

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

MARCH

NEWSLETTER -- 2023

HELPING WITH OUR WORSHIP FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH:

Ushers:

- 5: Ross & Nancy Clark
12: Peggy Jones, Dick Reichard
19: Joe Dick, Phil Bryan
26: Judy Ditmars, Polly Bassett

Liturgist: Lisa Magsamen

Flowers: Doug & Barb Morrow, Peggy Jones, Norm & Peg Yoder, Ron & Emily Heymann



EASTER LILIES: The gift of plants for use during the Easter season is a beautiful way to remember a loved one, honor an individual or celebrate a special occasion. The church will be purchasing Easter lilies again this year. To participate in purchasing a Lilly, an insert will be provided in the Sunday bulletins beginning March 12 . Acknowledgments will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. The cost of the lilies will be \$10 each. The Easter plants may be taken any time after the 10 a.m. worship service on Easter morning.

FROM THE PASTOR:

Sisters and Brothers-

I am having more and more conversations touching on the change that's going on around us. What is striking me about these conversations is the common theme of how things are coming apart. These conversations are about more than church – we see this coming apart in clubs, activities, how people gather, and in so many other facets of life. It seems like the very fabric of society is unraveling before our eyes.

The church isn't exempt from this unraveling. We are witnessing churches and denominations both implode and dwindle right in front of us. And we hate to see it. We know how much the church means to us, how influential it is in our lives, and what a force for good it can be. It's heartbreaking to watch this great institution come apart and we want to do something to affect the situation.

The session and I are not blind to the challenges facing APC. We want to take steps to bring life to our congregation. Already we have pivoted our mission to Ukraine. We have started taking on smaller mission works. We have taken steps to be a part of our community. There is no single solution or miraculous program that will change our course. Instead, we are experimenting with all these little things to gradually have an impact on the congregation. This is our attempt to bring light to the darkness that surrounds us.

My doctoral dissertation concluded that if the church is going to continue in the 21st century it's going to have to do some things differently. That may seem like a “no brainer”, but the challenge is determining what those things are. How can we discern God's calling of APC? We would like instant gratification and an easy answer, but life doesn't work that way. The process of bringing life to APC is painstakingly slow and laborious. Just as the Israelites toiled through the wilderness, we are striving to chart our own path to the promised land.

Shalomn, Pastor David



(Received this picture from Pastor David via email on Feb. 27th during his visit in Africa. He was on a safari tour and was less than 10 feet from these female lions.)

IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM SESSION:

The Annual Congregational meeting of the Auburn Presbyterian Church will be held on **SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH** for the purpose of receiving annual committee reports, receiving the 2023 budget, and transacting any other business that may properly come before said meeting. Please mark your calendars. If you haven't turned in your report to the secretary you need to do so immediately.

EARTHQUAKE DISASTER UPDATE: A 7.8 magnitude earthquake near the Turkey-Syria border struck in the early hours of February 6, 2023. This earthquake is estimated to affect more than 23 million people. PDA is offering solidarity grants to meet immediate needs and working with our partner GOPA-DERD to distribute winterization items (blankets, mattresses), food items and medicines. To support our response, designate gifts through PDA to [DR999999-ST Earthquake](#)

REMINDER: NEW MAILING ADDRESS FOR THE CHURCH...

As of January 2023 the church no longer rents 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



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN's MEETING: Wednesday, March 8

PWC will meet Wednesday, March 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the lounge. Barbara Bushnell will lead us in Lessons 7 and 8. After circle We will meet in Fellowship Hall to assemble the hygiene kits that will be distributed by Church World Service. Plan on staying and bring a sack lunch.



APC CHURCH PICTORIAL COMING IN FEBRUARY...

Last month we announced that the pictorials were finished and we were getting ready to get them printed. We are sorry to announce we ran into a snag with the printing process which has delayed our timeline. Please watch for bulletin announcements to find out when they will be available!



FLOWERS FOR MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES . . .

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

- APRIL: 16, 23**
- MAY: 28**
- JUNE: 18, 25**
- 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.

MISSION ACTION AND INTREPRETATION NEWS



Our Friends' Table volunteers work hard each week preparing and serving free meals to our community. We appreciate their time and talents they give to our church to make this important mission possible.

(pictured to the left are Peg Yoder, Dave Smith, David Poudrier, Pam Yoquolet, Polly Bassett, Melinda Smith)

Volunteers not pictured Josey Refner, Joey Aiken, Cheryl John, Judy Ditmars, Ray Smith, Norm Yoder, Ruth Randinelli, Aidan Smith.

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.

Offering Envelopes will be included in your bulletin each Sunday beginning February 18 and will continue through the Lenten Season.



OUR FREE LITTLE PANTRY

Our Free Little Pantry is being used by the community. We appreciate your support and willingness in bringing in food items which help us keep it filled each week. Right now we notice the need for spaghetti and canned spaghetti sauce which seems to be a popular item. Other 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!

EVANGELISM, CHURCH GROWN AND FELLOWSHIP NEWS:

The soup and sub buffett, which was held in Fellowship Hall on Super Bowl Sunday, was a lot of fun. Below are pics of the event.



EUCHRE TOURNAMENT:



Who wants to play Euchre again? The next Euchre Tournament will take place on Thursday, March 16th 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.



A440 Strings

**An Ensemble of Four Musicians,
all members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic,
will perform at**

Auburn Presbyterian Church

10 am Sunday, March 5, 2023

**Two violinists, a violist and a cellist will play music
throughout the worship service.**

All are welcome.

**The church is located at 111 W. 12th Street,
directly across from Eckhart Public Library.**