

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



JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

**Thank
YOU**

Friends Table would like to thank all of you for recent donations of pasta, canned goods, mac n'cheese, etc. You are so appreciated and all items are so useful.

God Bless you!
The Friends' Table Lunch Bunch

What is Matthew 25?

At our Bible study last week someone mentioned [the Matthew 25 initiative](#). Since then, several people have asked me about this denominational effort so I thought it would be a good idea to explain it. In Matthew 25 Jesus encourages his disciples to care for “the least of these” and the PC(USA) describes Matthew 25 as an invitation to the church to “actively engage the world around us”.

Engaging the world is a broad statement that is distilled down to three areas: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. Churches and mid-councils (presbyteries) are encouraged to commit to this initiative and together use their resources to address one or more of these foci. We are stronger together.

Our presbytery and several churches in Wabash Valley have made this commitment. We are invited to be a part of Matthew 25 we should consider taking this step. However, this commitment involves more than lip-service. Involvement in Matthew 25 includes prayer, study, resources, and ACTION.

FROM THE PASTOR:

Sisters and Brothers-

Isn't it great to start to do away with the Covid protocols? I am so tired of putting on a mask everywhere I go and overjoyed by the prospect of beginning to return life that is closer to what I'm used to. I think most of us just want to get back to normal and it would be so easy to treat 2020 like a bad dream, but... Failing to deal with what we went through is not healthy for us individually or as a worshiping community.

No one in recent memory has endured anything like last year's pandemic. This unique experience was a hardship. It exhausted our coping mechanisms and left us feeling tired and depleted. The devastating costs of this experience are apparent in increased levels of mental illness, domestic violence, and substance abuse. Not all of us reacted to the pandemic in a way that indicates a need for professional help, but we were all thrown off our game – every single one of us. 2020 was not easy for anyone.

We can all point to the challenges of the last year, our trials, difficulties, and losses, but that's not the whole picture. The last year taught us things. It forced us to take a deeper look at our values and priorities. For example, I learned how much I value face-to-face relationships. I need that human contact. And some of you might have discovered the same thing. Along with the losses we experienced, we also come away from the pandemic having learned and developed insights. Specifically, we learned some things about what it means to be the church and redefined some of our priorities.

Two theologians wrote to each other during World War II and their correspondence was made public. Reading through these letters, you can see how they were shaped by their experiences and how those experiences came to inform their theology. These two took the time to reflect together on their experience and the meaning behind it. While not as horrific as the war, our experiences through the pandemic have the potential to be formative and I'd like to take an opportunity to step back and reflect on them. I'm sure that we will all have different impressions of what we went through, just like the two theologians. What's important is that we begin to think about how God might be working through our experiences.

Through June I'm going to move away from the lectionary and use texts from the Hebrew Bible. Particularly, I think that the story of the desert wanderings of the Exodus story offers some insight into what we endured of the last year and how it could shape us going forward. This might be an opportunity for us to look even further back and reflect on what has changed in the church and society over the last decades. This kind of examined life enables us to see forward more clearly.

I hope our worship experience in June is a little different. I'm encouraging all of you to participate in what will be conversational worship. We will have an opportunity to speak up about our experiences, memories, hopes, and dreams. I know this will be uncomfortable for some of us – this is a practice that's not "Presbyterian", but I also know it's essential for us if we are going to move ahead as a worshiping community. We cannot simply shake the dust from our feet and move on. This is a step toward beginning to look at our faith and APC.

Shalom, David

APC Included in Garden Walk on June 19, 2021

Garden Walk - Saturday June 19th from 10am until 4 pm with the Sunset Garden Party at 8 pm

Kent & Shelley Johnson started the Garden Walk in 2000 when they were at DeKalb High School. The tradition continues now with Excelsior Arts Academy & Youth Theater.

This is a great time to gather garden ideas, see how others use space and color to add garden impact and to spend some time just smelling the roses (literally).

Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 day of the walk and are available at Lynmarees, Carbaugh Jewelers and Littlejohn Auctions all in Downtown Auburn.

Our homes this year –

John & Michael Marks 1776 CR 27 Waterloo

Dorothy Mulin 1405 Allison Blvd

Jeff & Tina Gallagher 512 Steeplechase

Ron & Lynda Sleeper 4512 St Rd 8 east of Auburn

Phil & Margaret Slone 5425 CR 35 South of Auburn

Auburn Presbyterian Church 111 West 12th Street

bonus garden Kent & Shelley Johnson 216 East 17th Street

That evening at 8 pm, Excelsior will host a **Sunset Garden Party** in the garden of Jared and Stephanie Foote.

This is a wonderful time to relax, have a glass of wine and share the events of the day preparing to celebrate the sunset (just like they do in Key West). The **Sunset Garden Party** is \$20 and limited to the first 40 people.

Wine, snacks and entertainment will be provided.

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. If you would like to provide the flowers for morning worship, please call the church office or fill out the form at the back of the sanctuary.

The dates available are July 4, 11, 18 and August 1, 8, 15, 29 and September 5 and 26. The total cost for 1 vase of flowers will be \$20 and you will be billed directly by the church.

A NOTE FROM OUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR:

Glad tidings to all!!

Things are definitely looking up from a year ago. We are slowly starting to see more and more people at church. The youth are starting to emerge too. We are seeing old and new faces in the Sunday morning youth bible study.

This summer will see the youth venturing out to play some Disc Golf, Picnics and maybe even a Thanksgiving dinner!!!

On an even higher note we celebrated Isabella Gettys!!! This amazing young woman is graduating. She has served our church for many glorious years. We look forward to seeing what the world has in store for Isabella's very bright future. She won the church's Mary Evelyn Moore Scholarship. It is well deserved and only a very small Thank you for the years of service she has provided to our church.

I hope everyone has a great summer.

God Bless,
Kari Ackerman
CE Director



Presbyterian Women will not be meeting during the summer months, however will resume again in the Fall. New program directories for 2021-22 were passed out at their last meeting and if you were not able to attend you may stop by the church office and pick one up.

THE EVANGELISM, CHURCH GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE WILL BE PASSING OUT GOODIE BAGS TO ALL THE KIDS PARTICIPATING IN THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY EVENT:



**21st Annual
Kiwanis Bicycle Safety Day**
Including Bicycle Course
Saturday
June 5, 2021
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM



Bring
Your
Own
Bike

DOWNTOWN AUBURN
North side of Dekalb County Jail
8th & Union Streets



Free
Helmets

Sponsored by:
DeKalb Health – FREE Helmets
Dr. Thomas Mason – Helmet Fitting
Warren Mason – Bike Inspection
State Farm Insurance – Joyce Hefty-Covell
DeKalb County Sheriff's Department - Bike
Inspection & Registration
Moe's Bikes & More – Bike Inspection

Call 925-5253, if you have any questions.

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to



would like to thank the Presbyterian Women for the beautiful basket given me during the PW luncheon on Wednesday, May 12th. It was such a thoughtful thing to do and I really appreciate each and every one of you!

With much love,
Tracy Warner, APC Secretary

WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES...

ACOLYTE CALL OUT!!! Would you like serve as an acolyte? As a long standing tradition this service enhances our worship in illuminating our Sunday with a loving reverence to God and Jesus Christ, Our Savior. We are asking ANYONE - ANY AGE that would enjoy bringing the Light and Word of God in each Sunday during worship to contact the church office. We would like to be able to include enough people in an acolyte schedule so that everyone has an opportunity to serve on a once a month basis.

HONORING OUR SENIOR ACOLYTE



It is our tradition to give our Senior Acolytes a cross necklace as a small token of our appreciation for their devotion to our church. During the worship service on Sunday, May 23, Isabella Gettys was honored as our senior acolyte this year. The Worship & Music Committee, along with the entire congregation of the Auburn Presbyterian Church, thanked Isabella for her faithfulness and commitment by bringing in the Light and Word of God to our worship services. Due to the pandemic Isabella did not get to acolyte during 2020-21 but served faithfully as an acolyte for many years before that.

We wish you the best of luck Isabella as you graduate and hope and pray that your future brings you much happiness and success!

Biblical Garden Worship Services:

Summer last year we worshipped every Sunday in the Biblical Garden. So many people commented favorably on this that the Worship and Music Committee suggested to session that we continue this practice. June 6 and 13 we will enjoy worship in the garden (weather permitting). Please bring your lawn chairs!

Worship and Music is pleased to announce a special guest for our worship on June 13. We are excited to welcome a gospel band to our worship gathering. This is a local group of players who will share their talents by playing some old time gospel music. Come early and stay late for a wonderful worship experience.

As we emerge from the clouds of Covid, we are seeing signs of new times, and new hopes, and new beginnings. That's exciting! Prior to the pandemic, the chair of the committee that created the *Glory to God* hymnal, David Eicher, played for our worship and afterward described the process of creating a hymnal. Ever since that experience, plans to invest in this hymnal have been bubbling. As we experience new times and hopes, it seems like a perfect opportunity to introduce a new hymnal. The Session has discussed encouraging people to buy a hymnal for roughly \$20, which could then be dedicated and given to the congregation for use in worship. The plans for purchase and the final price yet to be determined.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS UPDATE:

Please find below the changes implemented by Session that pertain to Covid policies in the church.

- a) We will no longer be taking temperatures when entering the church.
- b) We ask that people continue to socially distance at worship.
- c) The use of masks in the church is optional for people who have been fully vaccinated.
- d) Masks are required for people who have not been vaccinated.
- e) Communion will be celebrated as we have done and not passed in the pews.
- f) Unmasked soloists and special music will be allowed from the chancel.
- g) We will have no congregational singing in the sanctuary for the time being.
- h) Masks are optional for worship in the garden and congregational singing will be allowed.
- i) Virtual worship will continue to be available.

As the pandemic continues, please keep watching for new and updated changes that may occur and be implemented in our building.



Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ!

Summer is approaching quickly. I, for one, am ready. The Gathering is learning much about the families we serve and where we are experiencing the most success. We are incredibly successful in reaching our local families through serving our youth. With that in mind, we plan on diving deeper into serving our most vulnerable youth. We are taking a break during the summer with all of our programs, except for Hope for Mental Health (perpetual program) and Journey to Freedom (held at the YMCA), to regroup and refocus our efforts more effectively. Beginning in the fall, we will transition to include all our programs into one program for the area's youth to help them learn life skills, personal hygiene, cooking, homework help, financial literacy, and personal responsibility. The child will have check-ins with the school teacher(s) and parents to monitor progress and behavior. They will be able to earn "Monopoly" money to purchase items from "Hope's Closet," such as clothing, shoes, snack items, school, and hygiene supplies. This positive reinforcement system will allow the youth to earn their rewards as compared to receiving a handout.

If you would like to help us in our efforts, we are happily seeking volunteers to cook for them. We are also seeking those with a passion for working with the children to volunteer during their time with us. Any way you would like to help will be greatly appreciated by The Gathering and the youth/families we will serve. Please contact Nicki for more info. You can call at (260)573-3351 or email her at nicki@thegatheringauburn.org.

Grace and peace to you all, today and always!

-The Gathering Congregation

Grace & Peace,
Today & Always,

Rev. Nicki Tackett