

Auburn Presbyterian Church
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Rev. David Lawrence



JUNE/JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER



NEW ORGANIST

When Judy Rhodes announced her resignation the session formed a small task force to find a new organist. After months of searching and interviewing, the task force was successful and the session approved their work.

Auburn Presbyterian Church is excited to announce that our new organist/accompanist started June 21st. Naomi DeBaillie brings with her several years of experience and a depth of understanding of sacred music. Additionally, Naomi has a passion for chimes and bells, as well as a strong desire to involve others in the music program. Even in these tumultuous times God continues to bless us and the ministry of APC.

In different times, this would be reason for a celebration involving food and fellowship. Since that cannot happen right now, I hope that the next weeks will provide opportunities for us to welcome Naomi.

Dear Presbyterian Women's Circle,

Challenging times? Oh yes, but we think Pastor David and our church session have hit a home run in trying to keep us as safe as possible, and we are thankful! We will keep you posted after the July session meeting about the Fall PW Circle.

We miss you and we'll stay connected even when we are apart.

God Bless, Cheryl John and Judy Ditmars

FROM THE PASTOR:



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I hope you are well.

Not only does the pandemic threaten our physical health, but reduced socialization threatens our emotional and spiritual well-being. The added focus on racism and the need to take a deep look at ourselves and the systems in which we participate depletes us even more. We are living in challenging times.

Fortunately, we have a resource in our faith and our faith community. Just as God cares for the flowers of the field, God cares even more for us and we know that we do not travel this lonesome valley by ourselves. Moreover, we have the company of the saints as companions on this pilgrimage—our brothers and sisters walk with us. All of these resources are available to us now and always.

A practice we have relied on during hard times is gathering for worship. It is a joy and pleasure to gather in the parking lot or garden to be with each other. I know this is different, but it is what the times call for. Thank you so much for your enthusiasm to experiment with something a little out of the ordinary.

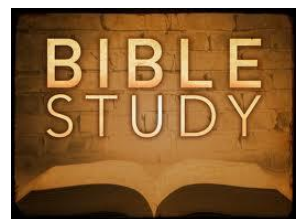
Our session met last week and, of course, the discussion about gathering for worship was at the center of that meeting. Please know that we all want to worship together. That desire is offset by our concern for your health. Taking all this into consideration, our session decided not to resume worship in the sanctuary for the time being because our primary concern is for the health of the congregation. We will revisit this decision at our July meeting.

There are several small groups that use our facility and would like to resume their meetings. The session discussed this and, since these groups are small, we decided to allow them to begin using the facility beginning July 1. Groups that meet in our building will be required to follow a set of protocols including masks, disinfecting, and distancing, which are the best practices for preventing the spread of this virus.

Friends, this is a new experience for all of us. We are doing our best to get through these challenging days and care for each other. If there is anything that the church can do, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Shalom, David

Bible Study will not meet in the month of July, however will resume again in August.



FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR:

Happy Summer!!!! I am so excited to be back in my office!!! I have truly missed this place (my office in the church and the church itself) Whenever I am here I feel as though I am home. Maybe it's because I grew up in the church since I was born. I remember playing with wooden blocks in my office when it was a Nursery School. Whatever the reason I am happy to be back.

I hope this message finds everyone well. We still need to be vigilant about safety. Take time to protect yourself and others.

I do not have much to report with youth activities. I am hoping to organize something this summer depending on how the Covid progresses in the area. I am taking it day by day . I miss the heck out of our youth and look forward to seeing everyone again.

I wish everyone good health!!! God Bless Kari

FACE MASKS. . .

I have spent much of my time during shut down making masks. I have officially made 2500 masks so far and am continuing to do so as long as there is a need. The masks are free. I have masks in Tracy's office for anyone who wants any . Take as many as you need. I continue to go to the CDC site and other Medical formats to find what is the current high standard for masks and the material to make them. The masks I make meet or exceed these standards. As Covid progresses, new information is coming out weekly. While it was believed in the beginning that masks only protected others from the person wearing the mask, they now know that it protects the wearer of the mask also.

A new discovery in masks is if they are made with a layer of cotton and a layer of either flannel, silk, or polyester, it creates static electricity and captures to virus preventing it from getting through to the mask wearer.

Masks should be washed regularly if they wear out please replace it with a new one at the church. I plan on supplying our congregation with masks from this point on to have available anytime. I will be making flannel/cotton masks in the future.

These masks are also good for allergies, flu Season, and protect from cold air in cooler months. If a mask you get is too big you can twist the elastic to tighten it. I have also made the masks wider so that if you wear glasses they can lay on top of the mask to help with fogging.

If you need masks for family, friends, co workers, or anyone else, contact me at apccel11@gmail.com . I have been shipping masks to those in need also.

God Bless.... Kari Ackerman



Did you know that our church has never had smoke detectors? Did you know that the few fire bells were not connected to anything? In other words, if a fire started in the middle of the night no one would know.

This situation has been addressed. The Koorsen Fire Alarm Company has worked over the last month to install a fire alarm system in our building. They are nearly done with the installation of a system that will be connected with the local fire service and provide a missing level of protection for our building.

Being sent on behalf of: Presbytery of Wabash Valley Nominating Committee

June 22, 2020

Have you ever chatted with a ruling elder in your church and thought, “He/She would be an asset in our Presbytery?” Well, now is your opportunity!

There are a number of ruling elders, active and inactive, who serve their churches well, but might need a little nudge to share their gifts and talents with Presbytery. Your PWV Nominating Committee members are searching for these talented volunteers. With your help in determining and sharing who those talented folk might be, we are hoping to get better acquainted with them.

There are eleven committees or teams which need members from all walks of life and with diversified interests. As a mid-council that stretches many miles and two time zones, so many meetings are now held virtually. This could pique the interest of people who work or go to school or for whom travel would be prohibitive. This stay-at-home season has trained up a whole new crop of folks who know all about Zoom. So many opportunities!

So put on your thinking caps, look around you and see if any of your ruling elders have a talent which could be put to good use in our Presbytery. We thank you for your prayerful participation in this soul-searching endeavor and are excited to see what gifts God has in store for us!

Mizpah,

PWV Nominating Committee Members

The Rev. Aaron Ban

Carol Brimer

The Rev. Jeff Carter

The Rev. Theda McBryde

Jim Nixon

Arlene Quinn

The Rev. Ann Williams

Sandy Funk, Moderator

Our work is supported by [per capita funds](#), which unite all Presbyterians in sharing God’s love through mission and ministry.