

# Audubon United Methodist Church

314 Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

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

## March, 2015 Newsletter

### Sunday Worship Opportunities:

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

### From the Pastor:

*"... learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow." Isaiah 1:17 NRSV*

*"Enough! You've corrupted justice long enough; you've let the wicked get away with murder. You're here to defend the defenseless, to make sure that underdogs get a fair break; your job is to stand up for the powerless, and prosecute all those who exploit them."*



As a minister of the Gospel, I believe very strongly that politics has no place in the pulpit. Lots of clergy on the right and the left make very clear their political opinions in ways that go far beyond the proclamation of the

Good News. But sometimes an issue transcends politics, parties, conservative, moderate or liberal labels. I'm talking about the evil being perpetrated in the middle east and around the world by the group commonly called the Islamic State. First, please realize that IS (ISIS, ISIL, etc.) uses an extreme interpretation of Islam to justify their violence and wants to impose its belief system on everyone using any means necessary. Most Muslims, (even those who are not fans of the USA) reject the violent extremism of IS. We've seen the horrors of the Islamic State on the nightly news and cable as they behead, burn, and crucify their opponents. Innocent people... Muslim, Christian, Jew, and everyone else who disagrees with IS faces extortion, beatings, sex slavery or death if they do not submit to the violent vision of the Islamic State. Sadly, many around the world have remained silent or uninvolved as these extremists rolled through Iraq and Syria. Finally, world leaders from the  
*(The pastor's message is continued on page 3)*



### *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 March Newsletter is presented by Barb and Frank Cunane in celebration of the first birthday of our grandson, Nolan Richard Cunane.**

### Meetings and Events

- March 10 7:30 PM Church Council Conover Parlor
- March 14 Sat. 10 AM SPRC meeting  
Deadline for March Newsletter –send to Marilyn Radley smradley@verizon.net
- March 17 7:00 PM Trustees meeting
- March 24 10:00 AM Brainstorming Session
- March 28 8:30 am UMW-Victorious Women  
Program - The Challenge of the Cross
- March 29 Palm Sunday  
1 PM Easter Egg Hunt  
Easter Lily order due

### 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:  
**Supper Club** 6:00 PM Fellowship Hall  
**Chancel Choir** (7:30-9 PM) Sanctuary
- Sundays: **Hand Bell Rehearsal** 11:45 AM  
**Young Adult Bible Study** 5:30 PM  
Downstairs Lounge  
**Youth Group** (6 pm) 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Grades 6-12

### Church Office Hours

- Monday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Wednesday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Friday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**Men's Prayer Group** meets on Monday evenings at 7 PM at the Arcaini residence. Contact Dan or Bruce Krout for additional information.

**Supper Club** Wednesdays at 6:00 PM Video and discussion, *Following in the Footsteps of Jesus*.

### **Upper Room Devotional Books**

The March/April issue of the Upper Room is available at the wall mounted display by the Graisbury Ave. door. They come in regular and large print editions.

### **UMW - Victorious Women**

**Breakfast Program, Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30- 10:00 AM** Barbara Drake will share "**The Challenge of the Cross**" using her mother's cross collection to demonstrate the variety of styles of crosses and materials used to make crosses. The presentation will focus on the meaning of the cross for our lives as individual Christians and as United Methodist Women. Barbara is President of United Methodist Women for Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and for her church, Union UMC in Havertown. She has retired from her nursing career at Methodist Hospital and is serving as Parish Nurse at her church.

### **Women's Retreat with Westmont United Methodist Church ladies. April 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>**

Here's your opportunity to grow closer to God, deepen your faith or just refresh and renew. This event is held at the Double Tree Resort in Lancaster. The theme this year is "What is He saying to You?" and is based on John 8:1-11. Please see Linda Holonia for reservation forms.

**They are due no later than March 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

### **Spring Ladies Day at America's Keswick Wednesday, May 13, 2015**

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, doors open at 8:00 AM

**Speaker: Liz Curtis Higgs, is back!**

Registration: \$22 per person **Includes 3 sessions, continental breakfast, and gourmet boxed lunch.**

Call today and order your tickets! 800.453.7942, or purchase your tickets online at:

**<http://www.americaskeswick.org>**

If you have any questions, see Lyn Radley

**Women of Faith** is returning to Philadelphia August 21, 22 at the Wells Fargo Center. Tickets are \$85 (these are discounted by \$30) seats are limited. See Linda Holonia for information and ticket purchase forms. It's called the "Farewell Tour" and those speaking will be Patsy Clairmont, Marilyn Meberg, Luci Swindoll, Sheila Walsh, Mary Graham and Thelma Wells. Don't miss this opportunity!

**Bible 101** It's not too late to join. Bible 101 is a basic refresher study of the Bible every Sunday morning in March from 9-10 AM downstairs in the Adult Assembly Room. Discussion of covenant, oppression and salvation in the Old and New Testaments. Grab your coffee and head downstairs.

### **Sunday School for all ages at 9 AM**

Children meet in the Hoffman Room

Teens meet in the downstairs lounge

Seekers (men and women) meet in Conover Parlor

Fidelis Class (women) meets in the Chapel

**Special Note: all children attending 12 Sundays between now and June will receive a Chick-Fil-A gift card.**

### **Missions Angels on Wheels!**

**Matthew 25:35-40** *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?"*

We are excited to say that we will be reaching out to the 12 families from 2014 Christmas Angel Tree.

Our local community has needs that only you and I can fill which is why we are excited to say that the Church Council has approved using some of the funds collected by our church for A Future With Hope to be used to match the donations that Angels on Wheels raises! One-quarter of what each church raises for a Future with Hope stays within the church for local missions. We have already received donations from Shoprite of Brooklawn, Del Buonos and Sonic and are waiting to see if others are interested in participating. There is also \$140.00 in private donations.

Matthew West sings a song called "**Do Something**" about people living in poverty, and sickness. When he shakes his fist at Heaven and says "God, why don't you do something?" God replied, "I did, I created YOU!"

**Angels On Wheels** would love for you to be involved with this outreach ministry – there are so many things that you can do!

Contact Kim Williams, Jim and Eleanor Hofbauer, Chris Stanley, or anyone on the missions team to help.

## Closer to Jesus in 90 Minutes

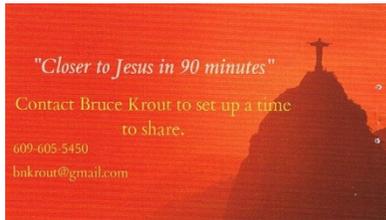
Closer to Jesus in 90 minutes is a one on one experience.

I would love to share Jesus with adults as well as young adults, 15 years of age or older. My contact information is below and on the business cards in the Narthex. I encourage you, your loved one or friend to you call, leave a message or email me and I will get back to you to set up a time.

Your friend in Christ,

Bruce Krout

609-605-5450 or [bnkrout@gmail.com](mailto:bnkrout@gmail.com)



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

Pope to President Al-Sisi of Egypt, King Abdullah II of Jordan, to the leaders of Iran have gone on record to oppose the evil being perpetrated on thousands of helpless people. The United States and its Western allies, understandably concerned about getting pulled into another war, have also taken steps to confront this evil.

How should we as Christians respond? I can quote you lots of scriptures that say "You shall not kill," or "blessed are the peacemakers." But as Solomon said, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven," (Ecclesiastes 3). Read the list for yourself. Above you will see other passages that remind us that God's people have a duty to stand up for the defenseless, the weak, the powerless and seek justice. This is not something I suggest lightly, but I remember this story from my seminary days. Protestant Pastor and theologian Martin Niemoller (1892-1984) lived in Germany as Hitler and the Nazis came to power. As a man of faith he observed the evil going on around him, but kept quiet. He said, after the war,

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.*

What can we as Christians do to help those who are suffering persecution, violence and even death because of the Islamic State? First pray. Pray for the victims of this oppression, for their families, and loved ones...for our fellow Christians and even those outside the faith. Pray for our leaders to make wise yet hard decisions on how to deal with this evil. Pray for those upon who the task of confronting IS will fall. And, as Jesus would remind us, pray for our enemies. As followers of Jesus, let us speak for the oppressed, the widow, the orphan, the defenseless. If we don't who will be left to speak for us?

*Pastor Walt*

## Altar Flower Sponsors needed

March 12 and 22. \$12 for a single arrangement. Call Jane in the office if interested. 856-547-6114

What's so great about Hugs? There's no such thing as a bad hug—only good ones and great ones. They are not fattening and they don't cause cancer or cavities. They are all natural with no preservatives, artificial ingredients or pesticide residue. They are cholesterol free, naturally sweet, 100% wholesome and they are a completely renewable natural source.

They don't require batteries, tune ups or x-rays. They are non-taxable, fully returnable, and energy efficient. They are safe in all kinds of weather. In fact, they are especially good for cold or rainy days. And they are exceptionally effective to treating problems like bad dreams or Monday Blahs.

Never wait until tomorrow to hug someone you could hug today



## **Hippity Hoppity Easter's on it's way!**

Easter Egg Hunt is Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 2 PM

We need volunteers to bring dyed eggs, plastic eggs filled with candy, cupcakes, brownies, cookies, juice boxes, bottled water and hot dogs with buns.



We also need people to help the day of the event with hiding eggs and working in the kitchen.

Contact Ruslana or the church office.

## **Time to update the Church Directory**

Please check your name, address phone number, birthday and anniversary dates in the current Directory (it's pink and dated Fall 2012). If it is incorrect, please provide the correct information to the church office and in the copy of the directory in the Narthex.

## **Easter Lilys**

It's the season of spring, the season of rebirth, and most of all the Season of our Risen Lord and Savior. As always, part of our Easter celebration is the placement of Easter Lilies in the sanctuary. The price is \$7.75 per plant (the same as last year). Your order and payment will be due by Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday).



Enjoy your lilies year after year. When you take them home after Easter Sunday Services, plant them 6 inches deep. They come up every year and bloom several times throughout the summer. Forms are in the weekly bulletin or call the church office.

## **Electronic Giving**

Never worry about forgetting your envelope again! The Vanco Services Electronic Giving Form has been updated. Whether you currently give electronically or would like to begin, you have a number of choices. You can designate your offering to any of the following funds and you can choose the weekly, semi-monthly or monthly options.

Tithes & Offerings	Repairs and Maintenance
Advent Offering	Christmas Offering
Lenten Offering	Easter Offering
Thanksgiving Offering	United Methodist Women
AUMC Walker/Bowen Scholarship Fund	
Stephen Betts Scholarship Fund	

Capital Improvements/Major Repairs Fund  
Shared Ministry/Missions  
A Future With Hope.

If you would like to update your electronic giving choices or begin electronic giving, complete the attached form, enclose it in an envelope and place it in the blue Treasurer's folder in the Narthex.

**Check Out United Methodist Communications** at [umcom@esp.umcom.org](mailto:umcom@esp.umcom.org)

Or **Gateway South District Newsletter** at [gatewaysouth@gnjumc.org](mailto:gatewaysouth@gnjumc.org) to see what's happening in our Conference, District and news from our District Superintendent, Rev. Myrna Bethke.

## **District Day of Learning**

March 7, 2015 8:30 am -- Registration and Coffee  
Program 9 am to 1 pm

Hope UMC, 700 Cooper Rd. Voorhees

To be part of the choir for the opening worship all you need to do is show up at HOPE Church by 7:45am for the one and only rehearsal. Check out youtube for anthems Manifesto and In Christ Alone.

## **Future with Hope Recap**

131 homes complete

35 homes under construction

15 homes in queue

8,885 volunteers

15 host sites

383 person hosting capacity

Our Disaster Case Managers have worked with more than 360 families to date; their households include more than 700 people, with more than 100 seniors and more than 100 youth.

The Major League Baseball Players' Trust has awarded A Future With Hope a grant of \$40,000 to help repair and rebuild homes damaged or destroyed by Sandy. The Players Trust is a charitable foundation through which Major Leaguers contribute to the needy and encourage community involvement. A Future With Hope is also partnering with local teams the Lakewood Blue Claws and Trenton Thunder. Both teams will host an 'A Future With Hope' day to raise awareness about survivors' ongoing needs. The Thunder game will be on June 9 and the Blue Claws game on June 17. More details to follow!

The Foundation Center released a report on Sandy recovery and the social service agencies that are making a difference. A Future With Hope and UMCOR made the top five and stand alongside the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. With the help of our volunteers and the support of United Methodists in Greater New Jersey and

around the country we have come a long way in the two plus years since Sandy.

### **March Shut-in of the Month**

Norma Albrecht  
137 south White Horse Pike  
Audubon, NJ 08106

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

### **March Birthdays**

1 Elaine Soulliard  
5 Maggie Bouch  
9 Barbara Cunane  
12 Kevin Fennimore  
12 Tracy Schnyer  
15 William Betts  
16 Becca VanArnam  
18 Tim Bouch  
22 Laurie Bouch  
23 Anne Simpson  
23 Don Canning  
24 Scott Ryan  
29 Sam Arcaini

*If you or your family members have not been included in this past year's list of birthdays and anniversaries, please contact the church office or Marilyn Radley ([smradley@verizon.net](mailto:smradley@verizon.net))*

### **March Communion Offering**

Camden Urban Ministry Initiative, a cooperative after-school program in Camden.

### **March Greeters:**

Don and Peggy Lauk

### **March Ushers:**

Frank and Barbara Cunane  
Ruslana Snyder and Mark Van Arnam

### **March Liturgist:**

Barbara Cunane

### **March Counters:**

Sandy Albrecht, Barbara and Frank Cunane

### **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.*

### **Prayer requests from our weekly bulletins**

- Doug J. (Ef's brother)
- Mike & Tyler S.
- Shannon P. (Fitzgerald's niece)
- Beverly F (Chris's mother)
- Tom J. (George MacCulloch's friend)

- Kathleen B (George MacCulloch's cousin)
- Anne (Barbara Hertfelder's neighbor)
- Ruslana's father
- 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)
- Allison K
- Katie V
- Carol Jo and Carol F

### **Our Friends with Special Needs**

- Norma A.
- Jean S.
- Florence W.
- Gwen W.
- Edith W.
- Peg L.
- Gerry G.
- Bill and Kay R.
- Wyone and Bob B.
- Jim T.
- Gwen E.
- Ed S.
- Marge and Emmett W.
- Dan A

### **Prayer Card Requests**

- Myrtle J. healing
- Shawn H cancer -- Darlene
- Carol F requests prayers for tests she is having for health issues, God's strength in making decisions and for Carol Jo going for a job promotion.
- Rebekah for housing and the custody hearing
- Bill S and family - his Aunt Sue passed away
- Ellen requests prayers for her sister, Kathleen, for healing and for her daughter and herself for peace & reconciliation
- Praise for good news about Dean's tumors (Barb & Frank's son-in-law)
- Friend Joe had a stroke – Barb and Frank
- Lois and Harold in the hospital -- Rebekah
- Bob F for good health with pacemaker implant
- Derek on chemo - Carol T
- Jack with infection and Dialysis - Carol T
- Mitch S requests prayers for Richard, a friend, and Fred, a neighbor. Both have intestinal cancer

*Please contact the office to update any requests you may have made – either answered prayer or no longer needed.*

### **Church Staff:**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Walter Jesuncosky, III  
Administrative Assistant: Jane Gannon  
Director of Music: Mia Reich  
Organist: David Reich  
Pianist: Jesse Deal  
Nursery: Ashley Schnyer, Holly Fitzgerald,  
Becca VanArnam, Emily Whiteley