

POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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The Journey

JUNE 2024

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The Deadline for the July Journey is Wednesday June 12th



Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:14-15

I love Byzantine history. It is not as well represented in the literature as Roman/European history, but even as old Rome faced invasion and collapse at the hands of the Germanic invasion, the New Rome, Constantinople flourished. Byzantine dress and understanding became a rather unique blend of Latin and Asian styles that fused in the “heavenly city” and its governance. What I find intriguing is how Byzantium became the poster child of how political systems mature and stagnate. The whole political structure of the Byzantine Empire evolved into a massive bureaucracy that enshrined tradition even as it expanded in complexity. At several points in its over 1,000-year history, one feels that Byzantium needed a hard political reset to deal with its challenges and inefficiencies.

Thinking about the ever-expanding bureaucracy of Byzantium brings me to the dynamic history of the Christian Church and its relationship to the Bible. The Bible is a reliable guide to life and the development of a personal relationship with God, as well as a guide for our spiritual formation. One of the seldom appreciated aspects of studying the Bible is its ability to function as our authority to reset, reprove, and realign the Church to Jesus' priorities.

The Bible is not just a personal guide but a communal covenant. As G.K. Chesterton observed:

*“The world was swarming with sceptics, and pantheism was as plain as the sun, when Constantine nailed the cross to the mast. It is perfectly true that afterwards the ship sank; but it is far more extraordinary that the ship came up again: repainted and glittering, with the cross still at the top. This is the amazing thing the religion did: it turned a sunken ship into a submarine.**

The whole Reformation found its corrective to traditional accretions in the primacy of the Bible and around the rallying call of *solo scriptura* (scripture alone). The reformation debatably was an overreach, but the main point is that the ship of the Church righted because, in the context of the Bible, we had a mutual authority that Christians could call upon to be our reset. The Bible was the lowest common denominator shared among a people named Christian.

While there is a difference in interpretations, once we get past the game of semantics, the Bible, as the lowest common denominator, has the best chance of being a communal reset authority. The best hope is to call us individually and collectively back to a common path and direction forward.

In the past, the church has had its share of heresies and political tangents in achieving its mission to reach the world with the love of Christ. Such high jacking of the Church's mission is no wonder at all. The Church is human. The wonder is that after 2000 years, the Church continues to self-correct, has a reset, and can again find the right path forward.

Increasingly, God calls us to know our founding texts for transformation in such times. I have known many conference and cabinet calls for renewal and reform in thirty-one years of ministry. Yet, despite these human pushes to God's timetable, the general ministry of the Church continues to languish. I do not believe that God has finished with the work of the Church. I also think that reset will come from an unlikely call. Then, if history is our guide, the Church will once again rise from the waves "repainted and glittering, with the cross still at the top," but perhaps this time, it will have morphed into a space shuttle. After all, we Christians are comfortable with the slogan "to infinity and beyond!"

*Chesterton, G. K. (Gilbert Keith). *Orthodoxy* (p. 140). Kindle Edition.



A Puzzle For You to Solve -
The answer is hidden somewhere else in the Journey
Thanks Joseph Norman!

A star is to rats as reward is to . . . a) mice b)ransom c) drawer d) fame



Church Council Highlights

At the May 1st Church Council meeting, the following items were highlighted:

- Donated food was taken to Dutchess Outreach and items left from the tag sale were taken to Love, I.N.C. and Dutchess Outreach Acts of Kindness by Nancy Marrine.
- The Way Forward Committee is planning several steps to reach out to our members and those in the community. These include monthly banners by the roadside, information kiosks throughout the church building, development of interest-based small groups, and surveys to find what type of worship services people are seeking. It is now easier to reach our livestream video on YouTube.
- Ways to deal with the expected heat wave this summer are being explored. Issues will be discussed with the trustees both on ways to air condition the building and involvement with solar farms and solar panels to help control energy costs.
- A backup for the Administrative Counter is still needed, and those interested can contact Joseph Norman.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 5th.

Children's Ministries News

Due to a variety of reasons, including a lack of sign-ups, the Vacation Bible School scheduled for July 8-10 has been canceled.



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. There will be a rehearsal on June 1 @ 1pm.

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

**“SING PSALMS and SPIRITUAL SONGs with
THANKFULNESS in YOUR HEARTS to GOD”**

Colossians 3:16



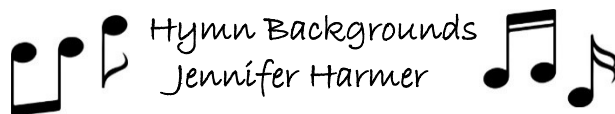
**CHANCEL CHOIR PRESENTS
Favorite Anthems in Concert
June 1, 2003**

While cleaning out file cabinets in my home office, I found this bulletin whose front page is above. On the back is the list of 27 choir members! Ten are now singing in the HEAVENLY CHOIR-three have moved out of the area/eight have retired /three sang in Trinity UMC in Poughkeepsie (and are still in our Chancel Choir!)/three are “original” members (before the merger in 1998). Our Chancel Choir NOW has twenty-two wonderful singers! I am humbled and blessed to have led this choir, to have known so many inspiring pastors, and felt the love of everyone here at PUMC!

May your June be filled with goodness and good health! !!!!KEEP SINGING!!!!

Always in Christ's Service, Polly B. James, Choir Director

Answer: c) drawer [the word reversed]



As I am writing this, if I step out of my office and cross to the windows I would see the tent, stage, and chairs all set up for Marist's Commencement. And, because I've worked Commencement for many years now, though there are a lot of changes, there are some things that remain the same. One thing that always happens after all the graduating students have walked the stage is that the Marist Singers sing the Marist College Song. When I first heard it at Marist, I was immediately struck by its familiarity because there is a hymn we sing from time to time with the same tune. That tune is "Rejoice, the Lord is King."

“Rejoice, the Lord is King” was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) in 1744. In the Wesley family, Charles was known as the great hymn-writer and his hymns have had a great impact on our Methodist hymnals today. If you look in the index of authors in the back of the hymnal, you will see just how many were written by Charles, though what we have access to is only a fraction of the over 6,500 hymns that it is said he had written.

The tune used for the hymn is “Darwall,” composed by John Darwall in (1732-1789) 1770. The tune was originally published as a setting for Psalm 148 in Aaron William’s *New Universal Psalmodist* with only soprano and bass parts. It was later then used for Wesley’s hymn.

“Rejoice, the Lord is King” was originally six stanzas long, though it varies which ones are included in different printings. The original first and third stanzas are always included, with a fifth stanza always being omitted. The hymn is suitable for occasions where Christ’s royal majesty is celebrated – like Easter, Ascension, and Christ the King Sunday. However, it is seen as a suggested hymn at all times of the year in any of the lectionary years.

(References from Hymnary.org)

New Members



Are you interested in officially joining PUMC? In September we will be offering a new member orientation. More info coming soon.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE



Friendship Circle will meet on Monday June 10th at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is our annual “picnic” and social. Please plan to bring a covered dish to share. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you.



Important June Dates



Saturday June 1st – Children’s Day Rehearsal @ 1pm

Sunday June 2nd – Children’s Sunday

Wednesday, June 5th – Church Council @ 7pm

Friday, June 7th – Sunday, June 9th – Annual Conference

Monday, June 10th – Friendship Circle @ 1pm

Wednesday, June 10th – Journey Deadline

Saturday, June 15th – Karen Hamer Funeral @ 11am

Sunday, June 16th – Father’s Day

Tuesday, June 18th – Current Events & WWJD @ 6:30pm

Social Justice @ 7pm

Wednesday, June 19th – Juneteenth

Friday June 21st – Collate Journey @ 8:30am

Saturday, June 22nd – Homeless Shelter

Sunday, June 23rd – Graduation Sunday

Wednesday, June 26th – Trustees @ 7pm

Thursday, June 27th – Church Cookout @ 5:30pm

Sunday, June 30th – Soaking Prayer @ 8am





Please join us on Thursday, June 27th @ 5:30 pm at PUMC for a cook-out and a movie! The menu will include hamburgers, hot-dogs, chicken, various sides, and dessert. We can't wait to see you there!



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)



"Dad's really lovin' the pastor's Father's Day sermon on the fifth commandment."

PUZZLE

FOLLOW OUR FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

In the book of Proverbs, a father urges his son to listen to his wisdom, which he received from his heavenly Father.

Directions: Starting at 1, follow the footsteps and write the words in order on the blanks below.

Answer: "Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it."

DADS are a BLESSING

Surprise your dad or another special man with this Father's Day gift.



What you need:

- Photos of you and your loved one (together, if possible)
- Scissors
- 8.5" x 11" paper
- Glue stick
- Marker
- 8.5" x 11" photo frame

What you do:

1. Cut photos into shapes (hearts, circles, etc.).
2. Arrange photos on the paper, leaving room for a message, and glue them down.
3. Write: "I'm blessed as can be. My heavenly Father has given me the best _____ [dad, uncle, friend] in the world, and he belongs to me!"
4. Place your picture message in the frame.
5. Give your gift to show love and appreciation.

Join us as we travel to see
"Daniel"
Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster PA
October 25 - 26, 2024



Cost:

Single Room:	\$460 per person
Double Room:	\$380 per person (\$760 per room)
Triple Room:	\$357 per person (\$714 per room)
Quad Room:	\$345 per person (\$690 per room)

\$50 deposit due June 23th - Balance Due August 15th
Please make checks out to PUMC

Questions? Contact Dale Borchert at 845-337-1281 or daleborchert@gmail.com

Itinerary:

Friday October 25th:

Leave PUMC at 8:00 am

Lunch at Cracker Barrel (cost not included)

Arrive Bird-in Hand, but don't check in: 2:00 pm

Backroads tour of Amish Country: 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Check in to hotel: 4:00 pm

Dinner: 6:00 pm then Game Night and Fire Pit

Saturday, October 26th:

Breakfast: 7:00 - 8:30 am

Check out and travel to Theatre: 10:00 am

Daniel: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Amish Dinner at Rachel King's: 2:30 to 4:00 pm

Arrive in Poughkeepsie 8:00 pm