

Auburn Presbyterian Church
111 West 12th St. - P.O. Box 448
Auburn, IN 46706
Rev. Dr. David Lawrence



NEWSLETTER 2024



ANGEL TREE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Many thanks to all that took a name from the Angel Tree this year. What a blessing it is to see how everyone joins together to help make someone else Christmas a little brighter!

NOTES FROM SECRETARY...

Officers and anyone who has to submit a report for our **2023 Annual Report**, please have it to the church secretary no later than January 28, 2024.

Thank you!

To the Congregation:

Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart for the Christmas gift. I can't say it enough how lucky I am to work for such incredible people. You make it so easy to love my job. God Bless you all! ~ Tracy

FROM THE PASTOR:

Brothers and Sisters:

This month we have been moving through Advent, the four weeks before Christmas. Like Lent, Advent is a time of preparation, of getting ready for a cosmic event. And Advent culminates the 25th when we celebrate the birth of Christ, God becomes incarnate. This is what we've gotten ready for.

For as long as I can remember, the "true meaning of Christmas" has been an issue. People talk about his or that misrepresenting the true meaning. We cry that the meaning of Christmas gets lost in the consumerism and festivities of the season. I agree with those opinions, but have you ever given thought to what Christmas means?

I was reading something this month that described Christmas as the intersection of the divine and human. Remember that first chapter of John? "...the Word was with God and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." That is, I think, the start of how we begin to define the meaning of Christmas: God became fully human, fully invested in our existence, fully a part of our reality.

Christmas means is that God is involved in our reality, our day-to-day lives and God cares about our existence. Like Jesus, God is at work reshaping that existence and that transforming work provides the practical meaning of Christmas. Think about the carols we sing during this season – peace on earth, good will to men, no more let sin and sorrow grow...; this is what it looks like when we live out the meaning of Christmas.

God's desire for humanity flies in the face of the world as we know it and we can barely imagine what that might be like to make those carols reality. During the holiday season and every day of the year God invites us to participate in making the world more loving, more welcoming, and more generous.

Shalom, Pastor David

NOTES FROM SESSION...

1. Session voted on Monday, December 18th to keep Barbara Bushnell and Nancy Clark on as our Treasurers and to keep Jerri Imus on as our Clerk of Session. We really appreciate the commitment from these individuals for volunteering their time and talents to each of these important services to our church.
2. **INSTALLATION/ORDINATION OF NEW OFFICERS: January 14, 2024** is the date set for the installation/ordination of new officers. Please mark your calendars!
3. On December 10, 2023 the following members were nominated to serve three years the office of Elders, Deacons, and APC Foundation

Elders: Polly Bassett, Tim Miller, Joyce Phillips
Deacons: Joey Aiken, Mark Bassett, Jim Nixon
APC Foundation Inc. Board Member: Polly Bassett as the Session Representative
4. The Annual Congregational meeting of the Auburn Presbyterian Church will take place in March of 2024.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC NEWS AND UPDATES

2024 COMMUNION DATES

Date	Occurs (day)	Significance
January 7, 2024	Already approved – 1 st Sunday	Baptism of the Lord
February 11, 2024	2 nd Sunday	Transfiguration of the Lord
February 14, 2024	2 nd Wednesday	Ash Wednesday
March 24, 2024	4 th Sunday	Palm Sunday
March 28, 2024	4 th Thursday	Maundy Thursday
March 31, 2024	5 th Sunday	Easter
April 21, 2024	3 rd Sunday	None
May 19, 2024	3 rd Sunday	Pentecost
June 2, 2024	1 st Sunday	None
July 7, 2024	1 st Sunday	None
August 4, 2024	1 st Sunday	None
September 8, 2024	2 nd Sunday	None
October 6, 2024	1 st Sunday	World Communion
November 24, 2024	4 th Sunday	Christ the King
January 12, 2025	2 nd Sunday	Baptism of the Lord

USHERS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024:

- 7: Ross & Nancy Clark
14: Judy Ditmars & Polly Bassett
21: Joseph Dick and Phil Bryan
28: Teresa & Lyle Ewing

Liturgist: Peggy Jones

Special Thanks to Jerri Imus for being our Head Usher for the whole year. With her dedication it makes things go so much smoother on Sunday mornings

We need volunteers for USHERS, LITURGIST AND COMMUNION SERVERS FOR 2024. All of these services are very important in making the worship service complete. If you would like to volunteer for any or all of these services, please call the church office at 925-2987.

2024 FLOWERS FOR MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES . . .



A tribute of fresh flowers for special people as memorials or celebration is a continuing tradition, and further acknowledges the glory of God in our worship experience at the Auburn Presbyterian Church. (You will notice that we have left out the summer months because when we hold worship in our Biblical Garden we do not need flowers.)

Please call the church office and let us know the person/s to be honored, and any words of tribute, such as in memory of, celebrating a birthday or anniversary etc. As the dates are chosen they will be eliminated from this form.

This acknowledgment will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. You will be billed directly by the church. The total cost is \$40.00 (note increase, which came from our florist) for two vases of flowers. You may wish to take your floral tribute home following the services. If so, please take the green plastic liner with you. You may even go to the usher's table and get a nice vase provided by our deacons. Just return the liner and vase when you no longer need them. If you do not want to take your flowers home tell the head usher. A deacon will then take the flowers to a nursing home or shut-in.

AVAILABLE DATES FOR 2024:

January: 14, 21, 28

June: 2, 16

February: 4, 11, 18, 25

October: 6, 13, 27

March 17, 24, 31

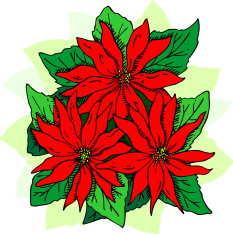
November: 3, 10, 17, 24

April 14, 21

December: 1, 15, 22, 29

May 5, 26

We would like to thank the following people for their gifts of Poinsettias for use during the Holiday Season:



Flo Webb, given in loving memory of Dr. Michael Webb.

Joyce Phillips, given in loving memory of John Phillips.

John Jackson, given in memory of Linda Pulver-Jackson.

Ed Benbow, in loving memory of Kay Benbow.

Jerri Imus, In honor of Lois Imus and grandson Zeke.

Vincent & Barbara Pietracatella, given in loving memory of their son, Vincent Pietracatella, Jr.

Stan & Judy Kessler, given in loving memory of Dr. Silas & Ruth Kessler and Eleanor Kessler Wilson.

Ed Benbow, in appreciation of Pastor David.

Ron & Emily in honor of Henry Heymann and Marcia and William Boling and Audrey.

The Seasons of the Church

Just like the seasons of the year spring, summer, fall and winter there are seasons of the church year. We understand spring as a time of growth, the greening of the year. Summer is a time filled with warm days and the maturing of plant life. Fall brings a time of cooler days and final harvests of food and grain all brought on by those warm summer days. As winter approaches plants get ready for a time of rest as days get colder sending plant life into a stage of dormancy.

So too, the church's seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary time have special meaning, and these seasons are designated by specific colors we call liturgical colors. These seasons are typically indicated with the colors of green, purple, red and white. Unlike earth's yearly seasons, the church seasons don't have the same kind of specific dates that coincide with the earth's tilt and relationship to the sun. To help us remember specific dates, the liturgical colors act as a kind of color coding to let us know which seasonal dates we are in at any given time.

The color green is used for those periods of the church year when there is no special festival or season happening. We refer to these periods as "Ordinary Time". Sounds mundane, doesn't it? Just another day much like any other. We have a lot of ordinary days in the church calendar.

The color purple is utilized during those times of penitence and preparation. If we remember that Advent is a time of preparation, as we await the birth of the Christ Child, then we'll see purple during Advent. So too, Lent is a time of penitence as well as preparation. We remember Christ's journey to the cross, and subsequent death. On Maundy Thursday it's appropriate for us to strip the church of all of its colors and shine leaving the sanctuary bare until Easter.

White is the color for the seasons of Christmas and Easter. The season of Christmas are those approximately two weeks from Christmas Eve until the Baptism of the Lord. Easter is comprised not only of Easter Sunday but also the fifty days leading up to Pentecost. This color is also used for significant days such as Epiphany, Baptism, the Transfiguration, Trinity, All Saints Day, and Christ the King. Most of these days are Sunday's but some aren't.

Red is the color for Pentecost. We remember the fire of the Holy Spirit touching the disciples at Pentecost. Red is also used at ordination services and is appropriate for Palm Sunday.

So in a nutshell, White is for Christmas, Easter and significant days, Purple is for Advent and Lent, Red is for Pentecost and green is for the ordinary days in the life of the church.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN...

Presbyterian Women will meet on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. Pastor David will provide the lesson four (Mary and Martha - Luke 10:38-42). All Women are invited to attend.

MISSION COMMITTEE NOTES

FRIENDS' TABLE will resume serving on Monday, January 8, 2024.

OUR FREE LITTLE PANTRY

Our Free Little Pantry is being used by the community. Special thanks to everyone for all their donations for the Free Little Pantry that was given throughout the year. Without your donations this mission could not happen.

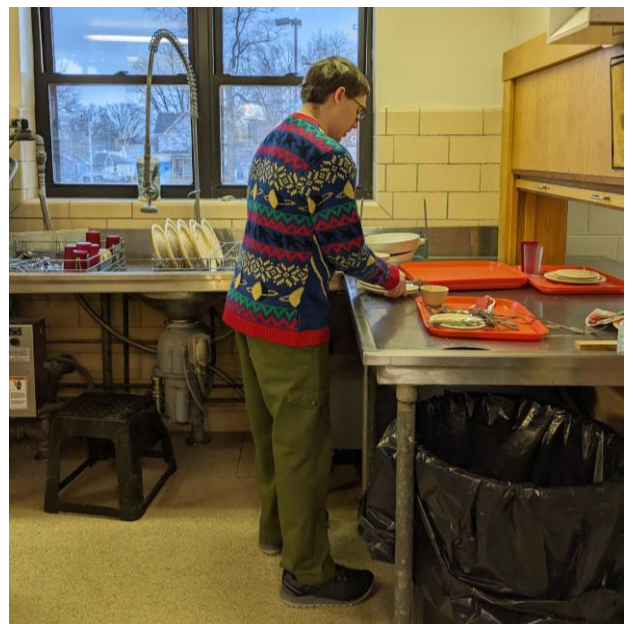
Right now we notice the need for spaghetti and canned spaghetti sauce which seems to be a popular item. Other items such as **canned foods (soups, beans, tuna, chicken), peanut butter, rice, granola bars, dry pasta, crackers, cereals, baby food, boxed foods (mac and cheese, hamburger/tuna helpers), staples (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. (JUST A NOTE THAT DURING THE WINDER MONTHS PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY LIQUIDS OR ANY ITMES THAT COULD FREEZE!)

Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP, EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH NOTES

Christmas Pot Luck on Sunday December 17th was a wonderful turnout of yummy food and fellowship.

The Fellowship/Evangelism Committee would like to thank everyone that attended and for all the help preparing and cleanup.



DEACONS:

2024 First Flight to First Friday's

First Flight of 2024 First Friday Nights, Downtown Auburn, January 5, 2024, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

First Fridays take place in downtown Auburn the first Friday of every month. The themed evenings offer the community and visitors opportunities to enjoy the small-town Auburn experience. Join the Downtown Auburn Business Association, Auburn Main Street and participating businesses as we take flight into the new year with our First Friday themed "Flight". Auburn is your destination for these all-age topflight activities happening in January.

Story Book Trail: The Eckhart Public Library will feature a children's story journey departing from the library. Follow the story North, South, East, West about a bird taking flight to find a place called home. Children progressively follow the story with stops at various businesses.

Culinary Flights: Downtown restaurants will be offering small-portion flights of culinary delights. Try out several as you soar through the downtown food scene.

Boutique Flights: Local boutiques and shops have some surprise flights and unique experiences for shoppers this evening.

Special Treat Flights: Be sure to add ice cream, cookie and cocktail flights to your itinerary!

Featured Movie: The Auburn Presbyterian Church (111 W 12th St) will present "Rio", a fun family-friendly movie about Blu, a rare Macaw, who embarks on an adventure of a lifetime. Popcorn will be provided by Beacon Credit Union and beverages by Gibson's Heating and Plumbing. Auburn Parks and Recreation will be at the church to share 2024 activities and events.

In addition to this community event, McIntyre Place will feature a pop-up dining experience and the Auburn Moose will be open to the public serving up a flight of chilies.

Understanding Your Grief

The Parkview Noble Home Health & Hospice and Parkview LaGrange Home Health & Hospice bereavement support groups will present Understand Your Grief. This 10-week program is designed to provide guidance for patients, and caregivers of family members, who are experiencing a multitude of feelings from serious illness or loss of a loved one.

Grief is a normal emotional response that can last for months after a loved one's death. Grief is a normal and natural process that we all experience in response to a loss. For some, grief can result in major changes that can be difficult to navigate. The good news is that you do not need to walk alone on this journey. Participation in hospice services with Parkview is not a requirement to utilize bereavement support services.

Dates: Wednesdays, Jan. 10 - March 13, 2024

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Location: Miller's Merry Manor - 1367 Randolph Street, Garrett, IN 46738

Dates: Thursdays, Jan. 11 - March 14, 2024

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Location: Kendallville Public Library - 221 S. Park, Kendallville, IN 46755