

Auburn Presbyterian Church  
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Auburn, IN 46706  
Rev. David Lawrence  
www.auburnnpc.org

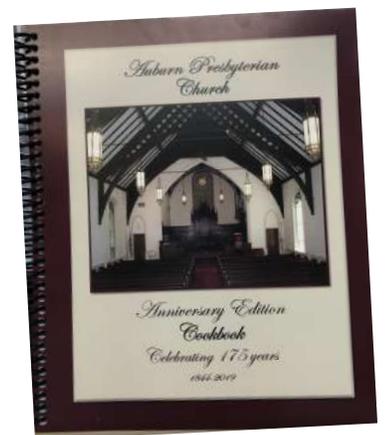


NEWSLETTER - 2020

### ***Anniversary Edition - Celebrating 175 Years Cookbook***

These cookbooks are filled with many wonderful recipes given from many of our congregation members... men, women and even our youth! You will also find many favorite recipes from those that have passed on. We found it appropriate to include those that were instrumental in the life of the church since the book was published to help us celebrate our 175th Anniversary. Many recipes were taken from the very first cookbook dated back in 1972 as well as popular recipes from volumes two (1982), three (1995) and four (2003) cookbooks.

The cookbooks are available for purchase at a cost of \$15.00 each. They make wonderful gifts! If you would like to purchase one, contact Barbara Bushnell or the church office. Checks need to be made out to Auburn Presbyterian Women.



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE MEETING:** Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday, March 11th at 10:30 a.m. in the lounge. The lesson is number seven..."Words of Love: Do Not Steal." The lesson will be led by Judy Ditmars, a business meeting will follow, and lunch out is optional. All are invited.



**FROM THE PASTOR**

Brothers and Sisters:

*Then I confessed my sins to you; I did not conceal my wrongdoings.  
I decided to confess them to you, and you forgave all my sins.  
(Psalm 32:5)*

I got an interesting letter this week. The postal worker brought an envelope with no return address sent to my attention in care of the church. I receive letters like this regularly, so getting mail is not that noteworthy. What is worthy of comment was what the envelope contained.

I opened the letter to find a short note and some money. The note went on to describe an incident that happened here at this church. When this person was much younger they coveted something. For some unknown reason, this was something the person felt they had to have. Unable to resist the temptation, this person stuck it in their pocket, but that's not the end of the story. I'm not sure how long, but this bothered this person. It bothered them so much they reached out to me.

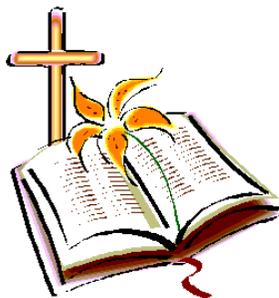
I know we have all harmed someone in one way or another. I'm going to go out on a limb and guess that almost all of us have stolen something. And probably the same percentage of us have intentionally used our words to hurt someone. How many lies have we told; how many confidences have we betrayed; how many relationships have we broken? Gosh, I hate to acknowledge the magnitude of my sin!

Lent is a season of self-examination and contrition, which makes this writing so appropriate. The truth is, most of us go through our days giving little mind to our sins, but this is a season in the church year when we try to be especially mindful of our shortcomings. More than just mindful, I encourage you to contemplate how you might make amends for your wrongs. Sometimes those amends can be a simple acknowledgement of what we did and an apology. Other times our amends are more difficult and require that we work on our relationships.

God asks only that we acknowledge our wrongs by making confession and seek God's forgiveness. Scripture tells us that through this practice we are forgiven. My experience is that, even knowing God's grace and mercy, arriving at the feeling of forgiveness is an involved process. Forgiveness involves communication with God, others, and myself in order to feel complete.

That letter? I know that God forgives the person who wrote me. I know that God had already forgiven them, but I pray that the practice of confession and amend making brought them the peace for which they long.

Shalom, Pastor David



## **The Season of LENT and HOLY WEEK**

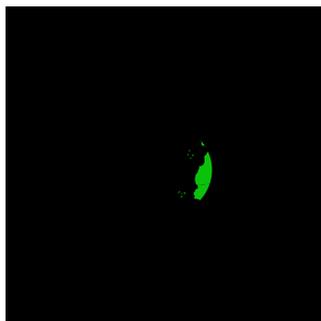
The following events will be taking place during the month of March. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

- Wednesday, March 4: 6:00 p.m. - Soup served in Fellowship Hall (Nancy Derrow making soup)  
6:30 p.m. - Bible Study provided by Pastor David
- Wednesday, March 11: 6:00 p.m. - Soup served in Fellowship Hall (Theresa Clark making soup)  
6:30 p.m. - Bible Study provided by Pastor David
- Wednesday, March 18: 6:00 p.m. - Soup served in Fellowship Hall (Kari Ackerman making soup)  
6:30 p.m. - Bible Study provided by Pastor David
- Wednesday, March 25: 6:00 p.m. - Soup served in Fellowship Hall (Nancy Clark making soup)  
6:30 p.m. - Bible Study provided by Pastor David
- Wednesday, April 1: 6:00 p.m. - Soup served in Fellowship Hall (still need someone to make soup)  
6:30 p.m. - Bible Study provided by Pastor David
- Sunday, April 5: 10:00 a.m. - Palm Sunday Worship Service
- Thursday, April 9: 7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service
- Friday, April 10: 7:00 p.m. - Good Friday service in the Chapel
- Sunday, April 12: 10:00 a.m. - Easter morning service. Communion served



#### **Lenten Bible Study...**

Our Lenten Bible study this year is called "An Acceptable Fast. This is a curriculum prepared by Dr. Trish Tull, an Old Testament Scholar. Trish's work uses passages from the Hebrew Bible to help us look at our faith practices. Please join us on Wednesday nights for this short look at the Old Testament and ideas of fasting.



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 March 1 and will continue through the Lenten Season.

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**March 1: A Poetry Session – Five Poems with Biblical References.** Our guest will be Auburn resident Bob Wilson, who will lead us in a discussion of five of his poems and in the inspiration behind them. Bob is a retired high school teacher whose poems have appeared in various journals and whose essays have appeared in publications ranging from *The Illustrated History of World War II* to *National Coach and Athletic Director*. A

collection of Bob's poetry was published last year by Yavanika Press; a second collection, *The Other Side of the Sky*, will be published by the Lily Poetry Review in March 2021.

**March 8: Habitat for Humanity.** Our guest will be Habitat's Northeast Indiana director Mary Ann Stanley, who will update us on building projects and discuss the needs of this important ministry, which our church supports.

**March 15: Our Methodist Friends.** The Rev. Jim Farrer of Auburn's First United Methodist Church will talk with us about a major decision his denomination faces this year – whether to stay united. Methodist churches everywhere are considering proposals to formally split the denomination based on questions dealing with sexuality. Those questions deal specifically with whether to allow same-sex unions and to ordain homosexuals as ministers.

**March 22: To Be Announced.**

**March 29: Fred Rogers.** The man who created and hosted the long-running and highly acclaimed preschool television series *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* was a Presbyterian minister. Tom Hanks portrays Mr. Fred Rogers in the 2019 critically acclaimed film "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," based on Rogers' life and on his commitment to promoting kindness. The class will view this film over the course of two Sundays.

### THE MARY EVELYN MOORE SCHOLARSHIP

The Christian Education Committee is accepting applications for the Mary Evelyn Moore Scholarship. Applications can be picked up in the church office and must be returned to the office by SUNDAY, MARCH 29. The MEM Scholarship is available to church members who seek to further their studies at a degree-granting post-secondary educational institution. Previous recipients are not eligible. Please read the application cover letter for more details.



**ALONE  
WE CAN DO  
SO LITTLE  
TOGETHER  
WE CAN DO  
SO MUCH**  
Helen Keller

The Fellowship Evangelism Church Growth Committee would like to Thank the congregation for the many items donated to the Random Acts of Kindness collection. Several hygiene kits were handed out along with the other donated items at Friends Table. We had plenty of hygiene products to do this several different times in the coming months.

Melinda Smith will continue to accept anything you would like to donate. I set out different items every Monday and our Friends Table visitors can take what they need. It brings me Joy each week to hear the many thank you coming from our Friends Table visitors and see the smiles.

This is a great way to reach out to our community.



**THANK YOU**

To Pastor David and Congregation,  
Pastor David, Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer in your office with our sons

before Kurt's surgery, and to the congregation for all the prayers and cards as well. You truly are a Christ-like congregation. The prayers continue to be felt. ~ The Ditmars Family

**HELPING WITH OUR WORSHIP FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH:**

**ACOLYTES:**

- 1: Isabella Gettys
- 8: Gabe Ackerman
- 15: Marcus Smith
- 22: Eva Hoolihan
- 29: Sylvia Benbow

**USHERS:**

- 1: Doug Morrow, Dick Reichard
- 8: Sue Peterson, Ed Benbow
- 15: Kay Finchum, Troy Ackerman
- 22: Ross & Nancy Clark
- 29: Don & Nancy Derrow

**LITURGIST:** Jim Nixon

**FLOWERS:** Norm & Peg Yoder, Ron & Emily Heimann, Peggy Jones, Barbara Bushnell

**COMMUNION SERVERS:** Jim Nixon, Phyllis Neumann, Dick Reichard, Doug Morrow, Mark Bassett

**COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED:** If you would like to help serve communion we need you! Please call the church office and let us know that you would like to be a part of this important service.



## SPRING FLOWERS FOR EASTER

The gift of flowers for use during the Easter season is a beautiful way to remember a loved one, honor an individual or celebrate a special occasion.

One may participate by calling the church office or filling out the insert in Sunday morning bulletins and returning them to the office or offering plate **by Sunday, March 22.**

The cost of the flowers will be \$11.00 each.

Acknowledgments will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. The flowers may be taken any time after the 10 a.m. worship service on Easter morning.

If you have any questions, you may call the church office at 925-2987.

Thank you,  
Worship & Music Committee  
Linda Pulver, Flower Chair

