

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



JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER

The Deacons are working on a new **Church Photo Directory**! It's hard to believe but it's been 8 years since we have had a new one! Jim Nixon has volunteered to take individual pictures and we would like to get those done by the end of June. He will take them outside in the garden (weather permitting) or inside, whatever your preference is. We are asking for everyone to make an appointment with Joyce Phillips or Hilda Kennedy and at the back of the church after worship. Pictures will only take about 10 minutes of your time. We encourage everyone to sign up as soon as possible.



Biblical Garden Worship Services:

Many people commented favorably last summer about having worship in the garden so the Worship and Music Committee with session decided that we continue this practice. Beginning Sunday, **June 5th our worship service will take place in the Biblical Garden**, weather permitting. Please bring your lawn chairs! Also, Communion will be served the first two Sundays in June. If you prefer not to use the pre-packaged communion elements then you are welcome to bring your own.

FROM THE PASTOR:

Brothers and Sisters,

I began writing this a day after the horrible shooting in Uvalde, Texas and I am still stunned and struggling to make sense of this catastrophe. What would possess a young person to kill a family member and shoot up an elementary school? There are truly no words for something so awful.

In the last years, we have been bombarded with episodes of violence. It was just two years ago that George Floyd was killed in a racially motivated action. That same racial prejudice was the motivating factor in the recent shooting at the Tops Grocery in Buffalo and the attack on the Taiwanese Presbyterian Church in LA. Ten years ago a twenty-year-old shot up Sandy Hook Elementary School and today we mourn the deaths in Uvalde caused by an eighteen-year-old with a gun. We are a broken people, but this needs to end.

Our first response needs to be prayer. We need to pray for God's presence, support, and comfort, especially for the community of Uvalde. But we also need to pray that this nation and world that we are not overcome by the power of evil behind this event and the catastrophes that have gone before it. We need to ask God's Spirit to comfort and support us in our grief, but we also need to pray for wisdom and discernment as we begin to look ahead.

The problems of prejudice, mental health, and gun violence are intertwined and complex. There are no quick or easy answers. These issues have deep roots in our history and culture – their very size and scope can be off-putting. It feels like they are too much to take on. Significant change seems impossible and conversation about any of these subjects is bound to bring on challenging disagreements. The voice of evil tells us that change is too hard, the power of sin tells us we just can't do it, and our discomfort steers us away from the conflict inspired by those conversations.

The church, however, is uniquely positioned to take on these challenging subjects. The church has an opportunity to be the church in a way we have not been for a long time. The community of faith is the place where these difficult discussions and the start of change should happen. We can provide a forum in which to engage all the different voices on these subjects. We need to teach our society how to put aside our agenda to listen to others. We can model to the world how to disagree and remain in relationship. We need to demonstrate that conflict can be generative and used to shape how we move ahead together. Lasting and effective change cannot occur without these hard conversations and the church can be the starting point for this exploration of possibilities. We can nurture this beginning by being a place and people of peace and understanding rooted in love.

We do not have to be taken over or changed by the violence that surrounds us. Violence is not the only option and our faith proclaims that there is a different way. God invites all of humanity to explore this different way. There are many seats at the table and we should be inviting folks to come, sit and talk. The church's mission is to care for the least and the lost –care that is physical, mental, and spiritual. We care for the world when we can bring healing to painful wounds.

We do not have to settle for the world as we know it. God asks more of us. But we must be willing to commit time and effort to do the work involved. We have to struggle through the discomfort of disagreement and conflict. We must be willing to sacrifice power, privilege, and control for justice, peace, and love. It is not quick or easy, but this is the service that God asks of us.

Shalom,
Pastor David



A NOTE FROM OUR
EDUCATION

CHRISTIAN
DIRECTOR:

I want to start by thanking everyone for supporting me and my family through the last 3 months. We are all getting better and glad to be out and about again.

Looking forward , I am teaching the Book of James with our Youth . I will be planning a few different activities with the youth group this summer. We will do some of our usual fun like disc golf, picnics, and hopefully our Thanksgiving in July. It seems like the years are getting shorter and shorter with our Youth.

Our adult Sunday school is back into action as well. We have been studying the Book of James. With a focus on Faith in Action. We even met on a Wednesday afternoon and enjoyed Charcuterie and a documentary on Ukraine. The Adult Sunday School class has chosen to continue meeting throughout the summer. We meet from 11ish and end around noon. Come and Join us and enjoy light snacks, coffee and great conversation.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Summer and I look forward to seeing everyone on Sundays.

God Bless, Kari Ackerman CE Director



Presbyterian Women will not be meeting during the summer months, however will resume again in the Fall. The study guide for the coming year has been chosen, "What My Grandmother Taught Me." The cost for the study guide is \$10 and checks should be made out to Barbara Bushnell.

The New program directories for 2022-23 will be passed out at the first meeting in September.

It was decided at the last PW meeting to do another **RUMMAGE SALE IN THE FALL**. The date decided upon is October 13, 14 and 15th. So everyone please start saving your items now!



Congratulations to Marcus Smith, who is this year's Mary Evelyn Moore Scholarship recipient. Based on his academic and extracurricular school record, Marcus has been accepted into the engineering program at Purdue University, where he'll begin his studies in the fall. His goal is to earn a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering, with an eye toward working for NASA.

Since his grade-school days, Marcus has been active in a range of Auburn Presbyterian Church activities – from attending youth group programs to serving as a junior deacon, from

assisting with Friends Table to helping to acolyte and ring the bell on Sundays. He also has been a leader in our church-sponsored Boy Scout troop, where he has received numerous Scout awards and achieved the highest rank – that of Eagle Scout.

As a dedicated Scout, he has contributed greatly to improvements in our Biblical Garden and on our church property. His hands-on work includes restoring the arbors, building the Free Little Library, installing two new benches made from recycled plastic caps, and setting up the bike rack at the 12th street entrance.

In his application for the Mary Evelyn Moore Scholarship, Marcus wrote:

“I hope to use my education to help many people. Having been part of our church, I have seen how the church's mission can help people across the globe, and I plan to continue to use my resources to contribute to that mission. I also believe that I can improve the lives of those around me by using my Scouting and Christian values as a guideline for how I should act every day.”

Marcus was recognized for his accomplishments and received the scholarship award at the conclusion of the May 15 worship service. Following the service, the Women's Association hosted a reception for him and his family on the portico. (pictured above)

GRADUATION INVITATION TO THE CONGREGATION:



MARCUS WAYNE SMITH

Join us on Saturday July 2nd from 2 - 6 p.m. to celebrate Marcus' Graduation! He will be heading to Purdue University!

Location: Auburn Presbyterian Church