

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



DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

STEWARDSHIP AND BUDGET COMMITTEE:

The books for 2025 will be wrapped up December 31. If you would like to have your giving go towards 2025, we will need your offering before that date. Thank you.

Per Capita is assessed on the number of active members on the church's roll. For next year, our church Per Capita Apportionment is: **\$45.08 per member**. You may make your checks out to the Auburn Presbyterian Church and either mail to the church office or drop in the offering plate. Be sure to mark at the bottom of your check "per capita".



END OF YEAR NOTICE:

Officers and anyone who has to submit a report for our Annual Report, please have it to the church secretary no later than January 15, 2025.

FROM THE PASTOR:

Brothers and Sisters-

This year, we've worked through Richard Foster's Celebration of Disciplines and reviewed various spiritual disciplines. This month, we get to the last one: guidance. Foster works through this topic to help us understand how guidance functions as a spiritual practice.

First, guidance from God isn't a simple thing. It's more than letting our Bible flop open to reveal God's word to us or asking our pastor what to do in some situation. Guidance as a spiritual practice emerges from our relationship with God, an awareness of God speaking to us, and then submission to God's will for us. But we're not done yet. God's guidance emerges from our relationship and communication with God, but we try to take the step to verify that guidance with the community of faith. Other people provide the ultimate litmus test to gauge God's guidance. Christ is Lord of the conscience, but we validate our guidance through the community.

We are children of God, and God offers us guidance just like a parent would to a child. Staying close to God and trying to do God's will slowly shapes our will to become more like God's. From that intimate relationship, we are more aware of and open to God's guidance.
Shalom, Pastor David

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SESSION NOTES:

We want to thank the elders, deacons and committee members for their time, talents, and dedication shown to our church this past year. Your work was greatly appreciated. The following Elders and Deacons have served their terms and will be going off at the end of December:

Deacons: Veronique Poudrier and Alyssa Imus
Elders: Phil Bryan, Dick Reichard, Norm Yoder

*Thank
You*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CALLED:

A **Congregational Meeting** has been called by the Session on Sunday, NOVEMBER 30th, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of this meeting is the election of church Officers. Please mark your calendars!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

END OF YEAR MEETING:

On **Wednesday, December 10th** the Presbyterian Women will hold their annual Christmas Luncheon at the Community Foundation Building (700 Main St, Auburn.) Dutch Heritage will be catering the meal. The cost is \$10 per person. You may pay the day of, but you still need to make a reservation as soon as possible by calling Judy or Cheryl or the church office. If you have any questions, feel free to call Judy Ditmars or Cheryl John. All women are invited!

MISSION ACTIN & INTERPRETATION NOTES:

2025 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. As we celebrate with joy our unity in God's family, we are providing tangible support to persons in our community of faith.

This year's Joy Offering begins on the First Sunday in Advent (November 30th). A contribution envelope will appear each Sunday of the Advent Season. Please make a generous contribution to the Christmas Joy Offering by placing your contribution in the offering plate or by mailing your contribution to the church (111 West Twelfth St.) and mark "Christmas Joy Offering" in the memo part of the check.

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM:

ANGEL TREE ARRIVING SOON! For several years, the Auburn Presbyterian Church has helped meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the families who have a mother or father incarcerated. The national program is overseen by Prison Fellowship, an evangelical organization formed by Charles Colson as a result of his experiences in jail. Angel Tree's objective is to connect parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts. It is a volunteer program, one in which we are given the names of families and the needs of their children. An "Angel Tree" will be placed in the Narthex of the church on the **First Sunday of Advent (November 30th)**. Members who want to bring the joy of Jesus' birth to DeKalb County children whose parents are incarcerated may take an angel off the tree and buy a gift for a child. **The gifts should be wrapped and returned to the church by Sunday, December 14th.**



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Beginning Wednesday, December 3rd Pastor David will begin his **Advent Bible Study series**. The O Antiphons are used in evening prayer (Vespers) the last week of Advent before Christmas. These titles for Christ, *O Sapientia, O Adoni, O Radix Jesse, O Clavis David, O Oriens, O Rex Gentium, O Emmanuel* are familiar and create a focus for prayer. We will be looking at Scripture, hymns and maybe even the Magnificat as we discuss the various antiphons. Please join us for our weekly online discussion.

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Taking place in the Biblical Garden

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

5:00 – 7:30 P.M.

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors for a night of fellowship, laughter, and Holiday Cheer!

Highlights of the evening include:

- Vegetable Soup and Chili will be served
- Horse-drawn Wagon Rides (DeKalb County Horsemen's Association) from 5:30 – 7:30 touring the down-town area, taking in the beautiful Christmas lights and decorations along the way
- Enjoy singing Christmas carols around the bonfire and wagon rides
- S'mores will be an added delight around the bonfire

Whether you're young or young at heart, this event is sure to fill you with the wonder of Christmas and the warmth of community



Support Aidan Smith during his December concerts as shown below:

December concert schedule:

~Wednesday December 3 @ Noon!
Festival of the Trees at the Fort Wayne Embassy Theater: PFW Jazz Ensemble

~Monday December 8 @ 7:30pm!
Orchestra Christmas Concert at the PFW Music Center (Auer Hall)

~Wednesday December 10 @ 7:30pm!
Jazzy Holiday with PFW University Jazz Ensemble at the PFW Music Center (Auer Hall)

Admission is changed for events



WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE:

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST @ 6:30 p.m.

A Longest Night service, often held on the winter solstice, is a quiet, contemplative gathering designed for those who find the holiday season difficult due to grief, loss, loneliness, or other challenges. Also known as a "Blue Christmas" service, it acknowledges that not everyone feels cheerful during the festive period.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE:

Please come and invite your friends and neighbors for a wonderful Christmas Eve Service beginning at 7 p.m. The worship service will include communion and a candlelight closing.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

If you would like to be a candle lighter for the Advent Wreath during the Christmas season, please call the church office. We need 4 families to volunteer.



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 can participate by filling out the insert in the Sunday bulletin beginning December 1st or by calling the church office at 925-2987. Acknowledgments will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. You will be billed directly by the church. The total cost is \$40.00 for two vases of flowers.

HELPING WITH OUR WORSHIP DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

USHERS: 7: Peggy Jones
14: Gary & Elaine LeFever
21: Joey Aiken & Ruth Randinelli
22: Mindy Zielke & Jan Nagel
24: Carl & Melinda Smith
28: Jan Nagel and Susan Buttermore

LITURGIST: Marjorie Reinsch
FLOWERS: Susan Buttermore, Stan & Mary Wilson

COMMUNION WILL TAKE PLACE ON Christmas Eve only. Please mark your calendars.

2025 Christmas Poinsettias

The gift of poinsettias for use during the Christmas season is a beautiful way to remember a loved one, honor an individual or celebrate a special occasion. We will be purchasing only a limited number (4 white and the rest will be red). We will be taking orders on a first come first serve basis until we run out. At the time of ordering if you prefer one color over another you must indicate that on this form. We will try to accommodate everyone's wishes if possible.

One may participate by calling the church office. Acknowledgments will be printed in the Sunday bulletin on December 21st. The cost of the flowers will be \$10 each, and you will be billed directly from the church. The poinsettias may be taken any time after the 10:15 a.m. worship service on that day or after the Christmas Eve Service. If you have any questions, you may call the church office at 925-2987.



HANGING OF THE GREENS TOOK PLACE
ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD.

EVERYONE JOINED TOGETHER TO
MAKE OUR BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY
LOOK FESTIVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



MERRY CHRISTMAS!