

The Journey
October 2026

CENTER



1



Information. We swim in it.

In a way, we have been conditioned to crave it. Everything from the latest news to the mundane antics of pets gone wildly cute fills the internet and our smartphones. Sometimes I wonder whether part of our problem is that so much information has made us more than a little ambivalent toward it. It comes in, it goes out. We barely have time to react before the next stimulus hits us, and off we go.

Is it possible that this conditioning bleeds over into our spiritual lives as well?

After all, many of us have spent years contemplating, studying Scripture, and going to church. We have heard countless sermons. We have sat through Bible studies. We have sung the hymns, prayed the prayers, and heard the stories over and over again.

So what is the critical task of the Church today?

I think C. S. Lewis' words are particularly appropriate for our times:

"As Dr Johnson said, 'People need to be reminded more often than they need to be instructed.' The real job of every moral teacher is to keep on bringing us back, time after time, to the old simple principles which we are all so anxious not to see...." (C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, 82)

We don't necessarily need to know more Scripture, or more history, but we need to remind each other of the people we are becoming, of who we are and whose we are, of the way of life Scripture has already taught us.

Spending time together, whether in small groups or larger gatherings, becomes an opportunity to nourish and remember the essential qualities of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22–23). It is a chance to encourage those qualities in one another and to remember that this is the kind of life toward which the Spirit is continually drawing us.

Perhaps that is the Church's task in an age overflowing with information: not always to give people something new, but to help one another remember what we already know deeply enough to live it.

We remember that we belong to Christ. We remember the kind of people the Spirit is forming us to become. And then, together, we practice those things again and again until love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control become more than words we recognize. They become the shape of our lives.

Against such things, Paul reminds us, there is no law.

Yours in Christ, Kregg

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (HarperCollins, 2009), 82, Adobe Digital Edition, ISBN 978-0-06-194743-8.

~~~~~

## Church Council Meeting Dates

Sometimes something comes up – an idea, an issue, a question – that when you bring it up to someone, you are told “Bring it up to Church Council.” The best way to do that is to attend a meeting. We typically meet on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7pm, in the Lounge. They are open meetings so even if you are not in a leadership position, you can still come, voice your thoughts, and hear ideas for how we at PUMC can continue to reach not just those people in the pews but those outside the walls of the church.

If you have something for Church Council, here are the meetings we have planned for the rest of 2026 and all of 2027, as it stands now.

2026: November 4<sup>th</sup>, December 2<sup>nd</sup> (TBD)

2027: January 6<sup>th</sup>, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup> or August 4<sup>th</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup> (TBD)

If you have any questions, you can always reach out and contact me. 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!

Jennifer Harmer  
Church Council Chairperson

The Church Council met on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Highlights included:

- The September Book of the Month from the Social Justice Team is Inclusive Conversations by Mary-Frances Winters.
- Sunday School will be starting with a new curriculum and a light brunch will be served on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Budget requests for 2027 must be submitted by October 14<sup>th</sup>. Follow-up will take place on details related to previous payments to Love, INC and employee participation in the Family Medical Leave insurance.
- The process of updating electrical panels and installing rooftop solar panels is continuing. Obtaining required permits will take additional time.
- Problems with hornets, yellow jackets and bats have all been resolved.
- A proposal for remodeling the sanctuary will be submitted to the Trustees. An architect has proposed a plan which may be less expensive than the original proposal.
- This year's Charge Conference, on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, is planned for the Pawling United Methodist Church.
- A plan has been submitted to the Interfaith Council to hold a Day of Lights and Remembrance at the Mausoleum rather than having our Blue Christmas service. If it is adopted, there would be 3 faith leaders and a booklet with a variety of readings.
- The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Lounge.

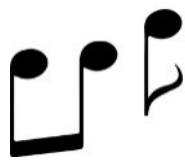
~~~~~

Fellowship Discovery Luncheon



Our September Fellowship Discovery Luncheon will be on Tuesday, October 27 @ 12PM. More information coming soon. Please let us know (by Thursday, October 23) if you plan to attend by scanning the QR code or as always you can contact the office.





Hymn Background

Jenn Harmer



There are some months when I struggle to pick a hymn to write about. This was one of those months. So here I am writing about a hymn that, at least as of right now, we will be singing during our service on September 27th – “Precious Name.” Why that one? Well, it is a hymn I’ve sung before but did not know a lot about, so I figured why not learn a little more about it? And so you get to learn along with me.

“Precious Name” (or going by its first line, “Take the Name of Jesus with You”) was written by Lydia Baxter (1809-1874) in 1870. Baxter was an American Baptist born in Petersburg, NY and moved to New York City after getting married. She became an invalid and spent much of her life being bed-ridden, though this did not stop her from writing hymns as well as being an inspiration for many who came to see her. She contributed many hymns to collections for Sunday Schools and a variety of Evangelical services. This hymn in particular was written for W. Howard Doane and published in *Pure Gold* in 1871.

Speaking of W. Howard Doane, he is the composer of the tune for “Precious Name,” conveniently called PRECIOUS NAME. Doane (1832 – 1915) was born in Connecticut and became an industrialist, philanthropist, and a supporter of evangelistic campaigns along with being a productive hymn tune writer.

The hymn’s verses explore the power of Jesus’ name. Verse one finds joy and comfort, verse two looks at Jesus’ name as a shield against temptations, verse three looks at the intimate nature and relationship between Jesus and those who would follow Him and verse four has a similar tone of Philippians 2:9-11. “Precious Name” can be found in 789 hymnals and is number 536 in the United Methodist Hymnal.

(References from Hymnary.org and <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-precious-name>)

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.

Notes from the Choir Room



"When in our Music God is Glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!"

Fred Pratt Green, 1972, lyrics

Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904, music

It is with a grateful heart that I have had the privilege of working with PUMC CHOIR Members and our organist/pianist Stephen Siktberg! We have returned to the choir room! We are working on new music while still singing some old favorites. It is never too soon to begin work on Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas. It will be a busy three months in the choir room!

We are praying for several of our choir members who are ill. We continue to pray for their healing and ask you, as congregants, to pray with us for Steve A. George S., Sam D., Kaye S., and John S. We are missing Laura who is on leave and will soon return with her flute and voice!!

*"Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: ALLELUIA!"*

F.P. Green/C.V. Stanford

In Christ's Service, Polly B. James

~~~~~

## Election Day Pie Bake



Friendship Circle's 2026 Election Day Apple Pie Bake

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Apple peelers, bakers, box folders, clean up crew.

November 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:00am-4:00pm & Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:00am-???

Please sign up on our chart in the hallway. You are welcome to help for a couple of hours or all day. Come fellowship with us and learn how to make an apple pie start to finish!



## Youth Group News

After a very fast summer break, our PUMC Youth Group is back in full-swing! We will once again be supporting the Dutchess County Interfaith CROP Hunger Walk to raise money to fight hunger in our community, in our nation, and around the world. Throughout the month we will be working to raise awareness of this important cause. The CROP Walk will be on Sunday, October 18th immediately after church, starting and ending at the Temple Beth-El. All are welcome to join us!!

We also have a couple of very special guest speakers lined up! As part of our focus on hunger, CaraMia, founder of the "Hope on a Mission" street outreach ministry in the City of Poughkeepsie, will be joining us to share her inspiring story. And speaking of sharing stories, we will also be welcoming Lorraine, a professional storyteller, to lead our youth group in a storytelling workshop. With several young actors in our group, we know this is going to be an entertaining evening!

And finally, we are embarking on a year-long missionary journey with the apostle Paul. We've heard about his previous journeys -- riots, snake bites, shipwrecks, imprisonment -- so we're a little nervous(!), but we're excited for the chance to better get to know this founding father of Christianity. We will learn about his Jewish heritage, his conversion, his missionary trips, and the passionate spirit that drove him. Please pray for a safe and fruitful journey for each of us!

PUMC Youth Group meets on Saturdays, 5-7, and is open to all students in grades 6 thru 12. Friends are always welcome! For questions, more information, or to be added to our email list, please reach out to Gwen Higgins or Patty Little, or contact the church office.

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

---

*Dutchess Interfaith*  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

---

OCTOBER 18, 2026

---

POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK



## REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

**Our members:** Steve Allen, Barbara Bates, Cheryl Cass, Ron Cole, Dylan Coughlin, Sue Davis, Sandra DeGuzman, Irene Feller, Emily Griess, Doris Hammel, Gwen Higgins, Pat Hughes, Donna Jonnigan, Danny Jones, Samson Marrine Lee, Betty Longobardi, Lizzy Merolle, Millie Milkovich, Kathleen Nicodemus, Michelle Olavarria, Ray Polivka, Karla Quinlan, Robert Schmidt, Michelle Simonis, Sarah-Grace White, Marilyn Zier.

**Friends of our church in your prayers:** 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, Elaine Wintergreen, Harold White, Clifford Zier. All of 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 let Karyn (845-452-2933 or [poughkeepsieumc@gmail.com](mailto:poughkeepsieumc@gmail.com)) know if there are any outdated names on this list. Thank you very much.**

---

## Hope On a Mission Ministry

HOAM Ministry meal will be on Saturday, October 24 (the fourth Saturday in October) due to the Autumn Fest being held on the third Saturday in October. Please sign up on the Mission bulletin board if you can help prepare the meal or deliver it to the location on Cannon Street.

---

## Save the Date for Church Conference.

**Church conference will be held on  
Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 2pm at Pawling 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 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Friendship Circle

Friendship Circle will meet on Monday, October 12 at 1:00. Our guest speakers will be our church friends Brandon and Laura Galasso who will speak about their involvement in the Appalachia Service Project (ASP). Refreshments will be served. All are welcome to attend. All are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.



## Important October Dates

Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> – Church Council @ 7pm

Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> – Social Justice @ 3:30pm

Friendship Circle @ 1pm

Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> – Journey Deadline

Finance @ 7pm

Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Fest @ 9am-3pm

Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – Trunk or Treat @ 1pm-3pm

Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – Begin Taking Calls for Turkey Baskets

Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> – Fellowship Discovery Luncheon @ 12pm

Wednesday October 28-Thursday, October 29 – Trip to Lancaster



**PUMC “Autumn Fair”**  
**Saturday, October 17**  
**& Sunday, October 18**  
**October reminder**  
**what we will be needing**

Our Faith in action!!  
 Would you like to help us in any way?  
 Please let us know!  
 A fun time to fellowship with others.

**Handmade with Love** - We hope you are using your creativity this summer to make/create items for our “homemade” booth. There is still time!! Quilts, Small pillows, Aprons, Placemats, Knitted or Crocheted items such as hats, scarves, mittens. We welcome your talent!! **Questions?** Please contact **Lynne Deverman**

**Hostess Gifts** - how about creating new items ? such as - Soup Mix in a jar (like those 15 beans), a Lovely Container or Jar with Cookie Mix , Cocoa Mix with fancy spoon in a special container, A Cutting Board with spreading knife & add Crackers/Cheese, A Fun Movie Night snack basket, An Italian Dinner night, Homemade Granola Mixes, Basket of Salsa & Seasoning Salts, Jam & Jelly baskets, Your Favorite Brownie box in a 9 x 9 pan (maybe extra chips & icing) Ice Cream Toppings in basket (hot fudge,, caramel sauce etc) Presentation of Traditional or Watermelon Pickles. All these Items that can be gifts for the Hostess, Birthdays, Thanksgiving or Christmas. Surprise us with your own idea!!

**Jewelry Boutique** - Are you making room for new? Necklaces, Earrings, Bracelets -- Please let us enjoy those you don't wear any more? We even sell small purses, lovely silk scarves, vintage evening gloves, pretty hair clips If you have questions:

**Carla Vinson Elaine Eaton**

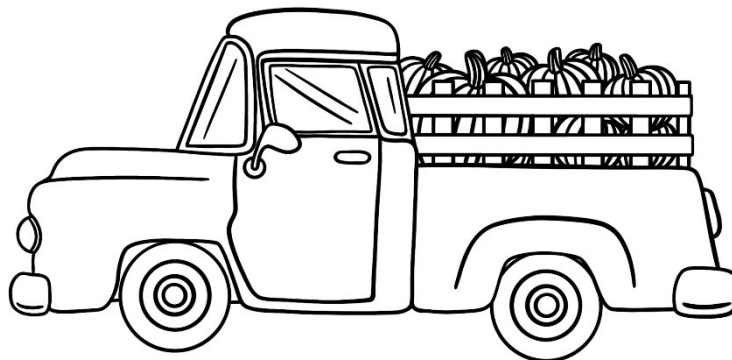
**Bake Shoppe** - great time to review your recipes!! Please bake for us your favorite Cookies, small Loaf Breads (zucchini, banana, fruit, etc), Pies - small & large (apple, pecan, lemon meringue etc) Brownies, Dessert Bars. We do not have requests for Cupcakes. Baked items may be dropped off all day Friday 10/16 or Saturday by 9am.

**Cathy Close Kathy Betz**

**Dessert Specialties** - (All homemade) - Cheesecake, Pies (Apple, Pecan, Pumpkin Lemon Meringue, Lovely Cakes (Carrot, Chocolate, Lemon Deluxe), Specialty Coffee Cakes, Cream Puffs. **Joan Schmidt** Desserts may be dropped off all day Friday 10/16 or Saturday by 9am.

**\*\* for all bake goods -- please label them & note if containing nuts or fruit. Also please use disposable packaging or call and discuss with us your item!**

**"PUMC CAFÉ"** Coffee & Dessert  
Our new **"Food Truck Luncheon"**



*God is faithful in every season.*



**Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church**  
**Join us for Fun, Games & Trick-or-Treating**

**Saturday, October 24 @ 1pm to 3pm**

**No Scary Costumes Please**

**Adults: We can't do this without you!**  
**Please join us by decorating your trunk**  
**and providing the treats.**



# A FEZZIWIG CHRISTMAS

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS  
PRESENT WONDERS:  
WOULD YOU JOIN HIM AT FEZZIWIG'S?

We are exploring plans for A Fezziwig Christmas Dinner & Dance on **Saturday, December 12, 2026**.

Inspired by Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, the evening would include a formal sit-down Christmas dinner, Victorian decorations, seasonal entertainment, and an opportunity to learn *Roger de Coverley*—the English country dance enjoyed at Fezziwig's Christmas celebration.

Victorian or festive attire would be welcome but entirely optional. No dancing experience or partner would be necessary—and watching the dancing would be perfectly acceptable!

Before making our final plans, we would like to know:

- Would you be interested in attending?
- How many people might attend with you?
- Would you be willing to help?
- What kind of assistance could you offer?

Please complete our brief, nonbinding interest survey by **Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**.

Scan the QR code to  
take the survey  
[gaborhome.com/fezzsur](https://gaborhome.com/fezzsur)



## 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 (845-471-6492) or text/call her on her cell (845-380-4887) if you can provide a basket. You can also send an email ([NMarrine@aol.com](mailto:NMarrine@aol.com)). 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 8 and will be placed in the Narthex or the coat rack by Fellowship Hall. The Thanksgiving baskets will be distributed on Friday, November 20 at the Family Partnership Center on North Hamilton St.

We also need helpers in the Church office on October 26, 27, 28, 29, & 30 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.