

Audubon United Methodist Church

314 Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

www.audubonumc.com 856-547-6114

January, 2019 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: "Press On"

¹² I don't mean to say... I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Philippians 3:12-14 NLT

Press on. A New Year is upon us with lots of uncertainty and change ahead. Most have an idea of what is coming so I won't spend time saying how things will be different. Some people have a hard time dealing with change. Some go into denial. Others lapse into nostalgia and wax poetic about the "good old days" (which probably didn't seem all that good when we were going through them). Then there are people who can't wait for change and new things. Those uncomfortable with change see these folks as impatient, uncaring or disrespectful to what (or who) has gone before. The "move on" folks see their cautious brothers and sisters as stuck in the past, unwilling to try new things.

Which am I? A little of both types I guess. The Apostle Paul gives us some help when it comes to "pressing on." He begins with the realization he has not yet "arrived," reached perfection, achieved all that the Lord has planned for him. Paul knew there was more, he just didn't know what that "more" was. Like baseball great and philosopher Yogi Berra said, "It ain't over till it's over." So he figured the way to get there was to forget the past. What? How can person forget the past? How can a church forget the past? I don't think Paul meant forget the important people, places, event and lessons that made him the "Great Apostle." I don't believe God
(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 January Newsletter is sponsored by George and Estelle MacCulloch.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Jan. 8 Church Council 7:30 PM Conover Parlor

Jan. 13 Deadline for February Newsletter—*send to Marilyn Radley at smradley@verizon.net*

Jan. 19 Music Workshop by David Bryant

Jan. 21 Trustees meeting

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

Fridays: The Link 6:30 – 8 PM

CUBS: Bears, Tigers and Arrow of Light meet Tues and Thurs. Pack meeting 3rd Friday of the month.

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.

The AUMC scholarship

applications will be available at the AHS Student Personnel Office later this month (January). The church awards a \$1000 scholarship

annually to a graduating senior at AHS. The kids should be on the lookout for it and submit an application if they are pursuing any form of higher education.



(Continued - pastor's message from page 1)

means that for us either. There are some things we do need to leave in the past. Let's forget old hurts and grudges. Let's forget disappointments and failures unless we use them to grow in faith. Let's stop comparing things and people from the past with what God is doing now or will do in the future. One thing I won't miss in retirement is hearing about the days when the church, Sunday School, VBS, etc. were _____ (fill in the blank). Or "Pastor So and So used to do thus and such." Yes, I've heard that same thing in every church I've served. So, thank God for the victories of the past and press on. Some things are important to remember, others need to fade from our memories to make room for the new experiences, challenges, opportunities our Lord has in store for us.

Paul says to look "forward to what lies ahead." He seems quite positive in his anticipation. That's because Paul sees life as a race that must be run to the end where a prize awaits. That's a good way to look at life and ministry. If we are faithful, God has a heavenly prize for us. I believe that faithfulness applies not only to individuals, but also to the church. Remember who is waiting at the finish line... Jesus Christ himself. We will never get to the finish line if we keep looking back at the starting line or worry about the course we are running. With our Lord's help, we will keep running. Maybe you are getting weary. Maybe others seem to be getting ahead of you. Don't worry. Press on. Run the course that Jesus has set out for you. He believes in you. He has coached you well. He's prepared you for the race. Run to win. For some the finish line is fast approaching. For others, it's still away off. Just the same, Jesus is waiting, even cheering you on! Press on!

Pastor Walt

Mission News by Bruce Krout

The missionary staff (Crakers, Mannons, Baehrs and Alex Simpson) and seven Christian organizations were thrilled to receive a surprise end of year love gift. Thanks to your yearlong generosity we had the funds to support them and once again show our Church's "neighborly love". Your Christian love has reached out to the world.

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

Live Nativity - Thanks to Director Karen Campling, workers, Nativity Cast, Allison and the kitchen staff, crafters, the Link, the scouts, and everyone who helped make the 2018 Live Nativity a great success and blessing. It was a team effort and I am sure the Lord used all your hard work to touch many lives for Christ.

Victorious Women 2018 Bazaar Update

A big THANK YOU to all of you who helped achieve a successful Christmas Bazaar. Without your dedication and generosity, this event would not be possible. The funds that are raised support many missions and projects in our community and church. In 2017 we had a banner year, raising more than \$3,000. Each bazaar is different and we are grateful this year for a total profit of \$2,397.11. You might be interested in knowing the breakdown of how we got to this total amount.



| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Attic Treasures | \$ 351.06 |
| Baked Goods | 472.65 |
| Baskets | 578.00 |
| Cafe' | 167.00 |
| Christmas Shop | 35.00 |
| Used Jewelry | 163.40 |
| Vendor Tables | 430.00 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Deposited | \$2,397.11 |

Thank you GOD for our energy, talents and time that we put into this project.

Blessing Tree Update



Thank you to everyone who took part in providing gifts through the Blessing Tree. Because of your thoughtfulness and generosity eight families in our area will have a merry Christmas! Again, you have shown that Audubon UMC cares about its friends and neighbors. You might be interested to know that our friends at Logan Memorial have helped us with the gifts this year as well as in past years. I am sending a note of thanks to them as well.

January Shut-in of the Month



Cass Kyler
162 Cedarcroft Ave.
Audubon, NJ 08106

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

Music Workshop with David Bryant



Join us on Saturday, Jan. 19th for a day with David which will include 3 workshops and David at the piano. Detailed information coming soon.

2019 Ladies Retreat

Ladies! Are you looking for more peace in your daily lives? Join us for the 10th annual Ladies Retreat in the spring.

We will meet at the Fulton Steamboat Inn in Lancaster of May 3-5, 2019. See Linda Holonia for registration forms and information. If you start now you can cover the cost by setting aside just \$5 or \$6 each week.

The theme is, you guessed it, "Peace Within."



Ladies Day at America's Keswick May 8th

9AM -3 PM Cost:\$22 for group and includes 3 sessions with Carol Kent and a gourmet box lunch.

"What makes my heart sing?" asks Carol. "Speaking to groups looking for messages that include humor and hope that speak to today's challenges by pointing to God's Word." She says, "I think women need to laugh because life is challenging, but I also think they want to go deeper



into God's Word and find out how to live in the middle of relationship struggles, difficult choices, and hidden fears. Women are longing for authenticity and practical strategies for living out their faith.

If you are interested, please see Lyn Radley.

Giving Envelopes

Envelopes will be available very soon. Did you know that it is not necessary to make a faith promise (pledge) to AUMC in order to receive a box of envelopes? Just let William Betts or Linda Holonia know that you would like to receive a box.

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 | Repairs and Maintenance |
| Advent Offering | Christmas Offering |
| Lenten Offering | Easter Offering |
| Thanksgiving Offering | United Methodist Women |
| AUMC Walker/Bowen/Betts Scholarship Funds | |

January Birthdays

- 3 Holly Fitzgerald
- 4 Don Cox
- 5 Walt Jesuncosky, III
- 5 Bill Laxton
- 8 Scott Radley
- 9 Don Reiter
- 17 Caden Reich
- 18 Ruslana Snyder
- 22 Joe Fennimore
- 26 Elijah Nicholas
- 31 Gail Lore



January Communion Offering:

Ranch Hope

Those assisting in our ministries for Jan.:

Greeters: MaryAnn Mazur

Ushers: Bob Fonash, Ron Fennimore, William Betts

Liturgist: Anne Simpson

Counters: Karen Lyman, Jane Gannon, Sue Medoro

Trustee to open and close church:

Ruslana Snyder

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 • Anne and Joe
- Tom H Sr. • Susan H • Ron & Samantha F.
- Charlie W and family • Beverly F (Chris' mother)
- Ruslana's father Karl • Dr. K and wife Bernice
- Marti W • Carol F

Our Friends with Special Needs

- Carol F • Dan A. • Doris K.
- Gwen E. • Eleanor T. • Joan W
- Sandy A • Marge W • Bill R
- Cass Kyler • Gerry G. • Peg and Don L

College Students to keep in your prayers :

- Holly F • Emily W • Christian R
- Becca V • Ashley S • Jake V • Kevin F
- Tyler S
- Christy S (Law School) • Chris S (Seminary)

Prayer Card Requests

- World Gospel Mission ministries and the Crakers
- International Students ministries and the Mannons
- Campus Crusade CRU Alex Simpson
- Our servicemen and women:
Walter J IV- U.S. Coast Guard, Jim G – NJ Army National Guard, James S. -US Army and Madison S US Army, Matt US Army in Europe
- George and Estelle for health issues
- Recovery of Carol T sister-in-law following surgery.
- A miracle for husband Tom with cancer and cirrhosis and needs a transplant; for his Salvation. –Barbara
- Please remember to pray for our church, and for the bishop, district superintendent and cabinet as they are searching for our new pastor for July 2019 and beyond.
- Helena asks for prayers for Tiara C who has mouth cancer and breast cancer and is having tests
- Praise for Elina's healing – she is infection free.
- Tracy S asks for prayers for his little cousin "MJ" as she recovers from heart surgery.
- Linda asks for prayers for a new job for Rebekah's fiancé, Rob. He has a job but after they are married, they cannot work at the same facility.
- Ron F. asks for prayers for his friend, Joy and

family, whose father, Gary passed away.

- Carol F asks for prayers for sister Dee recovering from surgery for breast cancer.
- Helena asks for prayers for her friend Elly, who fell and split her head open.
- Praise in celebration of Joan's 80th birthday
- Prayers for Scott and continued recovery after receiving a pacemaker.

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, Midsummer Nights, church picnic and VBS.
- 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.

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: Maggie B, Lauren F, Marissa W
- 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



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