

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

The Journey April 2025

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

DIRECTOR OF HARRIET
TUBMAN ACADEMIC SKILLS
CENTER

The Deadline for the May Journey is Wednesday April 16





For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

1 Corinthians 1:18-20

There's an ancient question posed by theologians of the early Church, one that echoes in my heart regularly, especially as I prepare for our Sunday worship. It's a question each Christian might do well to revisit—not only during Easter but through all the joys, trials, and temptations of life.

The question is deceptively simple yet deeply profound. In its original Latin, it reads: "*Cur Deus Homo?*" Translated into English, it asks, "Why the God-Man?" In other words, why did God choose to take on our human form in Jesus Christ?

On the surface, it might seem straightforward. Philosopher Søren Kierkegaard once famously remarked that simply knowing God was born into human form was enough. He believed the rest of the Gospel—the Good News—could be understood naturally, through the lens of our human experience. Yet, as insightful as this sounds, the beauty of the Gospel goes far beyond mere human experience; it reveals something astonishing about the very heart of God.

Our lives, if we're honest, are often bounded by limitations—limitations born of selfishness, fear, and uncertainty. We regularly seek our own agendas, often blind to the suffering around us, until suddenly, we're the ones in need. It's this cycle of human limitation and brokenness that Christ enters directly.

When Jesus stepped into history, He did not come merely as a wise teacher or moral example; He came as one who fully understands our human condition. He stepped into our pain, shared our struggles, felt our sorrows, and—through the resurrection we joyously celebrate at Easter—overcame our deepest limitations of sin, death, and despair.

The resurrection of Christ isn't just a historical event we recall once a year. It is God's eternal declaration that He intimately knows what it's like to be human—and still chooses to love us deeply, fully, and relentlessly. Christ's resurrection shows us the true potential of our humanity: we are meant for more than mere survival; we are made for lives of purpose, grace, and joyful communion with God and one another.

So, the next time you're struggling to accept yourself, remember: Christ walked your path, faced your trials, and declared with His resurrection that your life matters profoundly to God. And yes, it's perfectly okay to be you—warts, wrinkles, quirks, and even your occasional questionable taste in coffee mugs. God knows it all, loves you through it, and calls you into something even greater.

As you reflect this Easter season, consider this question anew: “Why the God-Man?” Perhaps embracing its profound answer can transform not only your understanding of God but also how you live, love, and serve.

Yours in Christ, Kregg



Maundy Thursday Seder Meal



Join us on Thursday, April 17 @ 5:15 as we observe Maundy Thursday with a Seder Meal. This meal will be interactive and combine worshiping God with the eating of traditional Seder foods. There will be a Maundy Thursday service following the meal at 7:30. **Reservations are required for the Seder Meal and the cost will be \$8.00 per person. We are limiting the number of people to 50 so make sure to get your reservation in ASAP and the cutoff date for reservations is April 10.** Please sign up by using the QR code or by contacting the church office.

Fellowship Discovery Luncheon

Our April Fellowship Discovery Luncheon will be on Tuesday, April 22 @ 12PM. Please let us know (by Thursday, April 17) if you plan to attend by scanning the QR code or as always you can contact the office.



The Church Council met on
Wednesday, March 12th. Highlights included:

- The Trustees have several major upcoming projects, including repairing the organ, repairing or replacing the sanctuary piano, paving the parking lot, placing Private Property signs in the parking lot, and upgrading the AV system in Fellowship Hall.
- An enthusiastic group is taking part in the Youth Ministry, which has a focus on service and practical applications for their spirituality. Youth Bibles will be placed in the pews.
- Vacation Bible School Plans are being made, along with the Casa de Adoracion, and will be held over a 3-day period. Fundraising activities will take place after Easter. The children are reading the Bible and preparing for the Children's Worship service.
- Adults are taking part in a meaningful education program focusing on making us disciples for Jesus Christ.
- Holy Week services are in place and will provide numerous opportunities for worship and service.
- A policy document relating to undocumented immigrants is being developed. Procedures may change as legal proceedings take place.
- The Contemporary Services are upbeat and uplifting. Ways to publicize them were explored.
- To provide a safe environment for all, the Safe Sanctuary Policy will be posted throughout the building and more widely publicized.
- The next Council meeting will be on Wednesday, April 2nd.

Children's Ministry News



Easter Egg-stravaganza!

We will be having an Easter event for kids on Sunday, April 6 after church. There will be an Easter Egg hunt, crafts, story time, and snacks!

Vacation Bible School!

Vacation Bible School will return on Thursday, July 10 – Saturday, July 12. We will be combining with Casa de Adoracion to create a new, dynamic, and exciting joint VBS that will bring our congregations closer together. There is no cost. On Thursday & Friday we will meet from 6:00pm - 9:00pm and on Saturday it will be from 10:00am – 1:00pm. Registration will take place during the month of March and forms are available from Angela and in the narthex. We will be having an adult class. Please sign up for the adult class on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. **We also need adult volunteers! Please speak to Angela if you can help.**



FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Carla Vinson presented a MOST interesting program of their recent trip to Portugal. She wove biblical references through it. After her presentation, the group was presented with the changes and modifications to our policies and procedures that Betty and Doris worked on. Our next meeting is April 14.

New Baby? - The Friendship Circle has a tradition of putting a rose on the altar for a new baby. If your family has a new addition (child or grandchild) that you would like acknowledged please provide birthdate, name, parent's names, grandparent's names (if appropriate) and siblings to be listed. Please provide info to the church office or to Pam Terwilliger p_terwilliger@hotmail.com



NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

*"The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done;
the Victory of life is Won;
the Song of Triumph has begun: ALLELUIA!"*

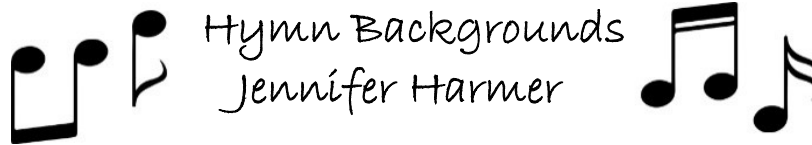
Palestrina, 1591/anon. Latin trans. by Francis Pott, 1861

I LOVE APRIL! It's been several years since EASTER has been celebrated in April. Spring has sprung! Flowers Bloom! Birds Sing! You would think your PUMC choir is sung out-NOT!!! The special music for Palm Sunday will include Joyful Ringers, palm waving, and Hosannas!!! Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday) the choir can finally sing "All in the April Evening"-an "oldie" but "goodie"! Then, Good Friday with something special planned by Pastor Kregg. FINALLY, EASTER! Stephen and I will be playing an organ/piano duet that you will recognize as the song quoted above. The postlude will be "HALLELUJIA" from Handel's MESSIAH. The congregation is invited to sing with the choir!! Those who wish to sing with the choir, music will be available for you to come up to the Chancel and join the choir!! Music sheets will be an insert in your bulletin.

*"The three sad days are quickly sped; He rises glorious from the dead;
all glory to the risen Head! ALLELUIA!"*

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done UMH #306

APRIL BLESSINGS! Polly James, Choir Director



This year I have been reading through [The Greatest Hymns Devotional: 365 Daily Devotions](#) put together by BroadStreet Publishing Group. Every day there is a brief Scripture reading, the lyrics to a hymn, and then a little bit about the hymn along with a devotional thought related to the hymn. Sounds like it is right up my alley, right? Well, the entry from March 6th struck me as it was not a hymn that struck me as familiar (turns out I was wrong!) and it was probably the oldest hymn I had read about. So, it got me curious. The hymn's title? "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee."

This hymn was written by St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 – 1153), a monk in what our hymnal states as the 12th century. My devotional book noted it was written in 1100. It was translated from Latin by Edward Caswall (1814 – 1878) in 1849. Caswall became more well-known as a translator of Latin hymns, like “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee.” The tune used for this hymn is entitled ST. AGNES, by John Dykes (1823 – 1876), was written in 1866. When translating the hymn, Caswell chose five stanzas (1-4 and 40) out of the original fifty stanzas written by Bernard.

The hymn is suited for any service, as it has numerous scriptural references but works best in redemption, Communion, or Lent-themed services. And it turns out though it was not as familiar a hymn to me upon reading the lyrics, they can be found in our United Methodist Hymnal on page 175.

(References from Hymnary.org & The Greatest Hymns Devotional: 365 Daily Devotions)

Worship Committee Notes



Our meeting on March 9 brought up ideas for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. The Palm cross will be assembled at 3 PM on Wednesday, April 9 led by Anne Bierce. Young people are welcome after school. There will be a Seder Dinner on Maundy Thursday of Holy Week. Further info will be in the bulletins. There will also be a Prayer Walk around the church on Saturday before Easter. Communion will be served on Maundy Thursday and on Easter. And some very interesting ideas for Pentecost! More to come on that! Our next meeting will be August 10.

From Joseph Norman

I will be ending my tenure as backup to the Counting Administrator, thus a replacement is urgently needed. A written outline of the responsibilities is available. Documentation for the tasks of Substitute Counter is also available for individuals wishing to volunteer. If you have questions, you can reach out to me.

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, Roy Griess, Betsy Grover, Gwen Higgins, Tom Halloran, Sandra Hansen, Pat Hughes, Dick James, Donna Jonnigan, Danny Jones, Betty Longobardi, Lizzy Merolle, Millie Milkovich, Julia Miller, Kathleen Nicodemus, Michelle Olavarria, Karla Quinlan, Arnette and Robert Schmidt, Diana Silverman, Michelle Simonis, Jeff Tryon, Catherine White, Sarah-Grace White, Gaynelle Zehnacker-Coon, 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, 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.



April Calendar of Important Dates

Wednesday, April 2nd – Church Council @ 7pm
Friday, April 4th – Youth Lock-In @ 6pm
Sunday, April 6th – Easter Egg-stravaganza! @ 11:30am
Tuesday, April 8th – Soaking Prayer @ 6:15pm
Contemporary Worship @ 7pm
Wednesday, April 9th – Palm Cross Assemble @ 3pm
Sunday, April 13th – Palm Sunday
Monday, April 14th – Friendship Circle
Worship Service @ 7pm
Tuesday, April 15th – Worship Service @ 7pm
Wednesday, April 16th – Worship Service @ 7pm
Journey Deadline
Thursday, April 17th – Seder Meal @ 5:15pm
Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:30pm
Friday, April 18th – Good Friday Service @ 7pm
Saturday, April 19th – Somber Prayer Walk @ 9:30am
Sunday, April 20th – Easter Sunday @ 10am
Tuesday, April 22nd – Fellowship Discovery Luncheon @ 12:00 pm
Wednesday, April 23rd – Trustees @ 7:00 pm
Friday, April 26th – Collate Journey @ 8:30am



MID-HUDSON LOVE INC HIRING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Mid-Hudson Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC) is seeking a part-time, experienced professional to lead the organization. Requires personal relationship with Jesus Christ, knowledge of poverty issues, and leadership experience in non-profit, social work, ministry, community development, or related field. For detailed description, see Job Posting located at www.mid-hudsonloveinc.org Please submit cover letter and resume to katherinebetz1@gmail.com or Mid-Hudson Love INC, Attn: Personnel Committee, 748 Freedom Plains Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603 by **APRIL 18, 2025**.

PUMC'S ***SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM*** PROVIDES MANY **EDUCATIONAL & INTERPERSONAL OPPORTUNITIES** FOR THE CONGREGATION & COMMUNITY. THE FOLLOWING OUTLINES, HOW TO ACCESS PUMC'S WEBSITE TO ACQUIRE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MANY EXPERIENCES AVAILABLE TO YOU . . .

POKUMC.COM ➡ About PUMC ➡ Missions ➡ Social Justice

OR [HTTPS://POKUMC.COM/SOCIAL-JUSTICE-MINISTRY](https://pokumc.com/social-justice-ministry)

OR



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 13

Worship @ 10am



**Holy Monday, April 14,
Holy Tuesday, April 15
Holy Wednesday, April 16**
Worship @ 7pm

Maundy Thursday, April 17

Seder Meal @ 5:15pm

Worship @ 7:30pm



Good Friday, April 18

Worship @ 7pm



Saturday, April 19
Somber Prayer Walk @ 9:30



Easter Sunday, April 20

Worship @ 10am



A Note from Karyn

There has already been a great response so a huge thank you to all who responded. This notice will be in the April and May Journeys. Starting with the June Journey all of the changes will be in place.

From the Editor

We currently mail out around 220 copies of the Journey each month. Over the next several months I would like to decrease that number significantly so that only the people who want the Journey are receiving it. This will save money, resources, and time. There are several ways for us to do this together.

1. Email – We have been sending out a digital copy for quite a few years now. If you haven't yet signed up for that you can do so at our website (pokumc.com) or by contacting the office (845-452-2933 or office@pokumc.org).
2. I know that people like to have a hard copy and I fully understand. The newsletter will be available to be picked up at church 1 or 2 Sundays before the 1st of each month.
3. **This is the most important part:** I am still more than happy to mail it each month to those who really want it. Please contact the office (845-452-2933 or office@pokumc.org) if you would like to continue receiving it through the mail. **Those who don't respond by May 15 will be removed from the mailing list.**