

POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TELEPHONE (845) 452-2933 || WEBSITE: POKUMC.COM
EMAIL: OFFICE@POKUMC.ORG

The Journey

JULY 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

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The Deadline for the August Journey is Wednesday July 17th



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!"

Yours in Christ, Kregg.

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



Children's Ministries News

It is hard to believe that we have ended another year of Sunday School. I want to say thank you to everyone who supported us throughout the 2023-2024 school year. It has been a pleasure to spend every Sunday morning with our youngest disciples. I wish you all a happy and healthy summer season.

Mrs. Angela



NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

“O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth”

From The Faith We Sing and Psalm 8:1,9/Isaiah 9:6



Ah, July....time to relax and re-charge! NOT in the choir room! You may not hear singing, but the files of music (choir, hand-bell, organ) are begging to be sorted and put in their proper places. And that's just "paper"! There is equipment, choir robes, desk, chairs, a wall of file cabinets, and who knows what is hiding beneath and behind everything

And, it is time to plan for the second half of the year-YIKES! Here is some information to help navigate (ie, wade through) the hot days ahead.....

1. The choir room has air conditioning. **YES!!!**
2. There are **NO** choir rehearsals on Thursday night, however Praise Singers will meet at 6:15pm throughout the summer.
3. **Choir will meet at 9:15 Sunday mornings.**
4. Joyful Ringers and Halo bells will **NOT** rehearse. Be on the look-out for information on September beginnings!
5. Regular PUMC Choir rehearsals resume on September 5th 7pm sharp!!
Sunday rehearsals at 9:15am.... Mark your calendar NOW!!

SING JOYOUSLY-PRAY and PRAY AGAIN-BE SAFE-BE WELL-STAY IN TOUCH.

HIS "NAME IS MAJESTIC IN ALL THE EARTH"

In Christ's Service, Polly James, Choir Director

I've been working on so many things outside of work – writing and preparing for Children's Day followed by writing something for my mother's service – that my brain just hit a wall when it came to deciding on a hymn to look a little deeper into. So, it's good when I have friends who not only help me choose a hymn to write about but who also choose a hymn that really continues along the theme of the conversation shared during the Children's Day service about music.

A more modern hymn in our hymnal, "**When in Our Music God Is Glorified**" was written by Rev. Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) in 1971. He was born in Liverpool, England and was eventually ordained in the British Methodist ministry. Over two decades, Rev. Green wrote close to 300 hymns and songs.

The tune for this hymn is called "ENGELBERG" and was written by Charles V. Stamford in 1904. The hymn tune is also used for another hymn in the United Methodist Hymnal, "We Know That Christ Is Raised."

The hymn's text focuses on the power and need for music in worship. Rev. Green believed that music is an integral part of our faith practice. He stated that music can open new dimensions that bring insight to our lives. "When in Our Music God is Glorified" is a suggested hymn in any of the lectionary years, but in particular finds several uses in Year B during Easter and Ordinary Time.

If you are curious about this song and its lyrics, you can look at number 68 in our United Methodist Hymnal.

(References from Hymnary.org & stainer.co.uk)





Important July Dates

Monday, July 1st – Monday Study Group @ 9am

Thursday, July 4th – Independence Day

Monday, July 8th – Ted Talk Watch Party @ 7pm

Tuesday, July 16th – Social Justice @ 7pm

Wednesday, July 17th – Journey Deadline

Wednesday, July 24th – Trustees @ 7pm

Friday, July 26th – Collate Journey @ 8:30am

Saturday, July 27th – Homeless Shelter

Sunday, July 28th – Soaking Prayer @ 8am

Monday, July 29th – Bridge Builders Camp starts





*A message from Carla Vinson,
a member of the PUMC Garden Group*

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the individuals who dedicated their time and effort to the recent planting, trimming and weeding at the PUMC grounds.

Special thanks to:

Anne Bierce*

Beth Borchert*

Will Cass

Laura Gabor

Pat McCullough

Joseph and Joyce Norman

Kaye Schrock*

Doris Stahl*

Gloria Soto*

Curtis Vinson*

Special thanks to Dave and Earlyn Kiesling for choosing and maintaining the hanging flowers at the church's north exit and the narthex south exit as well as the courtyard begonia. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the anonymous donors who contributed potted flowers to the "sunflower/inclusive" garden on the south side of the church. The garden group warmly invites everyone to visit the south garden, where seedlings are already sprouting. Additionally, take a moment to admire the milkweed meadow that Pat McCullough has nurtured, which has grown from six new plants a few years ago to over 90 milkweed plants today.

Several individuals have generously volunteered to water the new plantings. This list includes those named above with asterisks, as well as Debbie Kudzia and Gael Morey. As the summer heat intensifies, the task of watering will become increasingly vital for the survival of the new plants.

Welcome to Dawn Perkins who joined the Garden Group endeavors this year. Anyone else interested in joining the PUMC Garden Group, please see Carla Vinson. Green thumbs are not a pre-requisite.



Bridge Builders Mission Camp:

July 28 - August 2

As many of you may know, camp planning begins the September before camp! As a Camp Planning Board, we have been tirelessly planning and getting excited about what is in store for Summer 2024.

After the Gala, we were made aware that Mariapolis Luminosa would not be available for camp anymore. Obviously, this came as a shock and was hard news to swallow. From April until now, the HVBB Board has been diligently trying to find a new camp home. And, after numerous emails, phone calls and meetings, we have decided the best option for Summer 2024 is a Day Camp format for HVBB. MEANING... Camp is STILL HAPPENING! But, you will be sleeping in your own bed. It will still be everything you have come to love about HVBB Mission Camp... worship, serving, family style meals, fun games and fellowship.

Although not the format we wanted, we are confident that God is still going to work through us and make a difference in our community. We are so excited that we have the opportunity to still have camp and that we have Dave Pettigrew and Pastor Anthony Patton back with us this summer!

We hope you understand our decision and are as excited for camp as we are!

Important Camp Information:

\$175 after June 24th

Meals: Dinner Sunday, Lunch and Dinner Monday-Thursday, Lunch Friday Pick up/Drop off: Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church

Applications available on the website, hvbridebuilders.org



PATRIOTIC PINWHEEL

Create this colorful July 4th craft.

What you need:

- Decorated card stock square (5" x 5")
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- 2 one-inch circles of card stock
- Glue
- Pipe cleaner (3 inches)
- Drinking straw



What you do:

1. Fold the square corner to corner to form an X. Unfold.
2. To make spokes, cut the four creases until an inch from the center.
3. Punch a hole in the middle of the square, near the tips of each spoke, and in the middle of each circle.
4. Fold each spoke toward the center, lining up the holes. Glue in place.
5. Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around the top of the straw. Thread a circle, the pinwheel, and the remaining circle onto the pipe cleaner.
6. Roll the pipe cleaner end into a ball. Then spin!