

# UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF AUBURN

December 3, 2017 First Sunday of Advent

All members of this parish form the ministry team in witness of Christ

## WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC:** 'Hymn Medley' Judith Kuhn, Accompanist

**WELCOME, MISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Steve Bascom, Pastor

*The United Methodist Church of Auburn is an intergenerational 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.*

**PRAYER OF GREETING:**

**PRELUDE:** 'Chimes at Dawn' E. Van Woert

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Let us enter the season of Advent with hope and expectation.

**People: We open our hearts to God.**

Leader: Let us pray, Gracious God, Your vision of peace and wholeness come to us in sweeping revelations and in tiny signs of hopes.

**People: Kindle our hearts that we may be a hopeful people.**

Leader: Keep us from growing weary of waiting lest we miss the glory or your appearing.

**ALL: Even so, come quickly, O God. Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN:** 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'  
(v 1-4, 7 w/antiphons) UMH Page 211

*If you would like to light a candle for prayer,  
please feel free to do so during any congregational hymn.*

## WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

**LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE:** The Parker Family

**BAPTISM & RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS:** UMH Page 33ff

*With great joy, we celebrate the baptisms of Christopher, Josephine, Olivia and Isaac Parker, children of God, and gifts to our church family! We are also delighted to receive Christopher and Josephine as members of the United Methodist Church of Auburn!*

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT:**

**CHORAL ANTHEM:** 'Look-A-That Star' Wesleyan Singers

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 64:1-9 OT Page 652 Carol Christopoulos

**\*GLORIA PATRI** UMH Page 71

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen*

**MESSAGE:** 'An Open Heart'  
**Text:** Matthew 1:18-25 NT Page 1

## WE RESPOND IN FAITH

**COMMUNION HYMN:** 'Time Now to Gather' TFWS Page 2265

**HOLY COMMUNION** INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON**

**Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles. We have ignored the promise of your kingdom. We get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

*We offer three stations: two at floor level (for accessibility), and one at the communion rail surround the altar. Communion elements are non-alcoholic, and a gluten-free option is provided on the center table.*

**OFFERTORY:** 'This Holy Place' J. Rand

*We invite you to invest in God's mission and ministry as it flows  
Through the United Methodist Church of Auburn into human lives!*

**\*DOXOLOGY:** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow;* UMH Page 94  
*Praise him, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!*  
*Praise God, the Source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!*  
*Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

Gracious God, you provide us with hope in a world often plagued by despair. Receive these gifts that will be transformed into messages and acts of hope to people in our community and across the world. Thank you, O God, for this opportunity to be your stewards of hope. In the name of Jesus, the bearer of good news, we pray,. Amen.

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom,  
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

**WE DEPART TO SERVE**

**\* HYMN:** 'Hail to the Lord's Anointed' (v 1-3) UMH Page 203  
**\*BENEDICTION:**  
**\*SUNG RESPONSE:** 'Hail to the Lord's Anointed' (v 4) UMH Page 203  
**\*POSTLUDE:** 'Recessional' W. Stickles

**\*CONGREGATION STANDS – if you are physically able**

UMH – The United Methodist Hymnal (Red) TFWS – The Faith We Sing (black)

**Large Print hymnals and bulletins along with assisted-listening devices are available at the Visitor's Booth, or an usher would be glad to provide you with either or both.**

**THE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF AUBURN**

**439 Park Avenue, Auburn, ME 04210, 207-782-3972**

***\*A Reconciling Congregation***



**Rev. Stephen Bascom, Sr., Pastor**

**Worship Schedule**

Sunday 8:15 a.m.  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

**Staff Directory**  
**Email:** [office@auburnmethodist.org](mailto:office@auburnmethodist.org)  
**Web Site:** [auburnmethodist.org](http://auburnmethodist.org)  
**Pastor:** Rev. Stephen Bascom, Sr.  
**Parsonage:** 753-1275  
**Email:** [sebisk@live.com](mailto:sebisk@live.com)  
**Secretary:** Joan Spitzform  
**Church Office:** 782-3972  
**Organist:** Judith Kuhn

**WELCOME TO ALL**

Welcome to our church! We are so glad you decided to worship with us this day. We are a Reconciling United Methodist Church that is passionate about serving God. We love inspiring worship services and are committed to diversity. We believe that all persons are of sacred worth.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we covenant to follow his example of unconditional love, compassion and justice in our mission and ministry. Therefore, we welcome and nurture the full participation of people of every age, heritage, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, economic status, faith background, family structure, gender identity, marital status, race, social standing and varying capability.

We strive to fully embody the mission of the United Methodist Church to open hearts, minds and doors to everybody. We invite you to worship with us knowing that you are loved exactly as you are.

**This Week's Liturgist:** Carol Christopoulos  
**Next Week's Liturgist:** Diane Higgins

**THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, December 3, 2017**

<b>8:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Communion Worship</b>		
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Parallels Study/KidzKamp</b>	5:30 p.m.	Zumba Fitness Class
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>	6:00 p.m.	Private Men's Group
<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Missions Committee</b>		
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Advent Study – Ebenezer Scrooge</b>		

**MONDAY, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

1:30 p.m.	Auburn Art Club		
5:30 p.m.	Solutions Group		
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Auburn Bell Ringers</b>	7:30 p.m.	Alanon
7:00 p.m.	Serenity Group	7:30 p.m.	AA

**TUESDAY, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

5:30 p.m.	Zumba Fitness Class		
5:30 p.m.	Solutions Study Group		

**WEDNESDAY, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Wesleyan Singers</b>		
6:00 p.m.	River Valley Girl Scouts		
6:30 p.m.	Private Men's Group		

**THURSDAY, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

10:00 a.m.	Faith Journey	6:30 p.m.	Cub Scout Pack 111
5:30 p.m.	Zumba Fitness Class	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Church Council</b>
6:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop 121		

**FRIDAY, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

10:00 a.m.	Montello Worship Service	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl @ Schooner
5:45 p.m.	Boy Scout Pack 111		

**SATURDAY, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Song &amp; Sounds Concert</b>		
<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Song &amp; Sounds Concert</b>		

**SUNDAY, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

<b>8:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Communion Worship</b>	5:30 p.m.	Zumba Fitness Class
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Parallels Study/KidzKamp</b>	6:00 p.m.	Private Men's Group
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>		
<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Finance Committee</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Advent Study –</b>

**POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY:** Honor or memorialize loved ones with the purchase of a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, donate to UMCOR disaster relief, or both. Your loved ones' names will be published in the Remembrance Bulletin on Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday. Poinsettias will be ordered from Whiting's with profits benefiting John F. Murphy Homes which serve people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Orders will be taken after worship during the month of December.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** We will be holding our annual Christmas concert on December 9<sup>th</sup>. There will two shows – 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The outreach Committee will be serving refreshments of assorted desserts, punch and coffee. We are asking for help from the congregation to provide a dessert of your choice and a sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall at the Outreach Booth for the next two Sundays. All contributions will be greatly appreciated.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR CHANGE TO CHURCH!** Every week we pass around our Milk Bucket to collect change (we accept bills too!) to provide milk for the Trinity Jubilee Center. The milk we provide helps to give young and old alike milk for the free lunch program. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach!

**ADVENT CLASS: 'How Christmas Saved Scrooge.'** Using Dicken's story, "A Christmas Carol," we will look at the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge through the lens of the gospel to see how his Christmas and his life were saved. If you would like to move your holiday mood from 'Bah Humbug,' to 'God bless us everyone,' join us for our informal discussions on the Sunday evenings of Advent and discover (again) the transforming charms of Christmas. If possible, read 'A Christmas Carol' ahead of time, or watch any of many movies of the story to refresh your memory of Ebenezer Scrooge. **We will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Dessert and coffee will be available. Open to all high school students and older. Russ Peppe will facilitate. The study will be held here at the church.**

**BIBLE STUDY CLASS: Christmas Story Gospel Parallels, begins Sunday, at 9:00 a.m. in the lounge. Classes are: 12/3 Matthew; 12/10 Mark; 12/17 Luke; and 12/24 John. Facilitated by Rev. Steve Bascom.**

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** Practice will begin right after church. Please join us – we need young and young at heart to help make this a success! FMI contact Cherie Downing.

**CAN YOU HELP?** We once again will be helping the Salvation Army during this Christmas Season, by providing volunteers from the congregation to Ring the Bells at the Salvation Army Red Kettle in front of Kmart in Auburn. If you or your family are willing to ring the bell for a 2 hour session on any of the Saturdays in December, or Black Friday weekend, please contact the Church Office, or call 783-5269.

**COAT, BOOTS AND BLANKET DRIVE! It's getting cold!** Time to sort through your closets! The Mission Committee is again collecting winter coats and jackets (for men, women, and children) as well as winter boots and warm blankets for the Trinity Jubilee Center in Lewiston. This program (based in the downtown Episcopal Church) serves many of the most-needy in our community. Our church has been supporting the work of this center for many years in many ways. There are boxes for your donations to the right of the entrance to the sanctuary. Thank you for your support!

**CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PROGRAM:** For the 6<sup>th</sup> year, Boy Scout Troop 121 will be picking up Christmas trees in the cities of Auburn and Lewiston. For a minimum donation of \$5.00, the troop will pick up trees on **Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, and transport them to the respective city locations for recycling. To request a tree pickup, contact Don or Rosemary Malpass or send your donation to Boy Scout Troop 121, Auburn UMC, 439 Park Avenue Auburn, ME 04210. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to keep camping costs to a minimum for our scouts. For questions, call Don at 783-0790.

#### **MEDITATION**

In most of our Christmas creches, the figure of Joseph stands off to one side, towering above Mary who holds Jesus on her lap or tends Jesus as he lies in a manger. Joseph is the father, yet not really, because, well, isn't God the father of Jesus? According to Matthew's gospel, Joseph decides to break his engagement to Mary over the 'obvious scandal,' but an angel of the Lord reveals the incarnation mystery and encourages him to 'step up to the plate' as Daddy. It is likely that no other man on earth influenced Jesus more than Joseph, who raised and mentored 'the carpenter's son.' Like Joseph, we sometimes find ourselves faced with a decision to open our heart to someone in need. Who knows? Maybe the child we save will one day save us?