

# Audubon United Methodist Church



314 W. Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

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



## November 2023 Newsletter

### Sunday Worship Opportunities:



**Our Doors are open!**  
**And we are meeting in person!**

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



### Sundays:

- 9:00 A.M. Children's Sunday School  
Seekers Adult Sunday School in person and Zoom.
- 10:20 A.M. Traditional Service in person and streaming live on our Facebook page and YouTube.
- Sat. Nov. 3 Set clocks back – end of DST
- Sun. Nov. 4 Planning meeting for winter activities
- Sat. Nov. 11 Chili Cook off  
Veteran's Day
- Tues. Nov. 14 Finance Committee 6:45 P.M.  
Church Council Meeting 7:30 P.M.
- Sat. Nov 18 Christmas Bazaar
- Sun. Nov 19 Ingathering of non-perishable goods  
Congregational Luncheon
- Wed. Nov 22 Community Thanksgiving service at Logan Memorial Presbyterian Church 7:30
- Mon. Nov. 27 Cancer with Hope at 7 P.M.
- Every Monday is Monday School (Seekers)
- Every Weds. Comfort Food on Zoom 7:30 P.M.
- Every Thurs. Choir rehearsal 7:30 P.M.

ZOOM MEETING ID: 732-520-3940 PASSWORD:  
audubon PHONE DIAL-IN: 646 558 8656 JOIN US!

### Our 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 Love of God to the community. We may not always think alike, but we always love alike as God has taught us."***



"If Methodists would give all they can, then all would have enough." John Wesley.

It's the season of stewardship, **October 15- Nov. 19**. The theme for this year's stewardship campaign is "**Responding to God's Grace.**" The "five G's" - Grace, Growth, Gratitude, Generosity, and Go make disciples.

### November 4 - Planning meeting for Winter Church Activities

### Chili Cook off November 11 1-3 P.M.



Will yours be judged the best?

Check out the bulletin for rules and how to enter

### Veteran's Day Weekend November 11-12

We will plant American Flags on the front lawn of the church in honor of a serviceperson – active duty, retired or deceased. Use the Opportunities to Serve form or contact the office to purchase a flag for \$10. All monies will go to support the repointing and roof replacement fund.



### Christmas Bazaar - November 18 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Invite your neighbors, family, coworkers, Facebook friends and anyone who likes to go to Bazaars. As in the past, we will have a room full of **ATTIC TREASURES, BAKED GOODS, a CAFE', CHRISTMAS DECOR, many INDEPENDENT VENDORS, and WRAPPED and READY to GIVE BASKETS.** All gently used donations for attic treasures must be dropped off by Sunday, November 5th. Hopefully, the baked goods table will be full of your wonderfully created donations. Sign-up sheets for bakers will be in the Church Narthex. If you're not already helping out that day, please come out for **SEFAF (Shopping, Eating, Fellowship and Friendship).** See you on the 18th!



## From the Pastor:

As many of you know, our beloved bell tower has been a symbol of our community's strength and resilience for generations. Through the years, it has withstood the test of time, much like our unwavering spirit. However, in recent times, it has shown signs of wear and tear, a reminder that even the sturdiest structures sometimes need a helping hand to stand tall.

Today, I am thrilled to announce that we have finished the long journey to restore and revitalize our cherished bell tower. This project signifies more than just a physical renovation; it's a symbol of our commitment to preserving the traditions and values that define us as a community. By repairing the bell tower, we're not only preserving our history but also ensuring that it stands tall for generations to come.

But our efforts do not stop with the mere restoration of a structure; we aim to infuse new life into our community by creating new traditions while preserving the old ones. It's a testament to the fact that we can move forward without forsaking our roots. The bell, once silent, will ring anew, marking not just the passing of time but also the dawn of a new era for us. It will continue to call us together, bringing neighbors, friends, and families closer to celebrate, connect, and support each other.

As we embark on this exciting journey, it's essential to remember that there is nothing we can't accomplish when we come together as a united community. It is the strength of our collective will, the shared vision of a brighter future, and the dedication of each member that will make this project a success. The challenges ahead may seem daunting, but together, we are unstoppable. Let us remember that we are more than the sum of our parts, and with unwavering determination, there is no obstacle we cannot overcome.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be organizing community events, fundraisers, and volunteer opportunities to ensure the success of this project. I encourage each one of you to get involved, contribute your ideas, and share your enthusiasm for our community's betterment. Your involvement and support are the true driving forces behind our revitalization.

Let us move forward with hope and unity in our hearts, knowing that we have the power to preserve our traditions, create new ones, and leave a legacy that will inspire future generations.

Thank you for being a part of this vibrant and resilient community. Together, there is nothing we can't do.

## Thanksgiving Ingathering

This year we will be partnering with Audubon's Peer to Peer Aid program. They need NON-Perishable items for their Food Bank and Basic Necessities such as paper goods, canned goods, diapers, etc. Deadline for collection is Nov. 19



## Thanksgiving Luncheon November 19

Join us for lunch following church service for a time of gathering together and giving thanks for our blessings!

**THANKSGIVING SERVICE** Join us on Wednesday evening, November 22 at 7:30 P.M. at Logan Memorial Presbyterian Church.



We will gather with our community churches to celebrate and give thanks for our numerous blessings. Invite your neighbors and friends to join us!

## Blessing Tree

Our annual Blessing Tree will be up by November 18th. Please take an ornament or two from the tree and provide a new, wrapped gift according to the wishes on the ornament. These gifts go to local families. Please attach the ornament to the gift in a way that it can easily be removed and replaced with a name tag. In the past people have attached the tag with ribbon or twine that could easily be removed. If you attach it with tape, please do so gently so that the tag can be removed without tearing the gift wrap. Another suggestion is to pack your gift in a gift bag and attach the tag to the handle with string, etc. Gifts will be collected until December 10th. If you have any questions please see Linda Holonia.



## November Homebound of the Month



Peggy Cheney  
421 Squire Pope Rd. Apt. 512  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29924

Let her know you are thinking of her by sending a card.





### From Trustees Corner:

The bell tower is finished and repaired. Craft Pro

Masonry did a fantastic job. We are hoping eventually we will be able to ring the bell on Sunday.

Northeast Electrical has finished switching all the lights to LED . What a difference! The lighting makes the church look nice and bright!

The trustees will be working on the next project soon. We will keep you updated.

We want to give a big shout out to Tracy S, Darlene F and Frank Cunane who weeded the front garden bed and the side of the church. We really appreciate the help! Thank you so much!

**YOU CAN HELP!** The roof is next. We hope you will consider monthly gifts! Please select an envelope from the poster in the narthex (you determine the amount to enclose) and place your envelope in the offering plate or drop it in the church mailbox located in front of the church office. Please add your envelope number to your check or on the envelope.



We have added the option to contribute to the "Roof Replacement & Pointing" Fund for electronic giving. You can use the QR code here to give once, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. If you wish to change your giving for this year, contact Carol Tait via email (crosstait630@yahoo.com) or text (609-472-1007). If you would like to begin electronic giving, there are forms in the Narthex or on our Website .

**Retirees** - Did you know retirees can donate all, or a portion of, their required minimum distribution (RMD) directly to charity? It's called a qualified charitable distribution or QCD. You can also make charitable distributions directly from an IRA before RMDs begin. The Secure Act raised the RMD age for some taxpayers to 72 but did not raise the QCD age from 70 1/2.

Qualified charitable distributions do not provide a charitable deduction for taxpayers, regardless of whether you itemize deductions. Instead, with a qualified charitable distribution, a check is sent **directly** from an IRA to charity. This allows the donor to exclude the amount from taxable income.

To illustrate the benefits, here are four ways [RMDs can increase taxes](#).

1. RMD's can push retirees into a higher tax bracket since distributions are ordinary taxable income.
2. RMD's also increase the taxpayer's Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) which could trigger the 3.8% Medicare surtax.

3. Even modest withdrawals from a retirement account can cause Social Security benefits to become taxable.. Go to <https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/issuepapers/ip2015-02.html>.
4. Medicare Part B and D premiums are calculated using a taxpayer's MAGI from the prior year. So large RMD's can cause sharp increases to your Medicare costs.

Because RMDs are subject to a year-end deadline, the deadline for making a 2023 QCD using 2023 RMD funds is **Dec. 31, 2023**. If you make a QCD in 2023, you should report it on your April 2024 Form 1040 income tax return. Report the full amount of the charitable distribution (s) on the line for IRA distributions.

### Attic Treasures Thrift Store

We are very excited! Our new thrift store will be opening along with the Christmas Bazaar on November 18.

Drop off your donations on the back porch of the church house. We will be accepting the following items:

Clothing gently worn and washed – women' men and kids; shoes gently worn; jewelry, handbags; housewares (clean); picture frames; seasonal items and books, puzzles, board games; small tools in good condition; children's toys clean and in good condition;

**NOT** Accepting: Electronics, VHS, DVDs, large furniture.

Also if you have extra hangers please donate, we need them. If you know where to get clothing racks inexpensively, please let Lana or Kim know.

We also need help with going through things, setting up, and pricing. All help would be appreciated. --Ruslana "ALL ARE WELCOME"

### Cancer with Hope

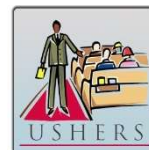


Will meet on Monday, Nov. 27 at 7 P.M.

Contact Bruce Krout at 609-605-5450 for more information

### Ushers Needed

Ushers are busy folks on Sunday morning. They are also greeters, hand out the bulletins, count how many people are in attendance, and collect the offering. If you would like to be part of this ministry, use the **Opportunities to Serve** sheet in the bulletin or speak with the Cunanes.



## November Servants

**Liturgist:** Sue Medoro  
**Trustee Opener/Closer:** Darlene Fitzgerald  
**November Communion Offering:** Kids Alley

## November Birthdays

2 Jude Griffis	18 Bethany Griffis
4 Coleen Makuszewski	20 Gwen Evans
5 Lilyanna Griffis	20 Jim Goslin
6 Ef Deal	24 Karen H Fernandez
10 Frank Montesano	25 Richard Burrough
11 Francis Makuszewski	28 Meg Ryan
17 Rebekah Forker	29 Jason Holonia

## November Anniversaries

6 Barbara and Bob Kondras  
29 Marilyn and Scott Radley

## Prayer Ministry

Following worship, we will gather a small group of people for a brief time of prayer, asking God to send new families to AUMC. This will be about 5 minutes of prayer. If you are interested in joining in prayer for our church to grow, please meet in the Conover Parlor following worship. *"For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them."* Matthew 18:20.

*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



## Intercessory Prayer Needs

• Doug J.	• Crystal	• Mary L.
• Susan H	• Mike & Tyler S.	• Estelle M
• Mary P	• Tiara C	• Kevin H
• Carol F	• Dan A.	• Gwen E.
• Joan W	• Joe	• Peg and Don L
• Sandy A	• MaryAnn M	• Rosemarie R
• Gerry G	• Gail L	• Bill D
• Pat H	• Ef D	• Jim B
• Dee G	• Miles J	• Peggy C
• Dorothy G	• Lauri M	• Wyone B.
• Pam A	• Charlie W and family	

## Prayer Requests

- Our Pastor and family
- The people of Israel and Palestine

## Save the dates:

Dec. 11 Live Nativity  
Dec. 17 Choir Cantata – "Journey of Promises"  
Dec 24 Morning service at 10:20 am  
Christmas Eve services at 4 and 8 PM  
Dec. 28 Red Cross Blood Drive 2-7 PM



## Church Staff:

* Pastor:	Garrett Gouveia
* Admin. Asst.:	Linda Holonia
* Director of Music:	Carl Ellinwood
* Organist:	Ken Carson
* Nursery Aide:	Calvin R, Mike B

Church office Phone: 856-547-6114

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

Pastor Garrett email: [garrettmgouveia@gmail.com](mailto:garrettmgouveia@gmail.com)

**Pastor's office hours:** Mon, Wed, Fri. 8:45 – 11:30 AM

## Church Office Hours

Monday	10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
Wed. and Thursday	10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

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