

**Auburn Presbyterian Church  
111 West 12th St.  
Auburn, IN 46706  
Rev. Dr. David Lawrence**

# June

## **2023 NEWSLETTER**



### **WORSHIP AND MUSIC.....**

#### **Biblical Garden Worship Services:**

Many people commented favorably last summer about having worship in the garden so the Worship and Music Committee along with Session decided that we continue this practice. Beginning Sunday, **June 4th our worship service will take place in the Biblical Garden**, weather permitting. Please bring your lawn chairs! Also, Communion will be served the first Sunday in June. If you prefer not to use the pre-packaged communion elements then you are welcome to bring your own.

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 2 when we will be treated to music by Main Street Porch Band. The band consists of Auburn residents Tim and Sharon McEntee, who've been married and playing music together for more than three decades. Tim plays keys, accordion, and harmonica. Sharon plays guitar and mandolin. Both sing, with Sharon on lead vocals and Tim adding harmonies. Additionally, Sharon writes songs that are faith-focused. As Main Street Porch Band, they have recorded several of her originals, which are available on Spotify, iTunes, and other streaming services.

Tim and Sharon share their music regularly at area churches. Outside of church, when performing in local restaurants, coffee houses, and at special events, Main Street Porch Band plays folk, rock, and country songs from the 1960s onward. The audience is encouraged to sing along!

FROM THE PASTOR:

Brothers and Sisters,

Some of you have been elders on session and know that meeting's agenda. For those of you who don't – I usually try to provide some teaching or training for us to talk about. Not only does the Book of Order mandate that training, but I also believe that this education and training guides us as we move the church forward.

This month we watched a short video about our identity as Christians and as a church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The presenter said that we have become disconnected from the story of God's people – our story. We have forgotten that we are a people shaped by God's presence and God's kingdom. We have replaced that identity with church membership. The presenter described this as looking for our identity in the church rather than seeking God's direction. With the church as our identity, we fall into the practice of fixing and managing the church as an institution.

The video suggested, and I believe, that one of the largest tasks before us is recapturing an understanding of who we are and our mission as God's people. This is true for the mainline church throughout North America, as well as for the Auburn Church. More than a task, reversing the thinking and practice of generations is a daunting challenge. The world has changed and the way we used to do things, the perspectives that guided us no longer fit. A transformed idea of our identity doesn't mean doing away with the church. We need to imagine it differently.

The church has never been in this kind of place before and the skills that were handed down to us just don't work. We feel stuck and disoriented in a world we don't understand. Breaking free from the dominant perspective and seriously confronting who we are and our role in the 21<sup>st</sup> century requires a different kind of leadership. Our elders and deacons are doing their best to lead through this unknown land, but it's hard work.

The early church also asked itself what it meant to be a Christian. Early believers were disoriented, seeking to be faithful in a new world they struggled to understand. Like us, the disciples were scared for what would become of them, for what would become of the church, and for their struggle to find God in their lives. The situation in the early church and the challenges that we face make me think of a short exchange in John's gospel.

When his believers are overcome by fear and insecurity, Jesus speaks the word "peace". This is the word that God continues to speak into our frustration, fear, and confusion. Our faith assures us that God is present assisting us to develop new leadership practices, pointing us all back to our identity as beloved children of God. When we remember that we live an existence infused with the Holy Spirit it makes travel in a strange land more serene.

Shalom, Pastor David



We are honored and appreciative. It has been easy working with such a great group of women. During our monthly meetings, friendships are made, knowledge increased and enjoyable times are had.

Judy & Cheryl, Co-presidents.

Presbyterian Women will not be meeting during the summer months, however will resume meeting again the second Wednesdays in September through May. Come join us !

Presbyterian Women will be holding another rummage sale on October 19 & 20. Please start saving your items now. If you don't have a place to store your items until October we are designating a room in the basement of the church to store the items as long as it is not big furniture!



We are getting low on items for our "Free Little Pantry" again. We are asking for your assistance in providing non-perishable items to help restock our supply. Items such as **canned foods (soups, beans, tuna, chicken), peanut butter, rice, granola bars, dry pasta, crackers, cereals, baby food, boxed foods (mac and cheese, hamburger/tuna helpers), staples (flour, sugar, salt), hygiene products (soap of any kind, tooth paste, shampoo, feminine products, diapers), or paper products (toilet paper, paper towels).** You may bring items to the church office anytime. Thank you!

## **2023 Smock Senior Ministries Programs - NE Indiana Cluster**

Six (6) NE Indiana Presbyterian congregations form the "*cluster*" and would invite participation in the following programs planned for 2023:

**Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**, Garden Quilt Tour, Elkhart County, lunch at Das Dutchman Essenhaus, Middlebury, IN. \$15.00 each participant. Rev. Tom Smith will coordinate.

**Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.**, "*Jesus Christ Superstar*," Wagon Wheel, Warsaw, IN, dinner following the performance. Rev. Ken Weaver will coordinate.

**Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**, Sweet Breeze Boat Ride, Fort Wayne, IN. Boxed lunch on boat. Rev. Dave Lawrence will coordinate.

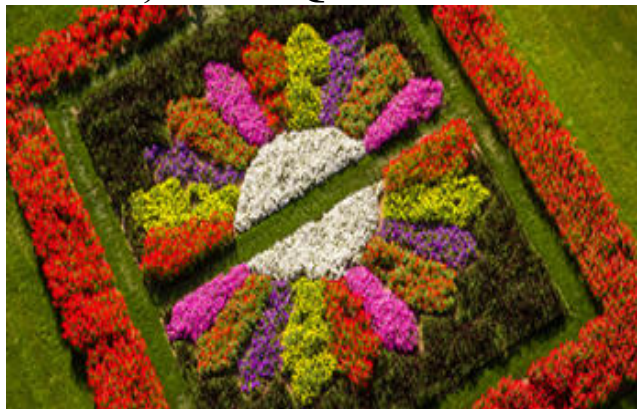
**Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**, Shopping/Flea Market, Shippshewana, IN, lunch at Blue Gate. Elders Nancy Feagler and Mary Wilmore will coordinate.

**Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**, The Toledo Art Museum, Toledo, OH. Bag lunch on bus, dinner at Caruso's in Angola, IN following. Rev. Tom Smith will coordinate.

**Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**, Coppes Commons Shopping, Nappanee, IN, lunch at Coppes. Rev. Ken Weaver will coordinate.

More details for each program will be provided. Please look over this schedule and pass along your interest to your pastor so we can make adequate preparations so that a good time may be had by all!

## **Thursday, June 15, 2023: Quilt Garden Tour, Day Trip**



Join us Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> for a day trip to Das Dutchman Essenhaus in Middlebury, IN to see its gigantic, almost 3,000 square foot quilt inspired garden. The day includes stops at various quilt gardens along the way, ending with lunch and shopping at Das Dutchman Essenhaus.

Six (6) congregations are participating and we hope to fill two (2) buses, each bus holds fourteen (14) passengers and has one (1) driver. There will be an Auburn/Garrett bus and a Chapel/LaGrange bus. If needed, we will secure an additional bus. The buses will leave from Garrett and Chapel at 9:00 am respectively and pick up at Auburn and LaGrange on the way. Expect to be back about 3:00 p.m.

Cost for participants is **\$15.00** each, which includes bus trip, lunch and possible buggy ride at Das Essenhaus if weather permits. Sign up deadline is June 11<sup>th</sup>.