

POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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The Journey

AUGUST 2024

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CENTER

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The Deadline for the September Journey is Wednesday August 14



“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23

I used to have quite a temper. As the youngest of three siblings, I often took the brunt of the teasing of my older brothers, who always seemed to have better answers and more skill than me. I remember one Florida summer morning putting my hand through two of the panes of a jalousie glass window in our front door with which my brothers had locked me out of the house. They were snickering on the other side of the door. What was I to do? Smash and crash. They let me in. I think I was the one who got in trouble because Dad had to buy new glass for the door.

Patience is a kind of kryptonite for me. I wouldn't say I like waiting in line or traffic. I tolerate it now better than I used to. Patience is one of the fruits of the Spirit that continues to mature on my faith vine.

It occurs to me that in Paul's list of "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control," there are plenty of challenges for the average person to work on individually and collectively. Yet, as we look at this list, it is never a *fait accompli*, but even as we are, a life in faith is a work in progress. Spiritual gifts are not fruit that anyone can say has ripened to God's ideal of perfection but continue to grow in a believer's life.

Which leads me back to patience. Patience is a rare commodity in our culture. I love the original movie *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, which was made in 1971. One of the things that I enjoy is how each of the children represents some of the less-than-positive attributes of American culture. The one I find myself quoting most is Veruca Salt. Rich, impatient, over-indulged, manipulative, and immature, director Mel Stuart probably thought he was holding up a mirror to the generations emerging post World War II. I certainly think Veruca's attitude expressed in the words "I don't care how I want it now!" could be the mantra of generations since the 1940s.

The problem is that we forget that transformation and new directions take time if they are ever fully completed. That is what I have always loved about being a Christian. There is

never a sense of having arrived. We are all works in progress that need a balanced application of the fullness of the fruits of the Spirit to enable a lasting and productive Christian community. We are all a part of the onward march to perfection that others will take up the standard for when I am long dead and buried.

In the millennial march of the Church of Jesus Christ, we care how because ends do not justify means, and we don't have to have it now because transformation, evolution takes time. So, how is your balance of "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control?" Is there any kryptonite in the list that challenges you? Remember that God values the forward movement, not where you are or get to when life is done. Just keep working on the whole list as you go on to perfect, bringing those about along with you.

Yours in Christ, Kregg.



Children's Ministries News



Calling All Disciples To Join us For Rally Day

September 8, 2024 @ 11:30

Let's kick off Fall Sunday School together with a brunch and some fun activities!



Sunday School Supply Drive

We need to restock the Sunday School for the fall. Can you help?

Crayons, Markers, Dot Markers, Glue Sticks, Paint Brushes (all sizes), Water Color Paint, Sidewalk Chalk, Baby Wipes

If you would rather donate money, please label any donations with "Sunday School Supplies"



NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

“HERE WE ARE GATHERED, GATHERED SIDE BY SIDE;
CIRCLES OF FRIENDSHIP, COME AND SETP INSIDE!
MAY ALL WHO SEEK HERE FIND A KINDLY WORD;
MAY ALL WHO SPEAK HERE FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN HEARD.
SING NOW TOGETHER, THIS OUR HEART’S OWN SONG.”

Hymn from the Unitarian
Universalist Hymnal, c1993
Singing the Living Tradition

JUST A FEW PERSONAL THOUGHTS FOR AUGUST

In just a few weeks I hope to be at SINGING EAGLE LODGE, a two week camp in New Hampshire for girls 8-16. This year there will be 73 girls with 25 councilors. This will be my 30th year at my “Home away from Home” on Squam Lake. I am the Music Honcho-a lofty title, but I love working with these girls: teaching new songs, playing the piano, and leading the Chapel Choir. I will truly miss my time at PUMC, but will bring back “camp songs” to amuse our PUMC choir on Thursday nights.

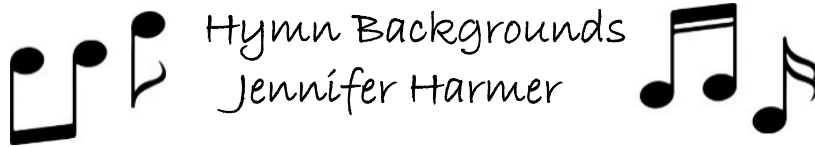
Stephen, our organist/pianist, the choir, and I are extremely grateful for the AC in Fellowship Hall. I love that we are closer to each other- more a worshipping community sharing our prayers and singing as one body in Christ. It feels (at least to me) that the Chance area and congregation are so far apart. I can see your mouth moving, but I (we) can’t hear you!

WHICH BRINGS ME TO THIS: PLEASE COME SIT IN THE FRONT OF THE SANTUARY. We facing you need to see your smiling faces, even your tears, and we especially need to hear you sing! RANT OVER.....

I am so grateful for the support and dedication of our choir members during these summer days. And yes, I am planning and looking forward to September when we return to Thursday night rehearsals. Perhaps we will prepare the hymn quoted above-its message is SO important!!

“SING NOW TOGETHER, THIS OUR HEART’S OWN SONG” BLESSINGS ALL!!!

Polly James, Choir Director



Whenever I was planning a worship service at Wappingers, my Mom always wanted to know what hymns I was planning to use in the service. One I used with some frequency, though not as often as my ever favorite 155, was “Here I Am, Lord.”

Another modern hymn in our hymnal, “Here I Am, Lord” was written by Daniel Laurent Schutte (1947) in 1981. Schutte is a composer of Catholic liturgical music as well as a contemporary Christian songwriter who has over 165 published hymns. At the time Schutte was a Jesuit studying theology when a friend asked him, last minute, to write something for an upcoming diaconate ordination Mass. Over the course of two days Schutte wrote the hymn which received much praise during the ordination Mass. Since then Schutte has received both positive and negative commentary on the hymn. The tune name, which bears the same name as the hymn, was also written by Schutte.

It is a recommended song during all three lectionary years with suggested use during Epiphany as well as several suggested weeks during Ordinary Time.

If you are curious about this song and its lyrics, you can look at number 593 in our United Methodist Hymnal. (References from Hymnary.org and Americamagazine.org)

HANDBELLS IN THE FALL

JOYFUL RINGERS will commence rehearsals October 15 at 6:00 in the choir room. We practice for an hour every Tuesday. This is for adults and young adults.

HALO BELLS will commence rehearsals October 13 after Sunday morning services in room 33. We start about 15 minutes after services (to give kids the time to get some snack and refreshment) and practice 30-45 minutes. This is for children in the 3rd grade and older.

No serious music background is necessary. If you can count to four and know left from right, you are good!

If you are interested but hesitant to commit, contact me. We can meet at church and I will bring out some bells for you to try handling, look at some music to see how music is marked and parts are played. You can start with one bell or two, entirely up to you. After we play for a Sunday service, you can decide to continue or not.

Please contact me as soon as you can: during the summer I will be choosing music but cannot decide upon any pieces until I know how many ringers there will be.

Performance dates are scheduled according to ringers' free Sundays and PUMC schedule.

Pat McCullough

INTEREST-BASED SMALL GROUPS



We all know how important our “church friends” are. Apart from the Word of God, we enjoy Sunday service so much because of the opportunity to see our “church friends,”...or better yet, our “church family!” Why not expand these relationships through “Interest-Based Small Group involvement?” Do you enjoy knitting? How about gathering to knit with fellow Christians and enjoy their company and the common love of Jesus? Hiking? Go on hikes with fellow Christians? Play Bridge with friends from church? Learn and play Pickleball? If you love music, go to local concerts with brothers and sisters in Christ. Gather with others to have fun pursuing an interest or hobby or passion, and share witness and testimony of your life of faith at the same time!

While Sunday morning worship service is our traditional concept of “church,” we feel that growing with Christ is best achieved in Small Groups. And what better way to deepen our relationship with Him, and each other, than in “Interest-Based Small Groups.” If you agree, start by sharing your interests, hobbies and pastimes in our short SURVEY. Once two or three (or more) people share a common interest, we (members of the Way Forward Committee) will facilitate the creation of a Small Group. The group itself will decide when, where and how often to meet.

Please join the fun, the camaraderie and discipleship of Interest-Based Small Groups. Start by visiting: www.pokumc.com/interest-based-small-group

Or use the QR code (point your phone camera at the QR code and touch the link in the orange box)



FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
AUTUMN FAIR IS COMING
OCTOBER 19!

Yes, our wonderful Autumn Fair will be here before you know it. You will again be able to shop for handmade items, homemade goodies, and fancy jewels and enjoy a delicious take away lunch.

One of the most popular spots is our "famous" display of gift baskets. We have the most "creative basket makers" in town. While you are on vacation, be looking for ideas for something unique to put in a basket. Remember, we always need baskets for men and children. Baskets to hold your items can be provided if needed. We have a supply!! Sign-ups will begin right after Labor Day. We are looking forward to seeing your special creations!

Do you have a hobby? Perhaps stained glass, candle making, soap, knitting or crocheting? Our "Handmade with Love" booth at our fall festival is looking to include a wider variety of items this year. Would you help us and donate your handmade items?

A great summer relaxation is cruising your recipes and thinking "Fall baking" (when it is cooler) for our bake and dessert booths. Also, checking your stock of spices, parchment paper, nuts & chips and items ahead of the demand in fall is a great idea. Please watch for our September sign-up opportunities to share your creations. Yum!!

And finally, please remember "Glitz and Glamour" - the jewelry twins!! We'll be accepting your generous donations soon.



REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Our members: Barbara Bates, Gladys Bierce, Cheryl Cass, Will Cass, Janet Cole, Ron Cole, Dylan Coughlin, Sandra DeGuzman, Irene Feller, Veronica Gordon, Emily Griess, Betsy Grover, Gwen Higgins, Tom Halloran, Sandra Hansen, Pat Hughes, Dick James, Donna Jonnigan, Danny Jones, Betty Longobardi, Julia Miller, Kathleen Nicodemus, Michelle Olavarria, Karla Quinlan, Arnette Schmidt, Diana Silverman, Michelle Simonis, Jeff Tryon, Catherine White, Sarah-Grace White, Marilyn Zier.

Friends of our church in your prayers: Georgia Kustas-Beurket, Cris and John Burke, Jordan Fidler, Bryan Foy, Lee, Edgar Martinez, Adonis Marzan, Hilary McAllister, Joe Pollen, Rob Post, Jean Slater, Wayne Surico, Jeff Theiss, Robert Thompson-Gee, Ronald Tomaso, Jackie Triguero, Clifford Zier. All the innocents affected by wars and conflicts around the world.

Members of the military, active and/or retired, in your prayers: Michael Clear, Staff sergeant in the Army, Joshua Lord, 1-69 Infantry Medical Platoon Sergeant, NYC; Randal Middleton, Naples, Italy Naval Base, Major Jason Oliver, Texas.

Please look over the "Remember in Our Prayers" list and contact the office (845-452-2933) with any names that are out of date.

A Note from the Editor:

The deadline for the September Journey is Wednesday, August 14. September is the time when many of our groups, committees, and classes start up again. Please make sure to get that information to me by the deadline.





Important August Dates

Friday, August 2nd – Bridge Builders Camp Ends
Monday, August 5th – Monday Study Group @ 9am
Wednesday, August 7th – Church Council @ 7pm
Monday, August 12th – Ted Talk Watch Party @ 7pm
Wednesday, August 14th – Journey Deadline
Sunday August 18th – Worship Committee @ 11:30am
Tuesday, August 20th – Social Justice @ 7pm
Friday, August 23rd – Collate Journey @ 8:30am
Sunday, August 25th – Soaking Prayer @ 8am
Saturday, August 27th – Homeless Shelter
Wednesday, August 28th – Trustees @ 7pm

New Members

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



