

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

MARCH

NEWSLETTER - 2022

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLE MEETING:

Presbyterian Women will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9 in the church lounge. Barbara Bushnell will lead Lesson # 8 - God Laments. All women are invited to attend.



**The congregation of Auburn Presbyterian Church is cordially invited to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony for Marcus Smith. Location: Middaugh Hall, 708 S. Union St., Auburn
Time: 2pm --- Date: Sunday, March 6 2022**

THE MARY EVELYN MOORE SCHOLARSHIP

The Christian Education Committee is accepting applications for the Mary Evelyn Moore Scholarship. Applications can be picked up in the church office and must be returned to the office by FRIDAY, MARCH 25. The MEM Scholarship is available to church members who seek to further their studies at a degree-granting post-secondary educational institution. Previous recipients are not eligible. Please read the application cover letter for more details.



FLOWERS FOR MORNING WORSHIP

If you are interested in giving flowers for Sunday morning worship service the following dates are available:

March 20
April 24
October 9, & 16

November 6, 13, & 27
December 11, 18 & 25



The total cost is \$30.00 for two vases of flowers and the forms are available at the back of the church to fill out and return to the church office. Or you may call the office and let the secretary know the date and who you would like to give them for.

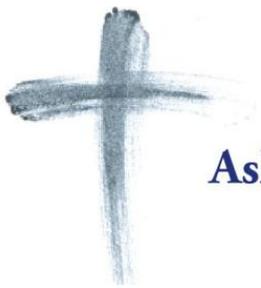
BIBLE STUDY NEWS

A group of us have been captivated by Amy-Jill Levine. We have used two sets of studies led by AJ and we're starting our third. Please join us on Wednesday evening at 6 so we can introduce you to AJ and explore *The Difficult Words of Jesus*. This group meets online and in person in the lounge.



Imagine the joy when your gift changes someone's life – both the joy they will feel in being changed and the joy you will feel in knowing that your gift is changing lives. As Christians, we talk about God providing us with blessings of all kinds in abundance, but there are many in the world who live with less than what they need. Surely our God calls us to be sharers of abundance. You can be a channel through whom God satisfies the hungry, comforts the distressed, and brings hope to the poor and oppressed. Create more joy in the world with your generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing.

The MA&I team will be sharing the messages of **One Great Hour of Sharing** as we move thru the Lenten season. We invite your participation by mailing your contribution to the church and mark the check memo as "One Great Hour of Sharing Contribution." Thanks for your cooperation and willingness to participate!



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

Wednesday, March 2, will begin the Lenten Season with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Imposition of ashes and communion will take place during the **service in the chapel beginning at 7 p.m.**

FRIENDS' TABLE

Help! We are short staffed on Mondays at Friends Table! If you can spare a few hours on Mondays, we would love to have you! We are seeing an increase in those in need of a meal, a few weeks ago we gave out 130 meals!

It's all easy! We need help getting the sacks ready for the meal to go into, people to pass out the meals to our visitors, help with clean up (washing dishes by hand), etc. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please get in touch with me or just stop by on Mondays! We start around 9 until 12:30.



FROM THE PASTOR:

Brothers and Sisters:

We are entering into Lent on the Christian calendar. You will receive this newsletter on the week that includes Ash Wednesday, the formal start of Lent's 40 days. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, Lent ends the evening of Maundy Thursday. If you're looking at a calendar, you'll notice that this is more than 40 days – Sundays are not counted as part of Lent.

Traditionally, these 40 days were days of fasting, penance, and almsgiving in remembrance of Jesus' days in the wilderness. Lent was a time of preparation in the early church when candidates for baptism were made ready for that sacrament. Finally, Lent was a time of Penance—those who had been excluded from communion because of grievous sin took steps to be restored to full relationship with the community of faith.

My how things have changed! The Protestant Church has largely discarded all of these ancient practices. The majority of Christians see the practice of Lent as relatively unimportant in our life of faith. We get busy during the week and don't attend the worship services that are special to Lent. We do not fast and very few either give up something meaningful or take on a practice that has value. Baptism happens any time and exclusion from communion never takes place. We have lost the meaning of Lent along with its practices.

I think this is a significant loss that affects our life of faith. The practice of Lent encourages us to explore and deepen our relationship with Christ. The introspection and examination of Lenten practices help us develop a self-concept grounded in reality. We come to grips with that fact that there is a God and it is not us.

I'm not advocating a return to the practices of the ancient church. I like to eat too much to promote fasting and I don't think anyone should be excluded from communion! I do think there are ways to recapture the meaning of Lent that nourish our spirit. We can engage in practices that fit into our lives and are true to the intentions of the Church Fathers.

Of course, attending those special church services is a start, but there are other simple practices for Lent. Prayer is one of the easiest things we can do. I suggest that during Lent we intentionally take time for prayer. You may even want to make it more specific and commit to praying every day for something like the sick, or the homeless, or the citizens of Ukraine. If you already pray every day, you could practice a different way of praying like getting on your knees to pray, praying longer, or devoting a certain time of day to prayer.

I'm not a big one on giving up things for Lent, but taking something on is an easy practice that fits into our lives. Participation with my daily reflection is one option, or there is a Lenten group on Thursdays that some of us are experimenting with. If that's not speaking to you, how about using these days to read a book on faith? I'm happy to recommend a book that you could make your Lenten practice. If none of those options appeal, there's always the Friends Table. Helping with Friends Table would be a great spiritual disciple. They are always looking for a set of hands on Monday morning and you would be welcome.

The practice of spiritual disciplines during Lent nurtures our faith and brings us into a closer relationship with God in Christ. I strongly encourage you to experiment with some practice that fits your life.

Shalom, Pastor David

ON-LINE LENT STUDY

Join us for a [Lenten study](#)! This year we're rubbing shoulders with Christians from all over the world participating in Jesus De/Constructed. This will be a live presentation Thursdays at 5 PM through Lent. These sessions will also be recorded. Our discussion will revolve around two books, *Freeing Jesus* and *The Homebrewed Christianity Guide to Jesus*, but you don't have to read these to participate in this discussion.

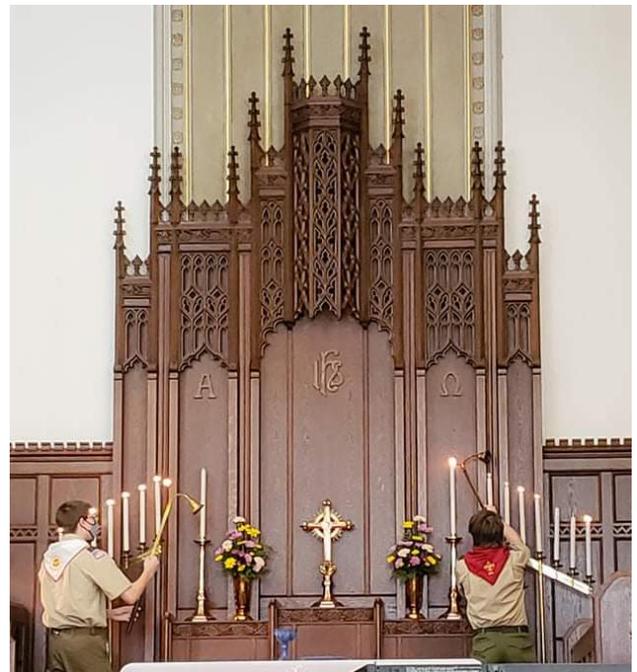
If you're interested and would like to know more, just click [here](#) to get more information or sign up.



February 6th, Auburn Presbyterian Church recognized Scout Sunday. Several Scouting families attended and participated in the special service. Afterwards, Dutch Oven cooking samples were offered by Troop 169 and the Girl Scout Troop had a table of cookies in the Fellowship Hall.

Special Thank You to those that helped with the worship service: Marcus Smith, Aidan Smith, Gavin Kling and Travers Mason.

We look forward to this each year. Duty to God is an important part of Scouting, A Scout is Reverent.



THE GATHERING

Greetings in Christ!

What a month it has been! Our congregation has experienced many ups and downs with various illnesses and challenges. Please pray for us to all be restored and energized to fulfill our calling in the Great Commission. We pray for health and happiness for you all as well. Despite the challenges we have experienced, we are growing and helping people transform their lives each week. Please pray for those who have recently joined our congregation and are committing to follow Jesus and leave their old lives behind.

We have exciting news for the community as well. Together in partnership, The Gathering and Better Together Auburn were awarded funds to provide Auburn with three (3) additional community pantries and funds to supplement the existing pantries and get the new ones up and going.

Our two organizations are so happy with and proud of our generous community members. They help to clean, restock, and look after these pantries that benefit so many of our neighbors in need. If you have any food that you can donate or need some food to get you through, please see the list of the Auburn community pantries and needed items below. We ask that you help keep an eye on them and help keep them stocked if you are able. If you notice a pantry in need of some food or attention, please post about it on the community pantries page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2928665734121768>

Auburn Pantry Locations:

Eckhart public library
603 S Jackson Street
Auburn, IN 46706

First United Methodist Church
1203 E Seventh St
Auburn, IN 46706

Union Township Trustee
427 W 7th St.
Auburn, In 46706

Auburn Presbyterian Church
111 W 12th St
Auburn, IN 46706

Coming Soon!:

Children First Center (New Location)
1610 S Grandstaff Dr.
Auburn, IN 46706

Easterseals RISE
650 North St.
Auburn, IN 46706

Heimach Center (Tentative)
1800 E 7th St.
Auburn, IN 46706

Needed items:

Canned tuna/chicken

Prepared soups

Rice

Beans

Snacks

Cereal

Staples (flour, sugar...)

Hygiene products (soap, tooth paste...)

Feminine hygiene products

Paper products

Easy items for kids and teens (Easy Mac, granola bars...)

Baby Items

Please do not include perishable items or used clothing for hygiene purposes.

Grace & Peace, Today & Always,

Rev. Nicki Tackett - Founder/Pastor, The Gathering, 260-203-1517 -- thegatheringauburn.org