POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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The Journey

May 2026

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The Deadline for the June Journey is Wednesday May 13

[27] But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. [28] So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. [29] He spoke and argued with the Hellenists, but they were attempting to kill him. [30] When the brothers and sisters learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. [31] Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Acts 9:27-31

In his book Retrieving the Human, José Comblin observes that evangelization is not a program but a way of life, the natural expression of people whose lives have been changed by Christ. In his words, "the new person acts," and that action becomes the good news others can see.

Comblin's words are powerful for a community seeking to regain its witness, powerful for a people trying to understand who they are in the midst of a strong and often distracting culture. As Alice's famous rabbit says, "I'm late, I'm late," we too can feel that sense of urgency. It is late, too late to worry about some of the minor things that separate us. Christians through the ages have sensed this urgency in their message: there is a new world on the horizon, and we are invited to take part in it.

Have you ever noticed how the church often does its best work when it has the least power? When it cannot rely on influence or control, it is forced to rely on God. What we speak about, a new world shaped by changed lives, becomes real not through laws or programs, but through ordinary people living differently, even from a place of weakness, trusting that God is their strength.

This is seen clearly in Paul. Once a persecutor of the church, he becomes someone entirely new. He takes on an identity in Christ that calls him to leave behind what he

once trusted, to love those he once opposed, and to serve the very Lord he had resisted. And in that change, something larger begins to happen. The church grows, not by force, but by the witness of transformed lives.

We live in a culture where violence and harsh words often seem to set the tone, and where Christianity is sometimes visible in name but less so in practice. It becomes easy to wear the identity without embracing the calling. But the gospel does not allow for that separation. Faith is not simply something we claim, it is something we live.

God is both the ground beneath our feet, giving us the courage to say, "this is not how we are meant to live," and the horizon before us, showing us what life can become when it is shaped by love. In Christ Jesus, you have been transformed. In the light of God's love, you are being made new.

So go into the world in your freedom to love. Let that love be seen in what you do. Let it shape your life in ways both small and large. And in doing so, become bearers of the good news of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Kregg

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Children's Ministry News

PUMC and CdA will once again this year be combining forces for a fabulous three evenings of fellowship and praise for the children in our community. We are currently looking for adults volunteers to join forces with the volunteers from CDA. Date: July 9-11

Sunday May 31st is Children's Day! Our Sunday school will be leading the worship service on that day so the children will be spending a lot of time practicing.

Angela White, Children's Ministry Coordinator
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Friendship Circle

Join us on May 11 @ 1pm when Friendship Circle will have Nyhisha Gibbs, Director of Community Engagement at Dutchess Outreach as the speaker. As always, this presentation is open to the congregation

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The Church Council met on Wednesday, April 8. Highlights included:

- A new fence is being installed on the playground. It can be used by families when the nursery school is not in session.
- County funding for the Harriet Tubman Academic Skills Center summer program has been reduced, so additional funding will be sought. A sponsorship for one child would be approximately $400.
- Most of the meeting was a brainstorming session on ways to make people feel that they are an integral part of the church and ways to attract new members. Some ideas included following up on sign-in sheets in each pew, creating an updated directory, changing the location or "vibe" of the fellowship hour, having special "invite a friend" Sundays, offering opportunities for games or family events, making personal contacts with members, and ensuring that people are able to receive the notifications they would like from the church.
- Several action items were identified and more information will be available in the coming months.

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6th at 7:00 PM in the Lounge.
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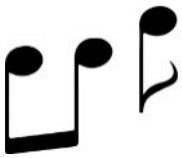

Hymn Background
Jenn Harmer

I go through different processes for figuring out what hymn to write about each month. Sometimes it is about a memory or a personal connection I have or someone else has to a hymn. The past couple entries have been based on experiences at Sunday worship. This month it's a bit of that, plus a random post I just saw on Facebook. As I was scrolling through on my lunch break, a post made by whoever runs The United Methodist Church Facebook page caught my attention. It was a brief paragraph on the hymn "He Lives," which we did sing this past Sunday. And so, I decided I'd write about that this month.

"He Lives" (which Hymnary.org references as "I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today" – the first lines of the hymn) was written by A.H. Ackley (1887-1960) in 1933. Ackley learned music from his father as well as his studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He also became a Presbyterian minister in 1914and served churches in Pennsylvania and California. Ackley wrote around 1,500 hymns in his lifetime. And he also wrote the hymn tune for "He Lives" which was easily named ACKLEY.

Hymnary.org notes that Ackley wrote the hymn after being asked by a young Jewish man, "Why should I worship a dead Jew?" Ackley's response was, "But Jesus lives! He lives! I tell you. He is not dead, but lives here and now. Jesus Christ is more alive today than ever before." And if you read through the lyrics of the hymn, you can see just how Jesus lives in all of us, even today.

"He Lives" is found in 189 hymnals and if you are looking for it in our hymnal, you can find the text of on page 310.

(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!

Notes from the Choir Room

MAY DAY CAROL
The moon shines bright, the stars give
Light a little before 'tis day.
Our Heavenly Father, he called to us
And bid us awake and pray.
Traditional English Folk Song

WELCOME, READERS! What a wonderful April Easter with all the special music- organ, voices, trumpet, flute, guitar, bass, percussion, and congregational singing! Add in the spoken word and prayers-the celebration of Christ's Resurrection was truly inspiring! We can now prepare our hearts and voices for MAY (and it's a five Sunday month)!

5/3 Service of Holy Communion
5/10 Festival of the Christian Home-Mother's Day
5/17 Ascension of the Lord
5/24 Pentecost-Memorial Day Weekend
5/31 Trinity Sunday-CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Our beloved organ is now behaving. YAY! Thank you ALL for being patient as Stephen and your choir adjusted to the change of plans! Somehow, the organ healed itself, and Easter was was celebrated in our sanctuary!

MAY DAY CAROL
My song is done and I must be gone
No longer can I stay.
So it's God bless you all, both great and small
And send you a joyful MAY!

In Christ's Service, Polly

Important May Dates

Monday, May 4th – Social Justice @ 7pm

Wednesday, May 6th – Church Council @ 7pm

Sunday, May 10th – Mother's Day

Monday, May 11th – Friendship Circle @ 1pm

Ted Talk Watch Party @ 7pm

Wednesday, April 13th – Finance

Journey Deadline

Wednesday, May 20th – Trustees @ 7pm

Friday, May 22nd – Collate Journey @ 8:30am

Sunday, May 24th - Pentecost

Monday, May 25th - Memorial Day – Office Closed

Tuesday, May 26th – Fellowship Discovery Luncheon @ 12pm

Saturday, May 30th – Children's Day Rehearsal @ 1pm

Sunday, May 31st – Children's Day

Fellowship Discovery Luncheon – May 26

Our next Fellowship Discovery Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, May 26 @ 12pm. Please reserve your spot no later than Thursday, May 21.

If you or someone you know has something that you would be interested in presenting at a Fellowship Discovery Luncheon please reach out to Pastor Kregg or Karyn in the office.

Graduate Recognition Sunday will be on June 28th. Please fill out and return the form below by June 15th 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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