



The Beacon

Newsletter of the United Methodist Church
April 2017

The Pastors Pen

“...and maddest of all is to see life as it is, and not as it should be!”

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Don Quixote

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

439 PARK AVENUE
AUBURN, MAINE 04210

Telephone: (207) 782-3972

www.auburnmethodist.org

Church Secretary, Joan Spitzform

Email: office@auburnmethodist.org

Sunday Worship 8:30 and 10 a.m.

Sunday School

Children and Youth 10:00 a.m.

Staff

Rev. Stephen Bascom, Pastor
sebisk@outlook.com

Judith Kuhn, Organist

Caroline Coffin, Choir Director

William Buzza, Bell Choir Director

Claire Cote, Children's Choir

Peter Poliquin, Custodian

Edith Ellis, Beacon Editor

Cherie Downing, SS Superintendent

Mitch Thomas, Music Director, early
service

Email articles to

sunnysidegardens@roadrunner.com

**BEACON deadline for submission
is the 10th of the month prior to
publication date.**

Next due date is April 10th

This quote from *Man of La Mancha* often echoes in my mind when I think of visioning. It is quite Methodist at heart—this idea of ‘going on to perfection.’ The future is shaped by the visions and imaginings of today. Take *Imagine No Malaria* for instance. Malaria was eliminated from the United States in the 1950s, but in sub-Saharan Africa, malaria continues to kill a child every two minutes. That reality is changing even as we speak because of those who dared to dream of a world without the disease. *Imagine No Malaria* combines integrated health infrastructure, education and advocacy to address death and the debilitating effects of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. Soon, malaria will be no more!

How do we change the world? We change the world mind by mind, heart by heart, life by life; but first we do it by imagining a better tomorrow. On behalf of the Church Council of the United Methodist Church of Auburn, I ask you to imagine what you believe God wants the UMC of Auburn to become—one, three, five, ten years into the future. The ideas may be simple (providing a floor microphone for those who have difficulty climbing to the pulpit or lectern) or ambitious (establishing a Family Promise network of faith communities to provide transitional shelter for homeless families). At this stage of the conversation, do not let funding challenges or other obstacles contain your imagination. The sky is the limit!

In the weeks ahead, we will create a *Vision Garden*, filled with the ideas and proposals you contribute. We will do our best to make them visible, even as we prayerfully discern which seeds God would have us plant for a future harvest. Leadership will provide a strategy and way forward, but the possibilities are already growing within your imaginations. God speaks to and through the listening heart!

Who among those at the foot of the cross imagined Easter Sunday?

Let's Change the World,

Rev. Steve Bascom, Pastor UMC of Auburn

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday is Pastor's Sabbath day.

Steve will be in the office Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. – Noon and Thursday from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. He is also available by appointment.

Parsonage Phone Number: 753-1275



Parish Notes



On January 14th, 2017, Richard Cahill, member of our church for 48 years, entered God's presence. Dick was a city manager/planner and Community Development Director who worked with Auburn, Gray, Rockland, and other communities. He was gregarious, a born storyteller, a jazz aficionado and, for ten years, ran the Boston Marathon. A graveside service will be held in the spring. Please remember his family, especially his wife Vivian (18 Greenwood Road, Auburn, ME 04210), in prayer and with cards of condolence.

On February 23rd, 2017, Jim Christopoulos, member of our church for the past three years, embraced Jesus in eternal rest. We are deeply grateful for his life, witness and presence among us. His was a kind and gentle spirit, imbued with an easy sense of humor. A graveside service will be held at the Veteran's Cemetery in Augusta on April 14th, Good Friday, at 1 pm. Please remember his family and friends in prayer, especially his wife Carol (30 Tailwind Court, Auburn, ME 04210).

Note regarding Gracie Stone who passed away on January 8th: With gratitude for Gracie's life and presence among us, we are indebted both to Gracie and her family for the establishment of the Stone Scholarship to be administered by UMC of Auburn. We welcome contributions in her memory and are grateful that her legacy will continue to bless youth as they prepare for God's calling upon their lives.

NEVER TOO YOUNG FOR MISSION!

This Lenten season, as adult Park Avenue Methodists donate blankets through Church World Service, and Church School youth donate items for the Stevie Suitcase project, we are grateful to many others who are engaged in missionary projects at every turn. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I have to take a moment, though, to tell you about the project of one of our younger members, Emma MacMahon, 10, daughter of Chris, grand-daughter of David and Mary. Emma recently enjoyed an overnight with friends to celebrate her tenth birthday. In preparation, she hand-wrote invitations: "You are

invited to Emma MacMahon's 10th birthday! This will be an overnight so bring toiletries and snowgear. Please give money for me to donate to the Food Pantry instead of presents. More money = more food = more people fed..."

With a generous heart, Emma was able to present to Lee Upton, on behalf of the High Street Food Cupboard, a contribution of \$260!! BOLD MOVE EMMA! This is not her first effort in behalf of the Food Cupboard. Last year, she and her family sponsored a Lemonade Stand to raise money for the Food Cupboard. One person can make such a difference! Emma not only helped the Food Cupboard, she taught her friends (and now all of us) that we are never too young (or too old) to engage in mission in the name of Jesus!

Submitted by Pastor Steve Bascom



Come Plant a Seed

As previously announced in church, the Church Council has embarked on an ambitious visioning project and wishes to share in more detail the why and how this project will unfold. The metaphor and visual display that the Council has adopted is one of a *Visioning Garden* full of *Vision Seeds*.

The why comes from the Council's belief that God calls the Church Universal to be His presence in the world. Thus, it is important for the Auburn United Methodist Church to periodically examine what that call is for us at this time and in this place. The visioning process that the Council proposes is to ask the question: How has God spoken to your heart and how does He call us to be more relevant in today's world both individually and collectively? The lofty goal of the project is to create a commonly agreed upon vision or direction for the church that speaks to the heart of God and energizes the congregation. Such a vision may have several sub parts.

The Council will be presenting various ways in which members of the congregation and the community at large might participate in the visioning effort and how the congregation would be involved in the decision making process. Everyone is encouraged to dream big or small, inside the box or outside the box; no suggestion or vision will be dismissed. Visions that will ignite and energize the mission of our church will be particularly important. While many ideas may fall within the current program areas of Education, Worship, Missions, Nurture and Outreach, it does not need to be the case. In fact, there may be "vision gems" that will be proposed that do not fall into any of these areas. Also, while our initial thoughts might focus inward, it is important and encouraged that we

look outward to how we are called to serve the community.

Finally, the Council would encourage that any submitted visions (*Vision Seeds*) should be as specific as possible. For example, God might be speaking to you about an increase in our mission work. Therefore, instead of suggesting “more involvement in mission”, you might make specific suggestions such as “sponsor a mission team to Guatemala” or “create a clothing distribution center for homeless teens”. Or instead of suggesting a “more meaningful worship experience”, you might suggest “a 21st century update to our audio-visual system and a new seating arrangement for the sanctuary using chairs”. If anyone needs help, the Council is establishing a small committee to help clarify the specific details of any suggested vision.

While there will be several opportunities to plant a vision seed in the months to come, the most immediate and direct way to participate in this *Vision Garden* project is to fill out a *Vision Seed Packet* that will be available each Sunday and can be left in the *Seed Basket* in the Fellowship Hall. You may also submit your vision suggestion via email (office@auburnmethodist.org) or snail mail to 439 Park Ave, Auburn, Maine 04210. Please include your name and contact information.

COME PLANT A SEED AND WATCH THE GARDEN GROW!



April Announcements

SPRING IS COMING AND SO IS MAPLE SYRUP! ORDERS NEED TO BE PLACED BY April 2nd. Fill out an order form available at church, e-mail your request to joel.irish@maine.edu or call Joel or Janet Irish (224-0197) by April 2 (feel free to leave a message). Please note that we can guarantee that only PRE-ORDERED syrup will be available, so be sure to order all you want or need. Payment at time of delivery please – do not include with your order.



Janet Irish and Holly Sysko are the communion stewards that prepare the elements for communion the first Sunday of each month. We are thankful to Stacey Keniston who continues to bless us with wonderful homemade bread. We have recently added communion visitations for our parishioners who are not able to get to church. With this added preparation there is a need for a third communion steward. If you feel called to this ministry please contact Holly Sysko @ 689-6551 (phone or text) or hsysko40@hotmail.com

April EVENTS

Lenten, Holy Week and Easter Services

Lenten Healing Service, Tuesday, April 4, 7 pm

Palm/Passion Sunday Services, April 9, 8:30 & 10 am

Maundy Thursday Meal & Program, April 13, 6:30 pm

Witness of the Women Tenebrae Service, April 13, 7:30 pm

Good Friday Ecumenical Service, April 14, 7 pm

Easter SonRise Service, April 16, 5:45 am (775 N. River Road, Auburn)

Easter Morning Breakfast, April 16, 8 – 9:30 am (Donation)

Easter Resurrection Services, April 16, 8:30 & 10 am

Visit the Empty Tomb! (Classroom #4), Anytime on Easter Sunday

Naomi Circle

Betty Dexter will be a featured speaker at the April 18th Naomi Circle meeting at the church at 1:30. She will be talking about her experiences as a missionary in India. Please bring a canned vegetable for the food pantry. All women are invited. If you feel called to this ministry please contact Holly Sysko @ 689-6551 (phone or text) or hsysko40@hotmail.com

Ruth Circle

The next meeting of the Ruth Circle will be on Tuesday, April 18th. We will have our election of officers. All ladies are most welcome to join us at 6:30pm. Come to see how we support one another and the members of our congregation, as well as those in our community. Amazing group of women!

Bean Supper

Join us April 22nd for our Bean Supper. Menu includes: Hot Dogs, Beans, casseroles, Coleslaw, Bread, Beverage and Pie. Cost \$8.00/person. Children 6-12 \$4.00, Children under 5 are free. Hope to see you and your friends here for the supper. The money we raise goes to the church to help with expenses.

United Methodist Women

Ladies! On May 9th come join the women of the Bible at the catered mother/daughter banquet. Cost is \$9.00 per person and reservations are required. Please sign-up on the sheet on the Fellowship Table. For more information contact: Lucille Webber, Pat Thomas, or Judy Sargent.

District Resource Day (Laity & Clergy)

From Strength to Strength: Developing Asset-based Ministries

Rev. Dr. Lynne B. Caldwell, Clinician
Sunday, April 30, 1-4 pm (UMC of Auburn)



High Street Food Pantry

The following items are needed on a weekly basis: peanut butter, toilet paper, and pasta sauce. Please place items in the grocery cart outside the sanctuary.

If you have questions about the pantry or wish to volunteer, please speak with Leroy Brown or Eric Howes. Thank you for supporting this mission and helping local people meet their most basic needs.

E-beacon Invitation

To receive your eBeacon, send an email to sunnysidegardens@roadrunner.com. If you would like to receive an electronic version of the Beacon **and** still receive a paper copy please be sure to specify this otherwise you will be removed from the mailing list for the Beacon. Many thanks to those that are already receiving their eBeacon! The group is growing. Please keep your email address up to date. If it changes, send a note to the email above.

P.S. You can also find the most recent and the last issues of the Beacon on our web site- auburnmethodist.org, so please check it out.

Box Tops for Education/ Campbell Labels

Collections of Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Labels continues. Your continued support of students at Washburn and Walton schools is much appreciated. Gail Theberge

Don't Forget - Visit Our Mission Store!

In order to assist in the weekly collections for our three local mission projects: The Center for Wisdom's Women, The Auburn Preschool, and the High Street Food Cupboard, we have set up a mission store for your convenience. See the Mission Store table in the Fellowship Hall to see how you can help!



**Don't forget to smile
when you shop at
Amazon.**

www.smile.amazon.com

Faith Journey Collection Box

Faith Journey is supporting the Center for Wisdom's Women in Lewiston by having a collection box for FULL SIZED hygiene products for the women that they serve. You will find it on the table in the Narthex.



Christian Education

Easter is a new beginning...

Easter brings joy.

Easter is the coming of Springtime...

Easter brings smiles!

Easter is to Thank the Lord for all the blessings in your life.

Easter Sunday will be a family Sunday. There will be NO Sunday School classes. Children will attend the 10 AM service with their family. After the Moments with the Childrenthose who are in Pre-K to Grade 5 are welcome to come out and participate in an activity"A Walk through the Garden to the Empty Tomb." After the service adults are welcome to visit as well.

The Jelly Bean Prayer

RED is for the blood He gave.
 GREEN is for the grass He made.
 YELLOW is for the sun so bright.
 ORANGE for the edge of night.
 BLACK is for the sins that were made.
 WHITE is for the grace He gave.
 PURPLE is for the hour of sorrow.
 PINK is for the New tomorrow.



Remember Your Lenten Collection

Sunday School Children are being asked to bring in an item(s) to support Stevie's Suitcase Project: new stuffed animal, toothbrush, hairbrush and comb, puzzle book, and coloring book are some suggestions. Items may be left in Ms. Cherie's office.

Youth interested in being confirmed should speak to Pastor Steve.

Breakfast With the Easter Bunny

Saturday, April 8, 8 - 10 am

Please sign up on the table in the Fellowship hall so we can have a rough estimate of how many to

plan for.

Reminder... we have been graciously offered 4 camp scholarships, 2 for ANY camp and 2 for *GRANDPARENT and ME Camp*. We have heard from a reliable source that this camp is AWESOME and a wonderful experience. Don't miss out on this opportunity. Speak to Ms. Cherie. Camp catalog and info is on Christian Education Office Door.

SeniorsRemember we have scholarships available. Deadline to apply May 1. Ms. Cherie has applications.

April Celebrations

Date	Birthday	Anniversary
4		Quentin & Gloria Hall
6		Jeff and Stephanie Therriault
7	Ben Stone	
14	Rosemary Malpass	Barry & Becky Skilling
15	Robert Franklin	
	Pam MacDonald	
20	Thomas Bennett	
22		David and Judy Sargent
28		Don and Rosemary Malpass
29	Maranda Swett	
30	Bruce Hall	

Church Calendar April 2017

Sunday's Morning Schedule

8:30 am	Early Morning Worship Service
9:00 am	Wesleyan Singers
9:15 am	Pastor's Prayer Circle
9:45 am	Youth Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am	Worship and Sunday School
11:15 am	Coffee and Conversation

Saturday, April 1st

7:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast-Auburn
9:00 a.m.	Music Together
10:00 a.m.	Music Together
11:15 a.m.	Music Together

Sunday, April 2nd

8:30 a.m.	Communion Worship Service
9:10 a.m.	Prayer Circle

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
3:00 p.m. Music Together
4:00 p.m. Music Together
5:30 p.m. Music Together
5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class
6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group

Monday April 3rd

1:30 p.m. Auburn Art Club
5:30 p.m. There is a Solution Group
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. Serenity Group
7:30 p.m. Alanon
7:30 p.m. AA

Tuesday, April 4th

4:00 p.m. Music Together
5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class

Wednesday, April 5th

7:15 a.m. Rotary Club
9:30 a.m. Music Together
6:00 p.m. Wesleyan Singers
6:00 p.m. Christian Ed Class
6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group
7:00 p.m. Serenity Group

Thursday, April 6th

10:00 a.m. Faith Journey
11:30 a.m. Nurture Committee
5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class
6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 121
6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Tigers
6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Wolf
6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Bears
6:30 p.m. Webelos
7:00 p.m. Church Council

Friday, April 7th

9:00 a.m. Music Together
10:15 a.m. Music Together
11:30 a.m. Music Together
6:30 p.m. Troop 111 Meeting

Saturday, April 8th

8:00 a.m. Breakfast w/Easter Bunny
9:00 a.m. Music Together
10:00 a.m. Music Together
11:15 a.m. Music Together

Sunday, April 9th

8:30 a.m. Communion Worship Service
9:10 a.m. Prayer Circle
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Finance Committee
3:00 p.m. Music Together
4:00 p.m. Music Together
5:30 p.m. Music Together
5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class
6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group

Monday, April 10th

5:30 p.m. There is a Solution Group
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. Serenity Group
7:30 p.m. Alanon
7:30 p.m. AA

Tuesday, April 11th

10:00 a.m. UMW Exec Committee
4:00 p.m. Music Together
5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class
6:30 p.m. Park Avenue Pickers

Wednesday, April 12th

7:15 a.m. Rotary Club
9:30 a.m. Music Together
6:00 a.m. River Valley Girl Scouts
6:00 a.m. Private Men's Group
7:00 p.m. Trustees Committee
7:00 p.m. Serenity Group

Thursday, April 13th – MAUNDY THURSDAY

10:00 a.m. Faith Journey
11:30 a.m. Outreach Committee
6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Dinner
7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

Friday April 14th – GOOD FRIDAY

10:00 a.m. Montello Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Music Together
10:15 a.m. Music Together
11:30 a.m. Music Together
5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class
6:30 p.m. Troop 111 Meeting
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Serv @ Calvary UMC

Saturday, April 15th

9:30 a.m. Girl Scout Troop 2145

Sunday, April 16th – HAPPY EASTER

5:45 a.m. Sunrise Service at The Keenes

8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
 11:30 a.m. Worship Committee
 11:30 a.m. Mission Committee
 5:30 a.m. Zumba Fitness Class
 6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group

Monday, April 17th

5:30 p.m. There is a Solution Group
 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:00 p.m. Serenity Group
 7:30 p.m. AA
 7:30 p.m. Alanon

Tuesday, April 18th

1:15 p.m. Naomi Circle
 5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class
 6:30 p.m. Ruth Circle
 7:00 p.m. Troop 111 Committee

Wednesday, April 19th

7:15 a.m. Rotary Club
 6:00 p.m. Wesleyan Singers
 6:00 p.m. River Valley Girl Scouts
 6:00 p.m. Troop 121 Committee
 6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group
 7:00 p.m. Serenity Group

Thursday, April 20th

10:00 a.m. Faith Journey
 5:00 p.m. SPRC Committee
 5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class
 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 121

Friday, April 21st

10:00 a.m. Schooner Worship Service
 2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Meeting @ Schooner
 6:30 p.m. Troop 111 Meeting

Saturday, April 22nd – BEAN SUPPER

9:00 a.m. Music Together
 10:00 a.m. Music Together
 11:15 a.m. Music Together
 5:00 p.m. Bean Supper

Sunday, April 23rd

8:30 a.m. Communion Worship Service
 9:10 a.m. Prayer Circle
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
 11:45 a.m. Christian Ed Meeting
 1:00 p.m. Maine Iris Society

3:00 p.m. Music Together
 4:00 p.m. Music Together
 5:30 p.m. Music Together
 6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group

Monday, April 24th

5:30 p.m. There is a Solution
 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:00 p.m. Serenity Group
 7:30 p.m. AA
 7:00 p.m. Alanon

Tuesday, April 25th

10:00 a.m. Multiple Sclerosis Group
 4:00 p.m. Music Together

Wednesday, April 26th

7:15 a.m. Rotary Club
 9:30 a.m. Music Together
 6:00 p.m. Wesleyan Singers
 6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group
 7:00 p.m. Serenity Grou

Thursday, April 27th

10:00 a.m. Faith Journey
 10:00 a.m. Clover Worship Service
 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 121
 6:30 pm. Cub Scout Pack Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Troop 111 Pack Meeting

Friday, April 28th

9:00 a.m. Music Together
 10:15 a.m. Music Together
 11:30 a.m. Music Together
 6:30 p.m. Troop 111 Meeting

Saturday April 29th

9:00 a.m. Music Together
 10:00 a.m. Music Together
 11:15 a.m. Music Together

Sunday, April 30th

8:30 a.m. Communion Worship Service
 9:10 a.m. Prayer Circle
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
 1:00 p.m. District Resource Day
 3:00 p.m. Music Together
 4:00 p.m. Music Together
 5:30 p.m. Music Together
 5:30 p.m. Zumba Fitness Class
 6:00 p.m. Private Men's Group

Special Mother's Day Remembrance Bulletin



A special Mother's Day Remembrance Bulletin will again be sponsored this year by Ruth Circle, honoring Mothers living, and in memory of those who are no longer with us, but will always be remembered in our hearts.

If you would like to pay tribute to your Mother, Grandmother or some other Special Woman by having their names listed in this bulletin insert on Mother's Day and help a worthwhile community cause, we would be very happy to have you participate.

EACH NAME submitted for remembrance will be \$1.00 (or more, if you wish) – the money collected will go to The Wisdom Women's Center in Lewiston. Ruth Circle's choice for our fundraising project will go to a mission for women that functions as a grassroots collaborative of women who work together to break their isolation and build community toward the bettering and enriching of each others' lives. The sacred and safe Center supports women in becoming aware of their inner resources, pursuing life affirming relationships, and developing their potential.

List the name of the ones to be remembered or honored, as well as your name – please use ONE LINE per name (and up to 3 names per form) on the appropriate form below. You may mail your forms and check made out to Ruth Circle to: Janet Irish, 263 School House Hill Road, Turner, Maine 04282

Or you may turn them in at church where members of Ruth Circle will have a table set up after worship on April 2, 9, 23, 30, and a self-service area for the 8:30 worship service, with a collection deadline of APRIL 30, 2017. The deadline is a MUST to insure inclusion in the bulletin on Mother's Day.

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IN MEMORY OF:REMEMBERED BY (your name):

*_**

IN HONOR OF:REMEMBERED BY (your name):

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
439 PARK AVENUE
AUBURN, MAINE 04210
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The United Methodist Church of Auburn is an inter generational Christian Community whose mission is to embody Christ's love through a commitment to serve God by fulfilling the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of our congregation and of our local and global communities.