

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



OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SANCTUARY BEGINNING IN OCTOBER



HELPING WITH OUR WORSHIP DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER:

USHERS: 1: David & Cheryl John
8: Mark Bassett & Polly Bassett
15: Susan Buttermore & Jan Nagel
22: Carl & Melinda Smith
29: David & Veronique Poudrier

PROVIDING FLOWERS: Stan & Mary Wilson, Barbara Bushnell, Norm & Peg Yoder, Ron & Emily Heymann, and Flo Webb

LITURGIST: Norm Yoder

COMMUNION SERVERS: David & Cheryl John and Jerri Imus

Communion will take place on Sunday, October 1.

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FROM THE PASTOR:

Brothers and Sisters-

Right now I'm in the middle of a book called *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller. This interesting book breaks down the parable of the Prodigal Son and takes a close look at its characters and their motivation. Keller then digs into those motivations and how they ultimately glorify God or if they are more directed at self-glorification. I wanted to share some of the author's conclusions with you.

Keller's point of view is that the greatest sin in the story is the broken relationship between humanity and God. He uses the relationships between the two sons and their father to illustrate that fracture and writes about how the prodigal and his elder brother both turn their back on their father. From Keller's perspective, neither of the men really cares about their father and their father's love. He describes the self-interest and selfishness that is the basis of their sin – it's all about them, what they want, and what benefits them.

Part of the human condition is our bondage to ourselves and our self-interest. We want to put ourselves, our families, and our interests first. When we put ourselves first, we are slow to come to the aid of others, especially when we perceive it as threatening what we have and our comfort. Our culture prioritizes self-interest which reinforces the centrality of self. In our culture, care for others is seen as a voluntary luxury that only a few choose to do.

The Prodigal God asks us to re-examine ourselves and our relationships. If we agree with Keller's premise, then we need to guard against the default behavior of using people to meet our needs. This book encourages us to approach each day as another opportunity to serve God and other, rather than thinking about what we can get out of a relationship. We need to ask ourselves what we can give instead of how something benefits us. Keller describes the focus on the other as a defining characteristic of Jesus' life and ministry and believes that if Christians are true to their faith they will behave that way.

I suggest *The Prodigal God* if you're looking for a book to read. There's a copy in our library and it's a relatively quick read. Let me know what you think.

Pastor David

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS OCTOBER 8TH

Friends-Have you ever lost your balance? It feels like that at church. We got nudged by that pandemic so that things really changed and now we're in the process of finding our balance. Sunday School was one of the things that got displaced during the pandemic and we're gradually getting back to a regular practice of Sunday School. This year we are going to have speakers from local mission organizations tell us about their work. Our first presentation is scheduled for October 8 right after worship. We're going to meet in the lounge and hear from Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Please join us after worship to hear from this engaging group.

ON-LINE BIBLE STUDY

Everyone is invited to join Pastor David's on-line Bible Study, which takes place every Wednesday from 6-7 PM. A reminder will be sent via email every Tuesday along with a zoom link to join the meeting.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:

Presbyterian Women will October Wednesday, October 11th. This will be a work day for the Rummage Sale so no lesson will be provided



PW FALL RUMMAGE SALE - OCTOBER 26, 27, 28

Thursday, October 26: 8:30 - 5 p.m.

Friday, October 27: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday, October 28: 8:30 a.m. – noon

It's that time again! We hope you have completed your fall cleaning and have set aside articles for our rummage sale. Items needed are winter clothing (it is easier for the women, if clothing is brought on hangers), kitchen and decorative items, bedding, and holiday decorations. Please be sure your items are in good condition. You may bring your donations to Fellowship Hall beginning Sunday, October 19 through Tuesday, October 24th.

If you can spare a day, an afternoon, or even just an hour or two to help sort, mark, sell, or pack, please feel free to join! Don't forget to start saving your strong sturdy shopping bags with handles (from department stores) for the sale. You may drop them off anytime in the church office. If you need to bring your items sooner than that please call Judy Ditmars or Cheryl John to make arrangements to do so.

PW needs some strong men and boys to help with moving heavy items for the rummage sale. There are items in the Boy Scout room that will need to be moved to Fellowship hall. Please see Betty Houghton if you can help.

PW Blanket Sunday, October 29, 2023

For a child shivering in the cold, a warm blanket can mean the difference between life and death. For a family whose home lies in rubble, a sturdy blanket offers a small measure of shelter and security.

The Auburn Presbyterian Church Women will be participating in the Church World Service Blanket Program on Sunday, October 29. For a mere \$5 a blanket, love, hope, and warmth may assist disaster victims. An envelope will be provided in the bulletin for your convenience and participation. Thank you for caring and sharing!

The Building & Grounds Committee would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help park cars during the fair week. We had perfect weather and the parking lot was full every day.



OUR FREE LITTLE PANTRY

Our Free Little Pantry is out of food and we are asking for your assistance in providing non-perishable 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) ... anything that would not spoil in the hot weather.** We have cleaned out our church cupboards and need to restock. You may bring items to the church office anytime. Thank you!

DEACONS MEET WITH FORTIFY LIFE

The deacons, as well as the PW and mission committee will be joining Fortify Life on **Sunday, October 8th** for a potluck dinner beginning at 5 PM at their location. Everyone is encouraged to join us. The idea is to share food but also fellowship, i.e. take time to chat with people. Anyone who will attend should let Veronique know via email or text what they'll bring (ie appetizer, main, side, dessert) so we're sure we have an assortment. (veropoudrier@gmail.com or cell is 260-494-6570)

EUCHRE TOURNAMENT BEGINNING OCTOBER 12th:

Do you enjoy playing cards? How about euchre? We are starting up our Euchre Tournament again on the second Thursday of the month (October 12th) starting at 7:00 p.m. at the church. If you are interested see Pastor David. Mark your calendars to enjoy a free night of fun with plenty of fellowship!



SPECIAL MUSIC DURING WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd.

Violinist Linda Kummerness, accompanied by pianist Judy Rhoades, will provide special music for the October 22 worship service. Linda will perform the Swedish folk melody “O Store God,” (better known as “How Great Thou Art”). Linda has shared her musical talent with our congregation many times over the years, most recently in September during our ice cream social in the Biblical Garden. Linda teaches private violin lessons in Auburn, and she also teaches with the Fort Wayne Suzuki Talent Education program and with the DeKalb County Community Orchestra program. She plays with the Manchester Symphony and does freelance work. We look forward to welcoming our friends Linda and Judy.