

Audubon United Methodist Church

314 W. Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

www.audubonumc.com 856-547-6114



January 2025 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 found on the Graisbury Ave. side entrance. Handicapped parking is available on Graisbury Ave. and also behind the church house.

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."

Sundays:

- 9:00 A.M. Children's Sunday School
- 9:00 A.M. Seekers Adult Sunday School in person and Zoom. ID: 732-520-3940 PASSWORD: audubon
- 9: A.M. Teen Sunday School
- 10 AM Children's Choir
- 10:20 A.M. Traditional Service in person and streaming live on our Facebook page and on YouTube.

Weekly Happenings:

Every Mon. Seekers Adult Sunday School on Zoom 7:30 PM

Every Weds. Comfort Food via Zoom 7:30 P.M

Every Thurs, Chancel Choir 7:30 PM

Monthly Events:

- Sat, January 11, Thrift store open 9-12
- *Finance Committee and Church Council* will be meeting every other month – No January meeting.
- **January 12 following Worship planning meeting - We will be making our plans for the first half of 2025. Everyone is welcome. Your input is needed. Bring your thoughts and ideas.**



Coming in February

- Sun, February 2, SPRC will meet after worship
- A Chili Cook-off – date to be determined
- Tues, January 28, Cancer with Hope, 7 PM



Co-Treasurer for Audubon UMC

Carol intends to retire as Church Treasurer. If you have any experience with bookkeeping, QuickBooks or other online accounting systems, YOU are the person we are looking for! See Pastor Garrett.

This is an excellent way to serve! If you hear God calling you to do this, be assured training is available as needed.

PowerPoint Creators needed to take turns creating the weekly PowerPoint for livestreaming our service. See Pastor Garrett or Carol Tait.



Pastor Garrett

counter-cultural sermon series that reimagines Christianity as the ultimate act of rebellion in a world that demands conformity. Through the teachings of Jesus, this series explores how true discipleship challenges societal norms and calls believers to live radically different lives. Each week focuses on a distinct aspect of this "punk" faith—walking the narrow path, standing against the world's values, loving enemies, refusing to conform, embracing righteous anger, living fearlessly, and seeking God's unseen Kingdom.

At its core, the series emphasizes that following Christ is not about blending in; it's about standing out as agents of love, grace, and truth in a broken world.

This series invites believers to embrace their faith with courage and conviction, challenging the status quo by living out God's radical love and truth. With scriptural insights, relevant cultural connections, and a rich selection of hymns and contemporary worship songs, it equips the church to reclaim its role as a transformative force. Whether you're a lifelong Christian or just exploring faith, this series will inspire you to live boldly, love deeply, and walk fearlessly as a follower of Christ, the ultimate outsider. It's not just a call to rebel against the world but to rebel for a cause—God's Kingdom, where true freedom and purpose are found



*Trustees
Chairperson
Ruslana
Snyder*

Ongoing projects are in the works. Updates will be forthcoming.

For You!

Congregation Inspiration Corner

You are welcome to share with the congregation.

What can I share? Here are some ideas:

- something that happened that impacted you and you would like to share;
- a hymn that made a change in you;
- a poem that is special;
- anything to share that was unexpected and brought you closer to God;
- a blessing you have received;
- An angel encounter.

New Year Resolutions. Do you make them? How successful are you in keeping them? For me LOL!

I've made resolutions all my life but never kept any of them. This year I realized there is something I can keep all year and every year.

While vacationing in the Poconos this past December, the church I attend up there had four sermons on The Eternal Gifts of Christmas, each supported by several scriptures. The Eternal Gifts are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Sound familiar? These are the four meanings as we light the Advent candles throughout the Sunday's in Advent. I am going to try to practice these gifts every day as opportunities arise and read about them in the Bible. Google each one and you will find many verses in both the old and new testaments. As Christmas gifts from God that we see in Jesus, I can strive to be as my Heavenly Father wants me to be. What a glorious Christmas gift!

Dorothy Groves

*Music Corner
Ken Carson, Organist*

As always we invite all to join us, no experience necessary. We rehearse Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm.



*Our Church
Missions
Linda Holonia*

The Blessing Tree

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for the Blessing Tree. Because of your generosity, 8 families were blessed at Christmastime. We may not realize it but there are many families locally who depend on people like us to help them get by. The families are very appreciative for the gifts. It is truly a blessing to see the joy and relief on their faces when they pick up the packages. Thank you again.

Victorious Women

C.J. Fennimore and Ruslana Snyder



Thrift Store: Saturday, January 11, the thrift store will be open 9 am to noon. We can always use extra hands to help out.

We Sell Gently Worn Men's, Woman's & Children's Clothes, Shoes, Jewelry, Handbags, Children's Toys, Puzzles, Games, Picture Frames, Housewares, goods & seasonal items
We do not accept electronics, VHS, DVDs or large furniture.

Donations to the Thrift Store: Thank you everyone who has given donations over the past few months. However at this time we cannot accept any items as we are overflowing and there is not enough room to place everything. We are not taking any donations right now. When we are again able to accept donations we will announce it. Also we are unable to pick up donations at your home as we physically cannot do so, nor do we have the time. Please do not drop off your donations downstairs.

Prayers-Praise-Thanks



Pray in the spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all

HEALING:

Mary L. (Lyme disease), Sammi S. (Ruslana's daughter), Keith, Mike & Tyler S., Dee G., Carol F., Miles J., Estelle M., George M., Youngsoon C., Bill D., Pam, Sandy A., Rosemarie, Dorothy G., Wyone B. for healing and peace, Annmarie H. for healing, strength & peace; Crystal for faith, healing, & wisdom; Robert P; Helena W; Mary M.. Jackqueline P; Pastor Garrett recovering from knee injury.

FOR ONGOING HEALTH ISSUES:

Dave R. for ongoing cancer treatment, Pat H. with MS (Barbara's cousin), Charlie W. & family for health & strength, Mary B., Barbara H, Peg L.

FOR CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH

Lauri M.; Kevin H.; Anne (Barbara H.'s neighbor)

Prayer Requests from the office and extended requests:

From Mary Tharan Henderson: Please pray for my husband's grandson Donovan and his wife Jessica. They were expecting their first child in April, but she suffered a miscarriage.

Jackqueline Pittam asks for prayer for strength and God's guidance as she navigates complicated friendships. Please also pray for her parents to sell their house and be able to move closer to Jackie and her family and that they will be able to afford their next phase in life.

Our search for Director of Music

Prayer requests may be submitted by placing a prayer card in the offering plate or contacting the office either by mail or email. If you indicate, your request will be shared via email to the congregation.

Potpourri

When can I order gift cards from the church? Any time!



Although we promote this opportunity during the holidays, you can order gift cards any time. It generally takes about a week for the cards to arrive. Simply complete an order form, located on the table in the Narthex, and give it to Linda Holonia with a check payable to the church. You pay face value for the cards and the retailers donate a portion of your purchase to the church. The order will be placed on Monday and the cards will be available the following Sunday. To cover the cost of shipping, the order will be placed once we have enough cards ordered to cover that cost. This is a simple way to help our church budget.

Faith Promise of Giving



It is not too late to make your faith promise/estimate of giving. Although you may make a Faith Promise any time during the year, we depend on them by the end of the year so that we may fulfill our budget needs for 2025. Please consider taking a step out in

faith and make a commitment to God's work through AUMC. You may place your Promise in the offering plate or mail it to the office.



Offering envelopes for 2025 are available in the Narthex. If you don't see your name but would like a set of envelopes, please see Linda Holonia or contact the office.

Did you miss something???
Look through the remaining pages to find it.

Teen Class

Sunday school class for teens will continue throughout the year. Share the news! Pre-teens and teens, invite your friends to come with you! Pastor Garrett is teaching the class

Cancer with Hope

Tuesday, January 28. Those affected by cancer, whether you are a patient or a loved one or a support for someone facing the disease, you are welcome. Please, contact Bruce Krout at 609-605-5450 for more information



We continue to collect used stamps for a mission in Ft. Myers, FL. Please tear the stamps off your mail and donate them in the box in the Narthex.

They will be processed and used to provide Sunday school materials that are used in 8 Latin American countries



The directories are finished and have been distributed. If you did not receive one and would like to have one, please contact the office.

Please notify Barbara Cunane or Linda Holonia of any changes, **corrections or additions.**



Homebound of the Month

Let them know you are thinking of them by sending a card

Mrs. Gail Lore
1323 Keswick Ave.
Haddon Hts., NJ 08035

Celebrating a special occasion?
Honoring a loved one?



We have several openings for altar flowers in 2025. The cost of altar flowers is \$20.00 per arrangement. If you would like to sponsor one

or more arrangements, please contact the church office. Available dates are:

- January 1, 1 arrangement
- January 19, 2 arrangements
- March 2, 1 arrangement
- March 30, 1 arrangement
- May 18, 1 arrangement
- June 15, 1 arrangement
- July 6, 1 arrangement
- September 14, 1 arrangement
- December 14, 1 arrangement

January Birthdays

- 3 Holly Fitzgerald
- 4 Don Cox
- 5 Rev. Dr. Walter Jesuncosky III
- 5 Bill Laxton
- 6 Dakota Gouveia
- 8 Scott Radley
- 9 Don Reiter
- 16 Dee Grasmick
- 18 Ruslana Snyder
- 20 Walter Jesuncosky IV
- 22 Paul Andrew Griffis
- 22 Joe Fennimore
- 26 Elijah Nicholas
- 31 Gail Lore



January Trustee Opener/Closer

To be assigned

Communion Offering

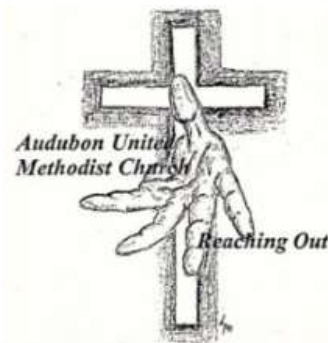
Kids Alley – Next month watch for information on Kid's Alley

Items for the February newsletter are **due Sunday**, January 12. Please email me your items directly. Thank you. Dorothy
grovesdorothy@gmail.com

Newsletter Sponsor

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

Did you find what you might be missing yet???
Keep looking!



To give online, scan this QR Code with your smart phone or tablet

Church Staff and Contact Information

* Pastor: Garrett Gouveia
* Admin. Asst.: Linda Holonia
* Organist/pianist: Ken Carson
* Nursery Aide: Calvin Reich
Church Office email : audubonumc@verizon.net
Church office Phone: 856-547-6114
Pastor Garrett email: rev.garrettmgouveia@gmail.com

Pastor's office hours:

Mon, Wed, Thur. 8:45 – 11:30 AM

Church Office Hours

Mon, Wed, Thurs: 9-1

Check out our website: audubonumc.com

Search for **AudubonUMC** on

Facebook YouTube Twitter (X) Instagram



2025
This year makes this century one quarter of a century old!

The first recorded celebration of New Year's Eve took place in ancient Babylon, around 2000 BC. The ancient Babylonians celebrated the New Year with a festival called Akitu, which was held in honor of the god Marduk. The New Year's Eve ball drop in Times Square, New York City, has been taking place since 1907.

What is 31st December called?

December 31 is the 365th day of the year (366th in leap years) in the Gregorian calendar. It is known by a collection of names including: Saint Sylvester's Day, New Year's Eve or Old Year's Day/Night, as the following day is New Year's Day

Is New Year's Eve a special day?

It is a time for reflection on the past year's experiences and a time to set goals and resolutions for the year ahead. People come

together with friends and family to celebrate, often attending parties, events, and fireworks displays.

What is the last country to bring in the New Year? American Samoa

Inhabiting the last time zone, **American Samoa** stands as the concluding bastion of New Year's Eve festivities. It becomes the last inhabited place to embrace the arrival of January 1, 2024, marking the culmination of global celebrations.

"Auld Lang Syne" The classic New Year's Eve song "Auld Lang Syne" was originally a poem written in the 18th century by Scottish poet, Robert Burns. The song, which means "old long ago," talks about the love and kindness of past days. It became an American New Year's Eve tradition around 1929 when people began singing it to say goodbye to the past and usher in the new year.

New Year's Day Tradition, January 1 Watch the Rose Bowl Parade!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 20, 2025

On January 20, 2025, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday will mark the 30th anniversary as a National Day of Service. This day was established to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King, and to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

Americans celebrated the first official Martin Luther King Day, which is the only federal holiday commemorating an African-American, on Monday, January 20, 1986. In 1994, Congress designated the holiday as a national day of service and marking the third Monday in January every year as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service - a "Day On, Not a Day Off."

Dr. King advocated for nonviolent resistance to overcome injustice as a means of lifting racial oppression. He created change with organized sit-ins, marches, and peaceful demonstrations that highlighted issues of inequality. Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964; he was the youngest person to ever receive this high honor. He followed in the footsteps of his grandfather and father by entering the ministry to become a Baptist minister. On April 4, 1968,



*You have found
what you might have
been missing*



Come!! Enjoy the music. Meet new people. Chat with others. Connect with friends you haven't seen recently. Worshipping together in the sanctuary is enriching and one really feels God's presence. Please join us and we can worship together as Matthew 18:20 tells us. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."



*If you were able to attend services during Christmas week, you enjoyed the beauty of the Christmas decorations and the poinsettias that adorned the altar surrounding the cross.
What a beautiful sight!*



*If you worshiped virtually, you were not able to experience the impact of the entire sanctuary decorated for Christmas.
We miss you!*



JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy New Year!	2 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 9:00 a.m. Children's SS Teen Bible study Seeker's SS 10:20 a.m. Worship	6 7:00 p.m. Seeker's Sunday school via Zoom	7	8 7:30 p.m. Comfort Food via Zoom	9 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	10	11 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Attic Treasures Thrift Store
12 9:00 Children's SS Teen Bible study Seeker's SS 10:20 a.m. Worship	13 7:00 p.m. Seeker's Sunday school via Zoom	14	15 7:30 p.m. Comfort Food via Zoom	16 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 9:00 Children's SS Teen Bible study Seeker's SS 10:20 a.m. Worship	20 7:00 p.m. Seeker's Sunday school via Zoom	21	22 7:30 p.m. Comfort Food via Zoom	23 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 9:00 Children's SS Teen Bible study Seeker's SS 10:20 a.m. Worship	27 7:00 p.m. Seeker's Sunday school via Zoom	28 7:00 p.m. Cancer with Hope Simpson Room and Zoom Contact Bruce for info 609-605-5450	29 7:30 p.m. Comfort Food via Zoom	30 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	31	