



# Audubon United Methodist Church

314 Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

[www.audubonumc.com](http://www.audubonumc.com) 856-547-6114

## November, 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: "Our Church is Closing!"

*"Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?" Psalm 85:6*

Wouldn't that be a terrible headline to see in our newsletter? **AUMC is not closing...yet.** I am sure the good folks of Holy Trinity Lutheran, Frances Childs UMC, Fairview UMC and Mount Ephraim 1st UMC were shocked to learn their churches were closing, merging (whatever leadership wants to call it). There are people in their communities truly sorry to see the churches go. I've found many people who are saddened at the closing of a church who may be part of the reason. They want a church for the special events in their lives (weddings, baptisms, funerals, confirmation, babysitting, VBS, etc.), but rarely attend. I've heard all the excuses...

"Sunday is the only day I have to relax (be with my family, shop)..."

"Sundays my kids are in soccer, martial arts, flag football, dance..."

"Church is boring, the pastor is boring, the music is boring..."

"My kids don't want to go" (do they want to go to school, the doctor, the dentist?)

"I don't get around much anymore" (but you see the person at the mall, the diner, the grocery store, the beauty parlor, the movies, etc.)

"The church is full of hypocrites" (except the one complaining)

In talking with pastors recently I'm hearing the same stories. Empty pews, people with excuses, kids involved in everything under the sun on Sunday but worshipping in God's house, the list goes on. And the headline above will be sure to follow... **OUR CHURCH IS CLOSING!**

*(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 November Newsletter is presented by Mark VanArnam*

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Oct. 30 and Nov. 8 Bible Study continues 7 P.M.
- Nov. 4 Daylight Saving Time ends (turn back)
- Nov. 13 Church Council 7:30 P.M. Conover Parlor
- Nov. 18 Food Ingathering – see Mission News December Newsletter Deadline to Lyn at [smradley@verizon.net](mailto:smradley@verizon.net)
- Nov. 19 Trustees Meeting 7 P.M.
- Nov. 21 Thanksgiving Eve Service-AUMC 7:30
- Nov. 29 Covered dish and Greening of the Church
- Dec. 1 Church Bazaar 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

### Weekly Meetings:

**Sundays:** Sunday School Classes-all ages 9 A.M.  
Children's choir 9:45 A.M.  
Bell Choir rehearsals 11:45 A.M.  
High School Boys Bible Study 6 P.M.

**Mondays:** Seekers (7-8 P.M.) Conover Parlor  
AA (7:30-8:30 P.M.) Adult Assembly

**Wednesdays:** Chancel Choir rehearsals 7:30 P.M.

**Fridays:** The Link 6:30 - 8 P.M.

**CUBS:** Bears Nov. 6, 20 at 6:30 P.M.  
Tigers Nov. 8 at 6:30 P.M.  
Arrow of Light Nov. 1, 15, 29 – 7 P.M.  
Pack Meeting Nov. 16 at 7 P.M.



*(Continued - pastor's message from page 1)*

The people stopped coming; visitors looked around and saw empty seats, never to return; the money to pay the bills, let alone do ministry, dried up; and the building needs massive repairs.

Some changes are inevitable in the life cycle of a church. Generations come and go. Worship styles and preaching styles change. Pastors change. People go elsewhere to worship instead of helping change where they are because the work is already done and the programming in place. This is nothing new. But the main reason churches close is not so easily fixed. PRIORITIES! Activities, sports, leisure, relaxation have moved to the top of the list for so many people. Knowing Jesus Christ, living for him, training the next generation in the faith have ceased to be as important as the other "stuff." I guess I just don't get it. Maybe I'm out of touch or just too old fashioned. To me my spiritual health and that of my family is more important than the "stuff that has replaced it." I may want to see my friends and family at the ball field or the concert hall enjoying themselves, *but I want to see them in heaven even more.* The message of salvation in Jesus Christ has eternal consequences. Society today seems more interested in "whatever makes me happy." How many things that have made me happy over the years are now broken, obsolete, or beyond my ability to participate in? But I still have Jesus Christ. I look forward to spending eternity with my family (many have already gone on ahead) and friends. The way to get there is by making Jesus Christ number one in your life and allowing him to set your priorities.

The world and the pressure it brings on believers is very real. We hear things like "You don't want to miss out do you? People will think you're weird if you put your "religion" first. Don't shortchange your kids. Don't you LOVE them?" Yep. I love them enough I want them to know Christ as Savior first and foremost and live as part of the family of God. The other stuff will have to get in line behind Him! Some may not want to hear this. Nobody likes to hear bad news. But the doctor's challenging diagnosis is the first step to recovery. The Lord can revive us, renew us, get us on the road to health. Talk to Jesus about it. Let him order your priorities and we need never see the closing sign.

*Pastor Walt*

## **Bible Study continues**



Anne Simpson has been leading a Bible study group on Fruits of the Spirit. The last 2 sessions are Tuesday, Oct 30 and Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7 PM in the Conover Parlor. *Scripture passages highlight each quality and will help allow the Spirit's fruit to ripen.*

## **Mission News by Bruce Krout**

At the end of this summer we received a thank you note from Shirley Stewart from the *Camden Urban Ministry Initiative* (CUMI) for the donation our Church recently made. You'll remember that CUMI is who the Fellowship House of South Camden aligned with so that they could continue their outreach to the children of South Camden. Below is a portion of the thank you letter that I want to share with you:

"Camden Urban Ministry Initiative is a nonprofit organization comprised of the five United Methodist Churches in the city of Camden. CUMI is a 'Youth Ministry' movement aimed at equipping the church to walk with the city's young people as they face the challenges of obtaining a quality education and developing a healthful world view. Its current mission is to coordinate the efforts and energies of Camden's church community to ensure the lifelong positive development of Camden's youth.

'We thank you so much for contributing to this Ministry. Your donation will go towards Back-to-School Uniform Vouchers for youth from low-income families. Your gift is important to the vitality of Camden Urban Ministry Initiative and for the ongoing support of Camden's promising youth.'

Joana McDonnell and the other board members of the Fellowship House did their homework and found the perfect fit for their community goals and outreach to the youth of Camden to continue!

Our annual Thanksgiving Ingathering will occur this month and go to Camden Urban Ministry Initiative. The collection of fresh carrots, frozen turkeys, sweet or white potatoes will happen on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Please place your donations in the kitchen storage area near the elevator.

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

**A Stewardship Moment**  
**Moving Forward by Faith**

The theme of our annual stewardship emphasis this year sounds good, doesn't it? "Moving Forward by Faith" has a nice "ring" to it. But what does it mean to move forward by faith? And what does that have to do with an annual stewardship emphasis?

Hebrews 11:6 says that "without faith, it is not possible to please God." It stands to reason, then, if we are to please God, we need to have faith. Faith is simply taking God at His word. It is believing that God actually exists and that God will keep His promises. It is realizing that God will do what He has committed to do.

That kind of confidence is only available to us through Jesus Christ. He is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and ending of everything, including our faith. Christ is both the source of our faith and the one in whom we place our faith.

How does that relate, though, to giving and to our annual stewardship emphasis? If faith is simply "taking God at His word" and if God owns everything, then as God's managers and stewards, we are to trust God to provide what we need and to give direction concerning our giving. Let's face it — the old song is very accurate scripturally: "This world is not my home, I'm just a passin' through." But to fully realize that takes faith. It requires us to accept God's claim that we own nothing, that we are only here temporarily on our way to our eternal home.

The Scriptures are filled with examples of people like that, people like Abraham who looked for a city whose builder and maker was God. People like Noah, who trusted God in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. People like Daniel who placed his full confidence in God even when he was to be the main course for the lions' dinner.

These and many others obeyed God, even when from a human perspective, it did not make sense to do so. They were aware of a principle that has endured for the ages: When God gives us direction, and we confirm that direction according to the Scriptures, we can obey, even when circumstances appear contrary. And we can be confident that God will provide a blessing because of our obedience.

**Veterans!** If you or someone in your family is a veteran of the military, please send the following information to the office so that we may include them in our annual Veteran's Day observance.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_  
Years served and any special honors \_\_\_\_\_



**High School Boys Bible Study**

Bible study is forming just for Boys at 6 P.M. on Sundays! Join leader William Betts in the youth room on the 2nd floor for a look at the book of Ephesians. Yes, that is dinner time so dinner will be provided. It might be pizza or it might be a trip to the diner, who knows? Guys, you won't want to miss this and bring your friends!

**2019 Ladies Retreat**

Ladies! Are you looking for more peace in your daily lives? Join us for the 10<sup>th</sup> 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."



## **2018 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

**Dec. 1 9 A.M.-2 P.M.**

Mark your calendars, in just a month the UMW's Victorious Women will be hosting the annual Christmas Bazaar.



The bazaar has become a very effective fundraising tool for the UMW. The proceeds raised from the bazaar goes towards missions, projects around the church and programs in the community.

To make this project a success, we rely on donations of baked goods, café type food, clean, gently used rummage type items for Attic treasures, old jewelry, handmade items, small furniture, wrapped gift baskets and help from the congregation. Please drop off any items that you wish to donate by November 18th. Last year we were blessed with many books, so this year we are looking for just children's books. No donations of clothing for this event.

If you have friends or family that would be interested in participating as a vendor at the Bazaar, the table rental space is \$25 if they provide their own table, and \$30 if they need one of our tables. See Carol Jo Fennimore (856-313-0594) for more information.

Lois Reiter (856-546-6278) would enjoy hearing from you if you are interested in helping out in any way. Please invite people to come and shop and support our Christmas Bazaar. Talk to Cheryl Laxton (856-261-4228) for any other information.

### **Blessing Tree**



Our annual Blessing Tree will be set up in the Narthex on or about November 18<sup>th</sup>. Please consider taking an ornament of two to purchase a gift for those less fortunate. Wrapped gifts, with the ornament attached in a way that it can be removed when name tags are attached to the gifts, should be returned to the church no later than December 9<sup>th</sup>. Please sign out the ornament number that you choose so that we can be sure that everyone on the Tree receives a gift. The sign out sheet is located on the table near the Tree. We have had a tradition of being very kind, thoughtful and generous in giving to those less fortunate than ourselves. If you have any questions please contact Linda Holonia at [lhologia@yahoo.com](mailto:lhologia@yahoo.com).

## **Logan Memorial Presbyterian Church**

Logan has invited us to enjoy a Night of Music with Charlie Zahm on Saturday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. Mr.



Zahm is a guitar soloist of Celtic, Maritime and Traditional American music. The evening includes music, fellowship, refreshments and door prizes. Tickets are \$10 each and are available by emailing

[CharlieZahmNight.LoganChurch@gmail.com](mailto:CharlieZahmNight.LoganChurch@gmail.com)

## **Community Thanksgiving Service**



**Wed. November 21st at 7:30 PM.**

Audubon United Methodist Church

Join us with praise and thanksgiving for all God has done for us!

## **Covered Dish and Greening of the Church Thursday, November 29**



Come join the decorating fun! We begin at 6 P.M. with a covered dish dinner then off to fill the church with Christmas beauty! Everyone is welcome.

## **Upper Room Devotional Books**

The new November/December issue of the *Upper Room* is available at the wall mounted display by the Graisbury Ave. door. Pick one up and start your day off with God. A small donation is appreciated.

## **If you shop on smile.amazon.com**

select Audubon UMC, Amazon will donate .05% of your eligible purchases.



[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) is the same as shopping on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

**Gift card order forms** are available in the narthex. This program gives a percentage of the value of the card right back to our church. See Linda Holonia



## **November Shut-in of the Month**



Joan Windston  
43 Payson Ave.  
Audubon, NJ 08106

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

## **November Birthdays**

4 Coleen Makuszewski  
6 Ef Deal  
11 Francis Makuszewski  
16 Kathy Wade-Akram  
17 Rebekah Barrus  
17 Zabrielle Holloway  
19 Miles Jesuncosky  
20 Jim Goslin  
20 Eleanor Tucker  
20 Gwen Evans  
24 Karen Holloway  
25 Richard Burrough  
27 Charlie Kelly  
28 Megan Ryan



## **November Anniversaries**

8 Barbara and Bob Kondras  
29 Marilyn and Scott Radley



## **November Communion Offering:**

Kid's Alley

## **Those assisting in our ministries for Nov:**

**Greeters:** Diane Stanley and Sue Medoro

**Ushers:** Barbara and Frank Cunane and Mark Van Arnam

**Liturgist:** Carol Tait

**Counters:** Darlene and Chris Fitzgerald and Jean Whiteley

## **Trustee to open and close church:**

Ron Fennimore

## **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  
• Edith W.      • Sandy A      • Marge W  
• Gerry G.      • Bill R      • Peg and Don L

## **Prayer Card Requests**

• World Gospel Mission ministries and the Crakers  
• International Students ministries and the Mannons  
• Campus Crusade CRU Alex Simpson  
• Pray for our local missions—Kid's Alley and Fellowship House  
• Our servicemen and women:  
    Walter J IV – U.S. Coast Guard  
    Jim G – Army National Guard  
    James S – U.S. Army  
    Madison S- U.S. Army  
    Matt – U.S. Army  
    Kyle Ross – U.S. Marines  
• Our Sunday School and children's programs  
• Peg and Don L, Peg recovering from a concussion  
• Estelle  
• Nephew recovering from surgery – Jean  
• Cousin Sandy lost her husband – Jean  
• Friend Evelyn - Dorothy  
• Comfort for those who have lost loved ones recently - Scott  
• My sister Marti having heart surgery - Helena  
• Carol F for health concerns  
• For those who pray for me - Carol F  
• Brother-in-law Bud with esophageal cancer and sister, Kathy - Bob F  
• Jen looking for a new teaching position –Carol T  
• Sandy A and her mobility issues  
• Edith W in AristaCare  
• Pam and Brian - William  
• Bosses daughter- pregnant and has thyroid cancer  
• A co-workers daughter - Darlene  
• Joan receiving treatment  
• Praise! my sister has a new job - William  
• Tracy's mom recovering from eye surgery  
• A friend, Ashley having a difficult pregnancy  
• Cara's husband Matt with very serious health issues

## Prayers for our Church

- Please pray throughout the year that, knowing that Pastor Walt is retiring next June, **God will guide the Cabinet as they consider candidates** for our new pastor.
- Please pray that we will **each worship and serve in unity of spirit**, recognizing that each has different gifts to offer.
- Please pray that we will **experience a deeper spiritual walk with the Lord** and that others will see Jesus' spirit flowing from us.
- Please pray for **our church and for each other**. May we all be blessed throughout the year, and may God help each of us to grow in our faith.
- Please pray for our **Sunday school teachers and the students**.
- Please pray for **all the ministries of AUMC** including our youth group, The Link, for young people in upper elementary and junior high school; Men's Group, as they regroup; for Victorious Women; for our small group study leaders.
- Please pray that **AUMC will continue to grow in spirit** and be a beacon in the neighborhood.
- Please pray for **Pastor Walt**; for good health, strength, protection, and guidance.
- Please pray that the **leaders of AUMC would be led by the spirit** to know God's will for our church and that our members can experience unity that comes from the Spirit.
- Please pray that **families and others in the area who aren't attending church elsewhere will come and worship with us at AUMC**.
- Please pray that **those who have been missing from worship**, for whatever reason, will return. If you see them, please let them know that they are missed.



## 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, Emily W

Please note the parsonage phone number is no longer in service. Please contact Pastor Walt through his cell phone or the office.

## Church Office Hours

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

Church Office email : [audubonumc@verizon.net](mailto:audubonumc@verizon.net)

Pastor's email : [aumcpastor@verizon.net](mailto:aumcpastor@verizon.net)

Check out our website: [audubonumc.com](http://audubonumc.com)



*AudubonUMC*





# 2018 Christmas Poinsettias

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

The price is the same as last year - \$4.00 per plant.

We would like to have them in the sanctuary for Sunday, December 16.

Therefore, **orders MUST be placed by Sunday, December 9. No orders will be accepted after this date.**

You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve service on December 24.

Please complete the order form below and give 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: \_\_\_\_\_

