

Auburn Presbyterian Church
111 West 12th St. – P.O. Box 448
Auburn, IN 46706
Rev. David Lawrence



DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

ADVENT Bible Study

This year we are taking a unique perspective on advent. We are using material produced by Amy-Jill Levine who is a professor at Vanderbilt. What makes it different is that AJ is Jewish and approaches the stories of Jesus from a Jewish perspective. Everyone is invited to this opportunity. We gather Wednesday night at 6 and you will be emailed a link to that conversation. I hope to see you.



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. Flowers are delivered each week from the Sprinkling Can Florists, and you will be billed directly by the church. The total cost is \$30.00 for two vases of flowers. You may wish to take your floral tribute home following the services.



FROM THE PASTOR:

Brothers and Sisters-

Advent and Christmas is just a crazy time. There seems to be so much to do and take care of—from cooking to wrapping presents. News about supply chain shortages promises to make this season even more hectic. Things aren't available and we face the threat of not being able to buy enough. [This situation is so dire that some retailers have extended "Black Friday" to the entire month.](#) Retailers would have us believe that we might be unsatisfied this season because we can't get those things we want.

Don't get me wrong, I like "stuff" as much as the next person, and Fran can tell you how I'm persuaded by the commercials I see. But no one is immune from the message to buy. We live in a capitalist culture that's built on consumption and consumerism. We're immersed in a context that revolves around things and contains an embedded message that those commodities can make life better.

I've been thinking about our [consumerism](#) a lot lately and I'm hoping that you will ponder it a little. I wrote that we're immersed in this context and that's not going to change easily. I don't know what I could write that would lead someone to make a radical change in their behavior, but this is worth thinking about. Questioning our consumption and its underlying messages is a good thing.

The market, retailers, businesses all conspire to tell us that we need the newest and best. Moreover, the market makes available everything that we would ever need – sometimes the next day because we need it so badly. The message is that it can all be ours for the right price. The market even goes so far as to offer us the opportunity to buy emotions and experiences. This is especially true during the Christmas holiday: we can buy what we're lacking, the things that will make us whole and complete.

This is a lie. We need things, but life is about so much more than objects. We cannot buy or sell relationships, emotions, thoughts, or dreams. God and faith cannot be weighed or measured, but we know how essential they are. Take some time this crazy Advent season to think about those things that aren't available at any price. Step back and question the promises that surround us. I think you'll find that them empty and the truth located in God's enduring love.



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: Joey Aiken, Jim Nixon, Veronique Poudrier, Cherri Wolf

Elders: Dick Reichard, Jan Nagel, Doug Morrow

Jr. Deacon: Aidan Smith

*Thank
you*

On Sunday, November 21st 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!

Deacons: Polly Bassett, Hilda Kennedy, Mindy Zielke and Jason Ritchie

Elders: Joe Dick, Lisa Magsamen and Carl Smith

APC Foundation from the Congregation: Peg Yoder and from the Session: Mark Bassett

Leadership & Development Committee: Susan Buttermore and Beth Shepherd

STEWARDSHIP AND BUDGET COMMITTEE:

The books for 2021 will be wrapped up December 31. If you would like to have your giving go towards 2021, we will need your offering before that date. Thank you.



PER CAPITA: \$42.03 per confirmed member

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: \$42.03 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.



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - DECEMBER 12

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, December 12th 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.

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 10, 2022.

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.

EVANGELISM, CHURCH GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:

Pictured is the Christmas decorating event that took place on Sunday, November 21st. Everyone joined in to decorate the sanctuary and then enjoyed pizza afterwards.



MISSION ACTION & INTREPRETATION COMMITTEE:

2021 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.

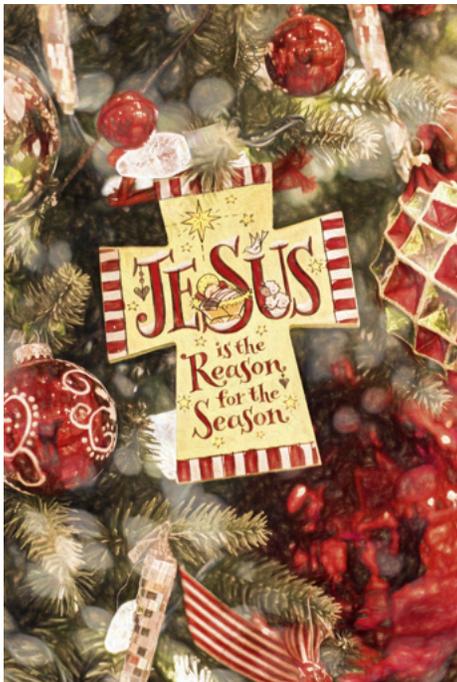
The receipts from the offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions (50 percent) to support assistance programs and to the Committee on Higher Education (50 percent) to support the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Please make a generous contribution to the Christmas Joy Offering by mailing your contribution to the church (PO Box 448) and mark "Christmas Joy Offering" in the memo part of the check.

Thank you, from your Mission Action and Interpretation Committee.

FRIENDS' TABLE WILL BE CLOSED BEGINNING MONDAY, DECEMBER 13 THRU JANUARY 3. They will resume serving on Monday, January 10, 2022.

ANGEL TREE HAS ARRIVED! 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 12th.



FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR:

Happy December everyone!!! I hope everyone is staying warm and safe!! I am excited to announce our Youth **Christmas Program will be December 5th!!** The Youth are excited to present a different program for you this year . I hope everyone will join us on Zoom or Live!! It should be fun!!

Our Adult Sunday School Class is going well too. We are spending Sundays before Christmas to learn about Advent. I encourage anyone wanting to have a deeper connection with God, especially during the Advent Season, to join us after church on Sundays.

I hope and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Kari Ackerman CE Director

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.

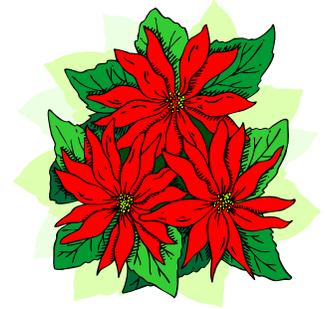
One may participate by filling out the bottom of this form and returning it to the office or calling the church office at 925-2987. Your order must be turned in by Friday, December 3 (no exceptions this year).

Please indicate your name, the person's to be honored, and any words of tribute. Acknowledgments will be printed in the Sunday bulletins. The flowers will cost of \$12 each, and you will be billed directly from the church. The poinsettias may be taken any time after the 10:15 a.m. worship service on December 19.

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

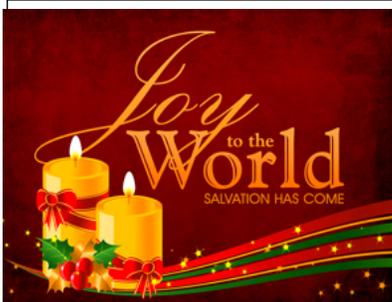
Thank you,

Worship & Music Committee



Quantity Name of Giver

Person/s to be honored & words of tribute



Presbyterian Women Meeting:

On Wednesday, December 8th Presbyterian Women will meet at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. There will be no lesson, however, guest speakers from Quiet Knight and Serenity House will bring us up-to-date on their organizations. A lasagna lunch (provided by the Italian Grill) will be served at noon. The cost is \$10.00 per meal. Please RSVP by Wednesday, Nov. 29 to Judy Ditmars at 260-925-4276. All are invited.

Looking for a nice Christmas present for someone this year. We still have copies left of our Anniversary Edition - Celebrating 175 Years Cookbook. The cookbooks are filled with many wonderful recipes. You will find many favorite recipes from many of our current members and those that have passed on, which 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. These cookbooks are available for purchase at a cost of \$15.00 each. If you would like to purchase one, contact the church office. Checks need to be made out to Auburn Presbyterian Women.