

# Audubon United Methodist Church

314 Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

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

## December, 2015 Newsletter

### Sunday Worship Opportunities:

- 9:00 AM Contemporary Service
- 9:00 AM Church School for all ages
- 10:30 AM Traditional Service



*“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”*  
John 1:14 LJV

It’s hard to believe that this is Christmas number 15 we have spent in Audubon. Over the years we have watched each other’s children (and in some cases grandchildren) grow up, go off to college or the service, get married, even move away! And though we miss them terribly, a number of our church family members now have the privilege of celebrating Jesus’ Birthday with him in person. Life has brought many changes over the years. Some of our families have grown, others shrunk. There is much joy in Christmas us at AUMC.

But also, Christmas Church attendance was once the high point of the year for many in our community and now we see empty pews which were once packed for Candlelight Services. We read the news and hear of bans on Christmas Carols, Nativity displays, even Santa Claus. After all, Santa is soooooo offensive to non-Christians! And if the domestic Grinches who try to steal our Christmas aren’t bad enough, we are warned of possible attacks from terrorists who seek to wreak havoc on holiday celebrations. Speaking of terror, just wait until your credit card bill comes due in and you will see the cost of Christmas 2015 in dollars and cents. At least gas is cheap.

Despite the changes we have seen at Christmas over the years (good and bad), one thing remains constant... the Word became flesh! Jesus is still with us. The babe born 2000 years ago grew up and is our Savior.

*(The pastor’s message is continued on page 3)*



church house.

### *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

*The November Newsletter is presented by George and Estelle MacCulloch in memory of loved one.*

### Meetings and Events

- Dec. 3 6:30 PM Greening of the church
- Dec. 5 Christmas Bazaar 9 AM – 1 PM
- Dec. 6 Consecration Sunday
- Dec. 8 7:30 PM Church Council-Conover Parlor
- Dec. 13 Live Nativity 5:30-8 PM
- Dec. 13 Deadline for January Newsletter—*send To Lyn Radley at [smradley@verizon.net](mailto:smradley@verizon.net)*
- Dec. 20 Choir Program 10:30 AM service
- Dec. 24 4 and 8 PM Christmas Eve Services
- Dec. 27 10 AM A Service of Lessons and Carols

### Weekly Meetings:

- Mondays: **Seekers** (7-8 PM) Conover Parlor  
**Men’s Prayer Group** 7 PM at the Arcaini’s AA (7:30-8:30 PM) Adult Assembly Room
- Wednesdays: **Chancel Choir** rehearsals 7:30 PM
- Sundays: **Hand Bell choir** rehearsal following service

### Church Office Hours

- Monday & Wed. 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Friday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

*Love was born at Christmas  
Love all lovely, Love divine  
Love was born at Christmas  
Star and Angels gave the sign*



## 2015 Christmas Poinsettias

It's time to think about the greening of our church (Dec. 3) and the placing of poinsettias in the sanctuary for the Christmas season. Recall how beautiful the sanctuary was last year?!



The price is the SAME this year – \$4.00 per plant.

We would like to have the plants in the sanctuary the Sunday before Christmas, December 20. **Your poinsettia order and payment will be due by Sunday, December 13.** Please send completed orders with payment to the church office. Forms are in the bulletin or call the church office directly.

## It's Angel Tree time again!

**Angel Tree ornaments are in the Narthex.**



Things will be a little different this year. Each ornament has just one item from the person's wish list. For instance, one ornament may say 10 year old girl, Barbie doll, or 10 year old girl size 10 winter coat. We are also hopeful that the teens and

children may want to choose an ornament since they might be able to provide a smaller gift from the tree.

Please be sure to put your name and number next to the ornament number on the sign out sheet for each gift you choose.

All gifts must be purchased, wrapped, brought to the church and placed under the tree (or in the general area) with the ornament attached **no later than Sunday December 13th.** This will allow us time to organize the gifts by family and have them delivered or picked up in plenty of time for Christmas.

## Gift card order forms

are available on the information table in the narthex. There are many, many retailers in our area who participate in this program which gives a percentage of the value of the card right back to our church. If you are purchasing gift cards for family or friends who live in other areas of the country, many regional retailers participate in the program as well. Just ask Linda Holonia and she can let you know if a retailer out of our area participates and their gift cards are available through the program. Purchasing the gift cards is a very easy process. Fill out the form and return it to



Linda with your payment. Checks are payable to the church. Gift cards are usually available the following Sunday. Easy shopping for you, whether you are buying as gifts for others or for your own use at local grocery or department stores, and it makes a profit for the church.

See Linda Holonia or email [lhologia@yahoo.com](mailto:lhologia@yahoo.com)

## Greening of the Church

Thursday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> begins at 6:30 P.M. with a covered dish supper. All are invited!



## Victorious Women –UMW

### 2015 Christmas Bazaar

**Saturday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 9 am to 1 pm**

Come for fellowship, come for great gift items such as ready to give gift baskets, independent vendors, jewelry, Tupperware, Attic Treasures and a Christmas Shoppe, and don't forget to stop by our delicious baked goods table.



Support our UMW Victorious Women as all money generated from the Christmas Bazaar helps support many groups, missions and projects.

Invite your friends and relatives to come and shop at the Bazaar.

For those of you who do social media, it would be a great way of getting the word out to help us advertise for the Bazaar.

**The Cafe'** will be serving brunch and lunch type items.

Contact these ladies for donation or to help:

Carol Jesucosky – Attic Treasures  
Amy Kelly 856-905-0812 – Baked goods  
Lois Reiter 856-546-6278- Café  
Cheryl Laxton 856-546-6427 – ready-made gift baskets.

## Spaghetti Dinner, Saturday

**December 5<sup>th</sup>**

Following the Christmas Bazaar  
\$5 per person \$20 max per family  
To benefit Rebekah's legal fees.



**Rebekah also has holiday Chick-Fil-A calendars** which include free food coupons available for \$7.

## Consecration Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>



It's the time for making our 2016 pledge commitment to God and our church by our prayers, our attendance and the giving of our finances in order that we might continue our ministries at Audubon United Methodist Church, our community and the world.

## Live Nativity

### Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30-8:30 PM

The story of Christ's birth with actors and animals  
Come out to see actors and animals in the outdoor Stable.

Come inside for:

- Refreshments
- Kid's activity area
- A Winter Wonderland of trees
- A 1950's Old Fashion Christmas and train display

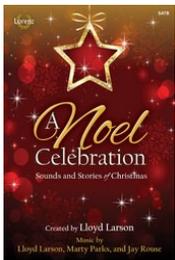


Contact Coleen Makuszewski at

[krunner26@yahoo.com](mailto:krunner26@yahoo.com)

## Choir Christmas Musical Program

### Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM



### *A Noel Celebration, Sounds and Stories of Christmas.*

The Christmas story told through the eyes of first-hand witnesses who share their unique perspectives on the miraculous birth of Jesus. Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, a shepherd, a wise man, and the aged

Saint Simeon all share their stories

## Christmas Eve Services Dec. 24

Children and family service at 4:00 PM

Traditional Candlelight service at 8:00 PM



## A Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> we will have one service at 10 AM. Join us as we hear the scriptures and sing the carols of Jesus birth.

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

He is the Lord of our Christmas no matter what happens; we can still celebrate the central fact of Christmas. It has nothing to do with presents, trees, lights, fruit cake, and visiting friends and relatives. Christmas has been and always will be about Jesus, no matter what the world says. I invite you to join me and my family in keeping Christmas all about Jesus. Even better, lets proclaim to our community the Christ of Christmas. Invite a friend or neighbor to services and witness to them about who Jesus is to you. Put a "Merry Christmas from Audubon United Methodist Church" sign on your lawn. As far as I know that sort of free speech is still legal, though it may offend the occasional Grinch.

I want to thank you for standing by me through my health issues this past year. I feel like I lost so much time. Carol and I will be adjusting to a big change with Walter moving to USCG Small Boat Station Little Creek, Virginia Beach. We will learn the joys (?) of travel just like many of you who have family out of the area. Pray for Walter as he adjusts to his new life. Miles is still home with us and we have the blessing of a home right around the corner for us to move to when our time here is finished. Thank you for being our family and we wish you all a blessed Christmas Season.

*Pastor Walt, Carol, Walter and Miles*

## Mission News

Joy to the world, the King has come! As a church family we are so fortunate to have Christ our moral giver who gives us purpose and hope! This loving gift our Lord gave us can never be matched.

This past Thanksgiving our church stepped up to show God's love through a phenomenal amount of food donations given to the Camden Neighborhood Center. As requested by the Center's staff, turkeys and fresh carrots and onions galore and much more were delivered prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Other area churches provided fresh produce, as well. Fresh vs. sodium-laden canned veggies are considered a healthier choice.

With Christmas fast approaching take note of the change of the Angel Tree outreach for meeting the wants and needs of certain Audubon families. This is a new twist to the highly successful Angel Tree program reaching out to our needy neighbors.

May His love surround you at Christmas and always!  
Bruce Krout, Missions chairman

## Wanted: Photographers and photos of church events



If you are one of those special people who take pictures at our church event, please send copies to [crosstait630@yahoo.com](mailto:crosstait630@yahoo.com) for use on the church's Facebook page and the church website (which is currently being upgraded) We need to let our pictures help tell the story of what our church is doing! Thank you.

## Cell phones for soldiers

Did you know you can donate your old cell phones for soldiers? First, delete your call logs, text messages and contact. Be sure to include all accessories charging cord, earphones, car charger, etc. collection box is in the narthex. Questions? see Carol Tait



## From Kathy and David Mannon

Thank you so much for being willing to help us during this epic trial. We are getting some financial assistance to help with the \$5000 expense of the bed bug treatment. So, the most helpful thing would be to have those interested in helping send donations directly to ISI. It will also be a tax-deductible donation for them. Checks can be made payable to "International Students, Inc." (be sure to include "Acct. #5353" on the memo) and sent to International Students, Inc.

PO Box C, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2901

We also have a secure online giving site for those who want to use a credit card. Here is the link:

[www.isionline.org/Donate/DavidMannon.aspx](http://www.isionline.org/Donate/DavidMannon.aspx)

## December Shut-in of the Month

Bertha Hand  
12800 Spruce Tree Way, Apt. 119  
Raleigh, NC 27614-8276

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

## December Birthdays

02 Joan Windston  
10 Dan Arcaini  
12 Lois Reiter  
13 Sandy Albrecht  
14 Samantha Snyder  
15 Bill Soulliard  
29 Carol Fennimore  
29 Dot Pierce



## December Communion Offering

Neighborhood Center

## December Greeters:

Norm and Gail Lore

December Ushers: Peg and Tracy Schnyer,  
Cheryl Laxton and Terry Mazur

December Liturgist: Anne Simpson

## December Counters:

Scott Radley, Peggy Cheney, Bob and Anita Fonash

December Trustee to open and close church: Bob Fonash

## Prayers – Praise - Thanks

*Numerous prayer requests have been mentioned or written on prayer cards. Some of them are listed here. Since our newsletter is posted on our website, last names are omitted for privacy. Please contact the office to update any requests you may have made – either answered prayer or no longer needed.*



## Prayer requests from our weekly bulletins

- Doug J. (Ef's brother) • Mike & Tyler S.
- Shannon P. (Fitzgerald's niece)
- Beverly F (Chris's mother)
- Anne (Barbara Hertfelder's neighbor)
- Danielle and Samantha (in prison) - Kim
- Nancy E. (friend of Sarah Gibbons)
- Carol and Bill B (friends of Dorothy Groves)
- Carol B (friend of Dorothy Groves)
- Dorothy H/S (friend of Kim Williams)
- Phil S (Carol F) • Crystal
- Allison K. • Katie V.
- Mary L. • Ruslana's father

## Our Friends with Special Needs

- Norma A. • Bill and Kay R.
- Jean S. • Wyone and Bob B.
- Doris K. • Myrtle J.
- Gwen E. • Eleanor T.
- Edith W. • Ed S.
- Peg L. • Ronnie W.
- Gerry G. • Dan A.
- Bertha H. • Pat M.

## Prayer Card Requests

- Lori R for complete healing.
- That Ana will be returned to Rebekah and family.
- Estelle M
- For those in the military deployed in harm's way
- Dot and Charlie Pierce

- A friend Carole, a cancer survivor, now resuming chemotherapy -Mary T
- My father - Diane
- Kim W in prayer for healing, strength.
- Scott - Lori
- Amber, a mother of three from N.C., who is in desperate need of a heart transplant.
- For family and friends – Judy H
- Our missing cat, Tinkerbelle - Elaine
- Prayers for himself and his daughter Samantha for the mediation on Dec. 23. – Ron F
- Please pray for our church
- Mike that he could find treatments that would decrease his severe back pain and other health issues -Diane
- Crystal B. who is very sick that she would be open to the Lord
- The Rittmayers as Kay has nutritional concerns.
- Ruslana as she recovers from serious health issue
- Healing for her daughter- in- law Jen – Peg L
- Pray for Joe P who has a dangerously infected knee
- Del's mother and Baby Devon - William
- Walter J in new assignment in VA
- Pastor Mark O'Shields, recent diagnosis of fast-growing cancer (husband of Lou Ann Paul)

**Praises:**

- Our Freedom to worship
- The blessings of family and friends

**New addresses**

Mary Bundick

747 Hedy Ave. Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Gerry Gosk

4042 S. Shady Court, Gilbert, AZ. 85297

**Church Staff:**

- \* Pastor: Rev. Dr. Walter Jesuncosky, III
- \* Admin. Assistant: Diane Stanley
- \* Director of Music: Mia Reich
- \* Organist: David Reich
- \* Pianist: Jesse Deal
- \* Nursery helpers: Holly Fitzgerald, Becca VanArnam, Emily Whiteley