

Audubon United Methodist Church

314 W. Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

www.audubonumc.com 856-547-6114



April 2024 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.



Exciting news! We're kicking off the "Race to Raise the Roof" 5k campaign, and we want each and every one of you to be a part of it! Our mission is clear: to raise the necessary funds to complete the crucial repairs needed for our church's roof. This isn't just about fixing a roof; it's about preserving a sacred space where we gather to worship, find solace, and build lasting connections.

Give from the Heart: Every donation, no matter the size, brings us closer to our goal. Your generosity fuels our collective effort to keep our church strong and vibrant. Our church is a beacon of faith, love, and community spirit. Your participation in the "Race to Raise the Roof" is a testament to your dedication to our shared values and the well-being of our cherished home.

Let's lace up our running shoes, metaphorically speaking, and race toward a brighter future for our church!

As I stand in front of our church, I imagine the beams rising towards the sky, forming the skeleton of our new church roof, I can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of excitement and pride. This moment will represent more than just construction; it symbolizes our collective effort, resilience, and commitment to ensuring that future generations will have a place to call their spiritual home.

For years, we've faced challenges and setbacks. Our congregation may have been smaller compared to others, but our spirit and determination were boundless. We refused to be defined by limitations or overshadowed by doubts. Instead, we came together, pooling our resources, skills, and faith to rebuild and revitalize our beloved church.

The journey hasn't been easy. We've weathered storms, both literal and metaphorical, but each obstacle only strengthened our resolve. We learned to lean on each other,

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Sundays:

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

- Sun. April 7 New TEEN Class
- Tues. April 9 Blood Drive 2-7 P.M.
Church Council Meeting 7:30 P.M.
- Sat. April 13 Attic Treasurers Thrift Store is open
9 A.M. to Noon
- Sun. April 14 Book Club following service
- Tues. April 23 Cancer with Hope 7 P.M.
- Sat. April 27 Small Group study at 9 A.M.
- Sat. May 11 Spring Vendor Blender
- Every Mon. Seekers Adult Sunday School on Zoom
- Every Weds. Comfort Food via Zoom 7:30 P.M.
- Every Thurs. Chancel Choir rehearsal 7:30 P.M.

The April Newsletter is sponsored by Lauri Bouch in honor of their loving family.

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."

finding strength in unity and solace in our shared purpose. Every nail that will be hammered, every brick laid, and every prayer whispered echoed our unwavering dedication.

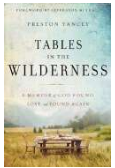
I am filled with pride. Proud to be part of a community that didn't let the ghost of a smaller congregation haunt us. Proud to be among individuals who refused to accept defeat and instead turned challenges into opportunities.

This new roof won't just be a structure; it's a testament to our perseverance, faith, and enduring spirit. It stands as a beacon of hope for the future, a legacy for generations to come. I am honored to be a member of this community, knowing that we've achieved what larger congregations have faltered at – not just in bricks and mortar, but in heart and soul.

As we look forward to the completion of this project, let us carry forward the lessons learned, the bonds forged, and the dreams realized. Our church isn't just a building; it's a testament to the power of community, the resilience of faith, and the triumph of unity. And that, dear friends, is something truly worth celebrating.

Pastor Garrett

Book Club - April 14



The book is "**Tables in the Wilderness: a memoir of God found, lost and found again**" by Preston Yancey. Please read through chapter 5 to facilitate the discussion.

Small Group Study April 27 9-10:30 AM

We are studying the "**31 women of the Bible**" and meet the fourth Saturday of each month. This is an in person small group study. This month we will be looking at Deborah and Esther. Women of all ages are welcome!



Coming Saturday, May 11 from 9:00

a.m.-2:00 p.m. Victorious Women is sponsoring a Mother's Day Vendor Blender. You will have the opportunity to shop in time for Mother's Day from vendors and craftspeople. The kitchen will be open with breakfast & lunch foods as well as baked goods. Attic Treasures Thrift Store will also be open with extended hours.



It is such a joy to see the children come excitedly to have fun and learn about Jesus. However, this won't happen without a volunteer to direct VBS. All supplies and directions are provided. You simply follow the program outlined in the director's book. Many volunteers help make it an easy job. See Pastor Garrett if you are interested.

Teen Class

New Sunday school class forming! Share the news! Pre-teen and teen Sunday School will start April 7. Pre-teens and teens, invite your friends to come with you! Teachers are Kimmee Williams and Pastor Garrett

ATTIC TREASURES THRIFT STORE



We Sell Gently Worn
Men's, Women's & Children's Clothes
Shoes, Jewelry, Handbags
Children's Toys, Puzzles, Games
Picture Frames
Houseware Goods & Seasonal Items

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"One Shop, Endless Possibilities!"

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Each Month

~ 9a.m. - 12 p.m. ~

May 11 ~ June 8 ~ July 13

Aug. 10 ~ Sept. 14 ~ Oct. 12

Nov. 9 ~ Dec. 14

Audubon United Methodist Church  
314 W. Grainsbury Ave., Audubon, NJ 08106  
Rear Entrance

### **Cancer with Hope**

The group will meet on Tuesday, April 23 at 7 PM in the Anne Simpson Room and on Zoom. 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.

### **Our next Blood drive is Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 2-7**

**PM.** We are looking for 30 donors. Donors will receive a \$10 e-gift card and chance to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards. Sign up by looking for our location at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).



## April Homebound of the Month



Mary Ann Mazur  
Care One, Room 214D  
870 Route 70  
Marlton, NJ 08053.



*Let her know you are thinking of her by sending a card.*

## Mission Update from Linda Holonia

As of January 1, I have taken on the responsibility of heading the Missions Committee. Due to my recent surgery and recuperation (which is ongoing), I have not been able to do anything yet. But that is about to change. If you are interested in being part of the Missions Committee, please contact me.

This month I want to give a short update regarding a few of the missions that we support:

- I have been in touch with Options for Her, formerly Options for Women. Several people have wondered why the name change. I asked if they were moving away from their Christian beginnings. The answer was a firm "No." They sent me a copy of their statement of faith, which is quite lengthy. It is posted on the bulletin board at the Graisbury Ave. entrance. The last point of their statement of faith says it all: "We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image."
- Secondly, NJ Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ): We have supported a few different individuals or couples who have been local leaders in this organization, bringing the Gospel to college students across the state. Most recently we supported Alex and Joel Aponte. However, they have been transferred and now serve in Florida. Marc and Allysa Stasio have filled the vacancy left by the Aponte's. We now support the Stasio's as they work on college campuses across the state.
- Lastly, we have supported Dave & Kathy (MacCulloch) Mannon since the beginning of their ministry for ISI (International Students, Inc.) They served on Rutgers New Brunswick campus, ministering to international students attending college at Rutgers. Many of the students they ministered to became Christians and took their faith back to their home countries after their college careers were finished. However, David recently accepted a position in a secular field and the Mannons no longer serve at ISI. Therefore, our support of them has ended.

**A note of thanks:** My deepest thanks to you all for your prayers, meals and cards during my recent surgery and recovery. Thanks too, to Jane Gannon and Bethany Griffis for covering for me at the office. You have no idea how much all of your kindnesses have meant to me.

**A late update on the Blessing Tree:** In 2023 we serviced five families, providing Christmas gifts to them. Christmas is a difficult time for those in need and the families were so thankful for your gifts. I ask the families for 3 wishes and 3 needs for each family member. The goal is to provide at least one of each for each family member. That goal was met because of your generosity. Thank you for sharing during the Christmas season.

**Communion Offering:** Urban Promise

**Trustee Opener/Closer:** Joe Fennimore

**Liturgist:** Barbara Cunane

## April Birthdays

- 12 Katie Van Arnam
- 17 Anna Rose Griffis
- 19 Ron Fennimore Jr.
- 20 Estelle MacCulloch
- 24 Calvin Reich
- 29 Walter Jesuncosky IV

## April Anniversaries

- 27 Walter and Sarah Jesuncosky



**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

## 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*

## Intercessory Prayer Needs

**Healing:** Mary L, Sammi S, Keith, Mike & Tyler S. Dee G, Carol F, Estelle M, Bill D, Pam A, Sandy A, Rosemarie, Dorothy, Wyone B, Crystal, Erin F, Linda H, Peggy B, Jen R

**Ongoing Health issues:** Dave R., Pat H, Charlie W and Family, Mary B, Barbara H, Peg L

**Continued good health:** Lauri M, Kevin H, Anne

## Prayer Card Requests

- Carol and Walt ask for your continuing special prayers for Miles. He is still hospitalized at HUP (Penn) in CICU and is at the top level of the waiting list for a heart transplant. Please pray too for his wife Morgan as she walks through this with him.

- Mary Ann M recovering from a broken hip and finger
- Linda H recovering from surgery
- Joan W in rehab recovering from a fall

**Church Staff:**

\* Pastor: Garrett Gouveia  
 \* Admin. Asst.: Linda Holonia  
 \* Director of Music: Carl Ellinwood, Jr  
 \* Organist/pianist: Ken Carson  
 \* Nursery Aides: Calvin Reich, Sophia Kondras  
 Church Office email : [audubonumc@verizon.net](mailto:audubonumc@verizon.net)  
 Church office Phone: 856-547-6114  
 Pastor Garrett email: [garrettmgouveia@gmail.com](mailto:garrettmgouveia@gmail.com)  
**Pastor's office hours:** Mon, Wed, Fri. 8:45 – 11:30 AM

**Church Office Hours**

Monday 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.  
 Wed. and Thursday 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

***PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILE LINDA IS RECOVERING THE DAYS AND HOURS MAY VARY.***

Check out our website: [audubonumc.com](http://audubonumc.com)

Search for **AudubonUMC** on  
 Facebook YouTube Twitter (X) Instagram



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



**General Conference of the United Methodist Church**

Will be held April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, N.C.

General Conference is the denomination's highest legislative body. As such, it has the authority to make revisions to the denomination's Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions. Delegates to the General Conference elect members of the Judicial Council, the denomination's top court; members of the commission that plans General Conference; and some members of other denominational leadership bodies. The Book of Discipline states that any United Methodist organization, clergy member or lay member may submit a General Conference petition — basically the United Methodist equivalent of a bill before a legislature.

All told, the coming General Conference has received 1,099 total valid petitions — including 352 new petitions submitted since General Conference's delay in 2020.

The coming General Conference plans to have 862 voting delegates—half clergy and half lay.

For more information, see

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/a-beginners-guide-to-general-conference>.

