

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



## **2024 NEWSLETTER**

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:**



Presbyterian Women's Circle will start up in September. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 11th at 10:30 a.m. in the church lounge. Our new study books have arrived, and you may pick one up in the church office. The cost is \$10.

This year we will be studying from PW/Horizons Bible Study entitled "Let Justice Roll Down," 'God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation' by Pataricia K. Tull. Our lessons will be led by Pastor David again this year. All women are invited and encouraged to attend. We have a great time of fellowship and enjoy the time spent with one another.

Presbyterian Women will be holding another **Rummage Sale on October 24, 25, & 26**. 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 for that purpose, so you can bring your items anytime.



**FROM THE PASTOR:**

Brothers and Sisters: The national gathering of the Presbyterian Church is called the General Assembly. These gatherings were held every year, but about 10 years ago it was decided that they would take place every other year. The Covid pandemic had a lasting effect on GA and many people attend virtually, which vastly reduced the size of the meeting. Last month we had the 226<sup>th</sup> GA in Salt Lake City.

Representatives (Commissioners) are elected from every presbytery in the United States and are assigned to committees. In committee they debate the business and put forward suggestions to the larger body as what are called overtures. The assembly then votes on these overtures, but it doesn't end there. Even if the General Assembly approves an overture, that suggestion moves on to the presbyteries where it is voted on. Only when an overture gets the appropriate support from all the presbyteries in the nation does it become part of our Book of Order or part of the guidelines that help clerks direct the functioning of our denomination.

Fran has attended every GA in one capacity or another since we were ordained. This year, however, was the first time I've come near a General Assembly. I met Fran in Salt Lake and had the opportunity to attend a couple days of the Assembly as an observer.

At the meeting in Salt Lake, I didn't see people jumping up and down or pounding on tables. No one yelled or had to be hauled out of the meeting. What I did see was bunch of dedicated and faithful Presbyterians doing their best to discern the voice of God on many challenging issues. The commissioners and support people at the 226<sup>th</sup> GA took their job seriously and worked hard to do their best for our denomination.

The next General Assembly will be held in Milwaukee. If you are an elder, you are eligible to become a commissioner to the GA. If you would be interested in that role, please speak to me. If you'd just like to attend the Assembly, you can do that for one or multiple days as an observer.

*Pastor David*

A REMINDER FROM PASTOR DAVID: To get more out of the sermons during the month of August, Pastor David suggests everyone read John chapter 6.

**BIBLE STUDY STARTING AGAIN IN AUGUST:** Beginning Wednesday, August 2nd Pastor David will start back up his Online Bible Study every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. Every Tuesday an email will be sent out reminding you of the Bible study along with a Zoom Invitation to join the meeting.



**SMOCK SENIOR MINISTRIES PROGRAM:**

The Smock Senior Adult Ministry of NE Indiana would like to invite you to a day outing at the **Foellinger Freimann BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY** in Fort Wayne.



Surround yourself with nature at the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, an oasis in the heart of downtown Fort Wayne! Visit the Showcase Garden with its lush seasonal displays (including a spring butterfly exhibit), wander through the Tropical Garden where orchids and palms thrive in the shadows of a cascading waterfall, or retreat to the quiet beauty of the Desert Garden.

**Date: Thursday, August 15**

**Arrival by 9:45 a.m. to allow time to park (see below)**

**Everyone should meet in the Atrium at the main entrance of the Botanical Conservatory no later than 10 a.m.**

**Address: 1100 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802**

**Parking:** Bus parking, passenger drop-off, and handicapped accessible spaces are available in the circle driveway located off Calhoun Street. Please note, Conservatory staff cannot reserve or guarantee this space will be available for your visit.

FREE parking is provided in the Civic Center Parking Garage, across from the entrance at Calhoun Street and Jefferson Boulevard. Bring your ticket for validation at the Front Desk. Metered parking is available on surrounding streets.

**Lunch will be around 12:30 p.m. – (more details to come)**

**Plan on departing around 1:30 - 2 P.M.**

**COST: \$5.00 ea.** In order to get a group rate we must have at least 20 people attending. (Cost includes entrance fee and lunch)

**Sign up no later than Monday, August 12 by calling the Auburn Presbyterian Church at 925-2987.**

### **USHERS AND LITURGIST NEEDED FOR FALL WORSHIP SERVICES**

It's time to start a list of **WEEKLY USHERS** for the Fall worship services. When we begin worshipping in the sanctuary (September 18<sup>th</sup>) we will need to provide ushers for the service. If

you would like to volunteer for a particular Sunday, please call the church office to let Tracy know. Otherwise, a random list of people will be chosen to fill this important part of worship.

If you are interested in becoming a **LITURGIST**, please let Pastor David know. This is a monthly commitment; however, we can make arrangements if you aren't able to do an entire month. Pastor David relies on his liturgist to help him with each worship service.

**WORSHIP SERVICE WILL REMAIN IN THE BIBLICAL GARDEN DURING THE MONTHS OF AUGUST AND THE FIRST TWO SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER-WEATHER PERMITTING.**

**EUCHRE TOURNAMENT IN AUGUST** - Euchre will start up this coming Thursday, (Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>). Round up your partner and join everyone in fellowship hall. Let Pastor David or Carl Smith know that you plan on playing.



**LABOR DAY FUND RAISER:** Labor Day events are coming up the first weekend in September. We haven't had a group volunteer for parking cars on Friday night during the annual Downtown Cruise-in or for Saturday during the parade. If your group/committee is looking for a fund-raiser this is a good event to make some money. Call the church office or let Pastor David know if you are interested.



**OUR FREE LITTLE PANTRY –** We thank you for your continued support of our “Free Little Pantry.” It continues to be used quite often by the community. We restock at least every Monday, and it tends to be used right away. If you have the opportunity to help us restock items, we really use a lot of 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!

Hello APC friends,

On a cold February Sunday, some of you may recall that after worship, we gathered in Fellowship Hall for an interactive brainstorm. Its purpose was to kick off a conversation about our congregation's identity and what we could do with it to better serve our community. In case you missed it, or to refresh everyone's memory, here is what we established that day:

**We have definite strengths**, and everyone present could easily think of many positive attributes to describe our congregation. The following were listed multiple times (in no particular order)

- Friendly and welcoming
- Mission & community minded - Friends table: most enduring and impactful example
- Experienced, knowledgeable and hardworking - Dedicated volunteers in multiple areas: music, gardening, outreach...
- Generous - Meaningful community outreach and impact for our congregation's size
- Rooted in history and tradition - Liturgy and music
- Members with varied backgrounds, interests and involvements in the community
- Optimistic, happy
- Socially conscious
- Tolerant of and interested in other points of view
- Open to all people and ideas
- Open to other organizations meeting in our building
- Flexible with worship format (garden in summer)
- Financially stable - Foundation
- Great Pastor!

**But...how do these strengths compare to the perception we project?**

- There may be a disconnect between how we see ourselves and how the community sees us...Does the "frozen chosen" label still apply?
- Our church appears traditional, not necessarily warm and welcoming...

**And what can we do to change that?**

- How do we let people on the outside know we're friendly?
- How could we signal we are welcoming of all?

Using the *StrengthsFinder* principle of capitalizing on strengths rather than focusing on repair of deficiencies, we can answer the above questions and find new ways to thrive. If you'd like to be a part of the follow-up discussion, please let Pastor David or Veronique know.

**Together we will:**

- Look at our strengths (listed above) and identify the ones that are unique to us
- Identify unmet needs in our community and discover how our unique strengths are suited to meet them
- Make concrete plans for correcting perceptions about our church and aligning our unique identity with specific goals

This conversation will take place during a picnic in August - as we know "if you feed them, they will come"