

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



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021



KIWANIS HOLIDAY LOAF

Kiwanis will begin baking their Holiday Pumpkin Loaf at our church Thursday through Saturday, November 11 through the 13. They will be making nearly a total of 6000 loaves of bread beginning Thursday at 8 p.m. Because of Covid changes you will not be able to purchase the bread inside the church but they will be providing a drive-up in our church parking lot on Friday, Nov. 13 and Saturday, Nov. 14. All proceeds will be donated to Children's First Center.

COMMUNION WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 (Christ the King Sunday) instead of the normal first Sunday. Please mark your calendars.



Dear Friends,

As many of you know I am presently pursuing a career to become a licensed Esthetician. On November 9 I will have graduated to the senior class. This means I will be able to service the general public instead of working on fellow classmates and mannequins. Please consider helping me out by utilizing Ravenscroft and requesting me for your skin care needs. To schedule a session you can call Ravenscroft at 260-486-8868 or contact me at 573-1983 for a full list of services that I can provide.

Thank you for supporting and helping me to pursue and accomplish my dream!

Alyssa Imus

FROM THE PASTOR:

Romans 5 We boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame...

Sisters and Brothers in Christ-

About a month ago someone recommended that I read *The Choice: Embrace the Possible* by E. Eger (Scribner, 2017). This book describes the experience of a WW II prisoner of war. It follows her from before the war and up to the present day. This is a good read and the author offers us a unique perspective on life.

Our lives are made up of experiences, some monumental and some not so memorable. We like to think we define ourselves by free will and take for granted the influence of these experiences. We don't like to admit that our history can trump our free will. *The Choice* illustrates the power of experience to shape who we are, our relationships, and even our faith, regardless of our will. Granted, we have not been prisoners of war, but we have all experienced things that shape us – even when we say they don't.

Eger's book helps us understand the extent to which our experiences shape us. She walks us through her life and her attempts to alternatively ignore and battle with the influence of her experience as a POW. We watch as she, her family, and her friends come to grips with this horrible past. Wrestling with this experience brings her to a healthy conclusion and offers us insight into our own lives.

Ultimately, Eger concludes that there is no way to ignore or turn the page on her experiences. There is no way to defeat them. What we can do is accept our life experiences, but refuse to let them limit our possibilities. Eger's uneasy peace with her prison camp experience allows her to use it as a resource to guide her in life, including with her occupation and marriage.

I write this as we seem to be settling a war of sorts—the pandemic. It's not over, but we have developed a vaccine and other treatments that lessen its severity. Like prisoners, we long to put it behind us, but it's a mistake to try to forget our experience of the last year. While this has been horrible, we can identify some positives. We learned things like the importance of washing our hands and the need to isolate ourselves when we feel ill.

Most importantly, we learned that we have a choice about how we live our lives. I remember at the very start of this experience when everything basically shut down. In those days people talked about the value of slowing down. When we stopped prioritizing things that weren't important we discovered a new freedom. We found value in things other than being busy. We freed ourselves to be more.

Also, we discovered how to revitalize relationships with friends and family. We reached out to one another in new and innovative ways. We found that these connections were what really mattered and we found that God's presence could be seen in the other.

What I'm saying is that, even though the pandemic may be reaching its end, we do ourselves a disservice if we forget. If we only want to go back to "the way things used to be", we are ignoring the resource of our experience. The pandemic influenced us and not all to the bad. Let's hang onto the practices that help us feel more human.

Pastor David



SESSION NEWS:

A **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** has been called by the Session **for Sunday, NOVEMBER 21**, following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of this meeting is the election of the following officers: Elders, Deacons, Foundation Directors, and the 2022 Nominating Committee.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

"Thank Offering"

The Auburn Presbyterian Women will celebrate Thank Offering Sunday on **November 21**. An envelope will be enclosed in the bulletin on that day for your generous contribution.

PW Meeting:

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will meet on Wednesday November 10 at 10:30 a.m. Lesson #5 "Lamenting Life" will be given by Melinda Smith. The scripture reading for the lesson is Job 3:1-4, 9-19, 24-26



Dear Friends

I'm working on earning the James Stewart Good Citizen award for Boy Scouts. One requirement for this award is to complete a good citizenship project in my community in honor of James M. Stewart. I have chosen to collect food and items for our local mini food pantries that are scattered in Auburn, one being on Auburn Presbyterian Church parking lot.

At the back of the church sanctuary, there is the wheel barrel for whatever food items you would like to donate. Here is a suggested list of items that we recommend:

Food items such as peanut butter, canned fruit, canned veggies, soup, granola bars, dry pasta, crackers, cereal, coffee, tea, bottled water

Baby items such as diapers, wipes or diaper cream

Household items such as dish soap, hand soap

Personal items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, bars of soap, socks, gloves

School supplies such as pens, highlighters, coloring books, crayons or markers, index cards, folders, notebooks

Items that you should **NOT** leave in the pantry are used/open goods, rusty canned foods, food out of original packaging, items stored in glass containers, harsh chemicals such as bleach or household cleaning supplies, expired foods, food prepared at home, food without labels or anything sharp such as razors.

Any items would be appreciated and will be put to good use.

Thank You for
~~Marcus Smith~~

Stewardship

PER CAPITA RELEASED: \$42.03 per confirmed member

Per Capita Apportionment is the Presbyterian Church's way of attempting to fairly and evenly cover the cost of the ecclesiastical expenses of all three governing bodies beyond the local church: the Presbytery of Wabash Valley, the Synod of Lincoln Trails, and the General Assembly. Our Wabash Valley Presbytery represents all northern Indiana Presbyterian ministries. Our Lincoln Trails Synod consists of all Indiana and Illinois Presbyterian Church ministries. And finally, the General Assembly, headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, provides for our global Presbyterian Church outreach ministries.

Per Capita is assessed on the number of active members on the church's roll. Each governing body beyond our Session determines how much Per Capita it will assess the membership. For next year, our church Per Capita Apportionment is: **\$42.03 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" so the treasurer will apply the funds appropriately.



New Roof Campaign!

Session approved replacing the flat roof of the church. The total cost of the project is over \$30,000 and we are asking for your financial help in this project. This campaign begins today and will last through November 14th. The APC Foundation will match 2 for 1 for any donation that we receive. Any help is appreciated.

FROM THE CE DIRECTOR:

Happy fall Ya'll!!! I hope the change in weather hasn't brought on too many hardships.

I feel like we are finally starting to get some momentum into our bible studies, both adult and children's ages. I would like to invite anyone interested in learning more about the bible, it's origins, the people, and its meaning, to join us after church on Sunday mornings. It will start around 11:15 am (depending on when church is finished) and will be done by 12-12:15 pm. We have already enjoyed meeting through October and would like to encourage anyone to join us. This is an open space for thoughts, ideas, fellowship and fun!!! Plus, we also have coffee and snacks!!! Whatever the reason you join us it is sure to be fun for all.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Sundays. God Bless Kari CE Director

