POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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The Journey

October 2025

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The Deadline for the November Journey is Wednesday October 15

New Email Address: poughkeepsieumc@gmail.com.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much."
Luke 16:10 (NRSV)

I can still hear my grandmother giving her homespun generational advice, one of many witticisms she had in her repertoire: *"Look after the pennies and the dollars will mind themselves."* My family was always working-class and lower-middle-class. My father's parents were immigrants from, we think, Czechoslovakia, though with the shifting borders of Eastern Europe, who can say for certain? My mom's parents were a "Heinz 57" mix of generations in this country. With that lineage, and having lived through the Great Depression, Gram knew well what it meant to watch the pennies.

But watching pennies is not just advice for financial success. It's wisdom about *first things*, and it applies to our Christian lives as much as to our wallets. Jesus said, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"* (Matthew 6:33, KJV). When we put God first, even in the smallest acts of devotion, our lives align, and the larger aspects of discipleship follow more naturally. Over time, "banking spiritual dollars" becomes second nature.

This also holds true in how we live as moral agents in the world. The small acts matter. Being patient with that person on the phone who can't solve your problem may seem minor, but it blesses the other person and at the same time deposits another "spiritual penny" into your life. These moments shape and define us. Spiritual maturity begins with the smallest choices and radiates outward to every corner of our lives. And those small acts of faithfulness, done quietly and consistently, don't just shape our own hearts. They ripple outward, touching our families, our communities, and the world, often in ways we don't see at first.

In the end, God will settle the accounts. Then we will see how every penny of faith has added up as Christ has guided our lives, both in little things and great, *"for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls"* (1 Peter 1:9).

So, as you walk your daily path, *tend to the spiritual pennies, and trust God to mind the dollars.*

Yours in Christ's love, *Kregg*

Children's Ministry News

Trunk Or Treat @ PUMC!
Saturday, October 25th
2:00 – 4:00pm

Adults: Please come decorate your car and hand out treats to the trick-or-treaters as they go around the parking lot.
Kids: Come in your coolest costumes and collect treats!
No Scary Decorations or Costumes Please

Important Dates:
Trunk and Treat – Saturday, October 25
Christmas Event – Saturday, December 13
Our Annual Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 14
Our Annual Easter Fest – Saturday, March 28

Blessings and Peace
Angela Soto- White
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Laity Sunday

October 19th is Laity Sunday. Laity Sunday is a special Sunday defined by General Conference "to celebrate the ministry of all Christians". Usually observed on the third Sunday in October, Laity Sunday is one way we express the core Christian conviction that *all* are called to participate in God's mission to bring life to light through the good news of Jesus. If you would be interested in participating in the Laity Sunday service, please contact Kaye Schrock or the church office.

The Church Council met on Wednesday, September 3rd. Highlights included:

- Several mission projects are coming up, including Hope on a Mission dinner preparation, Thanksgiving baskets, Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, and the Angel Tree.
- The Social Justice team will focus on disseminating factual and verifiable information and providing a safe environment for varied dialogues.
- The Contemporary Worship service will start again on Tuesday, October 14th. Members are asked to pray for the service to continue to reach others and lead us into service.
- The Stewardship campaign will take place this fall and plans are in place for members to present Mission Minutes.
- The parking lot was repaved. The Trustees are seeking ways to repair a small lip near the kitchen.
- Protecting Our Rights information is now available on the website and will be placed throughout the church building shortly.
- Through the end of July, income has been steady and has covered all expenses. The Finance Committee is seeking ways to obtain the highest interest rates on several accounts.
- The Youth program will be participating in the CROP Walk on October 19th and will conduct a fundraising bake sale on October 5th.
- Plans are continuing for the Trunk or Treat program, which was very successful last year.
- The annual Church Conference will be held on Sunday, November 2nd at 2:00 at the United Methodist Church of Hyde Park.
- The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1st.

Coat Donations Wanted

Barb Adams will be collecting gently used, clean coats for the Susan DeKeukelaere Memorial Coat Drive during the month of October. Collected coats are distributed through local agencies and schools. If you have a coat that you no longer wear and wish to donate, please bring to church for Barb to take to Dutchess Outreach. Clearly labeled, place the coats in the alcove at the North Door. Thank you!

Fellowship Discovery Luncheon

Our September Fellowship Discovery Luncheon will be on Tuesday, October 28th @ 12PM. Please let us know (by Thursday, October 23rd) if you plan to attend by scanning the QR code or as always you can contact the office.

We are looking for speakers to present at our monthly Fellowship Discovery Luncheon

- Went on a meaningful trip?
- Share your journey and what you discovered.
- Have a unique hobby or quirky expertise?
- Fascinate us with fun facts and insights!
- Work in an interesting field?
- Give us a peek into your world!
- Know someone else who would be great?

Please send them our way! Contact the church office with any ideas.

Save the Date for Church Conference.

Church conference will be held on
Sunday, November 2nd @ 2pm at Hyde Park United Methodist Church,
Reports will be optional, except those that are required by the conference. If you would like to submit a report, the deadline is Monday, October 20th.

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

"He who sings, prays twice." - Attributed to St. Augustine of Hippo

Though there may be some controversy as to whether St. Augustine actually said that phrase, there is a lot of truth behind it, especially with PUMC's choir! Singing can do many things, including allowing for a more profound expression of one's heart, faith, and emotions towards God. Music sometimes has an emotional power that can elevate the impact of words, creating a more resonant and inspirational prayer experience that nurtures the soul. And the practice of sung prayer is seen as a reflection of the eternal songs of praise to God found in the choirs of heaven.

We invite you to come join us on a Thursday evening at 7pm (or 6:59pm so you have a minute to get into a seat!) - even if you aren't sure choir is right for you, join us for a week and give it a try! We spend our rehearsal time warming up our voices, singing anthems for the coming weeks, and close out our time together in...you guessed it...prayer! We would love to have you.

Hymn Backgrounds
Jennifer Harmer

Last month I sought suggestions from all of you as to which hymns you would like to hear more about. Debbie Bois reached out and wanted to know more about the hymn, “How Great Thou Art.” It is one of her family’s favorite hymns and was sung at her mother’s funeral. “How Great Thou Art” was written by Carl Boberg (1859 – 1940) in 1886. Boberg was born in Sweden and published several collections of poetry and hymns during his lifetime. One of his poems, “O store Gud” (O Mighty God), was translated into German with the same name, and then into English in 1949 by
Stuart K. Hine (1899 – 1989) with the title we know and love, “How Great Thou Art.” The tune for the hymn is also named HOW GREAT THOU ART, a Swedish tune.

The hymn considers the beauty of God’s Creation and the sense of awe in nature. It can be used at any time of the Christian Year, from Lent to Christmas, to Easter, and Ordinary

Time in between those seasons. It references scripture throughout both the Old and New Testaments. And in polls is considered the number one hymn in America.
You can find the text of this hymn in our hymnal on page 77.
(References from Hymnary.org)

Do you have a favorite hymn that you would like to know a little more about? All you have to do is let me know the name of the hymn. If you want to share something personal about your connection to the hymn, you can share that too. You can reach out by email (angelamidala@gmail.com) or phone (845- 702-7290) or you can even catch me at church!

Halo Bells & Joyful Ringers

Halo Bells - for kids 3rd grade up to teens. We will commence rehearsals on **November 2** in classroom 33 ten minutes after end of morning worship service. All are welcome, newbies and experienced. We will learn, or relearn, how to ring using different techniques. After interested kids commit to it, at the next rehearsal we'll start practicing for the Christmas Pageant.

Joyful Ringers - for teens and adults. Rehearsals will commence **October 7** in the Choir room. New start time- 6:30pm. (Performance dates depend on everyone's schedule.)

If you are joining us at first rehearsal to see what handbell ringing is all about, please contact PUMC office or me:

Pat McCullough Handbell Choir Director

Contemporary Worship

The Contemporary Service Returns on
Tuesday, October 14 @ 7pm

Social Justice Team

The Social Justice Team will continue with its objectives to provide factual information through diverse mediums to those in our congregation and community. The venues include . . .

- Glossary of Terms (Link ➞ https://pokumc.com/social-justice-teams-lending-library/)
- Lending Library (Located in the Lounge)
- Did You Know? (Bulletin Board)
- Let's Talk About It (Scheduled Zoom Ted Talks)
- Movies With Meaning (Scheduled Saturdays @ 4PM in Fellowship Hall)
- Educational Short Videos (Scheduled After Church Services in the Lounge)
- Social Justice Team Meeting

Movies with Meaning

The next *Movies With Meaning* is scheduled for November 1st at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall, is **Thirteenth** (2016). *Thirteenth is a 2016 American documentary film by director Ava DuVernay. The film explores the "intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States"; it is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, adopted in 1865, which abolished slavery throughout the United States and ended involuntary servitude except as a punishment for conviction of a crime.*

Vickie Truett

We are thrilled to announce that Vickie Truett will be joining us for worship on Sunday, October 12! This will be the third time Vickie has blessed our congregation with her amazing music, and we are excited to welcome her back. Her heartfelt ministry and powerful voice are always a wonderful addition to our worship service. Don't miss this special time of praise and worship!

WHAT'S UP? (Youth Group Update)

The PUMC Youth Group has begun a new season with some new plans and a sense of excitement. We agreed to begin this year with a change in meeting times. We will begin meeting in our down stairs meeting rooms on Saturdays at 5:00 to 7:00 pm rather than on Sunday evenings.

- Once again, the group will focus on community service. We will begin our efforts with "hunger awareness" throughout the month of October. We invite the congregation to participate with us in our fund and "fun" raisers including the ever popular Bake Sale and the Crop Walk. We will inform you with information and inspire you with our efforts to improve local, national and world food scarcity. We will be inviting speakers to educate us about their experiences with community service, Social Justice, their Faith walk and life experiences.
- The group is determined to fellowship with other Christian youth. We will seize opportunities to attend events sponsored by other youth organizations and invite others to attend youth centered activities designed and presented by PUMC Youth Group.
- The group will venture out into the community to visit local missions and community service organizations. We also plan to visit an escape room. Since some of our members participate in theater experiences and sports activities, we will plan to attend some of their events.

This will truly be a busy year. However, we will continue to stock the pews monthly and support the various missions in the church. Check our bulletin board for this year's schedule. Any member who might have ideas or who would like to join us during meetings should contact Patty or Gwen.

With praise and gratitude to God,
Gwen Higgins and Patty Little

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Our members: Barbara Bates, Cheryl Cass, Janet Cole, Ron Cole, Dylan Coughlin, Sue Davis, Sandra DeGuzman, Irene Feller, Veronica Gordon, Emily Griess, Doris Hammel, Gwen Higgins, Tom Halloran, Pat Hughes, Donna Jonnigan, Danny Jones, Samson Marrine Lee, Betty Longobardi, Lizzy Merolle, Millie Milkovich, Kathleen Nicodemus, Michelle Olavarria, Karla Quinlan, 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, Joshell Coleman, Jordan Fidler, Allison and Chad Hagner, Lee, Edgar Martinez, Hilary McAllister, 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.

All Saints' Sunday

November 2nd is All Saints' Sunday – Please contact the office with any names you would like to be included. Traditionally that includes people who have passed away in the year since last years All Saints Sunday. Also feel free to bring in pictures of those you lost and they will be displayed on the altar.

Thank You

'Fill The Truck' Event - The inclement weather could not stop the generous donations from coming in to support our neighbors with class incentives! You not only helped to fill the truck, but the donations received filled multiple trucks and cars. One car was even packed with brand new pillows which are always in demand. ***Thank You*** to all who supported this annual event!

Important October Dates

Wednesday, October 1st – Church Council @ 7pm

Saturday, October 4th – Richard James' Memorial Service @ 1pm

Sunday, October 5th – World Communion Sunday

Worship Committee @ 11:30am

Sunday, October 12th – Vickie Truett

Tuesday, October 7th – Joyful Ringers @ 6:30pm

Monday, October 13th – Friendship Circle @ 1pm

Tuesday, October 14th – Contemporary Service @ 7pm

Wednesday, October 15th – Journey Deadline

Finance @ 7pm

Sunday, October 19th – Laity Sunday

Wednesday, October 22nd – Trustees @ 7pm

Saturday, October 25th – Harvest Fest @ 9am

Trunk or Treat @ 2pm

Friday, October 24th – Collate Journey @ 8:30am

Sunday, October 26th – Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Monday, October 27th – Begin Taking Thanksgiving Phone Calls

Tuesday, October 28th – Fellowship Discovery Luncheon @ 12pm

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

LUNCHEON: NEW menu, NEW look and NEW recruits: We're blessed to have PUMC men in the kitchen this year to help us toward our goal of supporting many local missions. Another important aspect of the Friendship Circle Harvest Fest is simply bringing people together. Working toward a common goal is rewarding in the fun of the moment and the friendships that develop! There's always room for more helpers. If you have a few hours and would like to help prepare ahead of time or serve the day of, please contact Doris Stahl:

"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 or Sue Davis 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 -- specialty 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 jewelry!! 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!

BAKING & DESSERTS: We need home baked items for the bake table. Since we are doing both small and large items and are having a café, we are in need of small breads (banana, zucchini, pumpkin, etc), large and small pies, brownies, fancy cupcakes, cakes, fudge, and gluten-free items.

AUTUMN
FEST
JOIN US
Sat, Oct. 25th
9:00AM - 3:00PM
for Food
Gift Baskets
crAftS, and
so MuCh more!
at
PUMC

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
4 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"; then place it in the offering, mail it to Church, or drop it into the mail slot outside the church office. Please do not leave money in the coat closet. 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 or text/call her on her cell (845-380-4887) if you can provide a basket. You can also send an email. 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 9 and will be placed in the Narthex or the coat rack by Fellowship Hall. The Thanksgiving baskets will be distributed on Friday, November 21 at the Family Partnership Center on North Hamilton St.

We also need helpers in the Church office on October 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31 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.