

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



## NEWSLETTER -- 2021



Dear friends,

Thank you so much for the monetary gift I received from the congregation. It means a lot to know that the work I do is appreciated. I too am very appreciative of all of you, and feel very blessed to be your secretary.

In Christ's love,  
Tracy Warner

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Presbyterian Women will meet on Wednesday, April 14th at 10:30 a.m. in the large Gathering Room downstairs. Our Bible Study will be led by Rachel Roberts. It is Lesson 2 entitled "Lamenting Together." Join us for a cup of coffee and a great time of sharing and fellowship.



### **A REMINDER FROM BUILDING AND GROUNDS:**

The church is getting busier so please don't forget that the virus is not over yet and we need to continue to wear masks and follow the guidelines that are in place.

**FROM THE PASTOR:**

Dear Sisters and Brothers-

I had an interesting conversation with one of our deacons this month. We talked about all the things that are going on in the world. We spent a lot of time talking about the cries for social justice that we heard last summer, their spread to other countries, and the possible re-ignition of those flames with the trial in Minnesota. Then we brought up the 2020 election and the pandemic, along with climate change, unemployment, failing small businesses, actions around voting rights, and a worsening immigration crisis.

We are experiencing significant change on so many levels and struggle to keep up with it. This deacon and I wondered about how to cope with this change when the old systems and coping mechanisms don't seem to work. There is a sense that we have lost control and everything is falling apart. What are we to make of this? My deacon friend and I agreed that we are in the middle of a huge transition. No one knows what's going on, what to do, or where we're going to end up.

Not knowing is the most difficult part of this transition. We are unable to see what's ahead of us, but we know it's going to be different. Not knowing and feeling out of control is uncomfortable and scary. There's no shame in admitting that it's frightening living in this day and age. It's human nature to feel this way, but we need to be mindful of how we react to that feeling.

One response is to believe we are entering the "end times". People point to verses like this from Matthew 24:

You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

This and other apocalyptic passages from Luke 21 and Mark 13 are thought by some to be clear signs that the end is near. This sort of thinking illustrates our need for control – when we are out of control it must mean the world is coming to an end. Even Martin Luther reacted this way, but he thought the world was ending in 1548.

Some people are alarmed and it's understandable why they would look to these Scriptures. What they neglect are the many other verses (Matt 24, I Thes. 5, II Peter 3, and Rev. 3) that all tell us no one knows the days or times. Prophesying the end is foolish because no one knows. How then, are Christians to react to all of this change?

The reformer Jean Calvin informs my reaction to these unsettling times. Calvin did not deny the second coming of Christ, but he sees a faithful response to the coming end. Calvin wrote that it was our duty to serve God in our daily life. Calvin also believed that it was our responsibility to bear spiritual fruit every day of our lives. This meant as individuals and in social life, as well, to work on God's mission of love and justice. Our consolation and hope are in Jesus Christ and we need to live that out every day.

Are we in the middle of a great transition? Yes, nearly every facet of our lives are affected by this change. Is it the end of the world? No one knows. All we can do in this trying time is remember what God has asked of us – Love the Lord and love your neighbor as yourself.

Shalom, David

**SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE PASTOR:**

If you speak a foreign language we need your help for our worship service on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021. Please contact the pastor.

## FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR:

Happy Spring!!! I hope everyone is well, safe and enjoying the beautiful weather!!! It's been a while since I have been able to report any news from CE. For the moment, we will not be having after church Sunday School. We want to be sure we can make it a safe environment for everyone. CE committee will meet monthly and evaluate the current conditions to see when to restart our Sunday School. I am excited to say, once we are able to recommence Sunday School, it will be another joyous celebration to God and normalcy!! There has been much research and discussion on the direction we want to take Sunday School and look forward to initiating it. Our Youth program has begun once again. I feel like a skipping record with us ending last year during Lent. We got back in the fall only to stop again right before Advent!!! Now we are in the middle of Lent and I feel like its where we left off last year!! It's just crazy.... Gladly, many of our Youth are trinkling back into church. I am focusing on Lent studies and much needed fellowship!!! It is also Scholarship time and we will be making those announcements in the future. I look forward to a great spring!!!

God Bless,  
Kari



### Taco Tuesday at Garrett Presbyterian Church



The Garrett Presbyterian Church invites everyone to their "Taco Tuesdays Night" that will take place every 3rd Tuesday of each month from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. at their church (221 S. Franklin St., Garrett) in their Heritage Hall. The meals are provided by Los Cabos Mexican Grill and carry out is available. The church also provides a bake sale to satisfy your sweet tooth. Check it out!



Thursday, April 1:

7:00 p.m. - **Maundy Thursday Service** in the sanctuary. If you prefer not to attend the worship service in person, a zoom invitation will be e-mailed. Communion will be served.

Friday, April 2:

6:30 p.m. - **Community Good Friday Service** taking place at First United Methodist Church in Auburn. Auburn Presbyterian Church will be participating and a bulletin and zoom link will be sent out if you prefer not to be there in person.

Sunday, April 4:

10:00 a.m. - **Easter morning Service**. Communion served. A zoom invitation will also be sent out if you prefer not to attend the worship service in the sanctuary.

Greetings, friends!

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you all for your kindness, support, and generosity. You have welcomed us and our mission with open arms. We thank God for you all! It is a pleasure to serve and expand God's kingdom with the Auburn Presbyterian family.

Each month we will write to you in your newsletter to help keep communication lines open between APC and The Gathering. We are excited for this new season that God and APC have allowed us. Beginning April 5, 2021, we will start our full roster of community programming, which is meant to strengthen, support, and grow our community and its members. The following is our schedule:

### **Mondays**

-Youth and Adult Cooking  
Classes

### **Tuesdays**

-Preschool Storytime  
-Homework Helper

### **Wednesdays**

-Axios (youth group)

### **Thursdays**

-Homework Helper  
-Youth and Adult Hope for  
Mental Health

### **Fridays**

-Youth and Adult Financial  
Literacy

We welcome all to take part and/or volunteer for the various groups. We have a particular need for helpers to come on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the Homework Helper program. This time will be much more than just helping with homework. This time will be a time to create relationships and love some who may not feel that feeling outside the church doors.

We also have a couple of prayer requests. Currently, our greatest challenge is transporting the people who would like to take part in our programs. We are borrowing a van from New Hope in Waterloo. Still, that van was filled to capacity before we even began meeting in-person again for the youth group. There are no other places to borrow transportation. In reality, we need a bus. We could quickly fill it at least halfway right now. Please pray that God opens the door and paves the way for us to purchase a bus.

After speaking with our insurance and many well-educated people, the estimated cost to purchase, paint, register, plate, and insure a bus would be approximately \$10,000. Each year it will cost roughly \$5,000 to maintain and insure the bus.

Again, thank you for the love and support you all continue to extend to The Gathering. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please call Pastor Nicki at (260)573-3351 or email her at [nicki@thegatheringauburn.org](mailto:nicki@thegatheringauburn.org). May God's grace and peace be with you all, today and always.

**Grace & Peace,**

Today & Always,  
**Rev. Nicki Tackett**

Founder/Pastor  
The Gathering  
260-573-3351

[thegatheringauburn.org](http://thegatheringauburn.org)

“If you want to make a difference, be different.”—M. Bird

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.  
(Proverbs 16:3)