POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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The Journey

June 2025

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The Deadline for the July Journey is Wednesday June 11

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves."
Luke 22:24-27

"This is not easy for me to grasp. In a world that constantly compares people, ranking them as more or less intelligent, more or less attractive, more or less successful, it is not easy to really believe in a love that does not do the same. When I hear someone praised, it is hard not to think of myself as less praiseworthy; when I read about the goodness and kindness of other people, it is hard not to wonder whether I myself am as good and kind as they; and when I see trophies, rewards, and prizes being handed out to special people, I cannot avoid asking myself why that didn't happen to me.

The world in which I have grown up is a world so full of grades, scores, and statistics that, consciously or unconsciously, I always try to take my measure against all the others. Much sadness and gladness in my life flows directly from my comparing, and most, if not all, of this comparing is useless and a terrible waste of time and energy." (by Henri Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*)

Nouwen names a truth that lives close to all of us. His words cut deep into how we measure ourselves against others. This comparison game is not just exhausting, it's spiritually deforming, "...most, if not all, of this comparing is useless and a terrible waste of time and energy." Few battles in human life have the power to speak to us universally quite like the struggle for dominance. How well we can all relate to Nouwen's words above! Most of the gossip and rumors I hear disproportionately have at their heart the

need to tear someone down in order to feel morally or intellectually superior. Many arguments ensue due to our inability to recognize that there may be other feelings just as valid as our own, if not a stubbornness in pursuing our wrongheadedness. Yet, we rarely dare admit our common humanity and fallibility.

So we spend our time and talents in wrestling with others around us, dealing with the minutia of existence, rather than devoting ourselves to the service to which we've been called in Christ. What would Jesus say in all of this? How would he respond to this world that seeks to throw stones rather than using them to build for the needy in life?
We need not look far for the answer: "The world may carry on this way, but not so with you," Jesus intones. It is not our calling to join in the chorus of voices that shout, "crucify him" with every dysfunctional utterance of their mouths. It is our voice that raises itself to say, "What can I do for you? How can I ease your pain and, in doing so, demonstrate the love of Christ that has transformed my life?"

We are not meant to waste time; time is our most precious gift. When we put off the business of being Jesus to another, when we waste time in struggles of the tongue, and are not witnesses of grace, and when we prefer comparison over doing our part to change our world, we risk not simply wasting our time but also not bringing other souls to the wonderful life that can be theirs in Christ: We run the risk of eternal loss.
We are called to a different calling than the world. We know that our energy, if appropriately applied, can make a difference in the lives of many people around us daily.

What would this world look like if we took seriously the challenge to outdo each other in humility and service? For some reason, the word heaven comes to mind. Is this maybe what Jesus meant by bringing in the Kingdom? Are we doing this in our daily lives, in church, and out? Are there areas in life where we can each stop wasting time and get on with the work at hand? The Kingdom is ours; let's start living it!

Yours in Christ, Kregg

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Fellowship Discovery Luncheon

Our June Fellowship Discovery Luncheon will be on Tuesday, June 24th @ 12PM. Church member (and author of Calligraphy for Dummies) Jim Bennett will be introducing us to calligraphy. Please let us know (by Thursday, June 19th) if you plan to attend by scanning the QR code or as always you can contact the office.

The Church Council met on Wednesday, May 7th. Highlights included:

At the Church Council meeting on April 2nd, the following items were discussed:

- The Social Justice Committee held several successful activities during the past month and has posted relevant information on the magnetic board.
- The Evangelism Committee will make weekly suggestions for small things we can each do during the week. An initial suggestion will be to smile at people you meet wherever you are.
- Before Veterans' Day, volunteers will be placing flags on Veterans' graves at the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.
- A Know Your Rights policy is being drafted to provide support for those who might be retained while at the church. Legal advice will be sought to ensure that we remain within the law and provide as much information as possible.
- Support is being provided for a Non-Clergy Religious Worker who has been volunteering at PUMC. A letter of support will be sent as part of his application to obtain the nonimmigrant status.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4th.

Highway Cleanup

As we approach the warmer months, we are looking for a dedicated volunteer to serve as our **Highway Clean-Up Coordinator**. This role involves organizing and gathering volunteers to help clean the highway in front of our church several times during the spring, summer, and fall. If this is something you might be interested in please contact Karyn or Pastor Kregg.

Children's Ministry News

We are glad to announce that once again Children's Ministry will be hosting the Children's Day Service on Sunday June 1st at 10:00am. This is when the youngest disciples of our community will be once again showcasing their talents and their Christian teachings.

Dear families
As we prepare for summer our registration deadline for Vacation Bible School is June 15th. The first night of VBS is July 10th and we are so excited as we prepare to welcome your friends, family, and fellow members of our church.

We are asking all parents of 2, 3, and 4 year old children if there is any interest in a Sunday School program for preschoolers. It would only be 2 Sundays per month and run for 20-25 minutes. The new program will start in September along with regular Sunday School. We would like to have some numbers by the end of May so we can plan if there is enough interest. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Angela, Children's Ministry Coordinator

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Friendship Circle's final meeting before our summer break is on June 9th. **Very important: We will be meeting at 12pm and sharing a potluck lunch.** Looking back, Our May meeting included a very interesting presentation by Rural Migrant Ministries.

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

" "Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords
that cannot be broken. Bind us together with Love"
From THE FAITH WE SING, #2226

JUNE BLESSINGS! I look at my collection of hymnbooks every week -dust them off and choose a hymn quote to begin a Journey article. Sometimes when that happens, the hymn just "pops up". At other times it becomes hours of searching, finding hymns I loved as a child, or new contemporary ones. Then I get completely lost in composers dates, Bible verses used, tune names and meters. It's the teacher in me! So, I invite you to check out the books located right in front of you in our sanctuary. There should be a Holy Bible, a United Methodist Hymnal (noted in our bulletins as UMH #), and The Faith We Sing (melody only-notated as TFWS #).

Ever since the words have been shown on our sanctuary screens, I fear our brains are losing important information-to say nothing of what music looks like-notes & symbols! Yes, it is wonderful to see the poetry not hindered by music notes or to clap or wave your arms! STAND, SING, USE THE HYMNALS! As I look out on the congregation singing, I see many hymnals in use! YAY-use the bulletin as a bookmark to quickly locate hymn, then stand with the choir, and sing your heart out!!!! In Christ's Service-who was also a teacher! Polly James

"There is only one God, there is only one King;
there is only one body, that is why we sing"
from TFWS #2226 BIND US TOGETHER
(Col. 3:14) B.Gilman,1977, Irregular

Hymn Backgrounds
Jennifer Harmer

As I continue through my daily reading of The Greatest Hymns Devotional: 365 Daily Devotions put together by BroadStreet Publishing Group, the entry from April 25th stood out as another memory of a favorite song from Wappingers. We had two what we called "clapping hymns." The first is "Marching to Zion" which we have sung several times since becoming part of the PUMC family. The other was "O How I Love Jesus," which will be sung during Children's Day.

The text of the hymn was written by Frederick Whitfield (1829 - 1904). There is not much known about Whitfield, except that he was born at Threapwood, Shropshire and educated at Trinity College in Dublin. He took Holy Orders, after which he was a curate of Otley, Vicar of Kirby-Ravensworth, senior curate of Greenwich, and Vicar of Stanza John's, Bexley. According to my devotional book, the stanzas were written in 1855, but the refrain ("O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus, Because he first loved me!") was anonymously written and often paired with other hymns in the late nineteenth century. Of the original nine stanzas written by Whitfield, only four are typically used today (first, second, fourth, and fifth). The tune, aptly enough, is entitled O HOW I LOVE JESUS and was also written anonymously in nineteenth-century America and used in various camp meetings at the time.

The hymn can be used at any time of the church year as a devotional song.
(References from Hymnary.org & The Greatest Hymns Devotional: 365 Daily Devotions)

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A Note from the Editor (and Secretary)

Karyn's Vacation – I will be away on vacation from June 8 through June 15. If anyone would be interested in covering the office for a few hours during that time please let me know (office@pokumc.org or 845-452-2933) . Also, even though I will not be in the office on June 11th, that will remain the deadline for the July Journey.
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REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Our members: Barbara Bates, Cheryl Cass, Janet Cole, Ron Cole, Dylan Coughlin, Sandra DeGuzman, Irene Feller, Veronica Gordon, Emily Griess, Betsy Grover, Gwen Higgins, Tom Halloran, Doris Hammel, Pat Hughes, Dick James, Donna Jonnigan, Danny Jones, Betty Longobardi, Lizzy Merolle, Millie Milkovich, Kathleen Nicodemus, Michelle Olavarria, Karla Quinlan, Arnette and Robert Schmidt, Diana Silverman, Michelle Simonis, 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, Lee, 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.

Please look over the "Remember in Prayer" List and contract the office if you see things that need updating.

Hudson Valley Bridge Builders Mission Camp

July 27-August 1st, 2025
Hosted at The Mount Academy in Esopus
Cost: $250 (Before June 1, 2025)
$295 (After June 1, 2025)
Application Deadline: June 1, 2025
Applications and more information available on our website
hvbridgebuilders.org

June Calendar of Important Dates

Sunday, June 1st – Children's Day
Wednesday, June 4th – Church Council @ 7pm
Thursday, June 5th – Annual Conference Begins
Sunday, June 8th – Annual Conference Ends
Monday, June 9th – Friendship Circle @ 1pm
Ted Talk Watch Party @ 7pm
Wednesday, June 11th – Journey Deadline
Sunday, June 15th – Father's Day
Tuesday, June 17th – Social Justice @ 7pm
Thursday, June 19th – Juneteenth
Friday, June 20th – 1st Day of Summer
Tuesday, June 24th – Fellowship Discovery Luncheon @ 12:00 pm
Wednesday, June 25th – Trustees @ 7:00 pm
Saturday, June 28th – Movies with Meaning @ 4pm

Movies With Meaning

The next *Movies With Meaning* is scheduled for June 28th at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. However, the movie has not been selected as yet, but once chosen there will be an announcement, followed by scheduled showings of its trailer.

Graduate Recognition Sunday will be on June 22nd. Please fill out and return the form below by June 9th 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)

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Autumn Fest is coming October 25th
Would you help us??

"Handmade with Love" needs your help!! Do you crochet, knit, or sew? Do you paint, do crafts, or want to venture into something new? Can you use the summer to make a few items for us to sell? Anne Bierce (845-224-6270) or Sue Davis (845-462-1831) are the contact people. Also, please let us know if you want to help the day of our Fest!!

We are "thinking new ideas" for our **"Gift Baskets**"! Some ideas: something smaller that could be used as hostess gift or a celebration gift that we can sell for up to $20 - small baskets, pretty bowls, cutting boards or trays and dress them up with nuts & chocolates - coaster & cocktail napkins, cheese board with knife -- speciality cookbook with whisk – apron with pot holders – mini jams with cracker/cookies and napkins – fancy soaps with facial cleansers. We can't wait to see your ideas.

For our **"Glitz and Glamour**" area we always need jewelty!! Other things we could use are accent scarves, small purses, items like small fancy note pads, fancy pens, etc for purses. Small and pretty is the name of the game!

Luncheon & Bake Goods Our luncheon will have a new look and revamped menu!! We will offer take out or eat in family style seating. More details will come in our fall Journey. If you would like to be part of the fun please call Doris Stahl 845-462-1922 .

Our baking and dessert needs will be listed in the fall Journey and we hope you will support us again with all your goodies.