



The Beacon

Newsletter of the United Methodist Church
March 2026



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

Staff

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

Ryan Slocum, Organist
William Buzza, Bell Choir Director
Peter Poliquin, Custodian
Edith Ellis, Beacon Editor
Beth Woodhead, 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**

There is a nourishment of guiding purpose in the ways we learn to care for one another. It is what we are created for, and it is what invests life with meaning. When asked what the greatest commandment is, Jesus pared Torah to this: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul, and love your neighbor as yourself.” This great work is the one thing we cannot live without.

In the late 1960s, American ethologist Dr. John B. Calhoun conducted an experiment that haunts scientists to this day. He built a “Mouse Paradise” – a perfectly controlled world with unlimited food, water and shelter. No predators. No scarcity. No fear. Plenty of abundance.

At first, it was heaven on earth! The mice thrived, multiplied, and built tiny homes. But when the population swelled beyond 600, something began to unravel. The strong claimed the best nesting areas, bullying weaker members into corners. Mothers stopped caring for young and some turned on one another. Violence surfaced and mating ceased. Gradually, the colony lost its will to live. The food never ran out, but the purpose did.

Later generations grew passive and detached—grooming endlessly, avoiding one another. Calhoun called this stage “the behavioral sink” – a collapse not of body, but spirit. When the last mouse died, the habitat still overflowed with everything needed for survival. Calhoun repeated this experiment 25 times, and every time the outcome remained the same.

The paradise we seek is not a world free of challenge or trouble, but a community of compassion which shares the sorrow which is felt. It is a social, dynamic interchange among those who seek a better way. It is an Easter awakening to shared possibility and discovery of the promises of God. As a church, we exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We’re not there yet, but we’re on our way!

God’s grace and joy,

Pastor Steve Bascom, UMCA

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



On January 25th, scholarships were distributed to: Brayden Beaulé, Saphryn Humason-Fulgham, Cassidy MacDonald, Carli Stone and Lily Watkins. We are grateful to those who established the Wentworth and Hackett scholarship funds which support these awards. In addition, a scholarship award was given from the Wentworth Music Scholarship fund to support a family's participation in Caroline Coffin's Music Together program.

A Celebration of Gratitude took place on Transfiguration Sunday, 2/15, when Cherie Downing and Kay Little were recognized for 17+ years of inspired service as UMCA's children's spiritual formation team, church school superintendent and Christian Education chair, respectively. We are deeply grateful for their generous service and wish their successors, Beth Woodhead and Megan Spiller well in their new roles!

A Celebration of Life gathering was held at Schooner Estates on 2/7 to honor member Nancy Harris (member of Calvary UMC at time of vital merger). Through the years, Nancy's family has contributed much to the United Methodist Connection here in Maine. May God's grace be with bereaved friends and family.



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 inside the Fellowship Hall.

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.

Prayer Stream Team

If you have a prayer request, please let us know. To request prayers from the team, please email Janet or the backup team member, Nancy Holler. You may alternately phone Lucky with your request if you prefer.

Janet Irish, Team Coordinator: joel.irish@maine.edu
Nancy Holler, Team Backup: nanholler@aol.com
Lucky DiBello, Phone Team: at 784-3869.

We will communicate with each other to see that both streams receive your request.

Church News



Food Pantry Focus for March

Each month the Mission Committee focuses on an item for Food Pantry donation. This month we are focusing on RICE.

We encourage the congregation to bring this item in for the shopping cart and, although RICE is featured this month, all non-perishable food and household needs are most welcome. Please place your contributions in the shopping cart anytime during the month.

The Mission Committee and the High Street Food Pantry are thankful for all of the food donations that have been made. Please accept our thanks for your caring help!

Mission Committee Lenten Offering

The Missions Committee of UMCA has chosen UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) as its March fundraising focus, with an emphasis on Global Migration. Funds raised will be sent to UMCOR who will administer them to projects that support people facing struggles encountered while fleeing dangerous, life threatening situations forcing them to leave their homes and livelihoods and relocate to other countries. They leave with few or no resources, often with just the clothes on their backs. The special envelopes for donations to UMCOR will be in the March 8th and 22nd worship bulletins.

The Missions Committee, as always, thanks you for your continued generosity in supporting the projects selected by the Missions Committee.

We would like to welcome new committee members, Joe and Peg Moser, who have graciously consented to join the committee. We welcome their years of dedicated labor and leadership and look forward to their contributions!

We would also like to thank Pat Titus for her dedication and faithfulness in chairing this committee for the last four years. We are grateful that she has chosen to remain on the Missions Committee and to continue to work on its ongoing projects.

Nancy Craig, (new) Chair

Thank you to Dear UMC Friends

When Gladys Chapman got ready to retire as Sunday School superintendent she encouraged and convinced me to apply. Who knew it would be a position of 17 years. I am truly humbled and grateful. All the kind words and cards have touched my heart. Sunday School and Youth Group have been a team effort and I appreciate your acknowledgment of my contribution to the team.

I am not going anywhere; just going to work in different areas. I will continue to chair the Shop On Park Avenue Church Fair and send cards.

THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for the

wonderful celebration.

Blessings,
Cherie

P.S. The song written by Kay Little was AMAZING. I loved it.



Monthly Events

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 am - 'In Person'

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

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

Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast - Auburn/Lewiston

Saturday, March 7th, 7:30 am, UMCA

Saturday, April 11th, 7:30 am, UMCA

Guests also welcome!

Upper Room Devotional

Weekly Zoom Meetings, Fridays at 10 am

March 6, 13 & 20

(Open to all/facilitated by Pastor Steve Bascom)

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

Growing Deeper

"Facilitated Conversation Centered on Lectionary Readings for the Day"

Sundays, 9:45 to 10:15 am

UMC of Auburn Lounge (Led by Pastor Steve Bascom)

Bible Study: Esther

Friday Nights, 6:30 pm, UMCA

March 6, 13, 20 & 27

Scouting Sunday

March 8th, 10:30 am, UMCA

Cub Scouts Public Spaghetti Supper, 3/28

Public Church Supper

Saturday, March 21st, 4:30 pm

(Serving at 5 pm)

Serenaded by the Park Avenue Pickers

Assisted-Living Monthly Worship Services

Led by Pastor Steve Bascom

Schooner Estates, March 27th (10 am)

Holy Week & Easter Schedule



- Palm/Passion Sunday Services, 3/29, 8:30 & 10:30 am
- Stations of the Cross (Self-Guided), 3/30 (Monday) and 3/31 (Tuesday), 9 am to 12 n (UMCA). Stations of the Cross will continue daily until 4/3.
- Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service, 4/2, 6 pm (UMCA)
- Good Friday Service, 4/3, 12 noon at HSCC High Street Congregational Church, 106 Pleasant Street, Auburn
- Easter SonRise Service, 4/5, 6:30 am, 775 N. River Road, Auburn
- Easter Breakfast, 4/5, 8-9:30 am, UMCA (Donation Basis)
- Easter Celebration Services, 4/5, 8:30 & 10:30 am, UMCA

Vendor Fair

Save the date: May 9, 2026

The Education Committee is holding its second annual Vendor Fair in the Fellowship Hall as well as outside in the parking lot (weather permitting). New this year will be a technology table. Bring in your laptop, cell phones, iPads, tablets, battery operated picture frames and power cords. Sit down with a few tech savvy youth and adults. On site how tos, quick lessons, and questions answered.

Sunday School

A Sunday School prayer: March New Beginnings

"Dear Lord, as we step into the month of March, we thank you for fresh grace and renewed hope. Help us to embrace each day with a grateful heart and a positive spirit, learning more about Your Word. Guide our Sunday School classes and fill our hearts with joy, in Jesus' name. Amen".

College scholarships

Calling all high school seniors and family members of those seniors. Please consider having your soon to graduate senior apply for a scholarship that can be renewed annually. Renewal is easily done by submitting a copy of the students transcript in January from the previous fall term along with a short note requesting consideration for renewal.

Superbowl Subs were a smash hit: a touch down, a field goal! Thank you from the Youth Group! Forty plus sandwiches were ordered and created. The profit will go toward our goal of supporting 3 youth in the World Vision Program. Thank you from your Youth Group!

Update on World Vision

The Youth Group has raised enough money through direct donations from our church members and fundraising to fully support the 3 children sponsored within the

parameters of the World Vision Program.

Acolytes

We are looking for acolytes. Ideally the acolytes are in third grade and above. As you may have noticed in the last few months we make exceptions for mature younger children. For those wondering, Ethan Spiller is in 1st grade while brother Evan is 3 1/2 years old. Evan wants to be like his big brother.

Celebrate Youth

The United Methodist Church of Auburn will celebrate the following two youth groups and their families in the coming months: Scouting and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls. March 8, 2026 and April 12, 2026 respectively.

March Celebrations

Birthdays

3	Marcia Baxter
11	Emily Derouche
14	Shirley Keene Priscilla Hayes
16	Peter Poliquin
20	Tim Lander
28	William Buzza
31	Sandy Fowler

Anniversaries

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 (Women) There is a Solution The Serenity Group (12-Step Fellowship)

- Every Tuesday Evening Alanon (Women)

Girl Scouts









- 3rd Wednesdays Girl Scout Leadership Team
- 1st, 2nd & 4th Wednesday Troop 5043

Cub and Boy Scouts

- Cub Scouts Pack 1116, every Thursday evening
- Boy Scout Troop 121, every Thursday evening
- Boy Scout Troop 111, every Friday evening

Many outside groups use our church as well. Please see calendar by church office for listing of all events.

March Calendar 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Worship (see below) • 9:30 am Choir Practice • 9:30 am Grow Deeper Class 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 pm Bell Choir 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:30 pm Mission Comm • 4:30 pm Choir Practice 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 am Adult Church Study (Z) • 6 pm Park Ave Pickers Rehearsal 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 am Faith Journey • 10:45 am NOW Comm. • 6:30 pm Church Council 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 am Upper Room Devot. Group (Z) • 6:30 pm Bible Study Esther 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 
8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Worship (see below) • Scouting Sunday • 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal • 9:30 am Grow Deeper Class • 4 pm Youth Group 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 pm Bell Choir 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Beacon Articles Deadline</i> • 4:30 pm Choir Practice 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 am Adult Church Study (Z) • 6 pm Finance Comm. (H) • Park Ave Pickers Rehearsal 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 am Faith Journey 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 am Upper Room Devot. Group (Z) • 6:30 pm Bible Study Esther 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Church Activities Scheduled
15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Worship (see below) • 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal • 9:30 am Grow Deeper Class 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 pm Bell Choir 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Away CCU • 4:30 pm Choir Practice • 2 pm Naomi Circle 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Away CCU • 10 am Adult Church Study (Z) • 6 pm Park Ave Pickers Rehearsal 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor Away CCU • 6 pm SPRC 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 am Upper Room Devot. Group (Z) • 6:30 pm Bible Study Esther 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 pm Bean Supper (Pickers prior to supper) 
22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Worship (see below) • 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal • 9:30 am Grow Deeper Class 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 pm Bell Choir 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:30 pm Choir Practice 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00 am Adult Church Study (Z) • 6 pm Park Ave Pickers Rehearsal 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 am Faith Journey 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 am Worship at Schooner • 6:30 pm Bible Study Esther 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 am to Noon Maple Syrup Pickup UMCA • Cub Scouts Public Spaghetti Supper
29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Worship Palm Sunday (see below) • 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal • 9:30 am Grow Deeper Class 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am to Noon Stations of the Cross • 5:30 pm Bell Choir 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9am to Noon Stations of the Cross 				H = Hybrid Z = Zoom 

Sunday's Morning Worship Schedule

8:30 am Informal Worship, In Person (IP)

9:30 am Growing Deeper class with Pastor Steve

10:30 am - Worship Service, In Person (IP) and Live-stream (LS- Facebook and YouTube)

Communion on the first Sunday each month

Please refer to the church calendar for day and time of events or

call the church office Monday thru Friday, 9 am to noon.

207.782.3972 or email office@auburnmethodist.org

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
439 PARK AVENUE
AUBURN, MAINE 04210
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
AUBURN, MAINE 04210
PERMIT NO. 9



The United Methodist Church of Auburn is a reconciling intergenerational Christian community that intentionally welcomes all of God's children. Its 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.