registration forms are due April 1st! Any questions, please contact Sarah Hicks ([shhhicks511@gmail.com](mailto:shhhicks511@gmail.com))!

**POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
SPRING TAG SALE**



**Friday April 19 - Noon to 6:00 pm  
Saturday April 20 - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm**



**Call for Donations** - Please drop off donations  
starting **April 6, 2024** in Fellowship Hall

**Please do not donate the following:** - Electronics - Upholstered  
Furniture - Exercise Equipment - Baby Cribs - Stuffed Animals - VHS tapes

**Call for volunteers** - if you want to help with the sale, please contact the  
church office or reach out to Dale Borchert at [daleborchert@gmail.com](mailto:daleborchert@gmail.com)

**All Proceeds go towards PUMC Missions Projects**

*Fellowship Discovery Luncheon*



**Our April Fellowship Discovery Luncheon will be on Tuesday, April 9 @  
12PM.** Please let us know (by Thursday, April 4) if you plan to attend by  
scanning the QR code or as always you can contact the office.

*PUMC GARDEN GROUP:*

Spring has sprung! Let's begin the season with a walk around the church property for a  
brainstorming session at 11:15am on April 9th, 45minutes prior to the pastor's April  
luncheon. Anyone who would like to join us is welcome. Questions: contact Carla  
Vinson



## WHAT'S UP?

### PUMC YOUTH GROUP



What a wonderful experience our young people and their guests had at Sunday's Open House. Many thanks to all who showed up to the two beautifully refurbished rooms to enjoy food and fellowship. There were over 50 members of the congregation who signed our guest book and vowed their support for our young people.

Our Sunday night meetings will continue to include lessons inspired by the video "JESUS" from the Sight and Sound Productions. Through the video, our students continue to see glimpses of Jesus's life. Their observations give them more insights into the relationships He formed. With each lesson the students learn more about Jesus' personality and are inspired to see Him relevant to their lives today.

Our students relish the free time that we give them prior to each biblical lesson. They play games and get to know each other in the game room. Our beautiful class room provides a comfortable space in which they learn and participate in discussion. We are grateful to all who contributed this success.

The Youth group has been committed to missions and community service projects. Last Friday, they put together the monthly dinners for the homeless shelter and made fudge. Some of them will be serving guests at the Bridge Builders Gala. If you have any suggestions for projects that our students might be interested in, please chat with Patty or Gwen.

We continue to look for ways to expand our small numbers. You could help. If you have a connection with any Junior or Senior High young people, talk about our Youth Group. Our doors are always open. Remember, we meet regularly on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Sincerely, Gwen Higgins

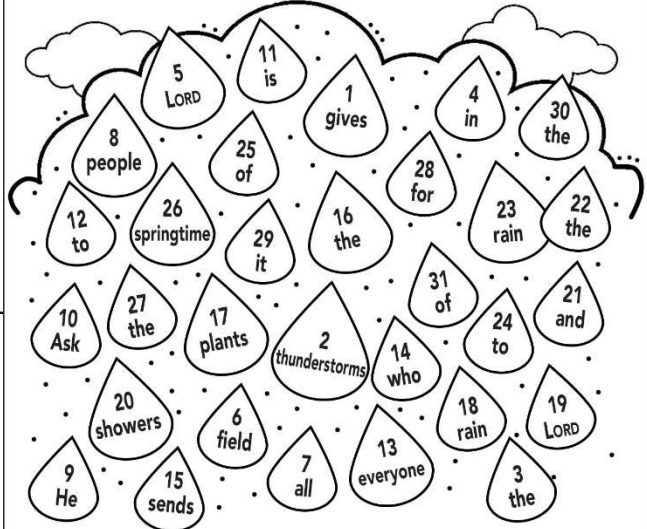


"Then it started to rain, and it rained all through the trip... like our vacation."



# Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



10 \_\_\_\_\_ 16 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 28 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 22 \_\_\_\_\_ 26 \_\_\_\_\_ ;

29 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ 15 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 27 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ .

9 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 31 \_\_\_\_\_ 23 \_\_\_\_\_

12 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 21 \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 25 \_\_\_\_\_

30 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 24 \_\_\_\_\_ 13 \_\_\_\_\_

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV

**POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE**



**Bouquet of Anemones for \$15  
Potted Geranium for \$12**



**Pick-up in Fellowship Hall:  
Saturday May 11 - 2:00 to 4:00 pm  
Sunday May 12 - after service**

**Please Pre-Order your Flowers by Sunday, April 28  
with the order form below.**

**Please make checks payable to: PUMC  
Write "Mother's Day Flowers" in memo line.**

**All Proceeds go towards PUMC Missions Projects**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Pick up day: \_\_\_\_ Sat. \_\_\_\_ Sunday**

	Price per unit	Number of units	Subtotal	Total
Anemone Bouquet	\$15	x _____	\$	\$
Potted Geranium	\$12	x _____ RED/PINK	\$	