



The Beacon

Newsletter of the United Methodist Church
March 2025



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Telephone: (207) 782-3972
www.auburnmethodist.org
Church Secretary, Carla Daigle
Email: office@auburnmethodist.org
Office Hours: Monday - Friday
9 am until Noon

Sunday Worship 8:30 and 10:30 am
Nursery Care Available
Sunday School

Staff

Rev. Stephen Bascom, Pastor
sebisk@outlook.com
parsonage: (207) 753-1275
cell: (339) 440-3746

Ryan Slocum, Organist
Caroline Coffin, Choir Director
William Buzza, Bell Choir Director
Peter Poliquin, Custodian
Edith Ellis, Beacon Editor
Cherie Downing, SS Superintendent

Email articles to
sunnysidegardens@roadrunner.com

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

Next due date is **March 10th**

Consecration of the Gethsemane Window

If you were to open a photograph album of the life of Jesus on earth, the picture of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane would perhaps show him at his most human, vulnerable moment—even more than when crucified upon the cross. It was the definitive moment of prayer when he asked God to offer another path for redemption. (If it be your will, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, your will be done.) His anguish was so great that he endured a rare medical condition called hematohidrosis, the sweating of blood from the skin surface. In that moment, he foresaw the impossible journey ahead, a journey his beloved sleeping friends could not understand, a journey which even God would watch from afar without intervention. Yet in that prayer, Jesus trusted himself to the incomprehensible will of God.

In point of fact, a Gethsemane is not a rock, nor is it a garden. It is an olive press—a large stone-wheel that circulates a moat or trough, crushing and pressing the oil from the ripened olives over which it rotates. The prayer of Jesus in that garden was a different type of pressing, a sacrifice of self for the healing of the world and human heart, soul and spirit. The Gethsemane Window reminds us that suffering in the service of love, like the sacrament of Holy Communion, restores all that is broken in human experience.

With this insight, let us pray: We thank you, God for the stained-glass Gethsemane Window which Calvary United Methodist Church of Lewiston entrusts to the care of the newly-merged United Methodist Church of Auburn. May the art of its design be consecrated as a perpetual Station of the Cross, reminding us of the redemptive power of sacrificial love. May it illuminate our witness by calling us to prayer and self-denial; and may it invite courage to manifest God's will on earth even as it is in heaven. This is our prayer. Amen.

God's grace be with you as we enter a new Lenten journey,

Pastor Steve Bascom

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday is Pastor's Sabbath day.

Pastor Steve will be in the church office

Tuesday from 9 am to 12 noon.

He is also available by appointment, parsonage phone:
(207) 753-1275; sebisk@outlook.com

Parish Notes



We rejoice with Evangeline Patricia Derouche, who was baptized in February and extend congratulations to John and Emily Derouche (parents). May God's grace guide you as a family as we celebrate your presence as part of our church family!

We celebrate with Steve and Barbara Jamrog as they observed their 50th golden wedding anniversary in February. Congratulations!

Celebration of Life services were held for: Edie Jordan (2/1) and Martha Young (2/1). We are grateful for the ways they shared their lives with us and trust them to God's care. Please hold their families in prayer. There will be a Celebration of Life service for Jeff Mayerson on February 28th, 4 pm, UMCA.

On Sunday, February 2nd, we celebrated the Vital Merger between Calvary United Methodist Church (Lewiston) and the United Methodist Church of Auburn. Thanks to all who joined in the celebration! On that day, we also dedicated a new 'merger' banner created by Nancy Lander (blessed by the hands of parish children) and consecrated the Calvary Gethsemane Stained-Glass Window. The Consecration Prayer for the window is printed in this edition of The Beacon.



Friendly Reminders

The following items are needed for the Food Pantry 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. 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.

Please take note:

In order for the church to have updated information for our membership listing and mailings, please inform Carla, the church secretary, of any change of address or telephone number, for anyone that has recently moved locally or out of state. The church telephone number and email address are always listed on the front of the Beacon.

Church News



This Year's Lenten Offering

Our mission project focus for the Lenten season, March 9 through April 13, is Heifer International. We are doing this project in conjunction with the Sunday School. Heifer International works globally in 19 countries, partnering with farm groups, especially women farmers, businesses and governments to help train and give resources to the farmers to build profitable, sustainable businesses, and improve their families food security and increase their incomes.

We have chosen 3 areas to donate to the Heifer project:

- Gift of Clean Water - gives families fresh water to drink every day through treadle pumps, rainwater tanks and water conservation practices.
- Dream Basket - includes a sheep, heifer, goat, rabbits and a flock of chicks, along with training and education in their care.
- Send a Girl to school - provides a family with training and livestock so they can earn the income needed to send their daughter to school.

We want to thank the congregation for their

generous donations to the January Mission United Methodist Economic Ministry. We raised \$2,935.52.

Food Pantry Focus for March

The committee voted to do a Food Pantry Focus for items to be donated to the High Street Food Pantry on a monthly basis. The Food Pantry Focus for this month will be PEANUT BUTTER. Jars of any size are greatly appreciated. Please place in shopping cart.

Thank you again for your continued support and contributions!

Dianne O'Connor

Asylum-Seekers Resettlement Fund Grant

With gratitude, we celebrate the approval of a Lexington UMC Social Justice grant request for \$2,500 for our parish Asylum-Seekers Resettlement Fund. It is granted with the hope that we will raise matching funds to sustain the missional initiative at this critical time. Praise God!

Maple Syrup Fundraiser Will Benefit the Store Next Door

In 2025, this annual Fundraiser will benefit The Store Next Door. Formerly a project of the Lewiston Public Schools, The Store Next Door, a community donation-based store, now covers Auburn Public Schools as well. It supports students and families experiencing homelessness. The Store Next Door provides basic tangible goods, academic support, emotional support and service referrals for students in all grades living within Lewiston and Auburn. It is a nonprofit offering essential clothing and immediate-need items, a food pantry, clothing assistance, hygiene products, community resources, and access to showers and laundry facilities. The program brings basic necessities to homeless students in Lewiston and Auburn to keep them in school and see them through graduation and beyond.

(See order information on the last page)



Monthly Events

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 am - 'In Person' & Zoom

10:30 am - 'In Person' & Live-stream

(You Tube, UMCA Facebook, www.auburnmethodist.org)

Growing Deeper

"Facilitated Conversation Centered on Lectionary Readings for the Day"

Sundays, 9:30 to 10:15 am

UMC of Auburn Lounge (Led by Pastor Steve Bascom)

Faith Journey

(weekly women's spiritual formation group)

Open to All Women of the UMCA Parish

Thursdays, 9:30 am, UMCA choir room

Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast - Auburn/Lewiston

Saturday, March 1st, 2025, 7:30 am, UMCA

Saturday, April 5th, 2025, 7:30 am, UMCA

Guests also welcome!

Upper Room Devotional

Weekly Zoom Meetings, Fridays at 10 am

March 7, 14 & 21

(Open to all/facilitated by Pastor Steve Bascom)

Speak to Pastor Steve if you wish to receive the zoom invitation.

Bible Study: Matthew

Friday Nights, 6:30 pm, UMCA

March 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2025

Assisted-Living Monthly Worship Services

Led by Pastor Steve Bascom

Clover Manor, March 20th, 10 am

Schooner Estates, March 28th, 10 am

Special Events



Ash Wednesday

Ashes dispensed from UMCA Parking Lot, March 5, 12 to 1 pm

Ash Wednesday Service, March 5, 6:30 pm, UMCA

Church Public Supper

Saturday, March 15th, 5 pm

Park Avenue Pickers (perform prior to supper)

Sunday School

March

Forward March

And welcome Spring

When bunnies bounce

And birds all sing!

When March winds blow

The winter away,

That gets the world ready for

April and May!



Lenten Collection Containers for Sunday School have been passed out. The children are collecting

to contribute to the church wide Lenten Project. (The Heifer Project). Children will return the containers on Easter Sunday. Think about creative ways that your children can earn some money to add to their collection container.

Many thanks to those who supported the Youth group with their Subs For Super Bowl Sunday. Once again, a very successful project.

Save the Date: Saturday May 10th.

VENDOR FAIR

This is the Saturday before Mother's Day. Great opportunity to pick up something for Mom.

Once Again, **Seniors remember:** get your scholarship application. Deadline **May 1.**

Campership for Camp Mechuwana.

The catalog of camps will be out very soon. Camps fill up quickly so if you are thinking about attending don't wait!!!

An Irish Blessing

May the blessings of each day be the blessings you need most.

“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”



(New Lyrics by Caroline Coffin & Rev. Steve Bascom; music arranged by Ryan Slocum)

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and rejoice, Offering thanks to God our Creator, blended together in one voice.

Planted by faith from Poland circuit, mission alive at Lewiston Falls,
We grew in grace, witness and number, sharing God’s love wherever he called.

Reaching across the Androscoggin, planted in Auburn’s fertile land,
Methodist grace found new expression, parallel faith, hand in hand.

Now that our streams flow on together, we are one voice and one in love,
Auburn and Calv’ry now embracing, praising the Christ enthroned above.

March Celebrations

Birthdays

Anniversaries

3	Marcia Baxter	
11	Emily Derouche	
14	Shirley Keene	
20	Tim Lander	
25		Austin and Bunny Frost
31	Sandy Fowler	

To have your birthday and/or anniversary included in the celebration listing, send your information to Sharon McGilvery at 200 Stetson Rd, Apt 417, Auburn, ME, 04210 or call her at 207.782.0089. Thank you.

Support Groups that use our church.

- Sunday Evening and Wednesday evening
Private Men’s Group (See Pastor Steve for more information)
- Every Monday Evening-
AA (Men and Women)
There is a Solution
The Serenity Group (12-Step Fellowship)
- Every Tuesday Evening
One Day at a Time
Alanon (Women)

Girl Scouts

- 3rd Wednesdays
Girl Scout Leadership Team
- 2nd & 4th Wednesday
Troop 5043
- Last Friday of month
Troop 134









Cub and Boy Scouts

- Cub Scouts Pack 111, every Thursday eveing
- Boy Scout Troop 121, every Thursday evening
- Boy Scout Troop 111, every Friday evening

Outside Groups That Regularly Use Our Church Building

- Androscoggin Music Together
 - Edgewood Condo Association
 - Granite Mills Condo Association
 - Literacy Volunteers of Androscoggin County
 - Maine Iris Society
 - Park Avenue Pickers
 - Rotary
 - and others as requested.
- (Please see calendr in Church for listing of All events.)

March Calendar 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
(Z) = Zoom						1 • 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 
2 • Sunday Worship (see below) • 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal • 9:30 am Grow Deeper Class	3 • 5:30 pm Bell Choir 	4 • 1:30 pm Mission Comm • 4:30 pm Choir Practice	5 • 11 am Adult Church Study (Z) • 12 - 1 pm Ashes Dispensation (UMCA) • 6:30 pm Ash Wed. Service • 6 pm Park Ave Pickers Rehearsal	6 • 9:30 am Faith Journey • 10:45 am NOW Comm. • 6:30 pm Church Council	7 • 10 am Upper Room Devot. Group (Z) • 6:30 pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew	8 No Church Activities Scheduled
9 • Sunday Worship (see below) • 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal • 9:30 am Grow Deeper Class	10 • 5:30 pm Bell Choir 	11 • 2 pm Naomi Circle • 4:30 pm Choir Practice	12 • 10 am Adult Church Study (Z) • 6 pm Park Ave Pickers Rehearsal	13 • 9:30 am Faith Journey	14 • 10 am Upper Room Devot. Group (Z) • 6:30 pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew	15 • 5 pm Bean Supper (Pickers prior to supper) 
16 • Sunday Worship (see below) • 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal • 9:30 am Grow Deeper Class • 4 pm Lenten Membership Class	17 • 5:30 pm Bell Choir 	18 • 4:30 pm Choir Practice • 6 pm Trustees	19 • 10 am Adult Church Study (Z) • 6 pm Park Ave Pickers Rehearsal	20 • 10 am Clover Worship • 6 pm SPRC	21 • 10 am Upper Room Devot. Group (Z) • 6:30 pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew	22 No Church Activities Scheduled
23 • Sunday Worship (see below) • 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal • 9:30 am Grow Deeper Class	24 • 5:30 pm Bell Choir 	25 • 4:30 pm Choir Practice 	26 • 10:00 am Adult Church Study (Z) • 6 pm Park Ave Pickers Rehearsal	27 • 9:30 am Faith Journey	28 • 10 am Worship at Schooner • 6:30 pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew	29 No Church Activities Scheduled
30 • Sunday Worship (see below) • 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal • 9:30 am Grow Deeper Class	31 • 5:30 pm Bell Choir 					

Sunday's Morning Worship Schedule
 8:30 am Praise and Worship (In Person and Zoom)
 9:30 am Choir Practice - 9:30 am to 10:15 am "Grow Deeper" Class with Pastor Steve
 10:30 am - Worship Service (In Person and Live-stream), Sunday School
 Communion held on the first Sunday of each month

Maple Syrup Time Coming Soon!

What better thought is there than the promise of spring and the sweet flavor of maple syrup? The 2025 Maple Syrup Fundraiser will be for the benefit of
THE STORE NEXT DOOR.



We are starting the ordering process in hopes that everyone who wishes to support this mission project will get the message and have an opportunity to participate. There are several ways in which to place your maple syrup order. You may complete the order form that can be found below and mail it to us (address is below) or you can scan it and return it as an email attachment (email address is below). You may also email us with your order information, including your phone number, please, and we will complete an order form for you. Order forms will also be available at church. **ORDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MARCH 30.** No money will be accepted or required until delivery time on the weekend of **APRIL 5-6.** The syrup will come in plastic containers so it will be easier to give as gifts that need to be mailed. So, plan to buy an extra quart or pint and ship it to family or friends! Because we do only pre-orders, there will be NO option to buy on the pickup dates, so be sure to get your pre-order in before MARCH 30.

The syrup price this year is: **PINTS - \$12** and **QUARTS - \$20.** You may contact Joel or Janet Irish at 263 School House Hill Rd, Turner, ME 04282 or email joel.irish@maine.edu) with orders or questions. Sweet dreams of Spring!

See related article about THE STORE NEXT-DOOR elsewhere in this Beacon.



Please complete order form below and place it the box at church. You may also return it to Joel Irish, 263 School House Hill Rd Turner, ME 04282 or email joel.irish@maine.edu Deadline for orders is MARCH 30.



NAME _____ PHONE _____
(REQUIRED)

E-MAIL _____

I would like to order _____ QUARTS _____ PINTS

Syrup should be available for payment and pick-up on the weekend of APRIL 5-6

Questions: Joel and Janet Irish, (212-2785) or joel.irish@maine.edu

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
439 PARK AVENUE

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID



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.