

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



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2023



12

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY

SOUP & SUB BUFFET in Fellowship Hall
immediately following worship.

Everyone is invited to stay following worship and enjoy a bowl of chili and a sub sandwich in fellowship hall! Everything is provided. Let's see how many fans we have rooting for the Chiefs or the Eagles!

Sunday School Kick-off... February 12th... Rev. Marshall Anderson will speak to us about homelessness in DeKalb County during the Superbowl Lunch Buffet.

Souper Bowl of Caring is a nationwide effort to bring deeper meaning to the day of the game by tackling hunger. The Mission committee is asking everyone to acknowledge Souper Bowl of Caring by bringing in a can of soup to donate to the food pantry in our parking lot.

Brothers and Sisters:

Do you aspire to anything? I remember our kids and their aspirations. For example, our son Ross aspired to be over 6 feet tall. He really wanted to pass that six-foot mark. And then there was Jonathan who approached Fran and me aspiring to become a skateboarder (He didn't even own a skateboard). I think for the most part our aspirations grow out of our interests and reflect what we think is important.

That being said, there are two sides to our aspirations. On one hand, aspirations allow us to set goals for ourselves and provide some direction to our lives. Even more than that, aspirations insure that we don't become stagnant and complacent. But there are problematic aspects to aspirations. For one thing, our aspirations can consume us. When we live, breathe, and exist only to fulfill our aspirations it's not healthy. Also, aspirations are harmful when they grow out of a sense that there's something bad about how we are, when we condemn ourselves for not being enough. Finally, aspirations are a problem when they spring out of the desire to glorify ourselves, when we aspire to be "all that and a bag of chips".

Aspirations can cause problems for the church. For example, in the last week several people have approached me and asked about some area churches that seem to be overflowing. They wondered how we could imitate that "success". Still others have mentioned their aspiration for a more contemporary music program. When the body of Christ aspires to be just like someone else we make trouble for ourselves. When a congregation seeks to imitate a church to be "successful" it's a problem because its focus is no longer on glorifying God. A congregation does not need to passively accept its situation, but it also should not aspire to success in the eyes of the world. God creates and calls this and every congregation to do God's will in a particular way.

The Apostle Paul takes on the subject of aspirations in chapter 4 of I Thessalonians. Paul writes that believers should live a holy life, a life pleasing to God. Paul writes that we should aspire to a life embodying a love of God and neighbor. We shouldn't take advantage of others, but should aspire to a quiet life that uses our gifts to glorify God. Ultimately, our aspirations as individuals and congregations should put God in the center. We should aspire to please God in all things. That is success for the church.

Pastor David



PW WILL MEET IN FEBRUARY!

Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday, Feb 8th at 10:30 a.m. in the lounge downstairs. The lesson for the month will be given by Judy Ditmars from Lessons Four and Five *Ruth and Loyal Love and Ruth and Redemption*. All women are invited to attend.

Who wants to play Euchre again? The next Euchre Tournament will take place on Thursday, February 9 at 7 PM in the lounge. If you didn't get a chance to play before this, don't let that stop you from joining the group. A good time is had by all who come and play! A sign up will be located at the back of the sanctuary or just call the church office and get signed up to play.

NEW MAILING ADDRESS FOR THE CHURCH...



As of January 11, 2023 the church will no longer have a PO Box. This means that any communication that is done through the mail will need to be sent to: 111 West 12th St. - Auburn, IN 46706

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS...



WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday evening Bible study is resuming the first Wednesday of February. We are starting a book titled Restored by Tom Berlin. This six-session study will encourage us to take a look at the mess in our lives that covers the image of God within us. There is a short video followed by about 40 minutes of discussion. We want to invite all of you to join us for this study. We meet every Wednesday at 6. This group meets online and we have found that this is a format that works for us. A zoom invitation is emailed every Tuesday for the meeting.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF - FEBRUARY 5, 2023

The Sweitzer Family Foundation is a small non-profit company based in Auburn, IN, with the vision of empowering people to live better every day, and the mission to partner with people to remove barriers to the fulfillment of their goals and dreams. Our current focus is the Fortify Life initiative that aims to reduce poverty in DeKalb Co, IN and beyond.

Our organization is unique and ambitious. We have become known in Auburn and across Dekalb county as the place to go if you have a housing crisis. It is true that we provide emergency and transitional housing in DeKalb county, but this work serves a larger purpose.

There are people who desire to see change in their lives, but the deck seems stacked against them. Some struggle to find employment that can cover their expenses. Some struggle getting connected to the healthcare they need. Some experience an unexpected expense or challenge and struggle to recover. We've all heard the phrase, "The struggle is real." We believe the solutions are real too.

BIO ON MARSHALL:



Marshall Anderson – Director of Outreach

Marshall is married and has 3 children.

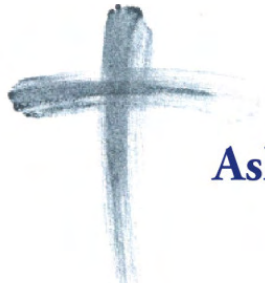
Marshall started with Fortify Life in July of 2021. He has been an ordained pastor with Mennonite Church USA for over 17 years and has served congregations in Kansas and Indiana. Marshall brings experience working with people from various socio-economic backgrounds and has provided leadership to both small and large organizations and networks.

He has served on the Sunset Elementary USD 373 Site Council, the Inman Kansas Ministerial Alliance, and the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference Leadership Enhancement Team. Marshall has served as a volunteer with Redemption House, Fort Wayne, a transitional home for women that serves as an alternative to incarceration; Love Church Ministries, Fort Wayne, a local church serving many people experiencing poverty; and has coached youth athletics at both the high school level as well as youth programs through the YMCA.

APC CHURCH PICTORIAL COMING IN FEBRUARY...

We are excited to announce the completion of the new church pictorial. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this happen. Please watch for bulletin announcements to find out when they will be available!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC...



Ash Wednesday — Lent Begins

Wednesday, February 22, 2023, will begin the Lenten Season with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Imposition of ashes and communion will take place during the service in the chapel beginning at 7 p.m.

If you are interested in giving flowers for Sunday morning worship service the following dates are available:



DATES FOR 2023:

JANUARY: 1, 8

FEBRUARY: 19, 26

APRIL: 16, 23

MAY: 28

JUNE: 18, 25

JULY AND AUGUST WORSHIPPING IN THE GARDEN

SEPTEMBER: 3, 10

OCTOBER: 15

DECEMBER: 10, 17, 31

The total cost is \$30.00 for two vases of flowers and the forms are available at the back of the church to fill out and return to the church office. Or you may call the office and let the secretary know the date and who you would like to give them for.



On February 5, Auburn Presbyterian Church will be celebrating Scout Sunday.

The Girls Scouts will be selling their yummy cookies after the service. Also on this day, the Scouts will be holding a Food Drive. Collecting Non Perishable food items for our newly installed outdoor Food Pantry.

This is a great time to honor Scouts and adults for their volunteer activities in service of Auburn Presbyterian Church and our community.

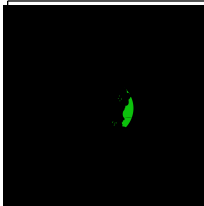
HELPING WITH OUR WORSHIP DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY:

**USHERS: 5: Carl & Melinda Smith
12: Doug & Barb Morrow
19: Hilda Kennedy and Jason Ritchie
26: Stan & Mary Wilson**

LITURGIST: Norm Yoder PROVIDING FLOWERS: Carl & Melinda Smith, Norm & Peg Yoder

**COMMUNION WILL TAKE PLACE ON FEBRUARY 19 (Transfiguration of the Lord and on
FEBRUARY 22 (Ash Wednesday) Please mark your calendars.**

MISSION ACTION AND INTERPRETATION...



Imagine the joy when your gift changes someone's life – both the joy they will feel in being changed and the joy you will feel in knowing that your gift is changing lives. As Christians, we talk about God providing us with blessings of all kinds in abundance, but there are many in the world who live with less than what they need. Surely our God calls us to be sharers of abundance. You can be a channel through whom God satisfies the hungry, comforts the distressed, and brings hope to the poor and oppressed. Create more joy in the world with your generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing.

The MA&I team will be sharing the messages of **One Great Hour of Sharing** as we move thru the Lenten season. We invite your participation by mailing your contribution to the church and mark the check memo as "One Great Hour of Sharing Contribution." Thanks for your cooperation and willingness to participate!

CONGRATULATIONS TO AIDAN SMITH FOR RECEIVING HIS EAGLE SCOUT RANK

Aidan earned his Eagle Scout rank on Monday January 23 2023. His Eagle project is the Bike Repair Station on Reike trail. He would like to Thank Everyone for their support throughout his Scouting journey.



OUR FREE LITTLE PANTRY

Our Free Little Pantry is quite popular and now has a new look thanks to Susan Buttermore, Jan Nagel and David John. Our PW makes sure that it is filled every Monday. We are asking for your assistance in providing non-perishable items to help restock our supply. Items such as **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!