

Audubon United Methodist Church

314 W. Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

www.audubonumc.com 856-547-6114



February 2025 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.

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."

Sundays:

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

Weekly Happenings:

Every Mon. Seekers Adult Sunday School on Zoom 7:30 PM

Every Weds. Comfort Food via Zoom 7:30 P.M

Every Thurs, Chancel Choir 7:30 PM

Coming Events

February

- Sun Feb 2, SPRC after worship

- Sat, February 8, Thrift store open 9-12
- Sun Feb 9 Chili Cook-off, We will invite the community to attend and participate. This event would be held from noon until about 2 PM. However, we need volunteers to make this and any event happen. A leader is needed, someone who would coordinate the event. Basically this would involve getting the word out (Linda has prepared a flyer to ask retailers to post), line up volunteers to be present and help with set-up, clean up and making sure the supplies are available at the food table.
- Tues February 11
6:45 Finance Committee
7:30 Church Council
- Sun Feb 16, Youth Group 6PM. 6th through 12th grade in Fellowship Hall. Please get the word out and invite any youth that you know to join us. We will make plans for the group going forward and enjoy pizza and fellowship.
- Sat Feb 22, 9-10:30 Small Group Bible Study with Diane Stanley, Conover Parlor.
- Sat Feb 22, District Day of Learning Hope UMC, Voorhees
- Sun Feb 23, Book Club after worship
- Tues Feb 25, 7PM, Cancer with Hope
- Thurs Feb 27 Blood Drive, 2-7PM. Blood donors will receive a \$15 e-gift card. Please go to the Red Cross website and search AUMC to sign up for an appointment to donate blood.

March

- Sun Mar 2, Victorious Women will meet after service featuring a covered dish luncheon. All women of the church are invited to attend.
- Wed Mar 5, Ash Wednesday
- Sat Mar 8, Attic Treasures open 9-noon
- Sat 3/22, American Guild of Organists Master Class
- Tues 3/25, 7PM, Cancer with Hope

April

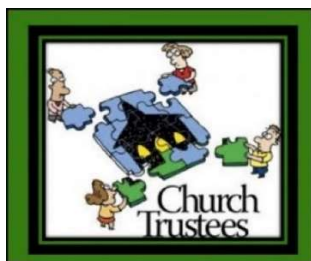
- Tues Apr 8, 6:45 Finance Committee
- Tues Apr 8, 7:30 Church Council
- Sun Apr 13, Palm Sunday. Easter Egg Hunt, 12 :30-2
- Thurs Apr 17, 7:30 PM Holy Thursday Service
- Fri Apr 18, Prayer Walk (Good Friday)
- Fri Apr 18, 7:30 Tenebrae Service
- Sun Apr 20 Easter
- Sun 4/27, Planning Meeting after church

May

- Sat. May 10, 9-2:30 Vendor Blender and Thrift Store
- Sun May 11, Mothers Day
- Tues. May 27 7:00 p.m. Cancer With Hope
- Thurs May 29 7:30 p.m. Last Choir Practice

June

- Sun. June 8 Children's Day-Last day of Children's SS
- Tues June 10, 6:45, Finance Committee
- Tues June 10, 7:30 Church Council
- Sun. June 15 Father's Day
- M-F June 23-27, Vacation Bible school



*Trustees
Chairperson
Ruslana
Snyder*

Ongoing projects are in the works. Updates will be forthcoming

Congregation Inspiration Corner

You are welcome to share with the congregation.

What can I share? Here are some ideas:

- something that happened that impacted you and you would like to share;
- a hymn that made a change in you;
- a poem that is special;
- anything to share that was unexpected and brought you closer to God;
- a blessing you have received;
- An angel encounter.

God's Answer to Loneliness

People with physical disabilities have said that their greatest pain is loneliness. It is also felt by parents who have been neglected by their children, by husbands and wives who have lost their mate, and by people from a minority group who have been excluded from social activities

If we want to be followers of our Savior, we should be reaching out to the lonely all around us. But we can't be with them all the time, nor can we fully know their pain. Our presence may help but we are never enough. Only God can meet the needs of the lonely. And here is the good news. In Jesus he has revealed Himself as "Immanuel", which Means, "God With Us".

One day G. Campbell Morgan visited an elderly woman who lived alone. Before leaving he read, "Low I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). "A great promise". With a twinkle in her eye she retorted, "Dr. Morgan, that's not a promise. It's reality!" For her, Immanuel was the ultimate cure for loneliness. God said. "I will never leave you nor forsake you". (Hebrews 13:5)

*Though all around me is darkness
And earthly joys have flown,
My Savior whispers His promise-
Never to leave me alone. -Anon.*

From the Upper Room, December 15, many years ago.

Lyn Radley



Reverend Garrett Gouveia

As a church, we are called to create opportunities for our community to experience God's love and grace through meaningful events and outreach. These moments are more than just activities—they are bridges that connect people to the heart of our church and the hope of Christ. But with these opportunities comes responsibility. Growing the Kingdom in Audubon requires all of us to step up, work together, and share the load of planning and leading.

We can't rely on the same few people to carry the weight. While those individuals have served faithfully and with great passion, the mission of growing God's Kingdom requires more than a few hands—it requires the whole body. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12 that we are one body with many parts, and each part has a role to play. If we want to see our church flourish and bring new families into our fellowship, it means recognizing that every person here has a unique gift and a vital role to fulfill.

The church isn't just a building or a set of programs. It's a living, breathing community of believers, and that means each of us must contribute to the life and growth of the community. If we want to create spaces where people can experience God's love and grace—whether through events, outreach, or even simple hospitality—it will take all of us working side by side.

It's not just about filling roles or checking off tasks. This is about stewarding the opportunities God has given us to be His hands and feet here in Audubon. We're not just hosting events for the sake of doing something; we're opening doors for transformation, for relationships to be built, and for the Gospel to be shared. These are holy moments, and they deserve our best effort—not from just a few—but from all of us.

Let's commit to being a church that doesn't just sit back and hope people show up, but one that actively seeks to create spaces where they encounter God. A church where everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, sees themselves as part of this mission. Together, we can build something that goes beyond ourselves—something eternal.

Are you ready to join the mission? Are you ready to invest your time, your gifts, and your heart into what God is doing here? Let's not let this fall on just a few faithful shoulders. Let's step up, lean in, and grow the Kingdom together—right here in Audubon. Because when we all come together, we can do more than we ever imagined for the glory of God.

Pastor Garrett is going to have a small group on Saturday mornings beginning at 10:00 during Lent. The first meeting will be on March 8. It will be based on his sermon series during Lent titled The Way of the Cross.

Music Corner
Ken Carson, Organist

As always we invite all to join us, no experience necessary. We rehearse Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm.



Our Church
Missions
Linda Holonia

Kids Alley is one of the missions we have supported almost from its inception. 2024 saw a great impact on 50 families and 100 children in Camden City. Manna Academy empowers and equips 12-15 moms weekly with life skills, goal setting, resources and support. One of the adults in the Academy enrolled in college courses in 2024 to earn her BA. The children in grades K-8 received educational enrichment, mentorship, character development, recreational and educational field trips during the summer. Two of the learning center staff are former Kids Alley “kids,” who wanted to give back. The children were provided with homework assistance and tutoring during the school year. Kids Alley provides fun, educational clubs filled with new experiences such as cooking, art, STEM, and team building. Saturday Live, their weekly program, almost tripled in 2024, empowering children, youth, and parents with God’s love.

Looking ahead, they are pursuing targeted grants and other fundraising initiatives. A pro bono grant writer has already doubled their grant submissions. They plan to launch a comprehensive marketing strategy and increase social media presence and community recognition. They continue to host speaking engagements and networking events. The Programming and Spiritual Development Committee is ready to meet the needs with excellence.

Besides our monetary support, there are other ways you can support Kids Alley individually. They are always looking for volunteers. If you want more information or are interested in volunteering, you can reach them at 856-546-1098 or www.kidsalley.org.

Victorious Women

C.J. Fennimore and Ruslana Snyder



- The Attic Treasures Thrift Store Collected a total of \$2,426.66 for the year of 2024.
- In January we sold \$136.00.
- We will be starting to take donations for SPECIFIC items only. Please see CJ Fennimore or Ruslana Snyder for donation items. The Victorious Women CANNOT pick up donations from anyone’s home and please do not randomly drop off donations without seeing CJ or Ruslana first.
- Upcoming Attic Treasures Thrift Store's Dates: February 8th, March 8th, April 12th and May 10th.

Prayers-Praise-Thanks



Pray in the spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all

HEALING:

Mary L. (Lyme disease), Sammi S. (Ruslana’s daughter), Keith, Mike & Tyler S., Dee G., Carol F., Miles J., Estelle M., George M., Youngsoon C., Bill D., Pam, Sandy A., Rosemarie, Dorothy G., Wyone B. for healing and peace, Annmarie H. for healing, strength & peace; Crystal for faith, healing, & wisdom; Robert P; Helena W; Mary M. Jackqueline P

FOR ONGOING HEALTH ISSUES:

Dave R. for ongoing cancer treatment, Pat H. with MS (Barbara's cousin), Charlie W. & family for health & strength, Mary B., Barbara H, Peg L.

FOR CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH

Lauri M.; Kevin H.; Anne (Barbara H.'s neighbor)

Prayer Requests from the office and extended requests:

Jackqueline Pittam asks for prayer for strength and God's guidance as she navigates complicated friendships. Please also pray for her parents to sell their house and be able to move closer to Jackie and her family and that they will be able to afford their next phase in life.

Please pray for Jane Gannon. She has had COVID and is still quite ill. She was hospitalized but is now at home.

Please pray for Peg Lauk. She has been ill with a GI virus and possible UTI. Please also pray for Laurie Bouch who has been caring for her mom and visits (at Collingswood Manor) daily.

Prayer requests may be submitted by placing a prayer card in the offering plate or contacting the office either by mail or email. If you indicate, your request will be shared via email to the congregation.

**Help
Wanted**

Co-Treasurer for Audubon UMC: It is important that more than one person be completely familiar with the finances of the church and how the records are kept. In the event the Treasurer is unable to fulfil the responsibilities of the position, a back-up person is crucial. If you have any experience with bookkeeping and/or accounting systems, please speak with Pastor

Garrett. Be assured training is available as needed.

PowerPoint creators: Alternate(s) are needed to take turns creating the weekly PowerPoint for livestreaming our service. Please speak with Pastor Garrett for more information.

Potpourri

When can I order gift cards from the church? Any time!



Although we promote this opportunity during the holidays, you can order gift cards any time. It generally takes about a week for the cards to arrive. Simply complete an order form, located on the table in the Narthex, and give it to Linda Holonia with a check payable to the church. You pay face value for the cards and the retailers donate a portion of your purchase to the church. The order will be placed on Monday and the cards will be available the following Sunday. To cover the cost of shipping, the order will be placed once we have enough cards ordered to cover that cost. This is a simple way to help our church budget.

Faith Promise of Giving



It is not too late to make your faith promise/estimate of giving. Although you may make a Faith Promise any time during the year, we depend on them by the end of the year so that we may fulfill our budget needs for 2025. Please consider taking a step out in faith and make a commitment to God's work through AUMC. You may place your Promise in the offering plate or mail it to the office.



Offering envelopes for 2025 are available in the Narthex. If you don't see your name but would like a set of envelopes, please see Linda Holonia or contact the office.

Cancer with Hope

Tuesday, February 25. 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



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

Homebound of the Month



Let them know you are thinking of them by sending a card

Mrs. Joan Jones
27 N. Oak Ave.
Mt Ephraim, NJ 08059



Celebrating a special occasion?
Honoring a loved one?



We have several openings for altar flowers in 2025. The cost of altar flowers is \$20.00 per arrangement. If you would like to sponsor one or more arrangements,

please contact the church office. Available dates are:

- February 9, 1 arrangement
- March 2, 1 arrangement
- March 30, 1 arrangement
- May 11, 1 arrangement
- May 18, 1 arrangement

February Birthdays

- 1 Dave Bradshaw
- 4 Evelyn Alekseyev
- 5 Barbara Hertfelder
- 6 Alexa Campling
- 19 George MacCulloch
- 19 Susan Medoro
- 23 Lori Ryan
- 23 Diane Fennimore
- 27 Allison Cox



February Anniversaries

- 7 Bill and Chery Laxton

January Trustee Opener/Closer

Tracy

Communion Offering

Ranch Hope

Items for the March newsletter are **due Sunday**, February 9. Please email me your items directly. Thank you. Dorothy
grovesdorothy@gmail.com

Newsletter Sponsor

The February Newsletter is sponsored by UMW in honor of Victorious Women



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



Church Staff and Contact Information

- * Pastor: Garrett Gouveia
 - * Admin. Asst.: Linda Holonia
 - * Organist/pianist: Ken Carson
 - * Nursery Aide: Calvin Reich
- Church Office email : audubonumc@verizon.r
 Church office Phone: 856-547-6114
 Pastor Garrett email:
rev.garrettmgouveia@gmail.com

Pastor's office hours:

Mon, Wed, Thur. 8:45 – 11:30 AM

Church Office Hours

Mon, Wed, Thurs: 9-1

Check out our website: audubonumc.com

Search for **AudubonUMC** on

Facebook YouTube Twitter (X) Instagram



LENT

Ash Wednesday

* It is immediately preceded by Shrove Tuesday. Ash Wednesday is a **solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season.** It is commonly observed with the distribution of ashes and with fasting.

*Ash Wednesday marks the start of a 40-day period which is **an allusion to the separation of**

Jesus in the desert to fast and pray. During this time he was tempted. Matthew 4:1–11, Mark 1:12–13, and Luke 4:1–13.

*Although the holiday of Ash Wednesday is **never directly mentioned in the Bible**, it is one of the most celebrated Christian events in church history. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day season of fasting, reflection, and remembrance before the Holy Week and the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

VALENTINE'S DAY

While imprisoned, Valentine cared for his fellow prisoners and also his jailor's blind daughter. Legend has it that Valentine cured the girl's blindness and that his final act before being executed was to write her a love message signed 'from your Valentine'. Valentine was executed on 14 February in the year 270.

PRESIDENT'S DAY

Presidents' Day, in the United States, holiday (third Monday in February) popularly recognized as honouring George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The day is sometimes understood as a **celebration of the birthdays and lives of all U.S. presidents.**



GROUND HOG DAY,

FEBRUARY 2

It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that **if a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day and sees its shadow, it will retreat to its den and winter will go on for six more weeks; if it does not see its shadow, spring will arrive early.**

FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 a.m. Children's SS Teen Bible study Seeker's SS 10:20 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. SPRC	3 7:00 p.m. Seeker's Sunday school via Zoom	4	5 7:30 p.m. Comfort Food via Zoom	6 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	7	8 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Attic Treasures Thrift Store
9 9:00 Children's SS Teen Bible study Seeker's SS 10:20 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Chili Cook off	10 7:00 p.m. Seeker's Sunday school via Zoom	11 6:45 P.M. Finance mtg. 7:30 p.m. Council Mtg.	12 7:30 p.m. Comfort Food via Zoom	13 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	14	15
16 9:00 Children's SS Teen Bible study Seeker's SS 10:20 a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Youth Group	17 7:00 p.m. Seeker's Sunday school via Zoom	18	19 7:30 p.m. Comfort Food via Zoom	20 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	21	22 9:00 a.m. Small Group Conover Parlor
23 9:00 Children's SS Teen Bible study Seeker's SS 10:20 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Book Club	24	25 7:00 p.m. Cancer with Hope Simpson Room and Zoom Contact Bruce for info 609- 605-5450	26 7:30 p.m. Comfort Food via Zoom	27 7:30 Choir Rehearsal 2:00-7:00 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive- Fellowship Hall	28	