

**Auburn Presbyterian Church**  
111 West 12<sup>th</sup> St. – P.O. Box 448  
Auburn, IN 46706  
Rev. Dr. David Lawrence



## DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

### STEWARDSHIP AND BUDGET COMMITTEE:

The books for 2023 will be wrapped up December 31. If you would like to have your giving go towards 2023, we will need your offering before that date. Thank you.



#### **PER CAPITA: \$43.62 per confirmed member**

**Per Capita** is assessed on the number of active members on the church's roll. For next year, our church Per Capita Apportionment is: **\$43.62 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.



#### **END OF YEAR NOTICE:**

Officers and anyone who has to submit a report for our Annual Report, please have it to the church secretary no later than January 15, 2024.

## **FROM THE PASTOR:**

Brothers and Sisters-

Most of you know that Fran and I were with Ross for Thanksgiving. Our son is stationed in Seattle right now and reaching the end of his time in the Army. He is beginning to dream about what it might be like when he moves on to a different time in life.

The church is also moving into a different time. We have entered the time called Advent which is set apart as a time for us to look ahead; to wonder and dream about what God might be doing with us, where God might be moving us. During this Advent season, I'd like for us to make the effort to wonder together what God's dream is for the world, for Auburn, and for us.

Wondering together through prayer, meditation, and conversation leads to discernment of God's dream for us. Taking action on what we discern results in a new perspective on God's will for us as a church and as individuals.

This congregation and so many others seeks to be more vital. Although it is not quick or easy, seeking God's will through action and reflection is the path to life.

Shalom,  
Pastor David



### **HANGING OF THE GREENS**



**It's the most wonderful  
time of the year!**



## End of Year Presbyterian Women's Meeting:

On Wednesday, December 13th the **Presbyterian Women** will hold their annual Christmas party. This year it will take place in the dining room at Smith Farms Manor at 11:30 a.m. The lunch is being provided by Smith Farms and they will need to have a count of people attending. The cost is only \$6.00 per person and must be paid along with your reservation no later than December 11th. If you have any questions feel free to call Judy Ditmars or Cheryl John. All women are invited.

### News from PWC...

Pictured to the right is the couple that took a trailer full of our remaining rummage sale items to Blain, KY. Butch and Bobbi live in Fort Wayne, attend church there, and do this as a personal mission. Ours was the 14th trip to Blaine in 2023. They deliver these items to a church and they are distributed from there.

God Bless them for the work they do in this devastated area.



## SESSION NOTES:

We want to thank the elders, deacons and committee members for their time, talents, and dedication shown to our church this past year. Your work was greatly appreciated. The following Elders and Deacons have served their terms and will be going off at the end of December:

**Deacons: Nancy Derrow, Cheryl John, Jason Ritchie**

**Elders: Peggy Jones, Doug Morrow, David Poudrier**

*Thank  
You*

On Sunday, December 10th the following individuals were voted by the congregation to serve as Elders, Deacons, and Foundation Board members for the next 3 years. We appreciate your willingness to serve your church!

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting has been called by the Session **for Sunday, DECEMBER 10**, 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 2024 Nominating Committee.





Christmas Pot Luck!  
When: Sunday  
December 17th after  
church service  
Where: Fellowship Hall

Main course is  
provided!  
Bring your favorite side  
or dessert to share!

## DEACONS:

Over the summer, the Deacons presented a mission to support the work Fortify Life is doing to help our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. Graduates from the Fortify Life program who are ready to move into their own home are gifted a graduation bag containing basic necessities and a note of encouragement. We have filled 2 bags and need the following items to complete a third one:

cleaning spray ( all purpose), toilet paper, paper towels, kitchen sponges and scrubbers, kitchen essentials ( plates, bowls, silverware...) microfiber rags, kitchen towels, hand and bath towels, plunger and toilet scrubber, handwritten note of encouragement, crock-pot ( optional)

If you have any extras of these items or can add one or 2 of them to your list next time you shop, please bring them to the church office. Tracy has the bags in her office and would love to see them gone soon :)

Thank you for your help and support in this mission.



## BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

### NEW STORAGE BUILDING

The storage building is complete! Any group affiliated with the Auburn Presbyterian Church has the option to store seasonal or bulky items in the building. If you are interested in utilizing this storage space, please contact Jan Nagel at 260-249-4201

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

After worship on Sunday, Nov. 5, we meet in the lounge with some representatives from Hearten House who shared with us about their mission. Hearten House Gospel Rescue Mission provides restorative care for women experiencing a homeless crisis. Some women are fleeing domestic abuse; others are pregnant with no support network; many just need a safe place to stay and encouragement as they rebuild their lives.



## **MISSION ACTION & INTREPRETATION COMMITTEE:**



### **2023 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING:**

What Is the Christmas Joy Offering? There are four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) which provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those who need assistance. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian tradition for more than 60 years. As we celebrate with joy our unity in God's family, we are providing tangible support to persons in our community of faith.

The receipts from the offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions (50 percent) to support assistance programs and to the Committee on Higher Education (50 percent) to support the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Please make a generous contribution to the Christmas Joy Offering by mailing your contribution to the church (111 West Twelfth St.) and mark "Christmas Joy Offering" in the memo part of the check.

### **ALL ABOUT FRIENDS' TABLE**

**A Brother and a Sister... Dave and Peg**

**Now there's a couple...  
That can shake a "LEG"**

**They cook, plan and budget the money**

**And it's right down to the penny, "HONEY"**

**They come during the week if it's what the menu required.**

**They peel, chop, and bake, until they're "DOG TIRED"**

**If you'd like to work with them...**

**Just join them on Mondays.  
It really can be a rewarding & "FUNDAY"**

**There's one thing for certain...**

**You might go home tired.  
But come back the next Monday...  
You'll never get "FIRED"**

**This couple deserves a great big hand...**

**They have worked on this mission for years.  
We thank them for all the good they spread.  
There's no stopping them..  
They've already started to butter the "BREAD"**

**FRIENDS' TABLE WILL BE CLOSED BEGINNING MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 THRU JANUARY 1. They will resume serving on Monday, January 8, 2024.**

### **ANGEL TREE PROGRAM**

For several years, the Auburn Presbyterian Church has helped meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the families who have a mother or father incarcerated. The national program is overseen by Prison Fellowship, an evangelical organization formed by Charles Colson as a result of his experiences in jail. Angel Tree's objective is to connect parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts. It is a volunteer program, one in which we are given the names of families and the needs of their children. An "Angel Tree" has been placed in the Narthex of the church. Members who want to bring the joy of Jesus' birth to DeKalb County children whose parents are incarcerated may take an angel off the tree and buy a gift for a child. The gifts should be wrapped and returned to the church by Sunday, December 17th.



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE:

### **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE:**

Please come and invite your friends and neighbors for a wonderful Christmas Eve Service beginning at 7 p.m. The worship service will include communion and a candlelight closing.

### **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

If you would like to be a candle lighter for the Advent Wreath during the Christmas season please call the church office. We need 4 families to volunteer.



### **FLOWERS FOR MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES**

A tribute of fresh flowers for special people as memorials or celebration is a continuing tradition, and further acknowledges the glory of God in our worship experience at the Auburn Presbyterian Church. You can participate by filling out the insert in the Sunday bulletin or calling the church office at 925-2987. Acknowledgments will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. You will be billed directly by the church. The total cost is \$30.00 for two vases of flowers.

### **HELPING WITH OUR WORSHIP DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:**

USHERS: 3: Nancy Derrow, Joyce Phillips  
10: Paul & Leah Watson  
17: Pam Scranton, Mindy Zielke  
24: Kevin & Stacia Bassett

LITURGIST: Lisa Magsamen  
FLOWERS: Susan Buttermore, Jan Nagel

**NOTE: The flower calendar has two openings in December, the 17th and 31st. If you would like to give flowers for either of those Sundays please call the church office. The cost is \$30.**

**COMMUNION WILL TAKE PLACE ON Christmas Eve only. Please mark your calendars.**

## *2023 Christmas Poinsettias*

The gift of poinsettias for use during the Christmas season is a beautiful way to remember a loved one, honor an individual or celebrate a special occasion. We will be purchasing only 10 poinsettias this year on a first come first serve basis. The cost for the poinsettias will cost of \$10 each, and you will be billed directly from the church. If you are interested you may call the church office or fill out the bulletin insert. The poinsettias may be taken any time after the 10:15 a.m. worship service on December 25.



### **SPECIAL MUSIC ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

**WE'RE HAPPY TO WELCOME BACK THE BRASS CORDS!** This local quintet consisting of Mike Brown and Paul Rose on trumpet, John Chalmers and Bill Goudy on trombone, and Jerry Sigler on tuba, will play during our December 17 worship service. The Brass Cords treated us to musical selections last April, and we are fortunate that they've agreed to join us again. The group performs classical, religious and popular music at venues around northeast Indiana. Please invite friends to join our congregation in worship that day!