



Audubon United Methodist Church

314 W. Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

www.audubonumc.com 856-547-6114

January 2021 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 later on YouTube

Please call the church office or register on our website 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. Jan. 12 Church Council 7:30 on Zoom

Mon. Jan 25 Cancer with Hope on Zoom

No Trustee meeting in January

ZOOM MEETING ID: 732-520-3940

PASSWORD: audubon

PHONE DIAL-IN: 646 558 8656 JOIN US!

The January Newsletter is sponsored George and Estelle MacCulloch in loving memory of our fathers, George Garcia and James MacCulloch.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear friends,

I can't believe it is 2021. 2020 was not an easy year for any of us. I am so glad that, finally, we begin to see the end of the tunnel. Let's continue to pray to God until finally we conquer the virus and return to the life of touching and hugging. Amen! Amen! Amen!

I thank you for your very generous loving Christmas gift for me. My mother was with me when I received it. We prayed to God a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing. I am deeply grateful to be the pastor of such a loving congregation.

Every year about this time, people start asking about New Year's resolutions. Did you make any? What were they? Are you going to keep them? How?! I don't remember the last time I made a New Year's resolution. I stopped doing it because they were

rarely kept, or even remembered, beyond January! The great thing about living in a relationship with Christ is that every day is New Year's Eve. You and I always stand on the brink of an opportunity to take another shot at things; this time getting it better. Jesus the Christ was born, died, and rose again to offer us that chance. It has nothing to do with pleasing your children, your teacher, your boss, your parents, or even God. It has to do with finding your way to the kind of life God intended for you and our whole world to be in joy.

The ball drops in Times Square, the horns blow, and the streamers fly at the very moment the new year begins. Our God is saying, "Happy New Year!" "Happy New Day!" "Happy New Hour!" "Happy New Minute!" Let's celebrate every moment of our life in God!!

Your pastor, Jisun

From the Church Council

Our New Vision Statement:

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

I first want to thank all who were involved in the development of our Vision Statement at Audubon United Methodist Church. It was a slow, thoughtful, meaningful process, but the result is outstanding and one that Council has formally voted on and approved at our December meeting.

I wanted to take this time to let everyone know the steps that Council went through to get to this point. In February and March 2020, we had brainstorming sessions. Continued effort was put on hold for a while as talks with regards to COVID-19 took precedence. We resumed our discussions in October and put a deadline being December for a new Vision Statement to present to the congregation. In the December newsletter, I presented our first draft of the vision statement and asked for input from the congregation. We then met and discussed your recommendations,

and the above final draft was developed. We met our goal! Once again, thank you all for your insightful and thoughtful input. We are a very blessed church with much to celebrate.

Allison Cox

Mission News by Bruce Krout

A big thank you to the generous folks who donated funds so that over \$550 worth of turkeys, nuts and produce went to our fellow Methodists and families in Camden for Thanksgiving! Also, many thanks to **Sam Tait** for his pick-up and delivery help.



At one of our Comfort Food meetings last month, we had the pleasure to hear from one of the mission couples our Church has been supporting for years. They have been in the mission field for decades in Asia. I don't want to jeopardize their safety so their names will be left out of this piece. Below are some of the highlights of our wonderful meeting.

In recent years Mr. and Mrs.* have been in China. Mrs.* was involved with an international school and assisting an orphanage in Shanghai while Mr.* was providing pastoral care and counseling to "underground" pastors. He talked about the difficulty some underground church pastors have finding someone to counsel them personally because in their culture a pastor needing such help would be looked upon as weak. The state-sanctioned Three-Self Patriotic Movement is the government approved Christian church that dictates who the pastor is, the location, and meeting times. It is very restrictive and they can't espouse the resurrection of Christ nor His second coming. Mr.* said that 90% of the Chinese Christians belong to an underground church. Remember those participating in non-sanctioned churches face varying degrees of harassment, including imprisonment and torture. A question was raised to our guests as to how the Chinese find an underground church if they want to worship Christ in His full truth. The answer was through prayer and

the Holy Spirit. Mr.* was asked about his run-ins with high government officials who interrogated him twice about his dealings threatening his freedom if they found further evidence of him breaking the law a third time.

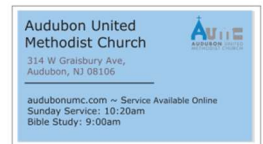
This was a poignant point in our meeting as Mr.* broke down in tears for a moment reminding us how Peter denied Christ three times (Mark 14:66-72). In some ways he was comparing his interrogation to that of Peter in the courtyard. Mr.* has been a hero of mine for years because of his bravery in getting the Word out and supporting Christians in a country where you are severely punished for doing so. Please pray for and support this amazing couple throughout the new year along with our other mission couples, the Mannons and Apontes.

Have a happy and healthy new year!

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

Outreach challenge

These are "Invite Cards" 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



To our Wonderful AUMC Family We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your incredible generosity. We are so very grateful for the Love Gift, and all the expressions of appreciation. Fondly, Mia and David

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I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to the congregation for your generous Love Gift as well as for your kind words of encouragement and appreciation throughout the year. You truly are my family! Linda



Pastor Jisun will be on renewal leave from January 4th through the 18th. In case of emergency, you may contact the office by email or at 856-547-6114 or you may call Linda at 609-980-6225 if the office is closed. Next Sunday, January 10th, we will welcome Jack Deal as he brings us the message. On January 17th, Bob Kondras will bring the message.

Christian Education and Anne Simpson

Much thanks to the children who helped with the 4 P.M. Christmas Eve program via video. You were great! And thanks also to the parents who were the videographers and stage crew!

Blessing Tree



Thank you, thank you, thank you!!
Because of your caring hearts we were able to provide Christmas happiness to 6 families this year. We started out slowly with 3 families and as the season progressed 3 more were added. Even

though we had to do everything virtually, it was a great success!

As they picked up their packages, each was so very thankful. They could not believe that people who didn't even know them were so caring. When I went to the office on Wednesday before Christmas one mother called me to again thank us. She shared that the father of two of her children had been put on hospice care the night before and she was deeply troubled. Her two children are just 1 and 2 years old. I offered to add his name to our prayer list and she was very grateful that we would be praying for him. We never know what others are facing, but with God's love in our hearts and our willingness to share it with others, we can make a difference, however small, in the lives of those with whom we come in contact. I was once in the position of these families,

not knowing how I was going to provide for my children at Christmas, so I know how meaningful it is to those we support. Thank you again.

Altar Flower sponsor openings:

We have several openings for altar flower sponsors this year. To date, the available dates are as follows: One arrangement is needed for these dates: January 10th; January 17th; February 7th; April 18th; June 27th; July 11th; July 25th; August 15th; August 22nd; and November 28th.

Two arrangements are needed for October 24th and October 31st.

If you are interested in sponsoring flowers on any of these dates, please email or call the office. The cost for each arrangement is \$14.50.

LED Candles

Last year we purchased battery operated candle lights for the church windows to eliminate the extension cords. Unfortunately, they were not bright enough to be seen through the stained glass windows. So, if any of you would be interested in purchasing some of them to offset the cost of the electric candles purchased this year, we have 24 left. We paid \$3.99 each on sale. They are now selling at Boscov's for \$3.24. Since they were used one year, we will sell them for \$3.00 each. Each candle uses 2 AA batteries. Battery operated gold LED candle with timer features 8 hours on and 16 hours off and LED flicker flame bulb. Indoor use only. Let Carol Tait know if you are interested



The Collingswood Food Pantry at Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are collecting grocery bags; paper and plastic, for the Food Pantry. You will find a plastic container on the porch to the pastor's private entrance to the church house where you may deposit your bags. If you are interested or have any questions about our partnership or the program, please contact Elaine Soulliard at 609 280 4792.

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

The Conover Parlor will be off limits until the second week of January. Hopefully we will be able to reopen at that time. We will keep everyone updated while we are doing repairs.



2021 Offering envelopes are available in the



Church Office back room during regular hours. Please take yours.

Due to COVID and the fact that many are not attending in person, if you would take some of those that belong to people who live near you and deliver them, that would save the church a lot of money in postage, as it costs about \$3.00 to mail each box. They are in plastic bags so there is no need for personal contact. You could simply leave them on the door/porch, etc. Thank you in advance!

Note: Do NOT use 2020 envelopes for your offerings in 2021. In many cases your envelope number has changed and if you use 2020 envelopes your giving will not be recorded properly

Cancer with Hope



Join our Journey of Hope Cancer Care Ministry January 25, 2021 via Zoom. For more information, please contact Bruce Krout.

Health & Wellness – Short and Sweet

“Eating Out During the Pandemic”



You will find that restaurants and Drive-thrus have different degrees of practicing protection for their employers and customers in this time of the pandemic. We all like to eat out so what can we do and observe to keep ourselves safe?

To start with, avoid popular eating times. Instead, go mid-morning, mid-afternoon or later evening to avoid the crowds. What to observe:

- Are employees wearing masks covering **both nose and mouth**?
- Are tables and chairs and benches sprayed with a disinfectant and then wiped down and the paper towel discarded after each party leaves, or is the same wet cloth used to wipe tables off repeatedly?
- Is seating spaced 6 feet apart from other tables and booths? Is there signage to indicate seating is not permitted at every table and booth? In

some locations, are there plexiglass partitions separating booths?

- Are there community salt and pepper shakers, sugar containers and ketchup bottles on the tables that everyone else has touched before you, and not wiped down between customers? OR are these items given in individual packaging upon request?
- Is silverware already on the table when you are seated or brought to you wrapped in a napkin or plastic after you are seated?
- Are you given a paper disposable menu? If given a regular menu, do you see these being wiped down before being given to someone else?
- Is hand sanitizer located in easy to see/use places?

Observe and eat where it is safe. From *my own experience* I would say that Friendly’s in Deptford and the Club Diner in Bellmawr are at the top of the list. Burger King and Chick-Fila are at the top for fast food. Closely behind are the Black Horse Diner and the Empire Diner in Brooklawn. I’m certain there are others.

Don’t be afraid to speak up and talk to the manager if you notice unsafe practices

To avoid all of this the best plan is to eat at home and make it special perhaps once a week – Get out the lace cloth, the best china and silver, flowers and candlelight, and maybe some soft music. Create your own special dining occasion!

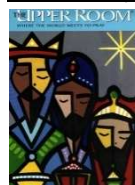


Watch for this column for shorts on health and wellness in the monthly Newsletter. Next month: “Thoughts and Discussion on the COVID Vaccine”

Questions/suggestions?

Contact Dorothy Groves. Cell phone 609-405-4134, or email: grovesdorothy@gmail.com

January/February Upper Room



The daily devotionals are now available.

Please contact the office to get your copy.

From the Book Nook


If you are wondering where the book cases are now located, you can find them on the lower level in the Edna Simons Room.



Stop by and pick up a book, whether for light reading or interest in the Holy Lands or one of many other topics available.

Pick up one of the annual devotionals available and borrow it for the year!

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

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

Gift cards Program

Thank you to everyone who purchased gift cards through the church. In November and December, we earned \$212.85. Contact Linda in the church office to purchase cards. They come within the week they are ordered.



January Communion Offering

Ranch Hope

Those assisting with Jan. services

Liturgist – Kimmee Williams
Trustee Opening/Closing -

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
20 Jay Jesuncosky -1st Birthday
22 Joe Fennimore
22 Paul Andrew Griffis
22 Samantha Fennimore
26 Elijah Nicholas
31 Gail Lore



January Shut-in of the Month



Jim Barrett
Woodbury Mews Room 219
122 Green Ave.
Woodbury, NJ 08096

Keep him in your prayers and let him know he is in your thoughts by sending a card.

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 from a stroke.
- Peg and George K with health issues
- Barb H's cousin Pat with MS
- Please pray for Robert Hayes, part of music ministry at Keswick. He has Pancreatic cancer and a lump on his lung.

- Our friend Stan in God's hands with Pancreatic Cancer now on hospice
- Joe and Christine recovering from COVID
- Tazz on hospice
- Scott R recovering from heart surgery

Prayers for our church

- Please pray for our church leaders as we move forward in our 2021 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.

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

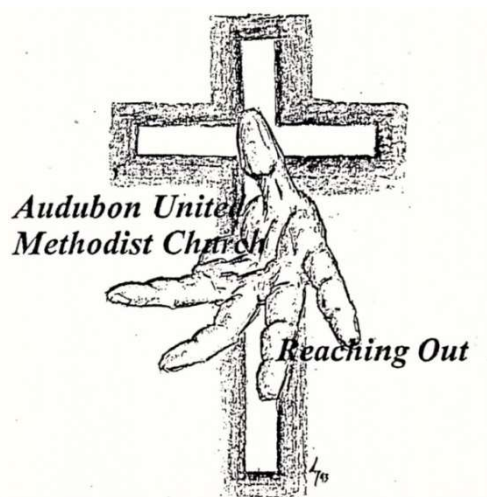


AudubonUMC



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Vision 2021



Writing Acts 29

Lindsay 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>