

POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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The Journey

MAY 2024

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The Deadline for the June Journey is Wednesday May 15th



“Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.”

(1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

Disclosure: the following doleful words are from a downcast spirit caught in the fire of personal loss and mortality and are a reminder that we have a couple of ways of viewing change in life.

“Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.”

Lyte, Henry F. “Abide with Me.” *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 1989, hymn number 700.

God may not change, but change is part of our destiny and certainly a part of our life here and now. We change in a dynamic of loss and gain from the moment we are born to the day we die.

Now, I am not an advocate of change for the sake of change. I know the modern world seems to hold that concept as a mantra. Incessant change makes even less headway in the progression of the value of life than resisting trying something new. If I buy my clothes in shades of my favorite color and change that color daily, I will never have something to wear. (Homage to G.K. Chesterton in *Orthodoxy*.)

In the natural world, we know that flexibility, the ability to adapt and respond to environmental and situational pressures beyond our control, is the mark of a successful species. An animal like the koala, who relies almost solely on eucalyptus leaves, is out of luck if it finds itself stuck in New England. But we can change our preferences and embrace the new.

The Bishop wants United Methodists to be a successful species! That was the firm message, the marching orders to the clergy and laity from the Bishop on his “Day On the District” event. We are fast approaching the destiny of the Dodo if we do not change.

The Bishop and the North East Jurisdictional Conference have set five priorities and challenge all United Methodist Churches to go all in on resourcing those goals:

1. Leadership Development
2. Anti Racism
3. Evangelism
4. Children and Young Adults
5. Spirituality

The reality is that no amount of savings or resources will save the denomination of the United Methodist Church at any level unless we solve the relevancy problem and reach the unchurched. These are not my words but the Bishop's. We must change our relationship toward our resources, priorities, and actions. Our risk-averse nature must transform into a risk-embracing culture that seeks to engage in the experimental work of transformation.

I can imagine that when God sounds that final trumpet to raise the dead, some will roll back over in their graves, more content not to risk change. Ah, sweet oblivion. Not me. I am willing to be all in for where the Holy Spirit leads, knowing Jesus has gone ahead of me. Whatever happens, at least I am not extinct, and in Jesus Christ, never will be!

Yours in Christ, Kregg.



*A Math Puzzle For You to Solve -
The answer is hidden somewhere else in the Journey*

$$0 \ 1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ 6 \ 7 \ 8 \ 9 = 1$$

Put the appropriate plus or minus signs between the numbers, in correct places, so that the sum total will equal 1.

Thank you to Joseph Norman for the puzzle!



Church Council Highlights

The Church Council met on April 3rd. Highlights included:

- We have a booth at the Arlington Street Fair on September 21st. Since we are not selling any items, there is no fee.
- Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Program: A new staff member was hired as a Grade 3-5 teacher, and all is well with the program.
- Pastor Kregg reported that 209 were in attendance and 18 homes were online on Easter Sunday. He will pursue sharing a sunrise service with the Cooperative Parish.
- At the Easter Sunrise service, mini-wooden skewers were used successfully for communion and will be tried at the Contemplative Service this coming Sunday. If it works well, it will be used for communion at the May 5th traditional service. Work on the handicapped bathroom is proceeding on schedule.
- Annual Conference: Pastor Kregg, Jenn Harmer, and Veronica Gordon will be delegates. Angela Soto-White will be attending as an elected alternate delegate since she is an employee.
- Handicapped Bathroom: The new bathroom has passed inspection.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1st.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE



Friendship Circle will hold its next meeting on Monday, May 13 at 1:00 in the Fellowship Room. Our guest speaker will be Cynthia Lee. Cynthia will be doing a program on the Dulcimer. She will give us a history of the instrument and introduce other types of dulcimers as well as playing some music. Cynthia lives in New Paltz and is a retired math teacher.

Children's Ministries News



PUMC's Vacation Bible School will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 8, 9 and 10, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. The theme is SCUBA, where we'll take participants deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. Along with the children's program, there will be concurrent Youth Ministries and Adult Discipleship opportunities. A powerful week for the whole family on their journey of faith! Only \$30 for the entire family. Save your spot by registering! Forms are available in Narthex, or signup online at www.pokumc.org/vbs or use this QR code (point your smart phone camera at the QR code, then touch the link in the orange box).

Children's Sunday is June 2. The Sunday School kids will be presenting the 10am worship service (with the exception of communion). To celebrate this wonderful day, the congregation is asked to wear their brightest colors.

Mother's Day Flower Sale Information

The Mother' Day flowers will be available for pick-up at the church on Saturday, May 11 @ 2-4pm and on Sunday, May 12 after the worship service. Thank you for supporting PUMC mission projects.

Pentecost is May 19 - Don't Forget to Wear Red!!!!



FROM THE TRUSTEES

The new **Fire Suppression System** in the kitchen is now operational:

If you cook ANYTHING or only boil water in the kitchen:

Turn on the large FAN above the gas stove.

The switch for the fan is on the right side of the hood.

The church kitchen is considered a “commercial kitchen” and therefore needs to be protected by a “**commercial fire protection system**”. Over the last few months, the trustees had a new, “state of the art”, protection **system installed** which is now fully operational. The system is housed in the red box and the red canister mounted on the outside wall above the kitchen sink.

What happens if you cook without turning on the FAN?

If either of the two sensors on the kitchen ceiling detects an unusually fast rise in temperature or detects smoke or steam, it activates the kitchen fire suppression unit which (1) floods all burners of the gas stove with the liquid stored in the red cylinder and (2) puts the church’s fire alarm system into “alarm mode” which sends a fire alarm to the fire department. Flooding the entire gas stove extinguishes any possible fire on the top of the stove and ... creates a terrible mess on the stove.

Both sensors on the ceiling and the entire fire detection system in the kitchen are new and is more sensitive than the old one. You may remember that a few months ago, when we had the old, less sensitive monitoring system, someone boiled a pot of water on the gas stove and did not run on the fan. The steam caused a false fire alarm and within minutes we had fire trucks in the driveway.

Running the FAN **exhausts the** steam, smoke and hot air from the kitchen to the outside and prevents a false alarm. Aside from making a mess on the stove the system needs to

be recharged at a cost of about one thousand dollars, a cost that can easily be avoided by turning on the fan.

In other news, we are pleased to announce to the PUMC congregation, that the construction of the ADA compliant handicap restroom has been completed and that the restroom is available for use. The restroom also includes a pull-down, diaper changing table. The Trustees welcome your comments regarding this new accommodation for the PUMC congregation.

The PUMC Board of Trustees.

INTRODUCING THE WAY FORWARD COMMITTEE

$$0 + 1 + 2 - 3 - 4 + 5 + 6 - 7 - 8 + 9 = 1$$



As a tangible response to the words of Pastor Gregg, the Church Council of PUMC has formed the “Way Forward” committee. This small group of people meet regularly (biweekly) to discuss the current state of PUMC and its worship style and offerings, the overall state of religion in our world and community, and to explore new opportunities to remain relevant and vital for years and years to come. The revival of a contemporary service? More off-campus worship opportunities? Better use of social media? But be assured that the Way Forward committee is committed to staying true to our dedication to Christ and keeping the tried and true service that so many people enjoy each week. As we grow and change, we will also stay the same. The Way Forward committee members are Gregg Gabor, Dale Borchert, John Marrine, Will Cass, Lloyd Wright, Angela Soto-White and Barb Adams. Please feel free to share any thoughts you have on this topic with any of these people. The committee will summarize and share its discussions and suggestions at each Church Council meeting. TOGETHER, we will find our Way Forward!

Fellowship Discovery Luncheon

Our May Fellowship Discovery Luncheon will be on Tuesday, May 14 @ 12PM. Please let us know (by Thursday, May 9) if you plan to attend by scanning the QR code or as always you can contact the office. May's speaker will be Will Tatum, who is the Dutchess County Historian. **Let's make this one the most popular yet!**



NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

**"Praise the Lord, all creation proclaim it.
Alleluia, praise the Lord."**

J. Martin, 1993

Welcome May with your voices raised in song!



May-one of my favorite months because nature is blooming again. I look forward to all the colors-all though, as I write, the daffodils and forsythia are in full bloom. Once again it is raining-"April Showers Bring May Flowers"!

Our choir is no longer tired from Easter and Lenten music preparation. They are forging ahead with new music and good spirits! Have you noticed new choir members? We welcomed Sam and Linda! Can you name the other members? We have 1 Stephen, 2 Steves, and Ryan, George, Dave, Sam-not many church choirs can boast 7!!! Men. Then, we have our wonderful altos Debbie, Sandy, Kaye, Ida, Dorothy, Dawn, and Nancy. Our terrific sopranos include Joyce, Beth, Jacqui, Linda, Duane, Sharon, Jenn, and Jess.

COME SING WITH US! ALL ARE WELCOME! WE HAVE MUSIC FOR YOU!!

"Let the people of God lift their song singing Alleluia;

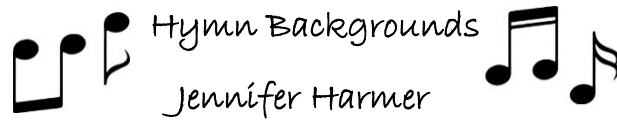
Let all creation sing His praise." J. Martin, 1993

"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



A lot has happened since the last article, and because of that, I wanted to write about a hymn that our family had a nice connection to. When I asked my sister which hymn I should write about, she answered “**Jesus Loves Me.**” This song was sung at Anastasia’s baptism and Mom insisted we sing more verses than were in the hymnal (#191 for those curious). Recently going through some things, we found a copy of the lyrics that were used in the bulletin the day of Anastasia’s baptism – because it also became the song Mom and I would sing to Anastasia while I rocked her to get her to sleep at night when she was a baby.

“Jesus Loves Me” was written by Anna Bartlett Warner (1824-1915) in 1859. She was born near New York City and in addition to writing a few hymns she authored the novel *Say and Seal* in 1859, which “Jesus Loves Me” was published in. The tune was composed by William B. Bradbury in 1862.

It is suggested the hymn be used during Christmas, Epiphany, and Ordinary Time and is probably one of the best-known children’s hymns ever written. The themes of “Jesus Loves Me” are the assurance of God’s love as well as reviewing what Jesus has done for us. Though it is considered a children’s hymn, it is also a hymn of assurance for anyone of any age.

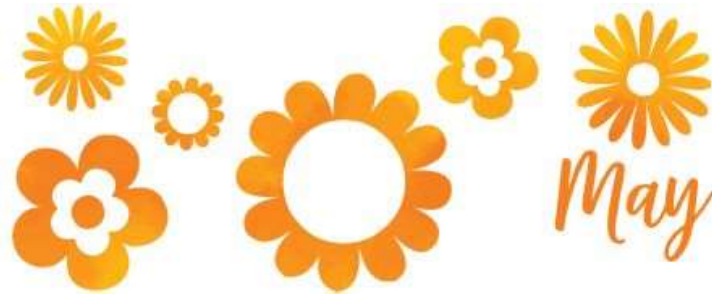
(References from Hymnary.org)

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NOTES



The Worship Committee met Sunday April 14, 2024. Lent was reviewed. Plans are in progress for upcoming special Sundays. Recognition was offered for Pam Terwilliger's Lenten Devotionals, for Anne Bierce's leading the class for weaving palms for the beautiful palm cross, for the choir and musical directors, for Pastor Kregg's beautiful services each night of Holy Week. Our next meeting will be Sunday, August 11, 2024

Prayerfully submitted, Kaye Schrock, Chair



Important May Dates

Wednesday, May 1st – Church Council @ 7pm

Tuesday, May 7th – Current Events & WWJD @ 7pm

Saturday, May 11th – Flower Pick Up @ 2pm

Sunday, May 12th – Mother's Day

Flower Pick Up After Worship

Monday, May 13th – Friendship Circle @ 1pm

Ted Talk Watch Party @ 7pm

Tuesday, May 14th – Fellowship Discovery Luncheon @ 12pm

Wednesday, May 15th – Journey Deadline

Finance Meeting @ 7pm

Sunday, May 19th – Pentecost – Wear Red!

Monday, May 20th – Antique Study Club @ 1pm

Tuesday, May 21st – Current Events & WWJD @ 6:30pm

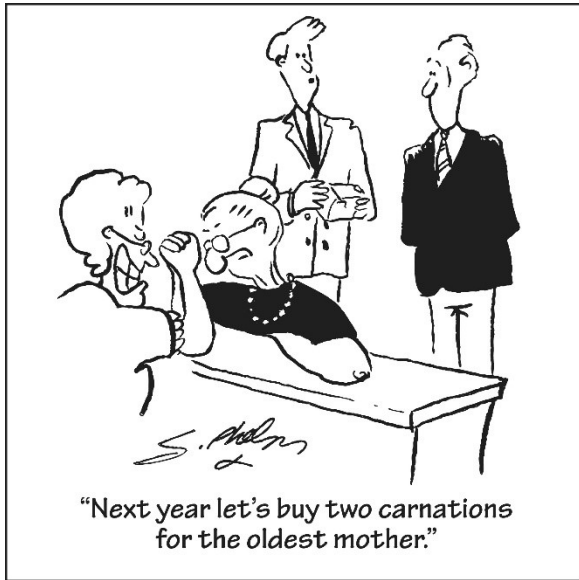
Social Justice @ 7pm

Wednesday, May 22nd – Trustees @ 7pm

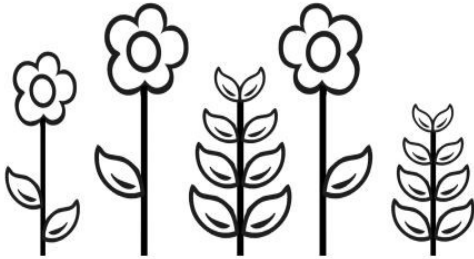
Friday May 24th – Collate Journey @ 8:30am

Saturday, May 25th – Homeless Shelter

Sunday, May 26th – Soaking Prayer @ 8am



happy
Mother's
 day



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A mother's love

At age 12, Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. His parents later found him in the temple, discussing Scripture. What did Mary, Jesus' mother, think about this?

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct vowels to complete the Bible verse.

A E I O U Y

B _ t M _ r _ tr _ s _ r _ d
 _ p _ ll th _ s _ th _ ngs
 _ nd p _ nd _ r _ d th _ m
 _ n h _ r h _ _ rt.
 L _ k _ 2:19, NIV

Answer: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19, NIV

Answer: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19, NIV

THE TAG SALE WAS A SUCCESS!

Our church fundraising team was hard at work last month! We reached into the expertise banks of many of our members as we put on a church wide tag sale to help support our missions programs. Starting with all of the people who emptied out cupboards, kitchens, attics and basements, to our experienced and well led team of pricers and stagers, to our cookie bakers and tag sale workers, over 30 members of our church were involved in the event. And what a great event it was! While the final total income wasn't available at the journey deadline, it was a huge success!

I gratefully thank all of our volunteers for their love, grace, skills, talents and support to put this event on.

Dale Borchert

E. Byron Anderson —

Worship Matters: A United Methodist Guide to Worship Work, Vol. II



“*Jesus* said: “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12). The presence of the light reminds us of *Jesus'* coming into our world and into our lives. The light is carried into the worship service as a symbol of *Jesus'* coming into the presence of the worshipping community. Many congregations use two candles on the altar to point out that *Jesus* was both a human being and *God*. At the end of the service, the light is carried out into the world to show that *Jesus Christ* is for all people everywhere; **The acolyte** leaves the worship service at the pastor's direction, carrying out the lighted candlelighter. This symbolizes the light of *Jesus Christ* going out into the world where believers are to serve.”





Graduate Recognition Sunday will be on June 23rd. Please fill out and return the form below by June 10th if you would like to recognize a high school, college, or trade school graduate.

Graduate Recognition Information

(Please print clearly so we can accurately recognize the graduate)

Name: _____

High School, College, or Trade School attended and any degrees or certificates achieved

If High School, college and major or job planned

If College or Trade School, future plans, employment, higher education

Family to be mentioned (identify parents, grandparents, etc. you would like mentioned)
