

Audubon United Methodist Church

314 Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

www.audubonumc.com 856-547-6114

April, 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:

“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.” Acts 20:24 NLT

Paul was making his way toward Jerusalem. As he traveled to the great city, prophets and preachers warned him he was facing great danger. In his heart, Paul knew this journey might be his last. History shows the forebodings were correct. The great apostle would be arrested, imprisoned, and eventually sent to Rome to have his case heard by the Emperor himself. Still, Paul was determined to go despite the uncertain future. He had been called to a task and would see it through...“telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.”

I’ve talked to a number of my friends and colleagues. Most of them are about my age, some retired and others trying to decide what to do next. I hear the same stories from just about all of them. Church finances are failing, attendance is dropping, older members who gave generously and attended weekly are being replaced (if at all) by younger (under 60!) folks who give significantly less and attend once a month. Older members complain to them about the trends, but their own children and grandchildren are MIA...they’ve moved away, attend other churches, or don’t worship anywhere. Members complain they can’t get out to church anymore, but they are seen at the restaurant, the grocery store, the local playhouse or beauty parlor. I have witnessed something I have not seen before: solid servants of God disenchanted with the institutional church to the point where they are ready to say goodbye and never step back into a pulpit or house of worship. I have to be honest;

(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 April Newsletter is presented by Gwen Evans in memory of her parents, Rev. and Mrs. David Evans

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- April 1 Easter -- He is Risen!
- April 8 April Showers collection last day
- April 9 Men’s Group 7 P.M. at Arcaini’s
- April 10 Church Council-7:30 P.M. Conover Parlor
- April 16 Trustees meeting
- April 22 Deadline for the May Newsletter—*send to Marilyn Radley at smradley@verizon.net*
- April 29 Last day for bike collection

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 P.M.
- Fridays: The Link at 6:30 P.M.
- Sunday after service: Handbell Rehearsal

KIDS HELPING KIDS

On Feb. 25th, children and teens listened to Bruce Kraut talk about Kids Alley. After his wonderful presentation and video, they want to raise \$100 by June. All their Sunday School donations are going to this mission. As of March 11th, they have raised \$22.



Looking Forward to Children's Day June 10th.

Starting on April 8th, children will start learning to sign the Lord's Prayer. This project will continue all month. Other activities are coming. Please make every effort to have children attend classes and choir practice for the children's big day. It's always a lot of fun. More information will be in May Newsletter.

(Continued - pastor's message from page 1)

I share much of their frustration and see some of the same trends myself.

And then I hear the words of Paul from Acts 20:24. Paul had an assignment to tell the Good News about God's grace. He would continue to do so in different settings (some he had never dreamed of), to different people, until his work was finished. Like Paul, I know there are obstacles and frustrations ahead. Let's face it, when we look at declining worship attendance across the mainline churches, financial challenges, and the growing number of churches closing even in our own area, we wonder what the future holds. Once again, Paul's words remind us that whatever the future holds, we know who holds the future. I Thessalonians 5:24 "The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this."

I have work to do. WE have work to do. We can be in despair for the future and long for the good old days or buckle down to the work of telling others the Good News of God's Grace. New situations, new people, new opportunities, and a society much like first century Rome should not deter us. The task we've been assigned is not completed so I invite you to go with me with boldness into whatever challenge our Lord has placed before us. Take a risk: come to worship weekly, attend a Bible study, join a small group, witness to a friend or neighbor, give generously, volunteer for a job in the church, get involved in a hands-on mission. There's a lot more to do and we are not alone!

Pastor Walt

Men's Group will meet on April 9th this month



at 7 P.M. at the home of Dan Arcaini. All men are welcome!

Audubon Day April 28

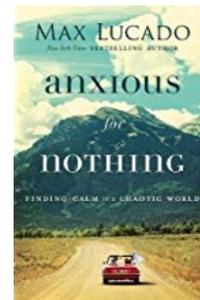
AUMC will be participating. The event runs from 3-9 P.M. We will have a table of baked goods for sale. We need volunteers to bake and/or man the table for a specific period of time. The sale will benefit the repair of the bell tower. More information will be in the weekly bulletin.



AUMC high school scholarship information is available in the Narthex

Ladies' Book Study

Thursday evenings May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 7-8:15/8:30 p.m. led by Carol Jesuncosky at the parsonage.



"When it comes to anxiety, depression, and stress-related illnesses, America is the frontrunner. Thankfully, there's a practical prescription for dealing with these issues. *Anxious for Nothing*, the most recent book from *New York Times* bestselling author, Max Lucado, provides a roadmap for battling with and healing from anxiety. Max writes, "The news about our anxiety is enough to make us anxious." He knows what it feels like to be overcome by the worries and fear of life, which is why he is dedicated to helping millions of readers take back control of their minds and, as a result, their lives. *Anxious for Nothing* invites readers to delve into Philippians 4:6-7. After all, it is the most highlighted passage of any book on the planet.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Stop letting anxiety rule the day. Join Max on the journey to true freedom and experience more joy, clarity, physical renewal, and contentment by the power of the Holy Spirit. Anxiety comes with life. But it doesn't have to dominate your life."

If you would like to order a book please contact Carol. E-books are also available online.

VBS planning is underway. The date is still to be determined as is the study and theme for the week, but we are all anxious to show the love of Jesus to a lot of children. Our new director is Rebekah Barrus. She will need help with teaching, assisting, kitchen, crafts and recreation. If you are willing, she can find a place for you. Contact Rebekah at 79rebekah79@gmail.com

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 night at 6:30P.M. in our 3rd floor youth room. Coleen M and William B are leading the group.



Mission News by Bruce Krout

North Korea has been in the news a lot lately. The most recent development is President Trump's administration looking to sit down with North Korea in May. In the last year we heard about the many missile tests its dictator Kim Jong-un had been experimenting with, upsetting North Korea's neighbors and worrying the world about the nuclear capability it has. On a lighter note, North Korea had a limited participation in the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea and marched into the event under the unification flag with South Korea.

Despite the softening of relations between the two countries, North Korea is still run under a totalitarian regime that attempts to control virtually all aspects of the social life, including the economy, education, art, science, private life and morals of citizens. North Korea is an atheist state with no official religion, and public religion is discouraged or persecuted. As a matter of fact, a ministry called OpenDoors creates an annual World Watch list that ranks the top 50 worst countries by the severity of persecution of Christians. North Korea has been ranked #1 for the 16th year in a row! Imagine living in a country where you face persecution (prison, beatings, death) for your Christian beliefs. Christians not only face persecution from state authorities, but from their non-Christian family, friends, and neighbors.

OpenDoors has seen a rise in religious nationalism where insecure governments are using the country's majority religion such as Hindu or Buddhism to marginalize Christians. Another trend in Christian persecution comes from the spread of Islamic oppression under Sharia law. Eight of the top 10 worst countries listed on the World Watch List are fueled by Islamic oppression. As I shared with you previously, the majority of European migrants coming from the war-torn countries of the Middle east and Africa are Islamic. Muslims are required to pray at 5 set times each day. Christians who are not participating in the Muslim prayer activities while living in the European refugee camps are commonly harassed, threatened or worse by Muslim migrants.

It is estimated that 1 in 12 Christians are experiencing high levels of persecution worldwide. We are so blessed to live in America, aren't we? Please take a moment to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who live this daily nightmare.

Also, pray for the Crakers who bravely share The Word in Asia. To support Denny and Michelle Craker mail your check to the:

World Gospel Mission
PO Box 948
Marion, IN 46952-9973

*Check out the Graisbury Ave. entry bulletin board and the World Watch List info on exhibit.

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

April Showers for Collingswood Manor **Our collection deadline is Sunday April 8th** Each



resident will get a bag to fill with any items they need. This is our gift to the residents. Please help brighten their day!

Dish cloths	Tea Towels	dish soap
Sponges	laundry soap	paper towels
Hand towels	handy wipes	baby oil
Poly-grip	wash cloths	Ziploc bags
Socks	after shave	puzzle books
Scotch tape	safety pins	note paper
Comb	brush	paper napkins
Kleenex	shower cap	emery boards
Needle/thread	tooth brush	deodorant
Bobby pins	denture care	bar soap
Shampoo	soft soap	hand lotion
Baby powder	dusting powder	Vaseline
Cotton balls	pens/pencils	toothpaste
Face cream	greeting cards	dental floss

Second Life Bikes

 Bob Kondras will be collecting bikes for this ministry in Asbury Park. Please leave any bikes by the church house garage April 22 & 29. Bob will take them to Asbury Park the following week. Kids learn to repair and refurbish the bikes and can earn one for themselves.

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 Offering

I pulled a Bible translation out that I hadn't used lately and the following page I had saved from the Upper Room fell out. I re-read it and then felt a sense of guilt that I am usually not "overwhelmed with a deep sense of the honor" in serving in the church.

Praying that this Easter, we will all "rediscover what an honor it is.

Carol T.

SUNDAY • JUNE 6, 2004

The Offering

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

— Colossians 3:17 (NRSV)

In our congregation, it is a privilege to be asked to serve. So I was pleased when the worship leader asked if I would help receive the offering from the congregation. It was a simple task — ensuring that the offering plates were circulated smoothly and efficiently from pew to pew.

Having collected the offerings, the other steward and I stood at the back of the church, awaiting the signal to present them. As I waited, I peered into the plate and saw a collection of coins, bank notes, and offering envelopes. I was suddenly overwhelmed with a deep sense of the honor that had been bestowed on me. I was bringing to God the love gifts of God's people for the extension of the kingdom! That feeling heightened, and I had the very real desire to get down on my knees and crawl to the altar bearing the gifts. Tears welled up in my eyes.

How often we take mundane tasks for granted! Just another duty to perform, we think. But somewhere during that Sunday worship I rediscovered what an honor it is to serve in Christ's name.

Prayer: Out of our love for you, dear God, we long to serve you in whatever ways you call us. Amen.

Thought for the Day

Every act of Christian service is sacred.

Roland P. Rink

44 *Prayer Focus:* LAITY WHO SERVE



Finance Update

Unfortunately giving has been down since the first of the year. We ask that you prayerfully consider your giving to God's work here at AUMC. If you have not yet made a faith promise, now would be a great time to do so. Forms are available in the Narthex. Your faith promise is just that, a promise to give to God regularly to the best of your ability. If life throws you a curve ball and you are not able to uphold your promise, no one is going to hound you to bring your

promise up to date. In fact, no one is aware of your giving except the financial secretary. It is all between you and God. So please prayerfully consider supporting Audubon UMC. Electronic giving is also available. Forms are in the Narthex.

February Shut-in of the Month

Don and Peg Lauk
122 Willet Way
Thorofare, NJ 08086



Keep them in your prayers and let them know they are in your thoughts by sending a card.

April Birthdays

- 4 Billy Zane
- 5 Katie VanArnam
- 6 Tom Hertfelder
- 20 Estelle MacCulloch
- 24 Clara Reich
- 29 Walter Jesuncosky, IV



April Communion Offering:

Camden Urban Ministry Initiative cooperative after school program.

Those assisting in our ministries for April:

Greeters: Dan and Lindsy Arcaini

Ushers: Peg and Tracy Schnyer

Liturgist: Elaine Soulliard

Counters: Barb Hertfelder, Barb and Frank Cunane

Trustee to open/close church: Don Cox

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
- Janet K
- Marge W
- Peg and Don L

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 Alex Simpson
- Pray for our new neighbor—Kid's Alley--now at Trinity Lutheran Church on WHP
- Pray for Fellowship House and its ministry
- 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
- Health issues of Janet K
- A miracle for husband Tom with cancer and cirrhosis and needs a transplant; for his Salvation. –Barbara
- For Becky H and foot surgery
- Joe K and his job search
- Brother-in-law Joe and search for work -Diane
- For friend Claire and co-worker Mike with Injuries -Terry
- Tracy's mom with health issues
- Brother-in-law Bud with esophageal cancer
- Jen traveling to New Brunswick each day-Carol T
- Sandy A for her pain and mobility issues.
- Myrtle J asks for prayers

Praises

- Successful knee surgery for Lauri B
- Successful neck surgery for Mike S
- Successful hand surgery for Joe F
- Successful knee replacement for Joan W

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., 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



Happy Easter!