

Audubon United Methodist Church

314 Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

www.audubonumc.com 856-547-6114

May, 2016 Newsletter

Sunday Worship Opportunities:

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

"Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Matthew 17:4

Have you ever noticed how hard it is to get back to work and the daily routine when you come home from a fantastic vacation? Carol and I just spent 8 days in Virginia Beach with our son Walter. He has a lovely 2 bedroom apartment in a great neighborhood (Chicks Beach) and is surrounded by great beaches, food, shopping, and scenery. The area is clean and the people are nice. Carol and I got to totally relax as Walter showed us the sights and made our stay wonderful. Coming home and going back to work, as much as we love our town, home, church, and jobs, was a difficult adjustment. I think I can better understand Peter's reaction to his mountain-top getaway with Jesus, James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17). It was there Jesus met with Moses and Elijah in a foretaste of the heavenly kingdom. Peter didn't want to leave that incredible experience and suggested he could build three dwellings for the Holy Men... they could stay! It's hard to leave a mountaintop experience.

The trip reminded me of our Christian Journey. Of course our final destination is to be with Jesus.

Now Carol and I can't say we met any important religious figures in Virginia Beach. The only mountain there is a man-made landfill that grew to mountainous proportions and was turned into a park officially named "Mount Trashmore!" But we got our batteries charged and enjoyed the longest time away together since before we had children. Now it is back to work and reality.

(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 May Newsletter is sponsored by Mary Tharan in loving memory of her parents, Elmer and Evelyn Tharan

Meetings and Events

May 3 6:45 PM Finance Committee-Ch. House
7:30 PM Church Council-Conover Parlor
May 8 Mother's Day
May 15 Deadline for June Newsletter—send
To Lyn Radley at smradley@verizon.net
May 16 7 PM Trustees Meeting
May 21 Food Share pick-up
May 30 Memorial Day - pause for a minute at 3 PM for the *National Moment of Remembrance* honoring those who died serving our country.

Weekly Meetings:

Mondays: Seekers (7-8 PM) Conover Parlor
Men's Study Group 7 PM at Pastor Josh's home in Westmont.
AA (7:30-8:30 PM) Adult Assembly Room

Tuesdays: Women's Bible Study 7 PM

Wednesdays: Chancel Choir rehearsals 7:30 PM

Sundays: Hand Bell choir rehearsal following service
6 PM Youth Group

Church Office Hours

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

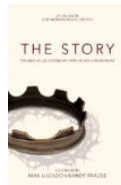
Sunday School for all ages at 9 AM

- Children meet in the Hoffman Room
- Teens meet in the Edna Simon Room
- Seekers (men and women) meet in Conover Parlor
- Fidelis Class (women) meets in the Chapel

These events are available for all ladies!

New Women's Study

Tuesdays at 7 PM "*The Story*", an abridged, chronological Bible that reads like a novel. See Carol Jesuncosky for more info.



America's Keswick Spring Ladies Day May 11th



15 ladies will be attending. If you would like to go but have not reserved your ticket, see Lyn Radley ASAP. Our group tickets are \$17.50 each.

Message from the Church office

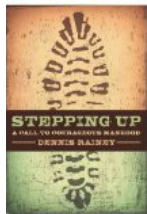
- Announcements for the bulletin need to be given to the office NO LATER than Wednesday at 11 AM.
- We maintain 2 prayer lists...one is in the weekly bulletin and the other is in the monthly newsletter. We often get prayer requests, praises and thanks but seldom do people notify us when a prayer request should come off the list. Please look over the lists and if your request has been answered or is no longer needed let the office know. Thanks!
- Altar Flower Sponsors for 2016
Sponsors are still needed for this year for 1 or 2 arrangements on the altar. Contact Diane in the church office **Arrangements are \$12 each.**

VBS is coming July 11-15 Save the Dates!

Contact Coleen Makuszewski to help krunner26@yahoo.com

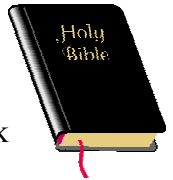


Men's Study Group through June 6



Pastor Josh Schuster is leading a video/book discussion on Dennis Rainey's book "Stepping Up". The study is on **Monday evenings** and runs through June 6. It is being held at Pastor Josh's home. Call Dan Arcaini at 856-397-0295 if you are interested.

The Bible Verse Challenge



May 1 Luke 11:9 "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and ye shall find, knock and the door will be opened to you."

May 8 Psalm 121:12 "I will lift my eyes to the hills Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord the maker of heaven and earth."

Christian Connection and Birding

On April 29, 2015 we kicked off our 3-minute Christian Connection hearing from Kim Williams. Believe it or not, the Christian Connection and birding have something in common.

I love the springtime with the wonderful renewal of life (think flowers, Easter, and birds). In the birding world, the fun is not in just locating and identifying various birds as they migrate thousands of miles to or through our tri-state area. The details of each bird species varies and adds to their fascinating existence. A Baltimore oriole is a beautiful bird whose female creates a sack-like nest that hangs down from the highest tree branches. If a squirrel were to push on this nest the top closes to prevent intruders from getting to the eggs.

It's these details that make life interesting and meaningful. The same is true with our church members. Learning about our brothers and sisters in Christ this year through the Christian Connect allows us to understand who and what's important to them or what their walk with Jesus is all about.

For many, standing in front of the congregation meant summoning up some courage. For our church, this sharing has allowed us to get to know each other more deeply and to grow closer, to feel a greater compassion to one another. We have 20-25 more "connections" to make this year as this activity comes to a close. On this anniversary I want to thank all of the participants for sharing and Pastor Walt for allowing this activity to happen.

In Christian love, Bruce Krout



Food Share orders due May 9

Order forms are in the Narthex.

Contact Sandy Hook for information. Order pick-up May 21.

Need Help with your PSE&G bills? See the bulletin board for more information.

(Continued - pastor's message from page 1)

When Jesus and his inner circle of disciples came down from the Mount of Transfiguration they walked into a controversy with the disciples and a demon-possessed boy. Fortunately, upon our return, Audubon was in peace with nary a demon in sight. But I did manage to relearn a lesson. Mountaintops are important for us in our lives and our Christian Walk. We need times of energizing and spiritual refreshment. But we can't stay on the mountaintop. We take our experience back with us to our daily living, hopefully better prepared for whatever may be waiting for us in the "valley." Mountaintops can sustain us in challenging times. God put those mountaintops there for us. And I like to believe that there are more trips up the mountain waiting for us. Not that we should lapse into counting down the days until our next excursion up the slopes, but we can rest assured that our Lord knows we need the mountaintops and will provide one just when we need it most.

When did you last have a "Mountaintop Experience?" They are different for everyone. I might even suggest our trip to the mountain (the Virginia shore, actually) might bore the living daylights out of some of you. Still when your special mountaintop presents itself, don't just sit at the base of it and look up longingly. Start climbing! God has something wonderful and unique waiting and will use it to bless and refresh you!

Pastor Walt

April Shut-in of the Month

Eleanor Tucker
221 Hampshire Ave.
Audubon, NJ 08106



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

Scholarships

The Audubon UMC Scholarship in Memory of Leon Walker and Jeffrey Bowen. This scholarship is for any student attending Audubon High School.

The Stephen P. Betts Scholarship remains the same and is for a church member who attends school outside of Audubon.

Applications are being taken for this year's awards. Contact Linda Holonia.

Join the AUMC team on the Bethany Walk and 5K Run May 21st 7:45 - noon



Laurel Acres Park, 1045 South Church Street,
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Ways the Congregation can support the ministry of BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES in NJ and around the world:

1. JOIN the Audubon UMC team-walk 1 mile or run 5 K.
2. GIVE financially-our team goal is \$200.
3. SUPPORT the event as a sponsor-your business can be an essential partner and receive a tax deduction. If your business supports with \$50 or more the business can be listed on the event t-shirt. Businesses support financially or by providing items for race day (*i.e.* Food – bagels, fruit, water bottles, lemonade; coupons for products; prizes, etc.
4. VOLUNTEER –adults are needed for event activities-food, games, race details, face painting, crafts, and much more.
5. CLEAN out the closets! Donate items for Good Stuff Thrift Store- clothing, shoes, small household items. Place bags/ boxes on the parsonage porch during April through mid- May.
6. Pray for the May 21, 2016 event-weather, safety for participants, volunteers, fundraising goals to be met and exceeded.

Help support this great ministry; see Carol Jesuncosky , call her at 856-547-0653 or visit her web page for the event:

<http://www.fundeasy.com/m/2682327/>

Upper Room Devotional Books

The May/June 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

Mission News As this school year comes to a close, it's not too early to think about the new school year that starts in August for Dave and Kathy Mannon. As you recall, the Mannons of International Students, Inc. (ISI) have been involved for the last five years in helping to transport Rutgers' students from India and China from the Newark, NJ airport to their dorm rooms. David recently shared with me how "God has provided many opportunities for us to show the love of Christ through airport pickups and how friendships have developed through this ministry."


Thanks to the generosity of you, our church, we have doubled our support of ISI this year. For those of you who would like to share your time, as well, consider getting involved this summer by helping in the Newark airport pickups. The tentative date for this ministry is August 15-28, 2016. Specific information will be forthcoming in the near future as details are ironed out. How exciting it could be for us to be a part of this mission project!

If you want to get involved financially there is a special account called "**New Brunswick - Account #5029**" designated for the expenses of airport pickup (parking, tolls, welcome bags, etc.) and their Welcome BBQ which is normally hosted around September 1st. People who wish to contribute can make a check payable to "ISI" and **write this account number on the memo line**. They can also give through their online giving website: www.isionline.org/Donate/DavidMannon.aspx You will need to register on the site and make sure you select "New Brunswick" from the drop-down list of accounts. One more thing, here is the mailing address for donors who prefer to give by check:

**International Students, Inc.
PO Box C
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2901**

Your friend in Christ, Bruce Krout

If you shop on smile.amazon.com

 and choose Audubon UMC, Amazon will donate .05% of your eligible purchases. www.smile.amazon.com is the same as shopping on www.amazon.com

May Birthdays

2 Lauren Fitzgerald
9 Kim Williams
14 Pat Gibbons
16 Bertha Hand
20 Ray Thorne
22 Jesse Deal
22 Bill Makuszewski
27 Ashley Schnyer
29 Emma Wine
30 Marge Watson



May Anniversaries

13 Anne and Bill Simpson
30 Chris and Darlene Fitzgerald

May Communion Offering:

United Methodist Homes

May Greeters: Peg and Tracy Schnyer

May Ushers: Bob Fonash, Jim Barrett, Ray Thorne

May Liturgist: William Betts

May Counters: Sue Medora, Don Canning

May Trustee to open and close church: Sue Medora

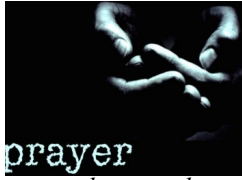
Gift card order forms are available on the information table in the narthex. Many retailers in our area participate in this program which gives a percentage of the value of the card right back to our church. Purchasing the gift cards is a very easy process. Fill out the form and return it to Linda with 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 lhlonia@yahoo.com

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.
- Shannon P.
- Anne and Joe
- Nancy E.
- Carol B
- Crystal
- Ruslana's father
- Mike & Tyler S.
- Beverly F (Chris's mother)
- Theresa and son
- Carol and Bill B
- Mary P
- Mary L.
- Lori R

Our Friends with Special Needs

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

Prayer Card Requests

- Complete healing for Lori
- Ron F. with custody issues
- Bea F. with her daughter
- Ginny A at home
- Joel H (Battleship NJ) with brain tumor
- A friend Holly with a brain tumor and her family.
-Michael G
- My father – Diane
- Prayers for Ron S. with cancer and Ray K.
with Cancer. Amy K
- Diane S. requests prayers as she witnesses to friends and family
- Keep LT Adam Fain in prayer as he serves overseas.
- Paul H that he continues to not smoke
- Rebekah's children
- Michael G. is requesting prayers for his family as they try to hold onto their house and for peace and strength, especially for his wife as they face financial and medical issues. He is also requesting prayers for Holly G. as she battles cancer. Please pray for her family as well.

- Helena W with some medical issues, and needs strength, guidance, healing, and energy
- Please pray for brother Joe who had a stroke three weeks ago and is still in the hospital unresponsive.
- Ef D. is asking for prayers for God's hand of healing
- Allison C. asks for prayers for a young Christian couple trying to start a family and going through difficult times
- Mike-that he could find treatments for his severe back pain and other health issues -Diane
- Please pray for Becky's daughter. They are testing for Lyme disease
- Jim T.-Carol T's brother-in-law-complete healing.

Praise

- Christy S graduating from Rutgers; inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and accepted to Rutgers's Law.

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