

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

August

NEWSLETTER 2022

PRAYER CONCERNS FOR MASON FERGUSON:

Hello friends and family!

This past Sunday Lisa and I got to spend the day with 3-year old Mason Ferguson at Riley's Children Hospital in Indianapolis. We also took his big brother Tristan down with us to see Mason and their parents Brian & Rachel. Brian & I have known each other for 20+ years through Boy Scouts.

Mason has been in Riley's for almost 2 weeks and yesterday finally got a confirmed diagnosis...he has Neuroblastoma (abnormal growth of nerve cells...aka nerve cancer) and has multiple tumors in his body, 1 by his kidney, 1 by his adrenal gland and another along his spine from about half way down his rib cage to the bottom of his rib cage. Unfortunately, the cancer has also spread to his bone marrow. This is just the beginning of a very long road for Mason and his family...the BEST CASE scenario has a timeline of 18-24 months.

You can read & follow Mason's journey here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/576790617356863/>

For those of you taking the time to read this far, THANK YOU! We're asking for everyone to do something: monetary donations for simple things like gas, food, hotel rooms for the parents, etc. would be a great help as the medical bills are going to be unthinkable. If everyone reading this would donate one dollar it would be a tremendous start for this family who have suddenly had their lives turned upside-down. No one ever plans or budgets for a medical emergency as most families live paycheck to paycheck these days. So if you can donate please do so at: <https://www.givesendgo.com/G3H5B>

If you can't donate, please take a minute to say a prayer for this family as well as share his story. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping Mason.



Sincerely, John Culler
FROM THE PASTOR:

Brothers and Sisters – I read something interesting this week. “Everybody wants a revolution, but no one wants to wash the dishes”. Usually attributed to Dorothy Day, I found this quote in Tish Warren’s book, *Liturgy of the Ordinary*. I understand this to mean that we all like the big stuff, but no one wants to do the little stuff it takes to reach the big.

I really like Warren’s book and we’re reading it in our Wednesday group. The book unpacks our ordinary lives and looks at the routines that make up our day. For example, we just read a chapter about getting up and making the bed. This book’s perspective is that when we look at life we find that it is made up primarily of these little, seemingly unimportant, actions.

Warren relates these little ordinary things to our faith in a way that makes sense to me. For example, how many Sundays have you gone to church, and maybe even done it when you’re away or on vacation. Sometimes the worship is inspiring and sometimes it’s not. The thing is, it’s an action that we do time and time again just because we know it’s important to our faith. I think prayer and meditation, or fasting, or reading the Bible function in the same way – they’re repetitive practices that form our faith.

Warren believes that an important aspect of doing actions like worship and other spiritual practices over and over is that they become ingrained in us. They become so ingrained and such a part of us that when we have problems or struggles, we reflexively turn to those practices. We don’t have to think about it. We just pray.

So...revolutions and dirty dishes. Revolutions come and go, but there are always dishes to wash. When I read Warren’s book this time I was particularly struck by the notion that faith is more about playing catch than it is about hitting a home run. We may occasionally have great successes in ministry, but the real work is practicing the faith day in and day out, regularly living out a loving, relational faith. Only God knows when Jesus will return and the game will end. Until that time, our task is to keep doing those little daily practices that move us closer and closer to the kingdom.

Shalom, Pastor David

Wednesday Evening Bible Study:

Please join Pastor David for Bible Study on Wednesday evening via Zoom beginning at 6:00 p.m. He will be studying from the book entitled "Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life." Here is the link: <https://g.co/kgs/XbtDvi> or you can go to Amazon.com to order the book. The cost of the book is \$12 on Amazon.



MISSION FOR THE CHURCH

The mission committee is asking for your help during the month of August to make sure kids have the supplies that they need for school. We will provide a bag, and in the bag will be a list of supplies for you to purchase. We will collect these and take them to Church World Service the first week of September.

OUR FREE LITTLE PANTRY

Help, Help, our cupboards are bare! Our Free Little Pantry is out of food and we are asking for your assistance in providing non-perishable items, such as canned foods, peanut butter, granola bars, dry pasta, crackers, cereals or paper products... anything that would not spoil in the hot weather. We have cleaned out our church cupboards and need to restock. You may bring items to the church office anytime. Thank you!



Presbyterian Women's Circle will start up again beginning in September. The first meeting will be THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 AT 10:30 A.M. Our first lesson will be led by Pastor David. All women are invited to attend.

NOTE: Program directories will be available in September. You may pick one up in the church office.

FROM THE CE DIRECTOR:

Happy Summer Friends!!!

I think the heat is here to stay for a while. That didn't stop the youth from getting together a couple of times this summer. We were able to have some food and fellowship along with creating some wonderful masterpieces. We got our art on and learned how to do some acrylic paint pouring. Fun was had by all!!

With school starting soon I will be starting to prep study programs for both the Youth and Adults. We will be sticking with the Kerygma program we used last year with great success. It was fun, educational and easy to understand. The group voted on starting with the 8 week program on Parables. I will be using this program with both the Youth and Adults. I would love for everyone to join us. The group is growing and the conversations have been thought provoking and interesting. All views, ideas and interpretations wanted!!

The adult group decided out of the Adult Sunday school for helping Ukraine and have decided to call themselves U.S. Ukraine Solidarity. So when I speak of the U.S. I am referring to the Ukraine group. We have begun the educational portion of our mission and meet every Monday at 2 pm at the church for discussion on the History, religion and current news on the War. We are all reading a selection of different books and bringing that information to the group as we go. I would like to invite everyone to join U.S. (pun intended). If times don't work for you let me know we can add different meeting times!!

God Bless, Kari Ackerman CE Director.



Announcing a Presbytery-wide picnic on Sunday, September 18 from 3-6 p.m. at Geneva Center in Rochester, IN. Everyone is invited to attend.

The Smock Senior Adult Cluster Ministry is planning an overnight trip to Chillicothe, Ohio on Wednesday, August 24th and returning Thursday, August 25th. There are three (3) attractions there to visit: 1) the outdoor theatre Tecumseh; 2) Adena, the colonial home of Thomas Worthington; and 3) the Hopewell Indian mounds. Chillicothe is about 250 miles away, about a five (5) hour drive from NE Indiana. We are leaving early Wednesday, at 8:00 AM, so as to arrive in Chillicothe in the early afternoon. Those with the energy to do so will visit the Hopewell Indian mounds, while those who wish can just take a nap. But we will all be going to the Tecumseh Outdoor Theatre for a VIP tour in the late afternoon, then off to dinner, and then returning for showtime at 8:00 PM. The next morning, we will visit Adena as a group, which opens at 9:00 AM, and then return to Indiana, arriving at about 5:00 PM. **Cost:** \$100.00/ per person, all meals and lodging are included at no extra cost. **Limit:** 30 people, five (5) per congregation: Auburn, Chapel, Garrett, Howe, LaGrange, and Salem Center. **Reservations Required:** Sign up no later than **August 7th** by calling the church office.

Smock Senior Adult Cluster, Sweet Breeze Boat Ride, July 28, 2022

We had 26 participate from our six (6) churches! (from APC we had 4 participate)
It was a great ride!



Friends' Table is in need of volunteers to help at Friends' Table on Mondays. We start arriving around 9:30 and are finished by a little after noon. Easy help... assembly of lunches, dishes, etc. We served around 120 lunches this past Monday so this mission of the church is received as a blessing to those families who rely on this meal every Monday.



Share Your Memories, Tell Your Story

How wonderful it is there are members of our community and congregation who can assist us with details about the history of our church and town. Not long ago, Nancy Derrow was featured in a delightful chat with Jane Feyl of the Willennar Genealogy Center (March 11, 2022) on YOUTUBE about her childhood growing up in Auburn and how WWII affected everyday life. (It's still available to be seen by going to [WILLENNAR GENEALOGY CENTER: A SERVICE OF ECKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY](#) Genealogy Chat: Growing Up in WWII.)

Recently we were fortunate to have former member and businessman Kern Butler let us know more about the construction of the Biblical Garden. He told us the walks, pathways, sidewalks, cross, and the antique iron fence were placed there by his company, Butler & Butler Construction. In fact, Ruth Randinelli remembers her husband Jack working with Kern, especially with the reassembling of the salvaged iron fence which now graces our garden. We also learned from Kern that the two light posts and fixtures were salvaged from a project at Potawatomi Inn in Pokagon State Park, donated, and installed at the northeast corner and the southeast corner of the biblical garden by Butler & Butler Construction.

“How Deep Do These Roots Grow: Auburn's Earliest Churches - Auburn Presbyterian Church” is told by Zack Heimach on another Willennar Genealogy Center's YOUTUBE (March 29, 2022) about the history of some churches in DeKalb County. Heimach engages listeners as he tells that Auburn

Presbyterian Church Indiana, founded in 1844, is one of the oldest churches in Auburn. He says,

“Over its 178 year history, the church has influenced Auburn in many ways-- including founding the first women's charitable organization in the town (1856), working a "revolution" in DeKalb's schools (1860), supporting Auburn's Civil War infantry and the abolition of slavery, initiating the Dekalb County Council On Aging and Children First Center, and starting Auburn's first day care.”

It is important that we get facts correct, but unless we know them, we can't share them. Perhaps there are other details of interest about our church and community we can learn from some of our friends and former members. Recently I came across a feature article about Marion Peckhart, who delighted youngsters in our DAYCARE with his homemade cookies. Lillian Ritchie could tell about those times. Perhaps you too have a story, a memory, or a bit of history worth sharing, such as Polly Bassett's efforts in starting the Friends' Table or when Phil Weck conducted the Christmas Eve services and sang “O Holy Night” standing on a ladder at the back of the church. (Do I remember that correctly?) From details about the Scouts, PW's rummage sales or elegant luncheons, to matters of architecture, roofs repairs, funeral dinners, or Session planning meetings, there are many stories that engage, teach, and/or illuminate. Our archives and church directories reveal stories of our congregation, which always strives to serve and befriend one another. It is great to have people like Jim Nixon who has volunteered to put out another directory. Thumb through some old ones. As you do, you will remember and may reflect how this church developed its reputation as a caring, traditional, yet invigorated congregation, always exploring ways to reach out and tell the words of Christ. Share your memories and stories, especially to young people and newcomers.

(R.Roberts)