



# THE LINK

Auburn United Methodist Church



2020  
June

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Greetings! We have begun the long, slow process of recovering and reopening from the COVID-19 pandemic. This flu strain is many times more deadly than the regular flu. As of writing this our country has lost 100,000 people in only a few months. In Michigan we've had 55,000+ cases and 5,000+ deaths. Nationally the death rate is almost 6% - compared to the annual death rate of the common flu at about .1 %. Serious measures have been taken because these are serious circumstances. I want to thank you for your patience in social distancing-it has been hard on all of us.

At this point we have begun Phase 1 of the Michigan Conference's plan for reopening churches. That means:

- \* We can do "Drive-In Church"
- \* We can have groups/committees of 10 or less meet at the church only if they:
  1. Wear masks inside
  2. Keep 6 ft. distance
  3. Do not share/handle common materials
  4. Do not have food/snacks
  5. Clean the space thorough after meeting.

**It is not until Phase 2 that we can worship inside, have Sunday School classes, and have more than 10 in the church at once. We will be in Phase 1 through the month of June and perhaps longer.**

The Administrative Council has met to review the Michigan Conference Plan and to begin planning and assessing what we will need to do to safely, and gradually, open more of our church building and programs. We are working on plans to sanitize the church between services and after group use. We have ordered additional hand sanitizer stations for people to use, and are working to make sure that masks are available to anyone who does not bring one with them. Again, we will be in Phase 1 AT LEAST through the month of June, quite possibly longer. For now we will continue to offer "Drive-In Church" which will be enhanced with special music. **In June, Drive-In Church will change to start at 10 am**, we are also working to provide an enhanced online worship post that will have the full recorded service, not just the message.

With everyone's effort we can be the church safely and with faithfulness.

Shalom,  
Pastor Rob



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Dear members & friends of Auburn UMC,

As of today, (June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020) it has been 82 days since the Covid 19 Pandemic was announced and we have started being on some form of quarantine restrictions. March 8<sup>th</sup> was the last time we have all been able to worship together in our sanctuary. Although having the Drive-In services and the sermons being available online have been a way to “church” we know many of you are looking forward to a day when we can come together in worship in our sanctuary.

As restrictions are starting to loosen, the Church Council had a meeting on Tuesday, May 26, to consider the guidelines we received from Bishop Baird for reopening the church. In determining our procedure for reopening, we were asked to do an assessment of our risk level based on information such as: the rate of infection in our area and how new cases are trending, where we are located in relation to larger outbreaks, our building capacity and the cleaning procedures, average attendance, seating capacity of the sanctuary and also to consider the percentage of church attenders that are over the age of 60 and would fall into a high risk category.

After careful consideration the council determined that we fit into a moderate to high risk category. This was highly determined by the fact that we have approximately 70 people in our congregation over the age of 60. With this decision we have decided to move forward into Phase I of the Relaxing of Restriction guidelines. In following these guidelines, we have made the following decisions:

- We will continue to have Drive-In church **through the month of June**, however because it is getting warmer we have decided that **beginning June 7** we will start having service at **10:00 am** so it is not so warm in your vehicles.
  - Each household should be in a separate vehicle.
  - If windows are rolled down vehicles should keep the six feet distance.
- We will review the decision to continue Drive In services or to start having services in the sanctuary at our June 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.
- In order to keep cleaning & sanitizing confined to controllable space we have made the decision to close off the basement for the time being. Small groups (committee & team meetings, etc.) can resume meeting with the following guidelines:
  - 6 feet social distancing should be followed & the use of face masks.
  - Use the Fellowship hall for meetings. At this time all round and long tables have been removed from the Fellowship Hall and chairs are set up in a large circle to face each other while still conforming to the 6 feet social distancing guidelines. **Due to the limited space please make sure to contact the office so your meeting can be put in the calendar.**
  - Each group must sanitize the chairs and bathrooms used before leaving the building. Sanitizing supplies and instructions are located on the counter in the pass-through window of the kitchen/Fellowship Hall.
  - No food or drinks can be served.

As we move forward towards Phase Two, we will have several hurdles to manage. Things will not be “back to normal” once we are able to worship in person together again. Remember, these are Phase 2 guidelines that were set forth by our Bishop. We are currently in Phase One. We just want to give you an idea of what to expect, some people have a hard time dealing with change so we wanted to prepare you for some of the temporary changes to come as we move into Phase Two and ease back into in-person worship. Here is a list of a few things you can expect when we decided to move into Phase Two:

- Do to social distancing, you may not get to sit in your favorite pew. They are suggesting people sit in every other pew.
- You will not be greeted by Pastor Rob at the back of the church after service.
- Hymnals, and other books & papers will be removed from the pews because they can not be easily sanitized.
- The offering will not be collected by ushers, there will be baskets available for you to drop them in on your way past. *(Don't forget electronic giving is available.)*
- We may not have worship bulletins for a while, so you will have to pay close attention to the announcement slides before service.
- It is important to understand if you have been exposed to covid, are having any symptoms, or have other health risks that make you in the high-risk category, please do not attend service, we will continue to post the service online.
- The biggest change is going to be, no Fellowship Time. We have to avoid having places available where people will congregate and not social distance. We will not be allowed to serve any open foods or drinks. We have removed the tables from the Fellowship Hall to help avoid congregating.
- As per the Bishop's recommendation there will be no Sunday school or nursery. This is temporary and we are hoping to be able to pick back up in the fall.
- Face masks should be worn in medically possible.

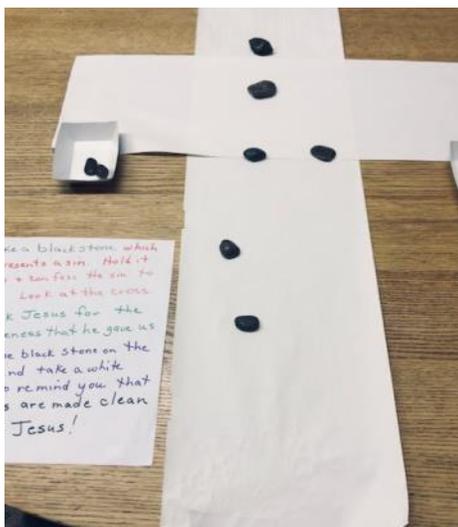
As we prepare for Phase Two we will need help.

- We have asked the sewing group to make some masks for those that may not have them. These masks will be available for you to take home and wear each week.
- We have ordered touchless hand sanitizer dispensers to put in key places of the church. These are on back order currently but we are hoping to have them in place before we reopen. In the meantime, if you have an extra bottle of sanitizer, bring it with you.
- We would like to have Disinfectant Wipes available in the bathrooms and several other areas for immediate sanitizing but due to limited supplies we have not been able to purchase any. If you are out shopping and happen to come across Disinfectant Wipes please pick some up for the church. If you bring Jenn your receipt, you will be reimbursed for them.
- We will need teams willing to sanitize pews between services.

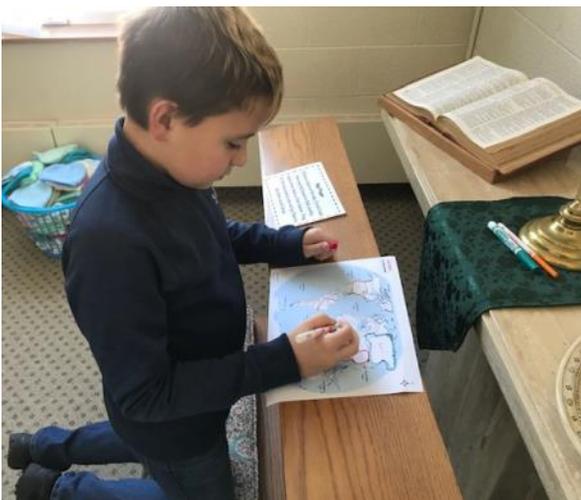
The Church Council will be meeting again on June 15, to reevaluate our risk category and determine when it will be safe to move forward to Phase Two and reopen the church for in-person worship.

Church Council Secretary  
Jenn Williams

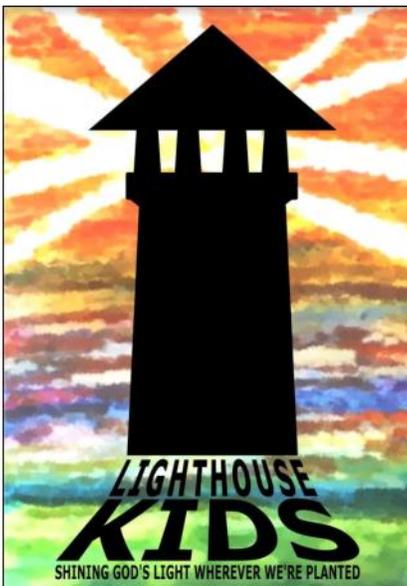
# Kids Prayer Centers



March 2020



Please don't forget about the people on the Caring Team Visitation List who are not able to come to Church as often. If you need their address please contact the Church office.		FINANCIAL STATUS	
		MAY'S INCOME	YTD INCOME
Roger Anderson	June Filcek	16,925.00	\$74,694.67
Don Gilson	Echo Ignafol	MAY'S EXPENSES	YTD EXPENSES
Sharon Dengel	Don Spaulding	\$11,253.62	\$69,993.56
Shirley Doll	Leatha Fahrner	A detailed Income & Expense Statement is available on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.	
Ardis Juhala	Robert & Dolores Wise		
Ken & Ruby Christopherson			



## LIGHTHOUSE KIDS

SHINING GOD'S LIGHT WHEREVER WE'RE PLANTED

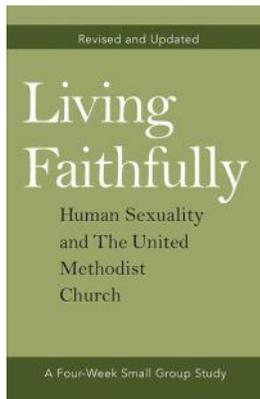
LIGHTHOUSE KIDS is a VIRTUAL VBS PROGRAM designed specifically for summer 2020. Inspired by all of Michigan's beautiful Lighthouses that cast their light far beyond the small plot of land to which they're planted, this VBS will show kids how to shine GOD'S LIGHT wherever they're planted this summer. This VBS will provide opportunities for BIBLE STUDY, RECREATION, PROJECTS WITH PURPOSE, MUSIC, CRAFTS, STEM LEARNING, REFLECTION TIME, AND WORSHIP. We'll use a variety of media platforms to deliver learning and fun each day. Additionally, each family will be able to pick and choose the segments that work best for their schedule and situation.

Each family will be safely delivered a VBS KIT that will contain everything needed to participate. T-shirts included! Registration will start soon...so keep watching. Everyone is welcome. Please consider inviting friends from churches that aren't offering a VBS this summer. Everything is free for everyone!

If you'd like to help, or have questions please contact Becky Jenkins at [cmumom83@hotmail.com](mailto:cmumom83@hotmail.com)

JULY 20-24, 2020

JUNE BIRTHDAYS		JUNE ANNIVERSARIES	
1	Sheila Gromaski	1	Bruce & Monica Bedtelyon
10	Matt Tacktor	2	Joe & Linda Czyewski
11	Sheryl Bellor	7	Marc & Lyndsay Morris
14	Clayton Davis	18	Bud & Janet Stevens
18	Barb Anderson		
19	Evan Morris		
22	Penny Parkin		
26	Ann Wright		
28	Bernie Hoy		



## STUDY BOOK AVAILABLE

We have purchased copies of "Living Faithfully" a book about the LGBTQ issues confronting the United Methodist Church. The book represents both sides of the issues to help people understand what they believe and why, AND, what those with whom they disagree believe and why. As mature Christian brothers and sisters it is important that we are able to discuss matters openly and respectfully. A number of my clergy colleagues have used this book in the churches they serve and have found it helpful. I hope that you will take time to learn about this important issue in the coming months. Books can be signed out from the office. Please call Jenn in the office or email the office, if you would like to schedule a time to pick one up.

We will be providing a meal for the health care workers at the Helen Nickless Clinic on Wednesday, June 17. Won't you please consider donating a part of the meal to help make it a success? We provide food for about 30 workers. Food needs to be in the church kitchen by noon on that day. Following is the menu:

Pasta Salad

Meat and Cheese tray

Crackers

Veggie/Fruit tray

Dessert

Please call **Becky at 989-859-2035** if you are able to help out. Thank you so very much!!

# Electronic Giving

Did you know that you can give to our church without sending cash or writing a check? Beginning May 1st, we set up electronic giving through Vanco Give Plus. We have been using Vanco services for years for repeated automatic withdrawals but now we have reached out to electronic giving through their app or website.

Seem scary? No worries, visit our webpage [www.auburnmc.org](http://www.auburnmc.org) and click on the Give Plus box, that will take you to a page that is full of information. There are step by step videos to show you how to set up their app on your phone or tablet or give via a website. It is really simple and you can set up both one-time payments and recurring payments.

It is safe and secure and you can even see a record of your giving before you would receive your giving statement from the church.

If you need help setting this up please call Jenn in the office. 989-662-6314

# AUMC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		6:00 Food Pantry Prep		4:00 SPRC Meeting		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>10:00 AM DRIVE IN SERVICE</b>						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>10:00 AM DRIVE IN SERVICE</b>	6:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 Council Meeting	6:00 Food Pantry Prep				
21	22					
<b>10:00 AM DRIVE IN SERVICE</b>						
28	29					
<b>10:00 AM DRIVE IN SERVICE</b>						

Because of Covid restrictions , most groups have chosen not to meet therefore I did not put regularly schedule meeting times on the calendar. If your group has decided to meet or start meeting again, please let Jenn know in the office so she can re-add it to the calendar.



# AUBURN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**207 S. Auburn Rd.  
Auburn, MI 48611  
(989) 662-6314  
Pastor Rob's Cell  
(989)415-3830**

*Administrative Assistant ;  
Interim Bookkeeper:  
Coordinator of Music:  
Worship Leader & Keyboardist:  
Nursery:  
Pastor:*

*Jennifer Williams  
Jennifer Williams  
Pat McIlvenna  
Gabrielle Cook  
Phyllis Roberts  
Rev. Rob Nystrom*

## **Church Office Hours:**

**Monday – Thursday  
9:00 am – 1:30 pm**

## **Pastor's Typical Office Hours:**

Monday & Thursdays  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

If you would like to meet with  
Pastor Rob please call the church  
office to schedule an appointment  
or contact Pastor Rob.

Website: [auburnumc.org](http://auburnumc.org)  
Email: [office@auburnumc.org](mailto:office@auburnumc.org)  
[www.Facebook.com/AuburnUMC](http://www.Facebook.com/AuburnUMC)

## **Our Vision:**

Creating a church where children and youth love  
to attend.

## **Our Mission:**

Connecting people with the love and life of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.

## **Our Core Values:**

1. Prayer is a powerful means through which we relate to God.
2. The Bible is the authoritative source for knowing God.
3. Jesus is God's Son. He is the One who reveals in a way like no other that God loves us unconditionally with amazing grace.
4. Mission, local and distant, is a means to love our neighbor in real and relevant ways.
5. Imitating our Lord by practice, practice, practice realizing that none of us are perfect, but we are all on the faith journey together.
6. The Holy Spirit is God's guiding Presence in whom "...we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

