



Audubon United Methodist Church

314 W. Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

www.audubonumc.com 856-547-6114

December 2020 Newsletter



Worship Opportunities:

9:00 A.M. Seekers Adult Sunday School in person and on Zoom. Face masks required.

10:30 A.M. Service in person and streaming live on our Facebook page and posted on YouTube

Please call the church office to reserve your place in a pew. We are limited to the number of people who can worship in the sanctuary at one time.

FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED.

Weds. *Comfort Food* on Zoom 7:30 PM

Tues. Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM on Zoom

Tues. Dec. 8 Church Council 7:30 on Zoom

Sun. Dec. 20 Chancel Choir Cantata

Thur. Dec. 24th Christmas Eve services

4 P.M. Family Service

8 P.M. Traditional Candlelight Service

ZOOM MEETING ID: 732-520-3940

PASSWORD: audubon

PHONE DIAL-IN: 646 558 8656 JOIN US!

The December Newsletter is sponsored George and Estelle MacCulloch in loving memory of loved ones.

From the Pastor's Desk

Maya Angelou was interviewed by Oprah on her 70+ birthday. Oprah asked her what she thought of growing older. And, there on television, she said it was "exciting." Regarding body changes, she said there were many, occurring every day...like her breasts. They seem to be in a race to see which will reach her waist, first. The audience laughed so hard they cried. One of the things Angelou said about life caught my attention. She said, "I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights."

I think I can handle pretty well a rainy day or lost luggage, but I am not sure about tangled Christmas tree lights. I think that it is probably one of the main reasons why I do not like to decorate my Christmas tree with lights for Christmas. I admire those people

who light the whole house, even their front yards, bright and colorful every Christmas. Digging through the boxes in the attic, dusting, untangling the lights, connecting them with the extension cords (not to mention searching for those cords), climbing up and down the ladder to set up. And soon you will have to do the backwards all over again after Christmas. Depending on my mood, I don't even



bother to take them out of the attic. Depending on my mood, sometimes, the lights stay up until February. I am sure that it never happens at your house, right? You

always have a jolly merry Christmas spirit to untangle the lights, right?

Depending on my mood...? Depending on what does my mood make me to be willing or not willing? In other words, am I spiritually whole for me to take any life task with calmness and be in peace no matter how swirling the world around me would be?

When Thanksgiving is over, test your spirituality by untangling the Christmas tree lights and see where you are spiritually in these days. Are you happy to work on it? Or do you not even want to touch it? Then think about the reason why you need to light the Christmas tree in the first place.

For unto us the child is born! Peace on earth! Is the peace yours in this Christmas season? Will you be able to leave a room for the Prince of Peace to be born in your household this year? Join me in the journey to look for the meaning of Christmas in the four Sundays during Advent in my sermon series, *Looking for Something*. It may be a quite a different Christmas this year due to the current pandemic. We can walk together getting ready to make room for something wonderful to be born in us.

Peace be with you! With all the love in this beautiful season of Christmas,

Jisun



AUM Victorious Women

We've all been faced with tough decisions during months and months of isolation this past year. Our pandemic fighting behavior has taught us to social distance from each other, breathe through a mask, UGH, and maintain connections with each other through venues that many of us were unfamiliar with before Covid-19. Hopefully, we have become a more resilient people and a stronger church community during this time period.

We will definitely not take a hug for granted anymore or the privilege of being able to worship together in person in church. Oh, and don't you miss our Ladies Luncheons? And it wasn't the Grinch who stole our annual Christmas Bazaar and Live Nativity, it was Covid-19.

Recently, Joan Windston retired from her AUM Victorious Women duties. We are so grateful for the more than 30 years she served as president of this group, and then our treasurer for nearly 10 more years. Thank you, Joan, for the time and talent that you dedicated to the ladies at AUM Church.

The last time the women met, we nominated Jane Gannon as our new treasurer, Thank you Jane for committing to the responsibilities of treasurer for the AUM Victorious Women. We also agreed to follow our 2019 budget for the 2020 year. At the present time, we are fortunate to have enough funds in our account to meet this obligation. Obviously, we had no ladies luncheon expenses, camp funds or women enrichment funds to subtract from our account in 2020 so we will still have something left in our account to start the new year.

In 2021, with some ingenuity, we will find new avenues to add funds to the UMW bank account. Hopefully, we'll be able to continue supporting the many organizations that we have in the past.

May we all remember to share the "reason for this season" with others. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful new year showered with many blessings beyond our comprehension.
Cheryl

Cancer with Hope

No meeting in December but join our Journey of Hope Cancer Care Ministry January 25, 2021 via Zoom.

For more information, please contact Bruce Krout.



Mission News by Bruce Krout

During our October Cancer with Hope meeting I shared an Alex Trebek video when he gave his first-year anniversary update of his ups and downs of his fight with pancreatic cancer. Pancreatic cancer is a type of cancer often caught late, that spreads rapidly, has a very poor prognosis, and usually the survival rate for the first year is only 18%. Despite the physical and mental difficulties of battling his cancer, Trebek talked about not giving up because it would be a betrayal of his wife, other cancer patients, his faith in God, and the many prayers fans have shared. His philosophy was to take it one day at a time with a positive attitude.

Unfortunately, the Jeopardy game show host passed away a couple of weeks later.

This past summer the Trebeks donated \$500,000 to a new homeless facility for seniors in the Los Angeles area. Because of the mild weather in the area and less stringent community rules, Southern California has been inundated with homeless individuals. Every day Californians see the homeless encampments throughout the state. It is estimated to be around 150,000 homeless in California compared to 8,000 here in NJ. How wonderful it was for the Trebeks to give such a large donation. Every day I'm sure Alex drove by various encampments making it hard to ignore the squalor he saw. His heart ached to help in some way; I'm sure.

Now I'm going to pivot to you and your amazing generosity throughout the year at AUMC. Your giving is based often on second hand information. Usually you give without seeing first hand someone in need. I want to commend you for loving a neighbor you don't know or see. Remember when Jesus said, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:29). Blessed are YOU because you give to various mission projects and those in need throughout the year and often you don't see the needy first hand. You are certainly a loving congregation. You are a blessing to our community. I hope you have a joyful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

*Sharing God's word and love (food & shelter),
however **we** can, is our mission.*



From the Church Council

Your Church Council has been hard at work trying to find the right words to convey who we are at Audubon United Methodist Church and develop a Vision Statement. We would like you to take a moment to sit down and prayerfully reflect on the following as we had done while we were drafting it:

“We are a Christ-centered family of Christians. We are actively seeking to grow the kingdom of God by bringing his Word and his love to the community. We may not always think alike, but we always love alike as God has taught us.”

We would like to have feedback from our church members. Please let me know what you think by emailing me at allison@elmersautobody.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

May the joy of the Christmas season and the confidence in our Savior’s birth comfort you during this most uncertain time. Let us keep Jesus the reason for the season!

Allison Cox

Outreach challenge

These are "Invite Card" for us to share with others to invite people to reconnect to their faith and also to our church.

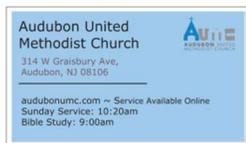
Everyone is invited to take a packet of 20 invite cards. These can be picked up from the church on Sundays, from the church house, or we will be happy to deliver these cards to the door if anyone wishes. Just email the church office. (Mark is going to deliver them upon request.)

These are the suggestions on how to use the Invite cards:

1. Add your prayer to the cards.
2. Reach out to your neighbors on your street and surrounding community, even your families and hand the Invite card to them or mail one with a sweet note.
3. Hand Invite cards to people you meet when you are out and about
4. Bless your mailman/lady with a Christmas card and Invite card
5. Put Invite cards in with gift cards (*i.e.* Dunkin’ Donuts, ShopRite, Wawa) whatever the Holy Spirit lays on your heart.

Have a Blessed and Sparkly Day

--Kimmee



Christian Education and Anne Simpson

Our Family Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m. will be in person and live streamed. As in the past, it will focus on children's involvement.

The Christian Education Team would like all children to be involved either in person or at home. We will have bags with a Nativity craft and a candle in the pews or we will deliver them to your home.

Please email your address to the church secretary if you intend to be online or register for in person worship no later than Dec. 16th.



Blessing Tree

Due to the pandemic the Blessing Tree is a little different this year. A list of wished and needs will go out by email. If you do not have email, the list will be mailed to you. As the gifts are chosen I will remove them from the list and update it as needed. If you wish to choose one or more gifts, please wrap them, put a tag on the gifts in a way that it can easily be removed and replaced with the child’s name. All gifts should be returned to the church office before December 11th. When you are ready to deliver your gifts, please call the office to arrange a drop off time, so that we don’t have too many people in the office at one time. If you have any questions, you may call the office or email Linda at holonia@yahoo.com. Thank you for your kindness in thinking of those less fortunate during the Christmas season.



Christmas Eve Services



In person worship and streaming on Facebook and YouTube

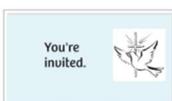
4 P.M. Children and Family

8 P.M. Traditional Candlelight

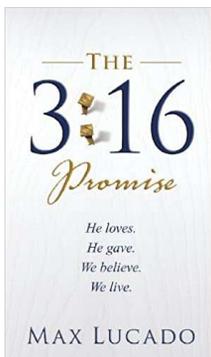
Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!

Bishop’s Day

Dec. 3 at 9 AM via Zoom: Meeting ID: 978 4356 2370 Password: 892360 for all clergy and laity to listen and understand about the state of the church and share information about GNJ mission and priorities.



The Advent Devotion.



We have been writing the 29th chapter of the Book of the Acts. You and I are the apostles of Jesus in the 21st century. He chose us to carry on the mission the apostle of his time. I do not need to explain that we also need to be charged with spiritual nourishment in order for us to help others. This small book, called, The 3:16 Promise: He loves. He gave.

We believe. We live, written by Max Lucado, is waiting to nourish your soul during this season of Advent. **You can pick it up this Sunday after worship service or from the Church House.** We will be happy to deliver one for you to your door if you ask. It is your hand size small book of 58 pages. It may not even take 30 minutes to finish reading it. But I would like to encourage you to take time to read slowly to reflect and pray with the new thoughts. Or read repeatedly as many times as it really sits in your heart. After that, please pass the book to another person. That's the completion of your Advent devotion.

From the Book Nook

If you have peeked into Conover Parlor recently, you will notice that many of the bookcases are now gone in preparation of some new furniture coming soon.



Many of the books were donated to the gentleman from Haddonfield UMC who maintains pop-up libraries. Some books are also going to prison ministry, and a book store in Rancocas.

Children's books are available in the Hoffman Room. Books from the Chronicles of Narnia and the Left Behind series are upstairs in the Teen Room.

In Conover Parlor are books for deeper study of the Bible, books for difficult times, and books for good pleasure reading. There are also some Guidepost and other daily devotionals, the year may be old but the devotions are still interesting. Take one home and use it for 2021!

Do you shop online? Many online stores will donate a percentage of your purchases to AUMC!! Go to www.umcmarket and register by following the prompts. Every time you shop at selected sites you will be supporting our church.

Church Finances

Thank you to all of our faithful givers. Your gifts, in addition to the small loan received from the Small Business Association (through the Payroll Protection Plan), has enabled us to keep up with our bills.

Please continue to pray for wisdom for the church officers even as we are praying for you!

We traditionally make our Faith Promise pledge in November on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Please read again, Pastor Jisun's message on the first page as you pray for God to empower you and how you will respond by grace.

If you shop on Amazon, make sure you use  AmazonSmile and designate Audubon United Methodist Church. We receive a donation for every purchase.

"This email is to notify you that Audubon United Methodist Church) has been issued a \$51.38 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2020.

The donation was deposited to your organization's bank account on or before November 12, 2020.

Thank you, Your AmazonSmile Team"

The Collingswood Food Pantry we have teamed up with is asking for our help. They give food to those in need including Audubon residents, and they would like to offer NEW unwrapped gifts for Christmas in addition to food. We will be collecting now until the end of December.

We are looking for donations of NEW gift items for Christmas...shirts, sweaters, perfume, toys, games, household items, just about anything. A few weeks before Christmas we let each client choose a gift that they can give to a loved one or use for themselves. You can place these items and your Advent food collection inside the church in the food pantry box or outside the church house by the pastor's office door. Please make sure they are in a bag. THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS!

If you know of anyone who is in need of food, please let them know they are welcome to stop at the Collingswood food pantry located at Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 832 Park Avenue. Food is available for pick up every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 AM to 2 PM.

Gift cards Program

Order cards for your gift giving or personal needs and AUMC receives a portion of your purchase. Your cards are delivered to you within the week that the order is placed. Email or call the office for a list of stores and order forms.



December Shut-in of the Month



Bea Fisher
154 Yale Rd.
Audubon, NJ 08106

Keep her in your prayers and let her know she is in your thoughts by sending a card.

December Communion Offering

Urban Ministries

December Trustee Opening/Closing

Ron Fennimore

December Birthdays

- 2 Joan Windston
- 7 Liz Deal
- 10 Dan Arcaini
- 12 Lois Reiter
- 13 Sandy Albrecht
- 14 Samantha Snyder
- 15 Bill Soulliard
- 22 Mary Ann Mazer
- 22 Samantha Fennimore
- 29 Carol Fennimore



December Anniversaries

- 3 Pam and Peter Alekseyev
- 10 David and Mia Reich



Prayers – Praise – Thanks

Pray in the spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. Ephesians 6:18

Prayer requests from our weekly bulletins

- Doug J. • Crystal • Mary L.
- Shannon P. • Caitlyn C. • Mike & Tyler S.
- Mary P • Tiara C • Rosemarie
- Ef D • Susan H • Ron & Samantha F.
- Carol F • Miles J • Youngsoon Choi
- Charlie W and family • Holly F
- Ruslana's father Karl • Dr. K and wife Bernice

Our Friends with Special Needs

- Carol F • Dan A. • Gwen E.
- Joan W • Bill R • Peg and Don L
- Sandy A • Marge W • Peg and George K.
- Estelle M • Jim B • Keeyoung K
- Dee G

College Students to keep in your prayers :

- Maggy B • Holly F • Kevin F
- Becca V • Colin R • Emily W

Prayer Card Requests

- World Gospel Mission ministries and the Crakers
 - International Students ministries and the Mannons
 - Campus Crusade CRU Alex Simpson-Aponte
 - Our servicemen and women:
Walter J IV- US Coast Guard; Jim G – NJ Army National Guard; James S. --US Army
 - Pray for our country and the world as we struggle with COVID-19. Pray for all those affected by the virus and those who continue to work to help those affected, as well as those who work to continue to provide us with the necessities while we are homebound.
 - Bill D recovering at home from a stroke.
 - Peg and George K with health issues
 - William's Uncle Fred
 - Please pray for Robert Hayes, part of music ministry at Keswick; he is battling two types of cancer. Pancreatic cancer and just found a lump on his lung.
 - Pray for our friend Stan in God's hands with Pancreatic Cancer
 - Tracy's mother Caroline recovering from a fall
 - Lou G home from the hospital
 - Pray for the staff and students at Audubon schools who have COVID-19
 - Pray for Scott R having surgery
- ### **Prayers for our church**
- Please pray for our church leaders as we move forward in our 2020 vision for AUMC
 - Please pray that AUMC will continue to grow in spirit and be seen as a beacon in the area.
 - Please pray for Pastor Jisun
 - Please pray that others will see Jesus' spirit in us.
 - Please pray that we will each experience a deeper spiritual walk with the Lord.
 - Please pray that the leaders of AUMC would be led by the spirit to know God's will for us.
 - Pray that we can attract more families and others who aren't attending church elsewhere.

Our pictorial directories are here!!

They are now available for you to pick up in the church office during office hours. Please call ahead to let Linda know you are coming, and she will have the directory waiting for you in the hallway so there will be no worry about personal contact.

Health & Wellness – Short and Sweet



Wearing a Face Mask

Why must I wear a face mask? Small micro droplets of the Corona Virus are present in the air. The droplets can enter the body through the nose, mouth, and eyes. They are projected from our mouths as we talk. Singing, coughing, and sneezing can project them even further than 6 feet – that’s why we can’t sing in church and everything such as the hymnals have been removed from the pews. So to stay safe:

- Wear a mask.
- Don’t touch your face
- Practice hand hygiene
- Practice social distancing
- Do NOT reuse it from day to day. Discard it when it gets wet or at the end of the day.

What is the correct way to wear a mask? The mask must cover **both the nose and mouth**. Exposing your nose does nothing to protect yourself when you breathe in. Nor does it protect others when you exhale.

Watch for this column for shorts on health and wellness in the monthly Newsletter. Next month: “Eating out During the Pandemic”

Questions/suggestions? – contact Dorothy Groves. Cell phone 609-405-4134, or email grovesdorothy@gmail.com

Vision 2020



Writing Acts 29

Lindsi Arcaini ‘s Outreach Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4F51XGqSjk&t=10s>

Sandy Albrecht's Outreach Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8w_6X6Vpwc

Canon of Praise Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfOyoRULHP8>

Carol Fennimore’s Outreach Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qw46y21s1C0>

Helena Woodward’s Outreach Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cxCgMgZVu8>

Church Staff:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| * Pastor: | Rev. Dr. Jisun Kwak |
| * Admin. Assistant: | Linda Holonia |
| * Director of Music: | Mia Reich |
| * Organist: | David Reich |
| * Pianist: | Jesse Deal |
| * Nursery helpers: | Lauren F, Marissa W |

Church Office email : audubonumc@verizon.net

Pastor’s email : pastorjisun@gmail.com

Church Office Hours

Monday: 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Check out our website: audubonumc.com



AudubonUMC



2020 Christmas Poinsettias

You are again invited to share in placing one or more poinsettias in our sanctuary for the Christmas Season.

The price is \$4 per plant.

We would like to have them in the sanctuary for Sunday, December 20. Therefore, **orders MUST be placed by Wednesday December 16. No orders will be accepted after this date.**

You may take your poinsettia home after the 8 PM Christmas Eve service on December 24 if you are in attendance. For anyone worshipping virtually on Christmas Eve, instructions on when you can get your plants will be forthcoming.

Please complete the order form below and give or send it with your payment to the church secretary.

PLEASE PRINT

<i>Your Name</i>	<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>In Honor Of</i>

Signature: _____ Amount enclosed: _____

