

POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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## The Journey March 2026

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CENTER



**The Deadline for the April Journey is Wednesday March 11**



Greetings! In Psalm 34:8, the psalmist says: *“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”*

Sometimes I like to check out the one-star reviews on Amazon when I’m buying a book or product. Recently, I purchased *Your Designed Body* by Steve Laufmann and Howard Glicksman. Out of curiosity, I clicked on the one-star reviews. As expected, they were negative, but something more telling quickly became apparent: none of the one-star reviewers had actually purchased the book. None mentioned having read it. How could you possibly review something you have not experienced?

All of the four- and five-star reviews, by contrast, carried the red “verified purchaser” label. They were longer, more thoughtful, and clearly rooted in experience, something entirely absent from the one-star reviews. Two things came to mind. First, how often am I a one-star, unverified critic myself? Second, the Psalmist’s invitation to “taste and see that the Lord is good.”

Being an unverified critic comes easily to us. Making assumptions about others, projecting motives, presuming capabilities, may even have offered survival benefits in our evolutionary past. But it comes at a relational and communal cost. When Jesus encountered the rich young man who asked an honest question, he gave him the benefit of the doubt and allowed him to define himself. How much room is there for unverified critics in the Kingdom of God?

“Taste and see” is an invitation to a relationship, to experience God from the inside. It is the movement from observer to participant, from speculation to encounter. It is what gives a person that spiritual “verified purchaser” label, not because they have everything figured out, but because they have come openly, even expectantly.

First Peter is bold about what follows: *“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”* (1 Peter 2:1–3) Through that experience, the creature grows into the image of Christ.

Use this season of Lent to draw closer to God, to taste and see, so that you might draw closer to what God is most deeply invested in: you and me. In Jesus’ Name, Amen

Yours in Christ, Kregg

## Readers for Good Friday

We are looking for people who like to read during the Good Friday service on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please contact the church office (845-452-2933 or [poughkeepsieumc@gmail.com](mailto:poughkeepsieumc@gmail.com)) if you are interested.



## Children's Ministry News



### Stepping into the Spirit!

We will be having an Easter event for kids on Saturday, March 28. There will be an Easter Egg hunt, crafts, story time, and snacks! Keep an eye out for more information as the time gets closer.

## Vacation Bible School! Save the Date!

**Vacation Bible School** will return on Thursday, July 9 – Saturday, July 11. Lots of information will be available in the coming months.

**We will need adult volunteers! Please speak to Angela if you can help.**



## Fellowship Discovery Luncheon – March 24

Our next Fellowship Discovery Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, March 24 @ 12pm. Please reserve your spot no later than Thursday, March 19



The Church Council met on Wednesday, February 4. Highlights included:

- The registration season has opened for the PUMC Nursery School and the board is actively spreading the word about the programs. The current program is going well.
- Staff reviews are being conducted at the Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Center and the program is going well. All funding sources are in place for the year.
- The Social Justice Committee sponsored a January Ted Talk and has scheduled The Wave for the February Movie With Meaning.
- The Advent Brunch went well, Lenten devotionals are ready to distribute, and a Prayer Walk around the church is scheduled for Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Following an episode with frozen pipes and water leaks, estimates are being developed by DS Home Services/DS Electric for a number of crucial repairs in the electrical and HVAC systems. The Trustees will evaluate the proposals and prioritize the projects. They are also looking at a proposal from Power Solar to install solar panels on the roof as part of the effort to lower our maintenance footprint.
- The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are still being sought.
- The next Council meeting will be on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Lounge.

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Friendship Circle  
Our March meeting will be on  
Monday, March 9 @ 1pm.



## Youth Group

Our February started with a fun-filled team building exercise as twelve of us took an Escape Room challenge! Thanks to our brilliant youth, who solved all kinds of brain-bending puzzles, we all managed to escape the locked rooms. Whew!

We welcomed two invited guests in February. Our heartfelt thanks to Lloyd Wright for sharing his experiences in prison ministry, and to Pastor Greg who took on our tough questions about faith.

Last but certainly not least, PUMC sponsored 6 youth and 1 youth leader at the Hudson Valley Bridge Builders winter work day!

Here's what's happening in March as we continue our focus on faith, fellowship, and missions:

**Sat, March 7, 5-7pm** - Stock pews, lesson & games

**Sat, March 14, 5-7pm** - Guest speaker to share about the UMCOR mission

**Fri, March 20, time TBD** - Addams Family play at LaGrange Middle School

**Sat, March 21, 4-7pm** - HV Bridge Builders Fundraising Gala at the Mount in Esopus. Please consider supporting this community mission.

**Sat, March 28, 5-7** - Holy Week Experience

Our PUMC youth group is open to all youth in grades 6 thru 12. Friends are always welcome! Please reach out to Patty Little or Gwen Higgins for questions or more information.



# St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5-6:30pm

Corned Beef! Ham! Potatoes, Cabbage, & Carrots!  
Irish Soda Bread! Dessert!

Please contact the church office if you would be interested in helping (shopping, cooking, serving cleaning).



## Notes from the Choir Room



*"My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown that might lovely be.  
O who am I that for my sake my Lord should  
Take frail flesh and die?"*

Samuel Crossman, 1664

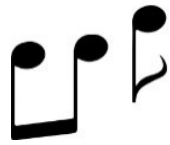
LENT! Forty Days and Forty Nights of prayer and fasting in the wild!

Your Choir spent much of February preparing anthems for this solemn season. Lenten music is usually somber- which sometime makes rehearsing a challenge until we prepare for Palm Sunday-the fifth and last Sunday in March. Then it's on to Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and EASTER! Until then .....

*"Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine:  
Never was love like thine, never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all  
My days could gladly spend!"*

Samuel Crossman, 1684

Blessings! Polly James



## Hymn Background Jenn Harmer



I am again writing this entry on Monday and was impacted by one of the hymns we sang in service on the day before I started writing this. Our closing hymn was “O for a Thousand Tongues,” the first hymn in our hymnal. And, fun fact, this has been the first hymn listed in nearly every official British Wesleyan Methodist and American United Methodist hymnal since it’s initial publication in John Wesley’s *A Collection of Hymns for the People Called Methodists* back in 1780!

“O for a Thousand Tongues” was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) in 1739. Charles was the great hymn-writer of the Wesley family, with this hymn being one of his over 6,500 written hymns. Many of his hymns were written to express his feelings on occasions of importance including his marriage, striking scenes in Scripture, and every Festival of the Christian Church – just to name a few subjects. This particular hymn was actually written to celebrate the one year anniversary of his own conversion to Christianity.

The hymn tune used in “O For a Thousand Tongues” is called AZMON, originally written by Carl G. Gläser (1784-1829) in 1828 and arranged by Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

The original hymn had eighteen (18) stanzas, and the hymn as we know it starts with Wesley’s seventh stanza, with the first six stanzas focusing on essentially an autobiography of his conversion experience. It is a suggested hymn in any of the lectionary years finding places for it to be used during Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary time.

“O for a Thousand Tongues” is found in 1,826 hymnals and if you are looking for it in our hymnal, you can find the text of on page 57. (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](mailto:angelamidala@gmail.com)) or phone (845-702-7290) or you can even catch me at church!



# Holy Week Schedule

**Saturday, March 28**

Kid's Easter Event "Stepping into the Spirit" @ 1pm

**Sunday, March 29**

Palm Sunday

**Monday March 30, Tuesday March 31, Wednesday April 1**

Worship Service @ 7pm

**Thursday, April 2**

Maundy Thursday Service @ 7pm

**Friday, April 3**

Good Friday Service @ 7pm



**Saturday, April 4**

Somber Prayer Walk @ 10am

**Sunday, April 5**

Easter Sunday



*REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS*

**Our members:** Steve Allen, Barbara Bates, Cheryl Cass, Janet Cole, Ron Cole, Dylan Coughlin, Sue Davis, Sandra DeGuzman, Irene Feller, Veronica Gordon, Emily Griess, Doris Hammel, Gwen Higgins, Pat Hughes, Donna Jonnigan, Danny Jones, Samson Marrison Lee, Betty Longobardi, Lizzy Merolle, Millie Milkovich, Kathleen Nicodemus, Michelle Olavarria, Karla Quinlan, Lorraine Ricci, 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, Lorry Hetzer, Scott Kara, 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.

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

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*Thank you!*

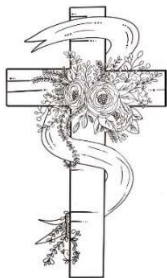
Mid-Hudson Love INC thanks you for supporting the Cookie Walk on February 7. Many cookies were donated, many customers bought the cookies, and it was a successful fundraiser for Love INC.

# Important March Dates

- Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – Church Council @ 7pm
- Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Friendship Circle @ 1pm
- Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – Journey Deadline
- Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> - St. Patrick's Day Dinner @ 5pm  
Social Justice @ 7pm
- Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – Finance Committee @ 7pm
- Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Fellowship Discovery Luncheon @ 12pm
- Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Trustees @ 7pm
- Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – Kid's Easter Event @ 1pm
- Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday
- Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – Worship Service @ 7pm
- Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – Worship Service @ 7pm



## Easter Flower Ordering Form: Deadline to order Monday, March 16



Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \$14.00 each

I will take my flowers after the 10:00 am Service on Easter      YES    NO

Return this form to the church office or call 452-2933 to order.

# Growing Together at Community Nursery School (CNS) of Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church

Even though the new year just began, families need to think about where to send their precious preschoolers in the Fall. We're thrilled to spotlight our cherished community program: **Community Nursery School (CNS)** — a nurturing, play-based early childhood program rooted in the mission of **Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church**.

## A Welcoming Place for Young Learners

Located within the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church, **CNS** has been a trusted nursery school in our community for over six decades, dedicated to fostering each child's early development in a safe, supportive environment. While the program does not teach a specific religious curriculum, it emphasizes **kindness, empathy, diversity, generosity, and sharing** — values that benefit every child and every family.

## Programs for Every Stage of Early Childhood

CNS offers a range of thoughtfully structured classes designed to support growth from age **two through five**:

- **Mommy & Me (CNS jr.)**

For 2-year-olds accompanied by a caregiver, this class blends interactive play with early learning and socialization.

- **Preschool Classes**

For **3, 4 and 5-year-olds**, CNS provides day-based programs with flexible schedules — from 2-day sessions up through full 5-day weeks — all crafted to promote developmental and kindergarten readiness.

- **Afternoon Enrichment**

Additional enrichment opportunities help children extend learning through creative, fun activities.

Each classroom is child-centered, equipped with age-appropriate materials, organized learning areas, and staffed by teachers committed to fostering confidence and curiosity in every child.

## Registration Now Open

CNS is now accepting **registrations for the 2026–2027 school year** — and families are invited to explore class options, complete enrollment forms, and schedule visits or virtual tours via the school’s website or by contacting the office directly.

An Open House is scheduled for January 31, 2026 from 10am to 11am at PUMC.

Whether you’re a longtime supporter of CNS or considering your first visit, now is the perfect time to connect with a program rooted in community, compassion, and joyful learning.

You can learn more, register, or reach the CNS team here:

- 📞 Phone: **(845) 471-3343**
- ✉️ Email: **cnspumc@gmail.com**
- 🌐 Website: [www.cnspumc.com](http://www.cnspumc.com)
- 📍 Located at **2381 New Hackensack Road** in Poughkeepsie, NY — just minutes from Vassar College.

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### *New Prayer Opportunity at PUMC*

All are invited to join the gathering for **Prayers for the World**, each Sunday in the lounge, starting 10 minutes after the regular worship service concludes. This is a time to lift prayers for people affected by recent events in our community, our nation and the world. For those of us whose souls are hurting from all the suffering we see in the news, **Prayer for the World** is a time to turn to Jesus for spiritual comfort. Together, let our faith renew our hope for a better tomorrow. Note: This gathering is NOT a time for political discussion or debate. If participants wish to talk with each other after the prayer time, they are welcome to do so, in the contexts of love and mutual respect.

