

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



JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2022

ANGEL TREE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Many thanks to all that took a name from the Angel Tree this year. What a blessing it is to see how everyone joins together to help make someone else Christmas a little brighter!

Special thanks to the Deacons and John Jackson for the delivery of all the gifts!



Thank
You

SPECIAL THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR ALL THEIR DONATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL FOOD PANTRY THAT IS LOCATED OUTSIDE. IT IS GETTING USED BY THE PUBLIC. (JUST A NOTE THAT DURING THE WINTER MONTHS PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY LIQUIDS OR ANY ITEMS THAT COULD FREEZE!)

FROM THE PASTOR:

Friends-Putting this together is a challenge! I am writing before Christmas, but you're going to be reading it in the New Year. It doesn't seem like a Christmas reflection is fitting, but it's hard for me to separate myself from the midst of Christmas preparation.

Other things contribute to make looking forward to '22 so difficult. No one can guess what the new year brings—none of us thought we'd still be battling Covid! Our experience the last year is an object lesson about our inability to see the future. I've heard people guess that we'll be back to normal while others tell me that we're going to see the coming of the Lord. The truth is, no one knows.

The book of Ecclesiastes is not particularly joyous. A lot of the passages touch on the difficulties of life. There are a couple verses that deal with the theme of looking into the future. Chapter 8 verse 7 says that if one does not know what will happen, how can they begin to say when. This just seems like a statement of fact. Who can say what the future will look like and, given that, who can say when it will arrive?

More helpful is the advice in chapter 11, verse 6. In this passage, the writer of Ecclesiastes tells us that we should plant in the morning and the evening because who can tell which effort will have success—and maybe they both will. This is encouragement to labor on in spite of the sense that we're not accomplishing anything. This certainly applies to work with and in the church. We cannot immediately see the fruits of our labor so sometimes we feel like just giving up. That, coupled with the challenges of the last year, has pushed many in the church to a point of despair, frustration and resignation. To the point, nearly 40% of pastors are actively considering resigning and changing careers (I'm not, but that's the statistic). It is increasingly difficult to get volunteers in the church and presbytery. We really need to hear the invitation of Ecclesiastes—keep it up!

What the church can do is work smarter, not harder. We can consider ways to do the things we do and experiment with a new way of being that isn't so taxing. We can work together to discern those activities that do not feed our souls and either modify or discard them. We don't know what the future looks like, so it is up to us to have a vision and work to make that vision a reality. It is our responsibility to spawn this new imagination of the church and flesh out what we discern.

Friends, I hope you had a great Christmas, but I pray especially that God revives our spirit that we may enter into the work of the church with more excitement, expectation, and energy.

Shalom, Pastor David

Officers and anyone who has to submit a report for our **2021 Annual Report**, please have it to the church secretary no later than January 10.

Presbyterian Women will meet on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Cheryl John will provide the lesson, which will be "Lament Over the City" (lesson # 6). Scripture: Lamentations 5:1-22; Luke 23:26-31. All Women are invited to attend.

NOTES FROM SESSION...

MASKS MANDATORY IN THE SANCTUARY

As long as DeKalb County is in the "Red Zone" Mask are mandatory in the sanctuary.

THE CALL OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

The Annual Congregational meeting of the Auburn Presbyterian Church will be held in the sanctuary and via Zoom on Sun., January 30, 2022 for the purpose of receiving annual committee reports, receiving the 2022 budget, and transacting any other business that may properly come before said meeting.

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.

INSTALATION/ORDINATION OF NEW OFFICERS: January 16, 2022 is the date set for the installation/ordination of new officers. Please mark your calendars!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC NEWS AND UPDATES

Special Communion Dates for 2022

The apostle Paul invites us to live *in the world* but not *of the world*. It's a difficult path to find and follow. Along the way the Church gives us some assistance on that journey by offering a different (Life of Christ) calendar. For example, the Church begins the year with the first Sunday of Advent and ends with Christ the King Sunday.

In selecting dates for Holy Communion, Auburn Presbyterian Church gives us opportunities to remember events in the life of Christ by coordinating our communion dates with those events. In 2022, the calendar dates and their corresponding Church dates are as follows:

January 9th – Baptism of the Lord
February 27th – Transfiguration of the Lord
March 2nd – Ash Wednesday
April 10th – Palm Sunday
April 14th – Maundy Thursday
April 17th – Easter
June 5th – Pentecost
June 12th – Trinity Sunday
October 2nd – World Communion
November 20th – Christ the King



There are other times when we celebrate the Lords Supper but these specific celebrations of Holy Communion remind us that we follow the Christ who bids us to "do this remembering me". (In the months which do not have a special even to remember, Communion dates have been set as July 10, August 7, and Sept 11). May the peace of Christ be with you as you seek to live out what it means to be *in the world* but not *of the world*.