



Audubon United Methodist Church

314 Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

www.audubonumc.com 856-547-6114

December, 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: "Last Christmas!"

*"³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now."
Philippians 1:3-5 NRSV*

Christmas is a natural time for us to grow nostalgic, especially those of us who have seen a few Christmases. We have childhood memories of the season (good and bad). We remember traditions, carols, presents, sights and smells that are gone and will never be experienced again. We remember people who helped make our "season bright," many of whom are no longer with us. Like Paul, "I thank my God every time I remember...". In reality, each Christmas is a "last Christmas." We never know what will happen in the year to come, what traditions will pass, what new traditions will start. This may be the year you finally get to move from the kid's table to the adult table (that didn't happen for me until I hit 50's!). And we remember the person who is no longer at the adult table whose departure made it possible for us to move up.

My memories of Christmas date to the late 1950's. I remember my family, our trees, the lights, the family gatherings, the food (of course) and my first electric train set (American Flyer...I still have it!). I recall Christmas Eve with my family in Estell Manor and Christmas Day with my family in Millville. I remember the first Christmas I spent as a single pastor in the heart of the Pine Barrens. Carol and I got engaged on Christmas Eve in Egg Harbor Township a few years later and we announced it in the Candlelight Service. Every church I've served had its own unique Advent and Christmas traditions and practices. There were special people who helped us celebrate the season,
(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 December Newsletter is presented by George and Estelle MacCulloch in loving memory of loved ones.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Nov. 29 Covered dish and Greening of the Church
- Dec. 1 Church Bazaar 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.
- Dec. 9 Future Pastor survey due
Blessing Tree gifts are due
Live Nativity and Open House
- Dec. 11 Finance Mtg-6:45 P.M. Church House and
Church Council 7:30 PM Conover Parlor
- Dec. 17 Trustees Meeting
- Dec. 23 Chancel Choir Cantata "Invitation to a
Miracle"
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services
4 PM Children and Family Service
8 PM Traditional Candlelight Service
- Dec. 30th 10 AM combined Worship Service

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.

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 Dec 4, 18 at 6:30 P.M.
Tigers Dec. 13, 27 at 6:30 P.M.
Arrow of Light Dec. 6, 20 – 7 P.M.
Pack Meeting Dec. 21 at 7 P.M.

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.



Blessing Tree



Our annual Blessing Tree is up in the Narthex. Please consider taking an ornament or 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 9th**. 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.

I have been asked many times why we include parents/grandparents on our Blessing Tree. When the need is so great and we are so few, why don't we just take care of the children? I'll tell you why! There was a time in our lives when we didn't know how we were going to keep the heat on during the winter, let alone provide Christmas gifts for our children. Paul had been injured and could not work for a whole year! Thanks to many people including my then church family, my employer (I worked part-time while he was laid up), the kids' school, and sometimes, random strangers, we were provided for that year. Imagine my surprise when I returned home one day near Christmas to find a giant "Santa sack" on my front porch! Inside were several gifts for the children and even a couple for Paul and me. What a relief it was to know my kids wouldn't go without Christmas gifts after all. I don't remember much about the gifts, but one thing I do remember was a jar of Trappist jam. The standard in our house was Welch's Grape jam and that Trappist jam was so delicious. I enjoyed it until it was gone, and I think about it every year, some 34 years later! That one jar of jam meant so much to me, because someone thought enough to give me a gift that Christmas. Whatever else was in that sack for me, I remember the jam! So, my point is that it can only take a small kindness to make a difference. Something as simple as a jar of jam could mean the world to a parent down on their luck. Please consider making a difference in someone else's life this Christmas. If you have any questions please contact Linda Holonia at lhlonia@yahoo.com.

2018 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

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



Get ready for another AUMC Christmas Bazaar sponsored by the UMW Victorious Women. Come to shop, eat at the café, fellowship, and support this fun event. The Fellowship Hall will have a variety of vendor tables, the ready to give gift baskets are wrapped and ready for purchase, bakers have been busy making goodies for the baked goods table, attic treasures and the Christmas shop are full of bargains. The proceeds from the Bazaar help fund multiple mission projects which include our Blessing Tree at Christmas, Kids Alley, the Children's Fresh Air Home, America's Keswick Barbara's Place, Collingswood Manor, the Scholarship Fund, the sound system here at AUMC, Urban Promise and several others. Mark your calendars; December is a busy month. Hope to see you there.

Live Nativity and Open House Dec. 9th

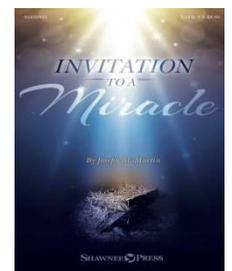
5-8 PM

There will be the trains, crafts, refreshments, many decorated trees, and of course, the Live Nativity itself with animals and choirs of angels. Invite your family and friends to this family fun evening to hear the story of Jesus' birth and see the visits by angels, shepherds, kings and you to the manger!



Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 23 at 10:30 AM when the Chancel Choir will present through narration, scripture passages, anthems and carols, the timeless story of the birth of Christ. Gathered around the wonders that accompanied Jesus' birth, we will journey from the miracle of prophecy to the incarnation and proclamation of Jesus birth.



December Shut-in of the Month



Bea Fisher
157 Yale Rd.
Audubon, NJ 08106

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

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



If you shop on smile.amazon.com



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

www.smile.amazon.com is the same as shopping on www.amazon.com

Update. If you've been wondering why you haven't received an Interpreter Magazine, we recently found out that the magazine ceased publication last year. You can read archived issues online at www.interpretermagazine.org.

HOWEVER, we encourage you to subscribe to <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/united-methodist-now-inspiration-for-daily-living>, **United Methodist Now**, a free biweekly eNewsletter for church or members, <http://www.umcom.org/news/mycom-tips-enewsletter> (**MyCom**), our communications eNewsletter for church leaders.

December Birthdays

2 Joan Windston
10 Dan Arcaini
12 Lois Reiter
13 Sandy Albrecht
17 Rebekah Barrus
15 Bill Soulliard
29 Carol Fennimore



December Anniversaries

10 Mia and David Reich



November Communion Offering:

Kid's Alley

Those assisting in our ministries for Nov:

Greeters: Cheryl Laxton and Bill Dameshek

Ushers: Peggy and Tracy Schnyer

Liturgist:

Counters: Allison and Don Cox

Trustee to open and close church:

Joe 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
- Sandy A • Marge W • Bill R
- Gerry G. • Peg and Don L

Prayer Card Requests

- World Gospel Mission ministries and the Crakers
- International Students ministries and the Mannons
- Campus Crusade CRU and 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 R – U.S. Marines
- Estelle M's health issues
- William asks for prayers for his co-worker, Ro, and her family
- Mark L. asks for prayers for his family and for forgiveness and healing and for a very good future
- Sandy A and her serious health issues
- Mikey and difficult times.
- Joan W for pain relief as she awaits knee surgery
- Gena F asks for prayers for her mother JoAnn
- My sisters Marti and Elsie - Helena

- Carol F for health concerns
- For the family of Kristen Taylor who dies last month leaving young children.
- Ef D and upcoming procedure for breast cancer
- Roberta C fighting stomach cancer
- Holly F recovering from cancer surgery
- Prayers for the Ward family on Edith's passing
- Continued prayers for Tracy's mother
- Holly F diagnosed with ovarian cancer
- Peg L still recovering from her concussion

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; the 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, Marissa W

Church Office Hours

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

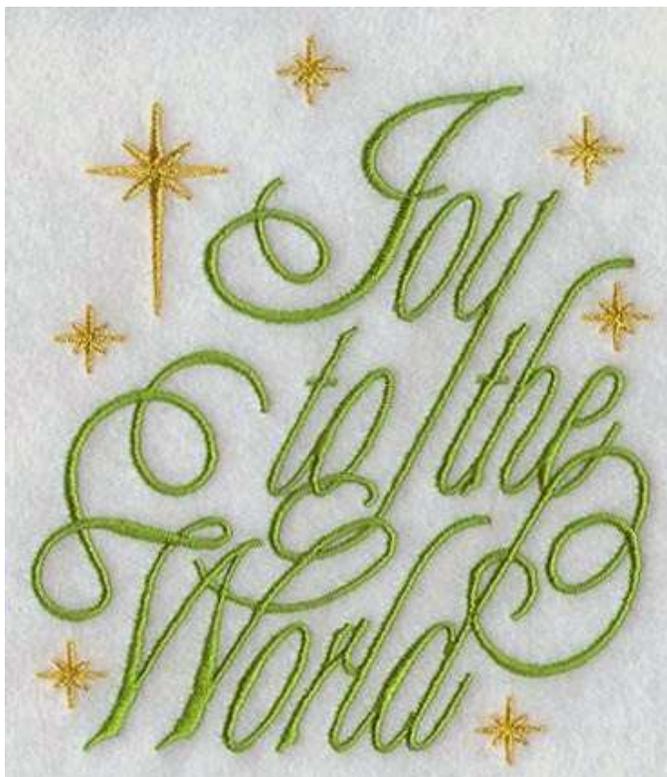
Church Office email : audubonumc@verizon.net

Pastor's email : aumcpastor@verizon.net

Check out our website: 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: _____



**The SPRC is working on the transition to a new pastor,
and we are asking you for your input.**

The process of bringing in a new pastor is as follows:

We have the opportunity to provide information to the district concerning our needs regarding our new pastor. The district committee will consider the information that we provide, and will use it to help them select our next pastor. Our input must be submitted before the end of the year, so that there will be time for them to consider different candidates. The new pastor will be chosen early next year, most likely by the end of February.

- We are asking that you identify the *three most important* traits that you believe we need in our new pastor.
- The feedback that we get from you will be kept confidential, and your name will not be shared with members of the SPRC, or the congregation.
- Please be as specific as possible in your suggestions.
- Due December 9th

We are allowed only a 100 word paragraph to we relay this information to the district for their consideration. Therefore, we are quite limited in our ability to make our requests. Please understand that we will consider any and all input that we receive from everyone, and we will do the fairest job of including everyone's input within our limitations. However, please realize that because of the limitations, we may not be able to include each and every suggestion in our final draft. We will, however, present a consensus of all of your responses.

Thank you for taking some time to give us input on the new pastor. We appreciate your help with this important process. You can fill in your ideas below, and leave the form in the plate in the narthex. Also, feel free to email- markvanarnam@aol.com or text- 610-800-9595 your suggestions to me directly.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

