



The Beacon

Newsletter of the United Methodist Church
May 2025



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

439 PARK AVENUE
AUBURN, MAINE 04210

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

Sunday School
Children and Youth 10:30 am

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 April 10th

It seems hard to believe that seven years have passed since our last pictorial directory. Much has taken place in that time: pandemic, vital merger with Calvary UMC, asylum-seekers ministry, births, deaths, new members, relocations, etc. The portrait of our parish has been altered by these vicissitudes.

On the dates of May 16-18, Friday (1-8 pm), Saturday (10 am to 8 pm) and Sunday (12 n to 7 pm), Portrait EFX of (Gray) Maine will be at UMC of Auburn to photograph individuals, couples, families of the parish for the new 2025 pictorial directory. There will also be a photography date scheduled at Schooner Estates for UMCA parishioners who reside there (TBA). In late September, an additional day will be scheduled to photograph others who cannot make the May photography dates.

The directory will be online (with a parish shared password), linked to our web page, but the online directory will ONLY include picture and name(s). The booklet copies will also include addresses and current phone numbers. Email addresses, membership and other identifying information will be requested for church office work, but will not be included in either online or booklet directory.

It is our hope that all will participate in the pictorial directory photography sessions. It won't be complete without you! There will be an opportunity to purchase additional photographs, but no one is obligated to do so. On May 4th and 11th, there will be a sign-up station at UMCA (after 8:30 am worship) and before/after 10:30 am worship for scheduling photography sessions. If we don't hear from you, we will try to call by phone to ask if you wish to participate.

On the day of photography, there will be a hospitality station at the church with cookies and lemonade where you will be guided to update contact information, spelling of names, etc. We ask you to arrive 15-20 minutes before your scheduled appointment so that contact information may be updated. Photography will take place in the (double) choir room. There may be other events happening in Fellowship Hall during some of the photography sessions, so please be mindful of this.

Additional details will be provided as photography dates approach, but I appreciate your cooperative spirit as we prepare for this celebration of church family. May your spring be a blessed season of renewal!

God's grace,
Pastor Steve Bascom, UMC of Auburn

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: (207) 753-1275; sebisk@outlook.com



Parish Notes



It was joy to have Megan Spiller's Rainbow Girls join us for worship on April 6th!

There will be a Celebration of Life service (committal to follow) for Bruce Bartlett on Friday, June 20th, 11 am at the Crosman Funeral Home in Lisbon, Maine. Please hold Bruce's family in prayer.



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.



Events



Vendor Craft Fair

Saturday, May 10th, 9 am to 1 pm, UMC of Auburn

Picture Directory Photography Sessions

May 16, 17 & 18, UMCA

Church Regular Events

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 am - 'In Person' & Zoom

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

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

Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast - Auburn/Lewiston

Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, 7:30 am, UMCA

Saturday, June 7th, 2025, 7:30 am, UMCA

Guests also welcome!

Upper Room Devotional

Weekly Zoom Meetings, Fridays at 10 am

May 2, 9, 16 & 30

(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, 9:30 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

Bible Study: Matthew

Friday Nights, 6:30 pm, UMCA

Assisted-Living Monthly Worship Services

Led by Pastor Steve Bascom

Clover Manor, May 15th, 10 am

Schooner Estates, May 23rd, 10 am



May News



Parking Lot Update

The UMCA Board of Trustees, with consent of Church Council, has arranged to have the church parking lot upgraded and repaved during the last week of August (no Sunday will be missed due to the work schedule). Provisionally, the Council has authorized the \$75-80,000 project to be financed by withdrawal of unrestricted invested funds; however, since the current church operational budget relies on interest received from those and other invested funds, we hope to recover as much as we can from free-will, second-mile donations and/or project-specific pledges over the next three years.

Financing the reconstruction of our parking lot will be UMCA's missional June focus. Members and constituents will receive a letter requesting participation in an "Invest in the Future of God's Church at UMCA" campaign to provide funding for this timely project. The reason it is 'timely' is because all other trustee-solicited quotes were \$30-50,000 higher than the accepted quote which holds for this year only. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you may be able to contribute to this campaign. Thank you!

Food Pantry Focus for May

Each month the Mission Committee is focusing on an item for Food Pantry donation. This month we are focusing on COOKING OIL. Please place your contribution in the shopping cart anytime during the month of May.

Mission Project for May

SALT & LIGHT COMMUNITY CENTER

The Salt & Light Community Center has been serving downtown neighborhood children and their families in Auburn since 2020. Salt & Light Community Center is a faith-based ministry that exists to support children and their families through after school enrichment, youth programs and neighborhood events. They are passionate about celebrating and supporting children

and their families in our community. The Mission of Salt & Light is to engage and equip neighbors and volunteers to live healthy and balanced lives as demonstrated with the love of Jesus Christ.

The Nazarene Church and Chestnut Street Park are the locations where Salt & Light is meeting now, but Salt & Light is getting close to their goal of purchasing a large enough space for their programs. Any financial help we can give will help them get into that new building at 29 Hampshire Street and continue meeting the needs of our inner city youth and families. You can donate funds, be a volunteer and most importantly pray to provide them with vision, strength and encouragement. You will hear more and see a video about this program in our Sunday worship service and envelopes for giving will be available.



Sunday School

To ALL Mothers:

Teach your children two things and you've taught them well:

To Love the Lord with all their heart.

To have a heart of compassion for others.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Thank you to all the children that contributed to our Lenten offering. The church wide Heifer project for Lent was helped by your contributions.

Are You Going to Camp Mechuwana?

Camp deadlines are filling up fast. Remember the church will contribute 80% of a campership.

Many Thanks to Brenda Bisson, Elizabeth Meid and Kathryn Tracy for taking over Kay Littles classroom while she was home recouping from surgery. It was appreciated more than words can say.

THANK YOU to Beth Woodhead for helping out with Sunday School while I was away on vacation. I knew things were left in good hands.

THANK YOU to the Youth Group for organizing the Easter Egg hunt for the younger children AND many thanks to the congregation for the donations to be put in the eggs.

LAST DAY of SUNDAY SCHOOL is JUNE 8
Where did the time go? We have had a wonderful Sunday School year with consistent attendance.

**Mark Your Calendar for Saturday, May 10
Vendor Fair 9 am to 1 pm.**

This is the Education Committee's project to help the church budget. Megan Spiller has done an amazing job with organizing the vendors. Thank you for your expertise. Come and get a gift for Mom for Mother's Day. There will be something for everyone.

A Prayer for May

May you be Happy.
May you stay Healthy.
May you feel Safe.
May you find Comfort.
May you sense Peace.
May you give Love.
May you possess Courage.
May you have Faith.
May you spread Joy.
May you be Kind. AMEN

Support Groups that use our church.

- Sunday Evening and Wednesday evening
Private Men's Group (See Pastor Steve for more information)
- Every Monday Evening-
Keep Coming Back AA (Men and Women)
There is a Solution AA (Women)
The Serenity Group (12-Step Fellowship)

- Every Tuesday Evening
One Day at a Time

Girl Scouts

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

Cub and Boy Scouts

- Cub Scouts Pack 111, every Thursday evening
- 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
- Music Together
- Park Avenue Pickers
- Rotary

and others as requested.

<i>May Celebrations</i>		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Birthdays</i>	<i>Anniversaries</i>
6	Nancy Blanchard Bruce MacDonald	
7	Tony Hodgdon Wendy Wright	
10	Piper Carey De Freest	
12	Meagan Cossey	
13	Dawn Beale	
14	Trudy Hodgdon Megan Skilling Spiller	
15	Bunny Frost	
18	Joan Spitzform	
23	Kay Webb	
26		Roy and Joan Spitzform
27	Connie Brann	
31		Gary & Elaine Hemenway










Church Calendar



May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 • 9:30 am Faith Journey • 10:45 am NOW Comm. • 6:30 pm Church Council	2 • 10 am Upper Room Devotional (Z) • 6:30 pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew	3 • 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 
4 • Sunday Worship (see below) • 9:30 am Choir Practice • 9:30 am Growing Deeper • 12 n N Music/Worship Comm.	5 • 5:30 pm Bell Choir 	6 • 1:30 pm Missions Comm. • 4:30 pm Choir Practice	7 • 11 am Adult Church Study (Z)	8 • 9:30 am Faith Journey	9 • 10 am Upper Room Devotional (Z) • 6:30 pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew	10 • 9 am to 1 pm Vendor Craft Fair @ UMCA by Christian Education
11 • Sunday Worship (see below) • 9:30 am Choir Practice • 9:30 am Growing Deeper Happy Mother's Day!	12 • 5:30 pm Bell Choir 	13 • 4:30 pm Choir Practice	14 • 8:30 am -4 pm District Comm. Interviews (CR & Lounge) • 6 pm UWF Hawaiian Luau @ Schooner • 6:00 pm Finance Committee	15 • 9:30 am Faith Journey • 10 am Clover Worship	16 • 10:00 am Upper Room Devotional (Z) • 1 pm - 8 pm Directory Photos • 6:30 pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew	17 • 10 am - 8 pm Directory Photos
18 • Sunday Worship (see below) • 9:30 am Choir Practice • 9:30 am Growing Deeper • Noon Christian Ed Mtg. • Noon to 7 pm Directory Photos	19 • 5:30 pm Bell Choir 	20 • 2 pm Naomi Circle • 4:30 pm Choir Practice • 6:15 pm Trustees	21 • 11:00 am Adult Church Study (Z)	22 • 9:30 am Faith Journey	23 • 10:00 am Worship at Schooner • 6:30 pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew	24 No Church Activities Scheduled
25 • Sunday Worship (see below) • 9:30 am Choir Practice • 9:30 am Growing Deeper • Noon Christian Ed Train.	26 • 5:30 pm Bell Choir  Office Closed	27 • 4:30 pm Choir Practice	28 • 11:00 am Adult Church Study (Z)	29 • 9:30 am Faith Journey	30 • 10 am Upper Room Devotional (Z) • 6:30 pm Bible Study Gospel of Matthew	In Person (IP) Zoom (Z)

Sunday's Morning Worship Schedule

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

Fathers' Day Remembrance

~ Today will always be about remembering your father. ~

A special Father's Day Remembrance Bulletin will be offered honoring Fathers living, and in memory of those who are no longer with us, but will always be remembered in our hearts.

EACH NAME submitted for remembrance will be \$5.00 (suggested donation). The money collected will go toward expenses incurred by the worship committee.

On the form below, list the names of the ones to be remembered or honored, as well as your name and contact information. Please use ONE LINE per name (and up to 3 names per form). You may mail your form(s) and check made out to:

United Methodist Church of Auburn, 439 Park Avenue, Auburn, Maine 04210

Or, you may turn them in at church where members of the worship committee will have a table set up after worship on May 18 and 25 and June 1 and 8 with a self-service area for the 8:30 worship service.

The deadline for submissions is June 8 to insure inclusion in the bulletin on Father's Day. Please be sure to print clearly to avoid delays.

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

REMEMBERED BY: (your name and contact information)

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 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.