

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



## MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER



**CHECK OUT THE NEW FREE LIBRARY  
INSTALLED IN OUR BIBLICAL GARDEN  
BY MARCUS SMITH.**

**(See article enclosed)**



FROM THE PASTOR:

Brothers and Sisters-

Last month I wrote about a conversation I had with one of our Deacons. This month I was struck by a conversation that I had with one of our Elders after a session meeting. This conversation was inspired by a video from our presbyter, Jennifer Burns Lewis, who spoke about the state of the presbytery.

I mentioned to this Elder that for the Gallup poll reported this year that American church membership was below 50%. Gallup attributes this decline partly to the death of older Americans for whom church attendance was a staple, which is validated by the increasing number of Millennials and Gen-X'ers who claim no religious affiliation. While this is not news to most of us, what sticks out is the rapid decline in church membership over the last 20 years.

The Elder and I were talking about this trend, which concerned him. The Elder pointed out that the church was the foundation for so many of society's institutions. He talked about how religion shapes us and how we get our moral guidance through the church. We talked about how the church served as the place where people were taught right and wrong, as well as the responsibility to care for others. The role of the church has been so influential that this Elder fears the self-destruction of the nation without the guidance of the church.

No one can deny that the church offers many valuable life lessons – don't steal, don't lie, care about others, and make a difference. But, as our culture changes, the church's formative role is shrinking. What is there to do?

Perhaps it's our mission to discern where these lessons are or can be taught. Several possibilities occur to me like Big Brothers/Sisters, the YMCA, and the Scouts to name a few. If we hope to impact the moral formation of America, maybe we should look at how we can do so through those groups. This isn't to say that we should give up on the church, but maybe we can begin to think about a different way for the church to exist in our culture. Maybe the church is better suited to partner with other groups that have taken over its role.

God has a task for the Auburn Presbyterian Church. As we begin the process of determining what God is calling us to be, we need to consider the lessons we offer as a strength. We then need to discern how God is calling us to share those practices.

Shalom, Pastor David



THANK YOU FOR ALL THE BIRTHDAY CARDS AND WELL WISHES. IT WAS A VERY BLESSED DAY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!!!

**WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES:**

In the midst of this Easter season, with the wonder of Christ's resurrection still fresh in our memories, it is appropriate to consider our response to this generous act of love. What to do? In Matthew we read, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Mark extols us to "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." Luke says, "repentance and forgiveness of sin is to be proclaimed to the nations." That's a clear directive!

When gathering for worship was restricted because of Covid just over a year ago, we grabbed the opportunity to worship via Zoom. We also utilized FaceBook Live because that allowed us to record our services with the ability to access them at alternative times, or even multiple times. It started out as a way to keep our congregation connected even when we had to be apart.

What we have learned is that by being online, we have been carrying out this commission to "go forth". While we have made it possible for those in our midst who are not physically able to be present in our sanctuary even though restrictions are relaxing, we have also been reaching out into our community and into the world beyond that.

When we Zoom, we know basically who is participating with us. On FaceBook Live we do not know who, but we can tabulate how many "hits" or time people have open up to our services. Sometime the number of hits has been astounding. For example, when checking information pertaining to traffic on Facebook Live on February 7, the number of hits for 12-20-20 was 191, for 12-24-20 it was 155, and the number for 12-27-20 was 164!

By maintaining our online presence we are making a very appropriate response to Christ's love for us! We are going into the world. We are sharing and proclaiming the good news!

### **SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE PASTOR:**

If you speak a foreign language we need your help for our worship service on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021. Please contact the pastor.

**COMMUNION** will take place on Sunday, May 23 (Day of Pentecost) instead of the traditional 1st Sunday of the month.



**Presbyterian Women** will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 12 in Fellowship Hall. Following the meeting a Spring Luncheon will be catered by Dutch Heritage. The cost is \$10 per person and checks should be made payable to Presbyterian Women. If possible bring a book for the new "Free Little Library" located in the Garden and/or a non-perishable item for the Free Food Pantry. PW does not meet in June, July and August. We will resume our Bible Study in September.

To the Congregation of the Auburn Presbyterian Church,

I am pleased to announce that my Eagle Scout project has officially been completed. Many of you have seen the new bike rack by the front door, or some of the improvements to the garden. It took longer than expected, but with all of the support I have received from the members of the church, I have finally completed everything. Included in the project was the new bike rack near the 12th Street entrance, refurbishing the grape arbors, installing benches made from recycled caps, and installing a Free Little Library near the 13th Street entrance to the garden.

I'd like to thank everyone who gave support, whether through physical work or by collecting caps to build the benches. I'd also like to thank the various committees that helped this project get off the ground, including the Presbyterian Women, the Building and Grounds Committee, and the Session Committee, along with their various members.

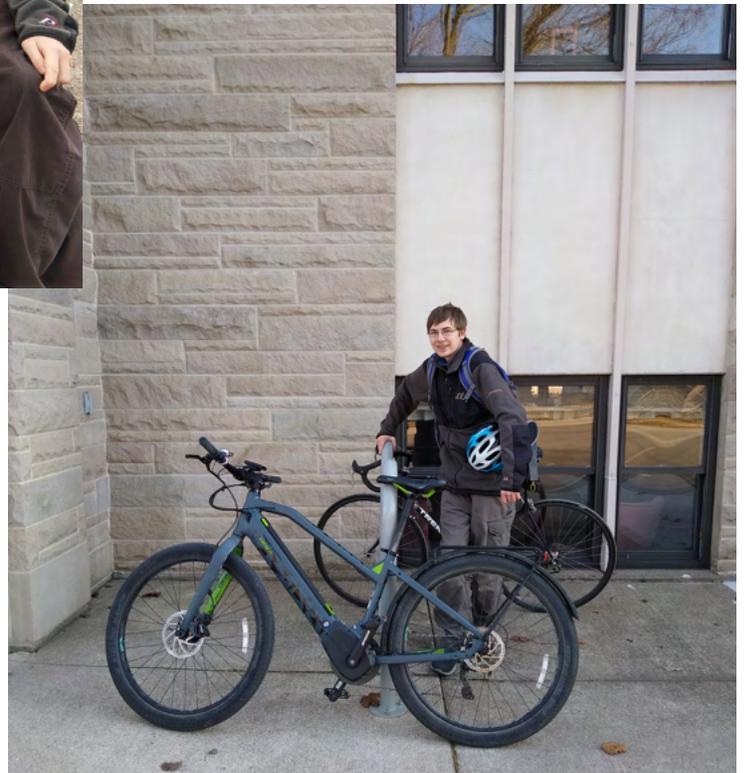
So this year, I invite everyone to enjoy the new additions to our church. Remember that all of you were a big part in making this a success.

Regards,  
Marcus Smith



(Pictured above is Marcus Smith's Eagle project bench that he installed in our Biblical Garden.)

(Pictured to the right is the new Bike rack that Marcus installed.)



## FRIENDS' TABLE:

Friends Table is still serving 80+ meals every Monday. We are looking forward to the nicer weather to hand out the meals. Everything is still being handed out curbside, so some weeks we are braving the elements. We still welcome extras to add to our meals.

Current wish list: Granola bars, Peanut Butter, Soup, Mac and Cheese

And we won't turn down any help! Putting together the many sacked lunches is an easy task, just takes awhile. So, if you have an hour or two to spare on Mondays around 9am, we would love to have the extra helping hands. Any questions please contact Peg Yoder or Melinda Smith.



*Please Join Us!*

## **Groundbreaking Ceremony**

**Meet and support Kim Wilson, our newest homeowner for Habitat Home #55.**



**Saturday, May 8th**

**11:00—12:00**

**295 W. Maple St., Waterloo, IN 46793**



Greetings to our APC brothers and sisters in Christ!

What a month it has been. God has been so faithful in imparting wisdom and provision to meet the mission of reaching our community and expanding His kingdom!

We are happy to announce that on the 14<sup>th</sup>, we purchased a van to transport folks back and forth to our community and spiritual growth programs and worship.

She may not be showroom new, but she is new to us and has a new life, serving God's people. We have named our van "Faith" because that is what has gotten us this far, sheer faith.



So, first, we owe God all the honor and glory deserved. Second, we need to give thanks and express our gratitude to you, the APC family, and our community. Without the support we have been shown, we would not reach God's children as effectively. Thank you.

We have a couple of prayer requests; please pray for Tina and her husband, Keenan, as she faces some health challenges related to her heart. Also, please pray for JR and his wife, Joann, as they face some not-so-good news from his healthcare team.

Have a great month and get out and enjoy the longer, sunny days and fresh air.

Yours, in Christ

Pastor Nicki and The Gathering Congregation



Thank  
YOU

John and Linda Jackson would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers during this time of diagnosis and treatment. They have received many cards and have enjoyed reading each and every one of them.