



Audubon United Methodist Church

314 Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

www.audubonumc.com 856-547-6114

February, 2018 Newsletter

Sunday Worship Opportunities:

- 9:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
- 9:00 A.M. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 A.M. Traditional Service

From the Pastor: "All You Need Is Love?"

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph 2:8-9).
 "Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?" (Rom 6:1-2)*

When I was a young Christian and candidate for the ministry, some of those tasked with getting us ready for the process of becoming licensed and ordained would say to us the most important thing about the Faith was love. There was no denying that love is at the heart of the Gospel. God's love for humanity (John 3:16) and our love to God and others (Luke 10:27). I had experienced God's love personally when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior (age 16) and felt as if that love had swept over me like an incoming tide. However, that love (for me at least) was rooted in the idea of Grace. God loved me so much that he sent his Son to die for me so I might live in him *even though I didn't deserve it*. The word I grew up with to describe that experience was "salvation." I still remember sharing my experience with some of my "elders" only to be told "all you need is love."

Well, that makes for a great Beatles song, but I questioned what they said. There has always been a tension in Christianity between Grace and Law. Law is **God's** commands and statutes; **Grace** is what God offers to all who believe in his son...forgiveness for breaking God's laws and eternal life. I came to the conclusion that some saw forgiveness of sins as an *excuse* for sins. Paul was pretty clear on the matter (e.g. Scriptures above). Jesus certainly was. The problem I had with some of my elders was they used grace/love to excuse sin. *(pastor's message continues on page 2)*



Our Doors are always open!

Our Church Building is Handicap Accessible. Elevator access to the sanctuary and the lower level can be found on the Graisbury Ave. side entrance. Handicapped parking is available on Graisbury and also in the rear of the church house.



The February Newsletter is in Honor of our United Methodist Women—Victorious Women.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Feb. 5 Men's Group 7 PM at Arcaini's
- Feb. 13 Church Council 7:30 PM Conover Parlor
- Feb. 18 Deadline for the March Newsletter—send to Marilyn Radley at smradley@verizon.net
- Feb. 19 Trustees meeting
- Feb. 21 Supper Club

Weekly Meetings:

- Mondays: Seekers (7-8 P.M.) Conover Parlor
AA (7:30-8:30 P.M.) Adult Assembly
- Wednesdays: Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30-9 PM

Ushers needed...Men and Women to serve



as ushers. Could you spare a few minutes before the traditional worship each Sunday for 4 month of the year (not consecutive)? Please contact the church office

or Chris Fitzgerald if you are interested.

AUMC high school scholarship information is available in the Narthex.

Have you heard about the LINK?

A new ministry devoted to our youth! Anyone in Upper Elementary through Junior High School is welcome. They meet Friday nights at 6:30 PM in our 3rd floor youth room/ Coleen Makuszewski and William Betts are leading the group.



(Continued - pastor's message from page 1)

We live in a world where people look to blame their faults, mistakes and shortcomings on other people, life circumstances, even ignorance. When it comes to sin, these excuses just don't cut it. When Jesus extended God's love to a person in need he frequently added "Go and sin no more." Paul explains, just because a person responds to God's grace doesn't mean now you can live any way you please.

What helped me understand Grace, Love, Forgiveness and Law was the wisdom from the Gospel of John and the First Letter of John (BTW, John was known as the "Apostle of Love"):

1 John 5:3 "For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome,"

John 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

God showed his love for us in sending his son, Jesus. Now we show our love to God by believing in his son and keeping God's laws. We want to please the One who gave his best for us. Nobody said this would be easy. There will be times when we fall short. But John clarified this, too... "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." How's that for love?

"So what does this have to do with me?" you may wonder. Well, now I'm the elder and have my two cents to offer. I know a lot of believers who lean too much to one side or the other...heavy on the Grace so as to excuse almost anything even to the point of accepting, even justifying things they know are wrong. Or they emphasize the idea of keeping God's laws so much that they forget why Jesus came in the first place. Law can't save us. Without Christ, we can't keep it. But it can be our guide on how to please the One whose gracious love gift brought us salvation. On which side do you come down. How about we meet in the middle Law and Grace empowered by Love? *Pastor Walt*

Supper Club

Supper club will begin a new study on Wednesday, Feb 21. Come out for good food, fellowship and worship.



New Ministry



Do you live alone? As your church family we care about you. We are beginning a program called Angels Unaware, wherein a church member would like to contact you each day, just to be sure you are okay and to see if you need anything. This is not meant to be an extended phone call; it's just a wellness check to make sure you are okay. **If you would like to be part of this ministry, either as a caller or as one who receives a call, please contact the church office or fill out the form below and return it to the church, either by mail or in the offering plate or in person at the office.** Thank you!

I would like to take part in the ministry
_____ I would like **to call** one or two members each day to make sure they are well;
_____ I would like **to receive** a phone call from a church member each day

NAME _____

PHONE NO. _____

BEST TIME TO CALL or MAKE A CALL:

_____ Early morning _____ Late morning
_____ Early afternoon _____ Late afternoon
_____ Early evening

A Note from the Trustees



The trustees work very hard to keep our church clean, safe and in good repair. They are asking your help. Please be sure to **TURN OFF LIGHTS AND MAKE SURE ALL EXTERIOR DOORS ARE LOCKED** when you leave the building

ALSO if you are having a meeting that is not a regularly scheduled event, please let the church office know the date and time you will be using the church.

Our new Sound System.



We are still accepting donations to cover the cost of the new system. About one-third of the cost has been received. Please mark your donation "**Sound System**" so that it is credited to that account. Thank you!

Empty boxes are needed for the Easter Egg Hunt. Contact Lori Ryan



Mission News by Bruce Krout

I'm always surprised that many folks who grew up in Audubon don't know the difference between Audubon and Haddon Lakes. Haddon Lake has the popular walking and bike trail around its perimeter. Audubon Lake is on the northwestern side of the E. Lake Drive Bridge where it is quiet and seldom seen close up. Its quietness is great for wildlife watching, fishing, or for teens looking for seclusion and a high.

One of the recent IHOC (Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council) grads, who visited our church last January to promote this program, actually lived on the banks of Audubon Lake a couple of winter's ago. He bought a gym membership to use as a place to work out some, but he primarily used it as a place to shower each day. When we think of homeless, we often picture them under a bridge overpass in Camden or Philadelphia, not in our neighboring parks.

In 1991 a group of 12 area churches in Camden County decided to create the IHOC program to help out homeless men in our region because there was a lack of shelter options for men. The shelters available were unsafe and unpleasant environs. Each year IHOC helps out 9-12 homeless men for seven months from November to May. This highly structured program offers life-skill classes to teach budgeting, cooking, resume writing and job searching skills. There is also legal help available for those in need. Most of the homeless men have addiction issues that they are counseled about. There is drug testing for all participants throughout their stay to help them in their recovery.

The IHOC men stay for two weeks at one of the 12 churches in the group. Each weekday the participants are out the door by 6:30 a.m. and return late afternoon. There are mandatory curfews for the participants. The home church is responsible to make dinner while the men are under their roof. Often these home churches reach out to other area churches to provide a dinner or ask for members to stay overnight to supervise the facility. You'll recall that a number of our church members provided a dinner last January.

Think about this. Rather than contributing to the guys at city intersections with cups in hand and hope that the donation doesn't go toward their next

fix, please consider a donation to the well-organized and life changing IHOC program!

Short video clip of IHOC-

<https://youtu.be/PxDefamTzLE>

IHOC website- www.ihocsj.org

To donate via PayPal go to above website or by check and mail to:

IHOC, 1989 Route 70 East, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003

Sharing God's word and love, however we can, is our mission.

Victorious Women-UMW Annual Women's Retreat

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy!"

The Westmont-Audubon UMC 9th Annual **Ladies Spring Retreat, Jesus my Joy**, has been scheduled for March 16-18, 2018. **Registrations are due by February 2.** Payment is due by March 2nd. We will once again meet at the Doubletree Resort in Lancaster, PA. At some point during the weekend we will discuss any possible changes to the retreat for the following year. Room rates for the weekend are as follows: Single room, \$363.82; Double room, \$217.30; Triple room, \$179.56; and Quad room, \$160.68. These rates are very similar to last year's rates and include lodging for two nights, breakfast each morning and the program fees. See Linda Holonia for information and a registration form. Also let Linda know if you would like some financial assistance, as there is some available.

Ladies Day at America's Keswick May 9th



25 ladies are already registered. There seem to be tickets available so if you are interested in going but have not yet gotten your ticket, please see Lyn Radley. The day includes all 3 sessions, continental breakfast, and gourmet boxed lunch. 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, doors open at 8:00 AM. Check out her studies "Word by Word" on her website: www.lizcurtishiggs.com

Assistance with Heat and Utility Bills

PSE&G offers assistance for low-income (LIHEAP- (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) and moderate-income (Payment Assistance Gas and Electric - PAGE) families with their Gas and Electric bills. For "LIHEAP" call 1-800-510-3102 (available Monday - Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00

p.m.) or "PAGE" Payment Assistance Gas and Electric) call or visit www.energyassistance.nj.gov

Altar Flowers Need

One altar flower sponsor is needed for the following weeks: April 22; May 6; may 20; July 29; august 19; and November 11. Please contact Linda at the office if you would like to be a sponsor .

Help needed

Bea Fisher would love to come to church but she needs a ride. If you could help, please call the church office or Pastor Walt.



Job opening: Ruslana

is looking for a part-time assistant for her day care. The position is for afternoon hours 3 days a week and possibly more, as needed. For additional information, please call Ruslana at 547-4361 and leave a message.



No need to write your check for Church in the new year!

Electronic giving gives you a convenient way to keep up with your intended offerings. Simply complete and return the electronic giving authorization form to get started which can be found in the narthex.

You can designate your offering to any of the following funds and you can choose the weekly, semi-monthly or monthly options.

- Tithes & Offerings
- Advent Offering
- Lenten Offering
- Thanksgiving Offering
- AUMC Walker/Bowen/Betts Scholarship Funds
- Repairs and Maintenance
- Christmas Offering
- Easter Offering
- United Methodist Women

February Shut-in of the Month



Myrtle Jones
1056 S. Black Horse Pike
Apt. D-4
Williamstown, NJ 08094

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

February Birthdays

- 5 Barbara Hertfelder
- 6 Chris Stanley
- 6 Alexa Campling-Lyman
- 18 Christian Reich



- 19 George MacCulloch
- 23 Lori Ryan
- 25 Christy Schnyer

February Anniversaries

- 2 Cheryl and Bill Laxton

February Communion Offering:

Ranch Hope

Those assisting in our ministries for Feb.:

Greeters: George and Peg Keel

Ushers: Dan and Lindsi Arcaini, Sam Arcaini and Chris Fitzgerald.

Liturgist: William Betts

Counters: Chris and Darlene Fitzgerald and Jean Whitely

Trustee to open and close church:

Bill Makuszewski

THANK YOU does not begin to express our gratitude and appreciation for all of the love and support we have received from you- our church family - during the days before and the weeks following Paul's death. Even the smallest kindness has not gone unnoticed; your cards, the many meals, your visits and prayers, your time in supporting us at Paul's memorial service and the many, many kind words- all the love you have expressed in so many ways. All we can do is say thank you and assure you that we appreciate each and every one of you!

Love, Linda, Jason, Rebekah, Elijah, Mike and Ana; Rachel, John, Samantha, Abigail and Zachary; Sharon, Ashley and Jaylen

Never give up on your prayers, a brief testimony!

Many years ago, when our children were very young, or in the case of Rebekah and Sharon, not even here yet, Paul and I stood up in a church gathering and claimed Jesus as our savior. Fast forward a few years, Paul became disillusioned after a series of unfortunate events. He was raised in the Catholic faith and was sure God was punishing him for something. He became angry with God and his faith seemed to go by the wayside. I prayed for him many, many times in the following years. I prayed that he would return to his faith. I was also concerned for our children. He never expressed his disillusionment to the kids, but as they got older,

they realized something was different about his faith. I would talk to him from time to time about faith and he got tired of hearing from me. At different times the kids would try to talk to him, but he didn't budge. I continued to pray. I often wondered why God was not hearing me; why He wasn't answering my prayer. Still, I continued to pray.

It was not until he lay on his death bed, that Paul confirmed that he did indeed still have his faith. He shared it, ever so briefly, with his entire family gathered at his bedside. It was a comfort to all of us. He passed and many thoughts went through my mind; things like, now what do I do? How do we move on? Why did this happen, especially when the medical people told us both that he "was critical, but improving." A couple of days after his memorial, I recalled my prayers for him and realized that God heard my prayers and did indeed answer them. **Never give up on your prayers or your God!** He is there, watching over you and He hears all of your prayers. He will answer, although maybe not in your time, but in His.

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. • Carol B • Charlie W
- Crystal • Mary L. • Mike & Tyler S.
- Shannon P. • Caitlyn C. • Anne and Joe
- George G • Mary P • Carol and Bill B.
- Tom H Sr. • Susan H • Ron & Samantha F.
- Beverly F (Chris's mother) • Ruslana's father

Our Friends with Special Needs

- Ginny A. • Dan A. • Doris K.
- Myrtle J. • Gwen E. • Eleanor T.
- Edith W. • Sandy A • Ronnie W.
- Gerry G. • Bill R • Joan W
- Norm L. • Janet K • Peg and Don L
- Marge W

College Students to keep in your prayers:

- Holly F • Zabrielle H • Emily W
- Christian R • Becca V • Ashley S
- Jake V • Christy S • Adam C
- Chris S • Kevin F • Tyler S • Bill Z

Prayer Card Requests

- World Gospel Mission ministries and the Crakers

- International Students ministries and the Mannons
- Campus Crusade "CRU" and Alex Simson
- Pray for our new neighbor—Kid's Alley--now at Trinity Lutheran Church on WHP
- Our servicemen and women:
Walter J IV, US Coast Guard; Jim G, Jordan, Army National Guard; James S, Afghanistan, U.S. Army; Madison S, U.S. Army; Matt -Europe
- Health issues of Janet K
- A miracle for husband Tom with cancer and cirrhosis and needs a transplant; for his Salvation.
–Barbara
- Joan for upcoming knee surgery Feb 5
- Joe F healing from hand surgery
- Joel struggling with addiction
- Niya a single mom who is struggling
- Tracy's mom recovering from a fall
- Thanks to all who prepared meals for the Cunanes.
- Brother-in-law Bud with esophageal cancer
- Norm L health issues
- Edith W at home
- Jen traveling to New Brunswick each day -CarolT
- The Jenkinson family on the passing of daughter Kari.
- Victoria and Debi who lost their mom.
- Inexpensive housing for friend Franny -Lindsay
- Myrtle J is having health problems
- Coleen M as she recovers from surgery
- Sandy A for her pain and mobility issues.
- Peace in our nation.

Praises!

- William's new employment
- Successful surgery for Barb C and that no further treatment is necessary
- Susan M. offers praise to God for answered prayers

Prayers for our church

- Please pray for our church leaders as they make important decisions this winter and spring regarding appointments and for unity concerning the direction of the United Methodist Church.
- Please pray for upcoming events, including Youth Group, Men's study group, Supper Club, VBS And church picnic.
- Please pray that AUMC will continue to grow in spirit and be seen as a beacon in the neighborhood.
- Please pray for Pastor Walt; for good health, strength, protection, and guidance.
- Please pray that others will see Jesus' spirit flowing from 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 our church.
- Pray that we can attract more families and others in the area who aren’t attending church elsewhere.
- Pray that our members can experience unity that comes from the Spirit.

Memorial Gifts – Reminder

Thank you to those of you who give Memorial Gifts in memory of family or friends who have gone on to their reward. Please give your gift to Barbara Kondras or the church office. Do NOT put it in the offering plate, otherwise it will not be recorded as a memorial gift, you will not receive a letter from the Memorial Secretary and the family member of the deceased will not receive notice of the gift. Thank you!



Church Staff:

- * Pastor: Rev. Dr. Walter Jesuncosky, III
- * Admin. Assistant: Linda Holonia
- * Director of Music: Mia Reich
- * Organist: David Reich
- * Pianist: Jesse Deal
- * Nursery helpers: Emily W, Maggie B and Lauren F

Church Office email: audubonumc@verizon.net
 Pastor’s email: aumcpastor@verizon.net

Church Office Hours

Monday & Wed. 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
 Friday 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Check out our website: audubonumc.com



AudubonUMC

Or Audubon UMC Youth Group!