

POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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## The Journey November 2024

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CENTER



**The Deadline for the December Journey is Wednesday November 13**



*"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.*

MATTHEW 6:25-26A

Thanksgiving Day in 2001 was a very special Thanksgiving for my family. Laura and I had been married for slightly over a year. Up to that year, services and other commitments would intervene, and we would be forced to remain at home, usually working, but in 2001 we gathered as a family at my in-laws at their Maine cabin. There is something about changing your scenery that brings new clarity to life.

No phone, wood heat, cold temperatures, no television, and running water only during the days really made this a family-time getaway for a holiday. The pond out back was quiet. Usually, the sounds of summer renters can be heard when your ears are not droned by the jet skis that buzz like little mosquitoes around the water. Nobody wants to be out there when the temperature is in the twenties and thirties! One could actually hear the water falling gently over the dam at the end of the pond, and the subtle rustle as the odd leaf that had not lost its grip fell gently to the ground.

In such silence, it becomes clearer what thanks is all about. We were thankful that God had brought us all, my in-laws, Laura, and me, together safely, very appreciative for the young life; Emma, whom we had just announced to our families and friends, was on her way, and we were grateful for enough food and a place to share it. It seemed that without the noise that I so readily surround myself with, like televisions, cars, and phones, and a full schedule, it was clearer what I should be thankful for, like family, friends, and the wideness of creation that is gloriously arrayed by its Creator.

Life is too often like the pond in summer, a buzz with extraneous sound and motion that has very little to do with the real focus of life, yet these superfluous distractions never seem to escape my need to worry about their place in my life. My child is healthy, and my family is together and doing well. These should be daily celebrations, but I'm drawn to missing this meeting or running to see this person or event to the point of distraction from all these other joys in life. Thanksgiving is about calming our pond, pulling away from the

anxiety, and letting faith conquer us, even for a little while to reflect on the simple mercies we have given and received in the past and saying thank you to our provider, God, who cares for us all.

That special Thanksgiving in time, place, and with loved ones, some of whom are no longer with us, made it easier to hear Jesus bidding me not to let the world's concerns pull me aside, distracted by the buzz that is the daily life of my pond, but to hear through that noise to the essentials in our life that make our life worth living. How is the surface of the pond that is your life this Thanksgiving Day? Have you decided to find a way during the preparations to pay attention to the ripples so that you might be able to move from anxiety to peace enough to be able to hear and listen to what those around you are really saying? Can you fully appreciate the simple gifts of the day? Can you maybe step out to hear a leaf rustle as it hits the ground and say a silent "thank you" in the very depth of your soul? Have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving Day!

Yours in Christ, Kregg.



## Children's Ministries

Dear PUMC community,

Thank you for coming out to Trunk or Treat, and your continued support of our community.

As we enter the Holiday season, Children's ministry is proud to present our annual Christmas pageant on Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 10am (during our worship service).

Blessings and Peace  
Angela Soto- White  
Children's ministry coordinator



## Friendship Circle

Friendship Circle will meet on Monday, November 11 @ 1pm.  
We will be assembling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child

### Church Council Highlights

The Church Council met on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. These were the highlights:

- The Prayer Shawl Ministry has positively touched many people.
- Several special services are coming up, including World Communion Sunday, Laity Sunday, All Saints Day and Veterans' Day. Plans are in place for the congregational Thanksgiving dinner and Advent decorating and potluck dinner.
- Old pew Bibles have been replaced and some will be offered to those who watch the services at home or live in areas affected by the recent storms.
- Our booth at the Arlington Street Fair was very successful, with several church volunteers and a number of visitors.
- Discussions are being held on the proposed budget for 2025. The Finance Committee will present it at the November Council meeting.
- Angela Soto-White will serve as our liaison with Casa de Adoracion.
- Approval was given to pursue a contemporary service starting in 2025. Discussions were held on hiring a consultant and seeking praise band members. Members of the Way Forward Committee will make church announcements and seek input from members on what would best meet their needs.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6th.



### Fellowship Discovery Luncheon



The October FDL will take place on Tuesday, November 26 @ 12pm. After a delicious luncheon, church member Lloyd Wright will be giving a presentation on Prison Ministry. Please let us know by Thursday, November 21 if you plan to attend.



## Way Forward Committee

**Contemporary Service** - The Way Forward team is exploring the return of a contemporary service to PUMC. We are in early discussions with an experienced Worship Leader for the best way to accomplish this. In parallel, we'd like to start the search for musicians who play the guitar, bass, piano or drums. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested, please contact John Marrine ([jmarrine@gmail.com](mailto:jmarrine@gmail.com)).



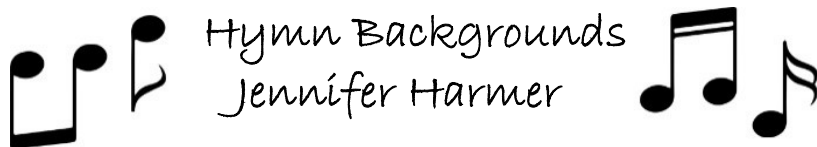
## NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

*"All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful:  
The Lord God made them all!"*

*C.F. Alexander, 1848/Gen.1:31/UMH 147*

Welcome Autumn! I must confess, November is my most favorite month (next to December). It is also the busiest-the choir room is buzzing (I hope) with laughter and joy as we prepare to celebrate in music this time of Thanksgiving and the birth of Christ in December. YES, your choir will be rehearsing Christmas music in November! There will be Bells, Flute, Voices, Organ, Piano, and our wonderful Sunday School Children. They will begin learning music for "The Best **OLD-FASHIONED** Christmas Pageant Ever" Come worship with us with thankfulness and joy. All are welcome here!

Autumn Blessings! Polly James. Choir Director



Jenn is taking a quick break from Hymn Background research this month. But she is also looking for your ideas! Is there a hymn you'd like to know a little more about? Feel free to let Jenn know by email ([angelamidala@gmail.com](mailto:angelamidala@gmail.com)).

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS



**Our members:** Barbara Bates, Cheryl Cass, Will Cass, Janet Cole, Ron Cole, Dylan Coughlin, Sandra DeGuzman, Irene Feller, Veronica Gordon, Emily Griess, Betsy Grover, Doris Hammell, 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, Priscilla Wendover, 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, Margot Madalengoitia, 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.

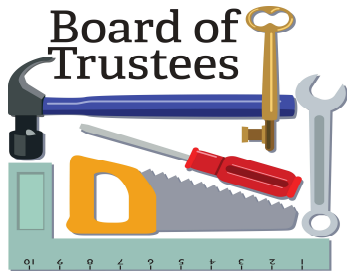
**Members of the military, active and/or retired, in your prayers:** Michael Clear, Staff Sergeant in the Army, Joshua Lord, 1-69 Infantry Medical Platoon Sergeant, NYC; Randal Middleton, Naples, Italy Naval Base, Major Jason Oliver, Texas.

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



*Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes*

Please consider contributing to our mission project Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. This ministry partners in more than 100 countries to distribute these gifts during Gospel-focused events where children and their families learn about the Lord Jesus Christ. In the coat closet is a marked container for items such as school supplies (pen, pencils, small tablets, scissors, crayons), personal care (brushes, combs, barrettes, toothbrushes, soap) socks, and small toys. **Please NO liquid items, food or war related toys.** All are welcome to fill a shoebox at home and bring it into our collection. Please have all items at the church by November 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## Board of Trustees

To those who may have wondered about the purpose of the new black metal frame that is attached to a new concrete pad on the northeast side **of the PUMC building...** Work is progressing to clean a 1877 bronze bell that was retrieved from the Bangall UMC belfry when the Bangall church merged with PUMC. The objective is to mount the bell on the black frame and to include a plaque that notes the origin and age of the bell. If all goes to plan, the mounting is to be completed on October 26th.

## Angels – Angels- Everywhere!



Are you an angel? You are if you find it in your heart to help make a child's wish come true for Christmas. Time to dust off those wings- although we know you have all been busy providing for others all year. Just stop by The Narthex or Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday (**Nov 17, 2024**) pick an ornament from the board, put your name on the tag, **return it into the basket**, take the ornament that accompanies and fill a wish. Return your gifts to Fellowship Hall wrapped and marked with the Angel Tag by **December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Enjoy the holidays knowing you have brought a smile to a special new friend. Please make sure to provide only one 'toy' and one clothing item. (Gifts are opened at a party and families find it difficult to explain why some gifts are more extravagant than others consider choosing more than one child if you want to provide more.) If you prefer- I would be glad to shop for you just let me know. Please make checks payable to PUMC. You can give it to me directly or send through the offering marked accordingly. Thank you. For more info call the church office.

## Advent Pot Luck Supper

Please join us for an Advent Pot Luck Supper on Saturday, November 30 @ 5pm. After the food and fun we will be decorating the church for the Christmas season.





## Important November Dates

Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> – All Saint’s Sunday

Daylight Savings – Turn Clocks Back

Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – Election Day Pie Bake

Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – Election Day Pie Sale

Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – Church Council @ 7pm

Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Basket Due

Worship Committee @ 11:30am

Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – Veteran’s Day -Office Closed

Friendship Circle @ 1pm

Ted Talk Watch Party @ 7pm

Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> – Journey Deadline

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – Consecration Sunday

Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> – Social Justice @ 7pm

Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thanksgiving Baskets Distributed

Collate Journey @ 8:30 am

Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> – Soaking Prayer @ 8:30am

Thanksgiving Lunch @ 11:30am

Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> – Fellowship Discovery Luncheon

Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> – Trustees @ 7pm

Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> – Advent Pot Luck Supper

**Reminder:  
On Sunday, November 3,  
daylight savings time  
begins.**

**We gain an extra hour of  
sleep!**

**Church conference will be held on Sunday, November 17 @ 2pm.**

We will be hosting this year.

Reports will be optional, except those that are required by the conference.



## THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Our Church will again be sponsoring the Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving Program. We hope to provide a nutritious, traditional meal. We are asking those who can to provide a family of 4 the following items:

Box of instant potatoes

Box of stuffing mix

3 cans of vegetables

1 can of yams

1 can of cranberry sauce

2 envelopes of gravy mix

and

a check for \$20.00 to cover the cost of the turkey, pie and rolls

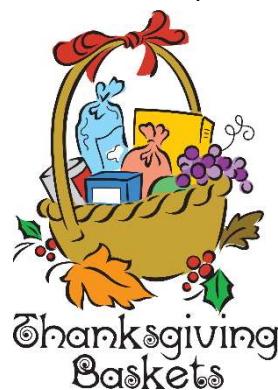
~OR~

Donate funds so that the items can be purchased. You can make a check payable to the PUMC and note clearly on the check "Thanksgiving Baskets" or place cash in an envelope marked "Thanksgiving Baskets" and place it in the offering or send it to Church. We also would appreciate a donation of a turkey.

Sign-ups for donating a bag of food and money donations can be done in Fellowship Hall during the month of October or call Nancy Marrine on her home number (845-471-6492) or text/call her on her cell (845-380-4887) if you can provide a basket. You can also send an email ([NMarrine@aol.com](mailto:NMarrine@aol.com)). If you are not shopping and want to contribute a basket please let us know and we can shop for you.

The groceries and checks and turkeys will be brought to Church by Sunday, November 10 and will be placed in the Narthex or the coat rack by Fellowship Hall. The Thanksgiving baskets will be distributed on Friday, November 22 at the Family Partnership Center on North Hamilton St.

We also need helpers in the Church office on October 28, 29, 30, 31, & November 1 to take telephone calls for baskets. Additional assistance will be needed to bring the bags of food to the Family Partnership Center and assist in the distribution. For information or to volunteer, call the Church office (452-2933) or Nancy Marrine.



## PUMC Youth News

Wow, we had a busy October! After a super-successful fundraising bake sale and a rockin' Beans & Rice Banquet, we were able to donate over \$1000 to this year's Poughkeepsie CROP Walk! We are so grateful to our parents for ALL their help, as well as for the support of our wonderful church family.



Moving into November, we will be continuing our theme of service. Here's what's happening:

- Sunday, November 3rd, 4-6pm - Movie Night! (with bottomless popcorn)
- Sunday, November 10th, 4-6pm - Operation Christmas Child. We will be assembling shoeboxes for children around the world.
- Sunday, November 17th, 4-6pm - TBD
- Sunday, November 24th - Thanksgiving luncheon after church. No youth group but we'll keep our ears out for volunteer opportunities around this and other Thanksgiving events.
- Sunday, December 1st - Thanksgiving weekend, no youth group.

**!!!! SAVE THE DATE!!!! SAVE THE DATE !!!! SAVE THE DATE !!!!**

**JANUARY 11th, 2025, 6:30-9pm - Hudson Valley Bridge Builders Ball at PUMC.**

You won't want to miss this! This is a community-wide youth event happening in our very own PUMC Fellowship Hall. A DJ will be providing the music, and he has asked what songs you'd most like to hear, so think about it and let's give him a big list! Admission is free with the donation of a personal care item, so not only do you get to attend an awesome event at no cost, but your donation will help others in your community -- WIN-WIN!

PUMC Youth Group is open to tweens and teens in grades 6 thru 12. We meet on Sunday evenings, 4-6pm. Stop in and see what we're up to -- friends and visitors are always welcome! For questions or more information, please contact the church office.