

POUGHKEEPSIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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## The Journey June 2026

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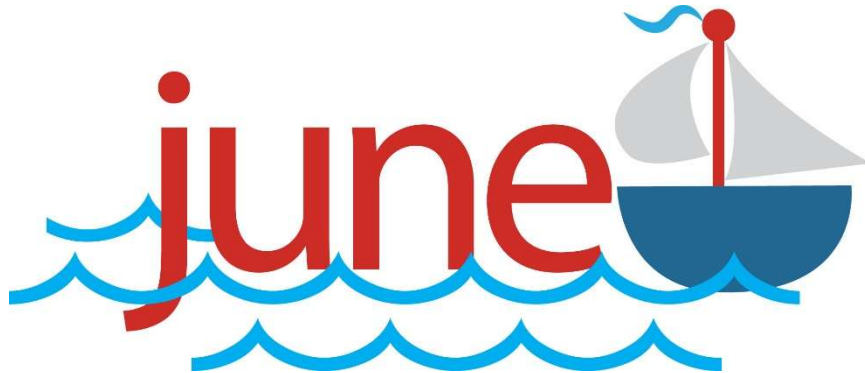
DIRECTOR

**Kacy Sharpe**

DIRECTOR OF HARRIET

TUBMAN ACADEMIC SKILLS

CENTER



**The Deadline for the July Journey is Wednesday, June 17**



*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.*

### **1 Corinthians 12:12–13**

## **Unity Is Not Uniformity**

In any healthy community, there is always a quiet tension between two things: unity and uniformity.

Uniformity is simple. It asks that we all think the same, speak the same, and, often, keep our differences to ourselves. On the surface, it can look like peace. But over time, it becomes fragile. When disagreement finally surfaces, it often does so with more force than anyone expected.

Unity is different. Unity does not require us to be the same. It invites us to remain connected even when we are not. It is through this that God's grace has sustained us to this day. May we never take it for granted.

Scripture reflects this kind of unity. The early Church was not made up of identical people, but of many different parts learning, sometimes slowly, how to live faithfully together. Their strength did not come from sameness, but from their shared commitment to Christ and to one another.

In our own life together, we will not always agree. That is not a failure. In many ways, it is a sign that we are engaged, thinking, and growing.

What matters is how we hold those differences.

Do we listen with patience?

Do we speak with care?

Do we allow room for one another to grow?

Sometimes the answer to an idea or proposal is “not now.” Yet the life of the Church has never been purely either/or. As G. K. Chesterton suggested, truth is often found in holding together tensions that appear to pull apart. In *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis observes that Christian truth is often found not by choosing between extremes, but by holding fast to a deeper reality that resists them both.

In matters of belief, things are not always as simple as right or wrong. This does not mean that truth is uncertain, but that our understanding and application of it often deepen over time. Faithful discernment requires patience, humility, and a willingness to live within that tension rather than resolve it too quickly.

As we move into the summer months, may we continue to be a community that values both truth and grace. May we resist the easy path of uniformity, and instead choose the deeper, stronger path of unity.

Always Yours in Christ,  
Kregg

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## Children's Ministry News



Sunday School will meet as normal during June & July. During July we will be taking an adventure through the desert for 3 weeks in July. Come join us on Sunday mornings for fun games, snacks, arts and crafts and other activities as we take a journey through the desert.

There will be no Sunday School during the month of August

Happy summer  
Angela White, Children's Ministry Coordinator

The Church Council met on  
Wednesday, May 6. Highlights included:



- Worship plans are in place for Mother's Day, Pentecost Sunday, Children's Day, and Father's Day.
- Several projects have been completed by the Trustees, including illuminating the cross, fixing the portico lights, and regulating the heat. Plans are underway to install solar panels and start to generate electricity.
- The Social Justice Committee has had recent presentations on climate change and freedom of the press. The upcoming Movie with Meaning will be "Cabrini."
- The Children's Ministry is moving forward with plans for the Children's Day service as well as a special Sunday School curriculum in July. The Vacation Bible School has been cancelled for this summer.
- Our May and November food drives will benefit veterans and will be delivered to Castle Point Hospital.
- Older church records are being scanned and digitized.
- Members have appreciated the "Sermon Summaries" in the weekly bulletins.
- Ideas for providing social opportunities and bringing families into the church were generated. Several will take place over the summer. Thoughtful planning is needed for long-range programming.
- Methods to "sign in" during church, such as pew forms or phone access, are being investigated.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3rd at 7:00 PM in the Lounge.

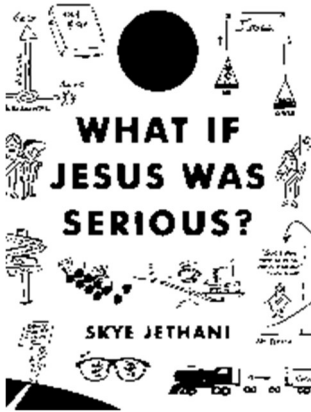
**Please note we will be moving worship into Fellowship Hall on June 14.**

## Pastor's Book Study

This summer, we will be offering a relaxed and flexible study based on:

### What If Jesus Was Serious?

*A Visual Guide to the Teachings of Jesus We Love to Ignore*  
by Skye Jethani.



Running from June 2 through September 29, this study is designed to fit the changing rhythms of summer travel, vacations, and ministry schedules. Rather than a strict week-to-week progression, we will gather “catch as catch can,” using this book as our common thread whenever there is a break between other studies or activities. Known dates when we will not be meeting include June 9, August 17, and

September 8, though additional schedule adjustments June arise during the summer months.

Jethani’s book combines humor, insight, illustrations, and thoughtful reflection to explore some of Jesus’ most challenging teachings — especially the ones modern Christians often overlook, soften, or explain away. Because readings will be shared aloud during class, purchasing the book is completely optional, though many June still enjoy having a personal copy for reflection between sessions. Whether you attend every gathering or simply drop in when your schedule allows, each session will stand on its own while helping us think more deeply about what it truly means to follow Jesus seriously in everyday life.

**A Note From Karyn: If you would like me to order a copy of the book please let me know. The cost is \$12.00.**

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## Hymn Background Jenn Harmer



Just the other day, on May 7th we passed the 202nd anniversary of the debut of Beethoven's Symphony Number 9 in D minor, Op. 125. The fourth movement is commonly known as the Ode to Joy, but for us, we most likely know the hymn as "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee."

The lyrics were written by Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) in 1907. Van Dyke graduated from Princeton University in 1873 and Princeton Theological Seminary in 1887 before becoming a professor of English literature, also at Princeton, between 1899 and 1923. He was known more for writing stories, poetry, and essays in addition to the popular hymn, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee." Van Dyke also chaired the committee that wrote the first Presbyterian printed liturgy, The Book of Common Worship of 1906.

The hymn tune is formally known as HYMN TO JOY, written by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827) in 1824. By age fourteen, Beethoven was an accomplished viola and organ player but, of course, became famous primarily because of his musical compositions including symphonies, overtures, piano sonatas, and string quartets. His music was not written for congregational use, but as we have learned, arrangers did adapt his musical themes as hymn tunes, which is where we find HYMN TO JOY.

Albert Bailey, a hymnologist wrote about the text, "Creation itself cannot conceal its joy, and that joy is appreciated by God at the center of it all; likewise all nature fills us with joy, caused fundamentally by our recognition of God as the giver." "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" is a hymn that can be used in any of the lectionary years, during Ordinary Time, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and Easter seasons. The hymn is found in 298 hymnals and if you are looking for it in our hymnal, you can find the text of on page 89.

(References from Hymnary.org & Christian Classics Ethereal Library)

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!



## Notes from the Choir Room

*Blest Be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds, is like to that above"*

**"Blest Be the Ties that Bind"** UMH 557

John Fawcett, 1782

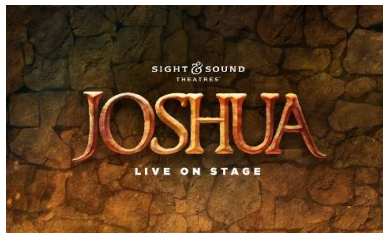
Dear Reader, it's been many years since my young years at Delaware Avenue Baptist Church in Buffalo, New York (1941-1958). My grandfather, Rev. Dr. Lee J. Beynon, was pastor there during most of my childhood. During the service, we children walked down the center aisle and out to Sunday School. Grandfather always winked at me from the pulpit. When I was 13, he baptized me in a pool just behind the pulpit. NOW YOU ASKED- "WHY THIS HYMN"? At the end of communion (which we took seated!), we all sang this hymn-with **VIGOR!**

Now, 76 years later, it is this hymn that I sing to myself after receiving communion. **Vigor**-oh how we need to sing this in June! It has been a long winter and spring. We will soon be moving our worship to Fellowship Hall. The choir will still sing, pastor will still lead us, and we will all sing with **VIGOR!**

*"When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.  
John Fawcett*

Blessings of Peace, Polly Jeanne Beynon James

## Save the Date!



Come join us as we take a trip to Lancaster Pennsylvania to see the production of Joshua at the Sight and Sound Theatre October 28 and 29.

## Important June Dates

Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Church Council @ 7pm

Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation Sunday

Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> – Friendship Circle @ 1pm

Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> – CNS Graduation

Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – Journey Deadline

Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> - Juneteenth

Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> – Father's Day

Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> – Collate Journey @ 8:30am

Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> – Movies w/ Meaning @ 4pm

Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> – Graduation Sunday



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## Movie With Meaning

The June movie will be **Cabrini**, and is scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall. All in the community are invited. You are encouraged to stay after the showing for discussion of the film. As usual, refreshment will be available.



This American biographical drama film depicts the life of Catholic missionary *Francesca Cabrini*, as she encounters resistance to her charity and business efforts in New York City. *Cabrini* explores the sexism and anti-Italian bigotry faced by *Cabrini* and others in New York City in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

# Fellowship Discovery Luncheon

There will be no Fellowship Discovery Luncheon in June, July, or August. We will resume in September. If you have an idea for a speaker please contact Pastor Gregg

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## Gardening Work at PUMC



A thank you to the PUMC Trustees for providing the funding for materials used to improve our PUMC grounds in time for the Mother's Day Sunday services. A special warm thank you to the PUMC congregants who volunteered their time to participate in the gardening work on June 7<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>. We had superb

gardening weather. The volunteers dug out weeds and spread mulch...

- at the garden areas in the courtyard
- at the stone wall garden located at the church entrance
- at the choir room garden located at the back of the church
- beneath the magnolia tree located across from the church sanctuary entrance
- beneath the weeping cherry tree near the former Bangall UMC bell
- beneath the Japanese dwarf red maple

Baptisia plants were relocated from the courtyard to a sunnier spot on the south side. Twenty-four small violas were planted beneath the courtyard's two Alberta spruces. We await nature's decision to see if last year's alyssums re-flower at that same spot. Five potted flowering plants were re-potted and placed on shepherd's hooks on the south and north entrances as well as the courtyard's stone stand.

The team of great volunteers were: Beth Borchert, Pat Carroll, Doris Stahl, Alan Ticknor, Carla Vinson, Curtis Vinson

# Thank You

God directs our paths in life. He changes our lives by everyone we know....and sometimes He provides us with a very special church.

Lorraine and I found this special church in 1965 and we thank you for all of your love and support.

Ray Ricci

On a related note, Ray and Lorraine's granddaughter-in-law, Emily Ricci, is president of a business called Gloriam Marketing. This business helps catholic churches and businesses successfully reach out to people. As part of that mission she sends out an email with a sort of blog post with ideas to connect with people. After Lorraine's funeral the email was about PUMC and our hospitality team. Some quotes from this email.....

"Her funeral was held at the local Methodist church, where she had been a member for more than 60 years. It was a beautiful service celebrating her life and faith, but that wasn't where I saw Jesus the most. It was at the reception"

"Even though she hadn't been able to physically attend in a while, they all seemed to know her. And not just in the, "oh yeah I've heard of her, she was a nice lady" way. A genuine we really loved her too way.

The feeling of community was palpable.

And I left thinking – wow. If I's been someone looking for a church community, I would be going there. The impression was that impactful"



## Friendship Circle

June 8<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm will be our last meeting until September.



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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_