

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



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2020



KIWANIS HOLIDAY LOAF

Kiwanis will begin baking their Holiday Pumpkin Loaf at our church Thursday through Saturday, November 12 through the 14. They will be making nearly a total of 6000 loaves of bread beginning Thursday at 8 p.m. Because of Covid changes you will not be able to purchase the bread inside the church but they will be providing a drive-up in our church parking lot on Friday, Nov. 13 and Saturday, November 14. All proceeds will be donated to Children's First Center.

COMMUNION WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 (Christ the King Sunday) instead of the normal first Sunday. Please mark your calendars.



HAND CHIMERS STILL NEEDED!

If anyone is interested in ringing hand chimes please join Naomi for practice following the worship services. Naomi would love to have a few more people! No experience is necessary.

FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

About eighteen months ago Norm Yoder and I were starting to plan a stewardship program. This involved some study and discernment because it has been several years since the Auburn Church participated in a focused campaign. I contacted The Presbyterian Foundation in Philadelphia for advice and we looked over these materials. The Stewardship and Budget Committee was working on this and beginning to sketch out some plans...then came Covid 19.

In January the Corona virus began defining our reality and we have been adapting to change after change ever since. Coping with these changes was enough of a challenge—this was not the time for a stewardship program. I am grateful that this congregation is dealing with change as well as it is. We found innovative ways to maintain relationships and do ministry, despite the limitations we faced. The pandemic pushed us to restructure our lives in so many ways and we did it.

I appreciate the prayers and encouragement you gave church leadership during these difficult months. I also appreciate your financial support, keeping up with pledges and offering. The church functioned a lot like it always has these last months and all the costs associated with the building, the staff, and the activities continued. We were fortunate to qualify for some government assistance, which made a big difference, but we do not have a balanced budget.

It was impossible to conduct a focused stewardship program this year, but I want to encourage your faithful giving. In these uncertain times, we tend to be more conservative with our resources, but I also know you believe in the good the church does. Because the session and I believe APC has a role in our community during and after the pandemic, we want to encourage your on-going financial support to that good work. Please prayerfully consider your offering and, if possible, increase your financial support.

I need to add that the gifts of time, talents, and prayer are also essential to our ministry. For our ministry to thrive we need both tangible and intangible gifts. Thank you for all the ways that you have supported APC, and I hope you will think about ways that you can add to those wonderful gifts.

Shalom,

Pastor David



SESSION NEWS:

A **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** has been called by the Session **for Sunday, NOVEMBER 22**, 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 2021 Nominating Committee.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS AND A VOTE ON A CHANGE OF OUR BY-LAWS AS STATED BELOW:

The Leadership and Development Committee met in the church garden after worship on Sunday, September 13 and had subsequent phone conversations to complete the following slate of proposed church officers, beginning in January 2021:

Elders: Peggy Jones, Doug Morrow, David Poudrier

Deacons: Nancy Derrow, Cheryl John, Phyllis Newman (pending transfer of her letter of membership to APC)

Junior Deacon: Aidan Smith

Leadership and Development Committee: Barb Morrow and Marjorie Reinsch

APC Foundation: David John

In addition to the vote on these officers, the committee requests that the congregation amend the church bylaws at the congregational meeting called for Sunday, November 22, to change the number of deacons to nine members, instead of twelve. The current article in the bylaws reads as follows:

XXL. BOARD OF DEACONS

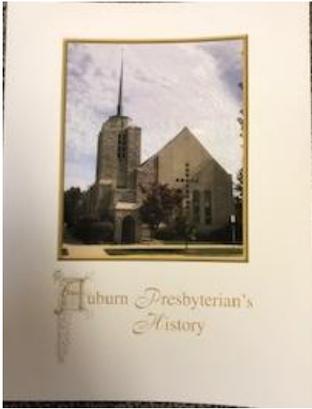
C. The Board of Deacons shall organize itself and carry out the responsibilities as outlined in the Book of Order (G-6.0400).

D. There shall be 12 deacons divided into three classes, one class of which shall be elected each year at the annual meeting for the three-year term. No deacon shall serve on the Board of Deacons for consecutive terms.

The Leadership and Development Committee requests amending part D to read as follows:

D. There shall be 9 deacons divided into three classes, one class of which shall be elected each year at the annual meeting for the three-year term. No deacon shall serve on the Board of Deacons for consecutive terms.





HISTORY BOOK!!! We promised you a church history book for the 175th Anniversary celebration. And the book is finally here! Copies are available in the office in a brown box by Tracy's desk. Donations of \$5 will be greatly appreciated to offset printing costs. Questions – please call Barb Morrow at 925-5356.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

"Thank Offering"

The Auburn Presbyterian Women will celebrate Thank Offering Sunday on **November 22**. An envelope will be enclosed in the bulletin on that day for your generous contribution.

PW Meeting:

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN will meet on Wednesday November 11 at 10:30 a.m. Lesson #8 will be given by Rachel Roberts.

COVID UPDATE LETTER FROM THE PASTOR:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I hope you are well and these days have not been too taxing. I am writing because the session met last night and asked me to share this information with you.

First, we want to applaud your willingness to observe the protocols that were established when we returned to worship in the sanctuary. These steps—hand washing, masking, distancing—are the best way for us to prevent the spread of the virus. We have noticed, though, that people are struggling to keep six feet away from each other. It is great to be with our friends, but please be mindful of your distance in the sanctuary.

Like you, we know that the number of people testing positive for the virus is increasing in this area, as well as the country. Our primary concern as church leaders is the safety and well-being of the congregation. To be responsive to that concern in an ever-changing situation, we want to reiterate the advice to skip worship if you are not feeling well. Furthermore, if the Indiana State Health Department classifies our county as “orange” you will receive an email reminder about steps you can take to safeguard your health. *Finally, if the county is classified as “red” we will shift to entirely online worship.*

The session is also ready to take action if the trends go the other direction. Worship is a very important practice for this worshipping community and we want to have the fullest worship experience possible—but safely.

Together we are the Auburn Presbyterian Church. We are a community of diverse people with different needs and opinions. We seek to honor our diversity and make decisions that respect everyone's situation.

Pastor David for the Session of APC

Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 15, 2020



The Stewardship and Budget Committee would like to thank you for your tithes and personal giving this past year. With your financial support and personal involvement, the church will be able to do God's work. Every year we set aside one day to emphasize responsible, grateful stewardship of God's blessings. This year, Sunday, November 15, is that day. There will be a time during our worship service in which we will be dedicating both our monetary giving and the gifts and talents our God has blessed us with in furthering his kingdom here on earth. If you cannot be present during worship on that day, you can mail your pledge card to the church. Please take prayerful consideration in filling these out.

PER CAPITA RELEASED: \$42.00 per confirmed member

Per Capita Apportionment is the Presbyterian Church's way of attempting to fairly and evenly cover the cost of the ecclesiastical expenses of all three governing bodies beyond the local church: the Presbytery of Wabash Valley, the Synod of Lincoln Trails, and the General Assembly. Our Wabash Valley Presbytery represents all northern Indiana Presbyterian ministries. Our Lincoln Trails Synod consists of all Indiana and Illinois Presbyterian Church ministries. And finally, the General Assembly, headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, provides for our global Presbyterian Church outreach ministries.

Per Capita is assessed on the number of active members on the church's roll. Each governing body beyond our Session determines how much Per Capita it will assess the membership. For next year, our church Per Capita Apportionment is: **\$42.00 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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS:

NO ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Due to COVID concerns, Adult Sunday School will not resume as planned. We encourage you to worship weekly in the sanctuary but, out of an abundance of caution, we prefer to limit the amount of time you spend in the building. We will keep you apprised as to when class might resume. Thank you for understanding.



APC BIBLICAL GARDEN

The following work has been accomplished by our APCWP (Auburn Presbyterian Church Weed Pullers) group. Please give them a huge "Thank-you" when you see them.

Pam & Keith Scranton - Pam has been the rock of this group. She has been at every work session but one. She has weeded, mulched, trimmed, thinned, offered advice to all and has contributed iris plantings to restore the iris bed as shown on the original layout. Keith and she have cleaned out the cracks in the street side walkways around the block.

David John - David has been the muscle with this project. He has hauled nearly all the mulch from the parking lot to our garden, trimmed trees and shrubs, taken the plant debris to the recycle plant and offered advice on many of the "thinning" questions.

Ray Smith - Ray has run the string trimmer, pulled weeds, trimmed trees and shaped the grasses and shrubs along the sanctuary wall.

Phyllis and Peter Neumann - This couple has edged all around the church's block, all the sidewalks in the garden and many of the beds in the garden. They have managed the fast growing ivy and trimmed ivy away from the north side of the garden. They trimmed the 13th Street shrubs and cleaned out the rocks.

Nancy and Ross Clark - The Clarks have removed most of the overgrown ivy from under the stained glass windows...two dumpsters worth, and pulled the ivy from the bushes along the front of the building. They also weeded many of the beds on the north side the sanctuary.

Ruth Randinelli - Ruth has only missed one work session since the project started. She edged most of the beds in the garden, weeding as she went, trimmed the holly to a manageable shape, dug out the volunteer grass clumps, transplanted several holly plants and helped spread mulch.

Dick Reichard - Dick has pruned the burning brushes and the dogwoods and has taken over management of the Oak Leaf Hydrangeas. His directive, "Make them look like yours." (Which are thriving and beautiful). He has also shaped the shrubs as one comes in from Jackson street.

Nancy Derrow - Nancy has cleaned away the encroaching grasses from the two Marble sculptures on the north side of the garden. In the process, she discovered that the Smith sundial belongs to the library, apparently forgotten when the other pieces were taken back to the library's garden. She set in the motion its return across the street.

Emily Heymann - Emily has been the phone person, constantly checking with Jan Nagel and David John for directions concerning the various aspects of the Garden's renovation process.

All helping with this project feel this is a true labor of love, with the resulting joy of seeing such a special place returning to its former beauty and function. Also, twice, when working on this project there have been people sitting under the grape arbors, lost in thought or resting with small children. What a wonderful event...just what the vision was when this place was created. Praise be to God for our former parishioners' foresight to give all a quiet corner to work out a stressful situation or to rest in a safe place with their children.

