

# Aurora United Methodist Church

THE MESSENGER

September 2011

## “Let Us Never Forget...”

Do you remember where you were on September 11, 2001? My friend Dave was in a police academy, training to be a police officer for New York City. On that day, his entire class graduated from the academy early, was sworn in as police officers and quickly hit the streets of the five boroughs of New York City to serve and protect. As everyone was running away from ground zero, the police officers, firefighters, and nurses were running toward that horrific scene in order to do what they could to help those in need.

Just one year later, some of my colleagues from the Fairfax County Police Department were taken out of their academy early in order to assist in protecting the people of Fairfax County, VA (outside of Washington D.C.) as two snipers were shooting at inno-

cent bystanders who were simply pumping gas and walking into stores.

I remember a moment in my last year as a police officer in Fairfax County when I heard the news that two of my colleagues were shot dead by a lone gunman as they were

making their way out of the police station parking lot to once again serve and protect others. I went to both Mike and Vikki's

funerals and was grieved that someone would kill people who had willingly given their lives to serve and protect.

Having served as a police officer I have always been amazed at how underappreciated police officers, firefighters, and nurses are. Here are people who have dedicated their lives for the good of others by willingly going into harm's way. These men and women have sacrificed in or-



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der to maintain order and peace and make us feel comfortable and safe. I am so appreciative for these men and women who have helped teach me how profound the verse John 15:13 is, which states, “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

As I reflect on this verse and all that others have done for me I can’t help but think about Jesus, whom the world also tends to under appreciate. It might sound obvious, but many people take for granted the fact that Jesus sacrificially laid down his life for others so we could experience new life now and eternal life with Almighty God.

When Jesus came into the world he knew that his sole reason for coming was to hang

on a cross; he knew he would give his life in order save ours. We must not forget what he has done for us, just as we must not forget what others have done for us to secure our freedoms and to serve and protect us from the violence that is all around.

This year, as we pause to remember those who lost their lives and those who sacrificed so that others might not lose theirs, let’s also remember the one who makes our lives worth protecting. Because of Jesus, we can experience true freedom. Because of Jesus, we have a perfect example of what sacrifice is all about. As we honor those who lost lives and saved lives on that horrific day ten years ago, let’s also honor the one who laid down his life for all.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jared

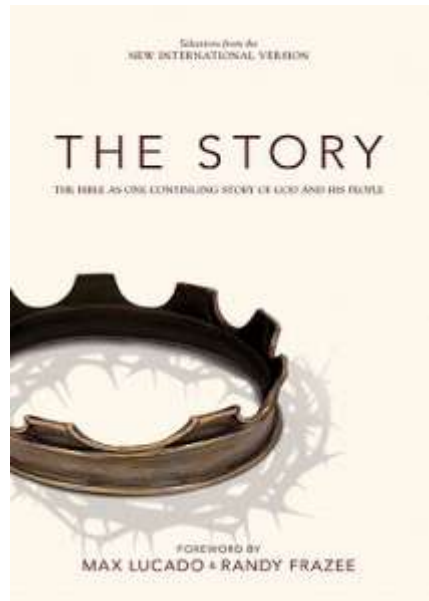
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You may watch and listen to a recording of the experiences of one survivor of the 911 attacks, courtesy of Parkside Church, at the following link: [parksidechurch.com/news-events/blog/2011/8/remembering-911-george-sleigh-audio-and-video/](http://parksidechurch.com/news-events/blog/2011/8/remembering-911-george-sleigh-audio-and-video/)

## Charge Conference

This year Charge Conference will be on **Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**. We will be meeting with our District Superintendent at Windham UMC. Windham UMC is located at 9051 N. Main St., Windham, OH 44288. Every year each church in our conference meets with their respected District Superintendent in order to report on what they have been doing as a church in the previous year. Our District Superintendent is Rev. Dave Scavuzzo. Truthfully, we are very blessed to have Rev. Scavuzzo as our leader. Charge Conference is opened to any and all people from the church and I would encourage you to attend. It is an opportunity for you to meet and hear from Pastor Dave. If you have any desire to attend Charge Conference let me know and we can figure out a way to carpool.

**It's Not Too Late!** If you still have any interest in joining a small group this fall, please do not hesitate to let us know. Small groups are not only a great way to deepen our faith in Christ, but they are also a great way to get to know people from our church family. A portion of our time together is focused on fellowshiping with one another. We are using *The Story* by Randy Frazee to be our guide as we navigate through the Bible together and learn how God's story and our story are really one in the same.



## Small Group Ministry

The first eight-week session will be as follows:

Sundays, 2-3 pm at Parsonage  
(230 N. Bissell Rd)

September 4, 11, 18, 25

October 2, 16, 23, 30

Wednesdays, 7-8pm at Church

September 7, 14, 21, 28

October 5, 19, 26

November 2

## **Mission Moment**

Have you ever been hungry? If you know you are going to be able to eat some time soon, it's not bad; our bodies are reminding us that it's time to refuel. But, if you don't know whether you will be able to eat at all, that's something very different. And even worse, if you don't know if you will be able to feed your hungry children, that's crushing. Imagine what that must be like. We can do something to help!

The **CROP Hunger Walk** is coming soon, October 9, and we need you. We need people to walk. And we need people to sponsor our walkers. We need each of you. And together, step by step, we can make a difference in the lives of hungry people around the world and in our backyard.

AUMC will be participating with a number of other churches in the Aurora community to succeed in this mission. Last year AUMC had 13 walkers and we were joined by members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and The Church in Aurora. \$1,647 was raised with 25% of the funds raised staying in Aurora. The 25% went to the local Volunteers of America and the Aurora

Clergy Association emergency needs fund, which is used to fund food and gas vouchers distributed to those in need by our local Police Department.

This year's Crop Walk will take place at Sunny Lake Park. We will meet at the North End Pavilion (off Page Road) at 1:30pm. If you are interested in participating, please see Pastor Jared or Kitty Sicker.

## **Building for the Lord**

Since 2005, this church has sent a team to Barbour County, West Virginia to work with the Agapé Ministry overseen by the [Heart & Hand House](#) located in Philippi, WV. Heart & Hand is a non-profit mission project affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Members of the AUMC joined with other congregations from WV and PA to help build a home for a deserving family. This past June, Pastor Jared, Lorie and Stephanie Cook, Jeff and Ellen DeLong, and Kitty Sicker worked with others to build a home for a disabled couple. We thank the congregation for their prayers and financial support.

*--The Agapé Mission Team*

## Prayer Team

Beginning September 7<sup>th</sup>, Deb Harpe and I are starting a Prayer Team that will meet Wednesday at 10am. Specifically, we will meet each week to saturate with prayer our church and our friends and family who are in need. I wholeheartedly believe that there is great power in prayer and even though I daily seek discernment from God and offer up my intercessory prayers for you all, it is also important that we do it together regularly as a church family. If you feel drawn to be part of this ministry team or just want to stop in sporadically on Wednesday mornings please feel free to come.

We will be using the weekly bulletin insert that lists our prayers and concerns as a church family. We would like to continue to update this list monthly. If you would like to keep a family or friend on our prayers and concerns list for more than one month, please fill out a **prayer request form**. Forms are in the pews, or email our church secretary, Thelma, at [auro-raumc@windstream.net](mailto:auro-raumc@windstream.net). You can also email me prayer requests at [jpriset@yahoo.com](mailto:jpriset@yahoo.com). --Pastor Jared

## Prayers and Concerns of the Congregation

### Church Family

Bob Bartlett

Ada Davidson

Harold & Anne Hartman

Kathy Koller

Debbie & Lynn Krebs

Mary Krebs

Joe Landals

Kareen Montez

Alvira Neverman

### Friends and Relatives

Keven Dobson (Landals)

Jeanne (Reulbach)

Rae Ellen Campbell (Reulbach)

Lindsey Davis (Leach)

Peter Kautzman (Reulbach)

Al Kravetz (Ivars)

Walter Krebs

Sandy Krawson

Larry Palcko (Shartle)

Nick Perry (Ivars)

Joe Repp

Ken Shartle, Jr.

Julia Shurman (Ross)



If you have asked for prayers on behalf of yourself or one another, please update us monthly by completing a prayer card. Requests with no update will be removed from our active list after four weeks.

## New Mercies

Today I ate a piece of pie – one of those stress-eating things when you consume something sweet and delicious to keep from losing your mind. As I licked the Cool Whip off my fork, I looked at the clock on the microwave. 9:30 AM.

Yikes.

Yes, it's been one of **those** weeks.

Maggie is about to turn two and she is testing every boundary I have, pushing the limit over and over again. Whining. Crying. Spitting. Refusing to nap. Throwing things on the ground and then getting mad as a hornet because I won't pick them up for her.

Elias is teething and his naps are sporadic at best. I've been up at least 5 times during the night with one or both of the kids and I feel like I'm back in the confusing, dark, groggy newborn stage where I realize my pajamas are still on at 2:00 in the afternoon and peanut butter sandwiches are all I can manage for meals.

I had one particularly bad moment this week where I went upstairs, screamed into my pillow, and then calmly

went back down to continue whatever it was I was doing at the time. I haven't done that since I was a teenager.

Despite this, in between the crying and the whining and the baby monitor's incessant beeping (what the heck is wrong that that thing, anyway?) a phrase has been running through my mind, like a tune that I can't get out of my head.

**“His mercies are new every morning.”**

The actual verse from Lamentations 3:22-23 goes like this: “Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning...”

I can honestly say that right now I'm needing new mercies every hour, much less every morning. And I believe God is giving them to me. It's hard to see sometimes, but the compassion is there. The second chances are there, right alongside the fourth, fifth, and sixth chances.

So tomorrow, I will start again. I will probably be tired, but I will love amid the storm. I might scream into my pillow, but I will not be consumed. I

will relish in the great gift of mercy that I have been given. And then I will extend it to these two little people that I am blessed to parent because God knows that I have certainly had my whiny days. I have certainly done my share of boundary-pushing and I have had days where even though I was the one mad as a hornet, all I really needed was some compassion.

Maybe this is my lesson. God knows I need some compassion right now. But so do my kids. And if God's mercy is new every morning, I can attempt to offer fresh mercy as well. --*Meredith Priset*

**Armchair Tour with UMW  
On Monday, September  
19th at 7:00 p.m.**

Marian Vernon has invited us to her home for a special program on DVD of her and Phil's trip to the Galapagos Islands. All women and young ladies are invited to attend. Anyone needing transportation or directions please contact Marti Kast.

**A good time was had by all...**

The women's tea, hosted by the United Methodist Women, was held on Sunday, August 14 and raised \$266 for the Agapé Mission project in Phillippi, WV. Cheryl Chlysta, Branch Manager of the Aurora Memorial Library, presented a program on eXtreme librarians:

- The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky during the Great Depression/WPA
- Miss Clara Breed - Librarian to the children of Japanese internment camp children during WWII
- Alia Muhammed Baker-the Chief Librarian in Basra, Iraq
- The current librarians in areas such as Somalia and Kenya

Thank you to all the women who attended and to those who helped before, during and after: Marti Kast, Kareen Montez, Sandy Petti, Alice Radovick, Denise Radovick, Betty Strack, and Becky Walker.

--*Kitty Sicker*



## **Pastor's Report**

As I enter into my second year at Aurora UMC I have been amazed at the receptivity of this church family to the many changes and transitions that we have made this year. I say this knowing full well that change is not always comfortable to make. However, I also believe that at times it is necessary in order to propel us forward in the many different areas of church ministry and mission, as well as deepening our own individual faith in Jesus Christ.

**The remarkable thing about Jesus Christ is that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever.** His gospel never gets outdated. He will always be the Lord and Savior of the world and people will always need to hear His message of hope, healing, and reconciliation. But, with that said, it has been the church's job throughout the centuries to contextualize Jesus and his message of saving grace in such a way that the people of today will be receptive to it. I say this because as a whole I believe that we have been faithful in fulfilling our mission and sharing Jesus this

year. Way to go! Let's keep up the good work!

**We have focused much of this past year on missions and outreach.** This is something that we must continue to focus on as we fulfill the first part of our mission statement, which is "to make disciples of Jesus." This past year we faithfully fulfilled our commitment to the shared ministry fund at the conference and district levels. We supported the Omwabini mission in Kenya, Africa through monetary means. We sent a team of people to Philippi, WV to work alongside Heart and Hand ministry in order to build a couple a home.

We supported the Center of Hope and Aurora Food Pantry through our gifts of food, money, and time. In fact, on July 4<sup>th</sup> alone, we along with the eight other churches in Aurora raised over \$6,000 and one ton of food for the Aurora Food Pantry. It is amazing how much impact that will have on our neighbors in need.

During the Christmas season (2010) a group from the church Christmas caroled and gave a gift and promotional material for our services to all the homes we randomly went

to. We also blessed a couple of families through our Adopt-A-Child mission. Last, but certainly not least, this past fall we participated in the Crop Walk and our spring Rummage Sale helped provide house items to many in our community, who, due to the economic recession, probably would not have been able to have otherwise.

**In regards to discipleship at our church,** I have also seen us make positive adjustments in order to fulfill the second half of our mission statement, which is to “mature disciples of Jesus Christ. In regards to our worship service alone, we have made some adjustments by restructuring the order of worship. We also hired a Music Director who along with the organist adds a diversity of musical styles that help keep our services fresh.

We have revamped and reintroduced Junior Church in order to provide our children with a Christian education and we have provided a fully functioning nursery in order to give young parents the peace of mind that their children will be taken care of while they are in service worshipping God. We also ran a very successful

Vacation Bible School this summer where a number of children were once again given an opportunity to experience Christian education.

We have also kept an active Adult and Teen Sunday school class. In addition to this, I enjoyed leading a new members class on Methodism and I also am looking forward to the small group ministry that is commencing this September. Aside from that we are also developing a prayer team that will be meeting every Wednesday morning.

For this new year, let’s continue to be faithful to God and what He is calling us to. Let’s take seriously the responsibility of being his hands and feet and heart in this world by continuing in our efforts to “make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

Blessings,  
Pastor Jared

**Church Renovation Projects**  
Ad council has approved some much needed renovation projects that will be worked on this fall. Please be patient, as there will be small construction and painting projects that will be getting done. Thanks!

## Weekly Activities

Sundays	9:15 am	Sunday School, beginning 9/18
	10:30 am	Worship/Junior Church
	12:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal, beginning 9/18
	2:00 pm	Small Group Study at Parsonage
Tuesdays	7:00 pm	BSA
Wednesday		Bulletin Deadline
	10:00 am	Prayer Gathering
	6:00 pm	Praise Team
	6:30 pm	TOPS
	7:00 pm	Small Group Study at Church
	7:30 pm	Choir/Ensembles

## Events - September 2011

Wednesday, 9/7	6:00 pm	Praise Team
	7:30 pm	Choir
	7:30 pm	SPR Committee Mtg w/DS at Garrettsville
Saturday, 9/10	5:30-9 pm	Girl Scouts in Jones Hall
Sunday, 9/11	8:00 am	UMM Breakfast
Monday, 9/12	6:00 pm	GS Leaders' Meeting
Thursday, 9/15	6:30 pm	Trustees Meeting
	8:00 pm	Ad Council
Sunday, 9/18		Rally Day - Sunday School Resumes
	11:30 am	Church Potluck
Monday, 9/19	7:00 pm	UMW Meeting at Marian Vernon's
Thursday, 9/22	6:00 pm	NOW Meeting
Tuesday, 9/27	1:00 pm	District Pastors' Gathering at Mayfield
Wed, 9/28	7:00 pm	Charge Conference at Windham UMC

**Drivers** to pick up at  
Independence Village:

- 9/4 Ra Walker
- 9/11 Steve Ivars
- 9/18 Mike Lambertson
- 9/25 Jared Priset

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 9/1 Arlene & Robert MacDougall
- 9/4 Tom & Mary Ann Hockman
- 9/7 Cora Marie Reulbach
- 9/9 Randy & Donna Adams
- 9/13 Audrey Shartle
- 9/14 Jean Hogan  
Tammy Meek
- 9/15 Rob & Kitty Sicker
- 9/18 Joe Landals
- 9/19 Bob Boyle
- 9/20 Brian & Cassandra Krebs
- 9/22 Harold Hartman
- 9/30 Emery Piero

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**UMM** breakfast meeting will  
be Sunday, September 11.  
Cooks are Mike Lambertson  
and Rob Sicker.

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**Center of Hope  
collection items:  
Spaghetti and  
spaghetti sauce**

### **Those Serving God and His Church**

#### **Liturgists**

- 9/4 Cora Marie Reulbach
- 9/11 Sharon Badertscher
- 9/18 Erin Matson
- 9/25 Stephanie Cook

#### **Coffee Hosts**

- 9/4 Lambertsons
- 9/11
- 9/18 Deb Harpe
- 9/25

#### **Nursery Ministry**

- 9/4 Stephanie Cook
- 9/11 Marcia Bossart
- 9/18 Traci Piero
- 9/25 Meredith Priset

#### **Greeters**

- 9/4 Cora Marie Reulbach
- 9/11
- 9/18
- 9/25

#### **Altar Flowers**

- 9/4 Tom Hockman
- 9/11
- 9/18
- 9/25



## Sunday, September 18

Join us for a new season of classes and a potluck celebration following worship.

Please bring a dish to pass.

### Adult Sunday school class

Starting September 18<sup>th</sup>, the adult Sunday school class will resume. Tom Hockman will be leading the class through the book titled, *A Life God Rewards* by Bruce Wilkinson. If you are looking for a discipleship class to be involved in where you can meet new people while deepening your faith in Christ than this is the class for you! **All are welcome!**

### HANDBELL CHOIR

The hand bell ringers will practice regularly on Sundays at Noon beginning September 18, 2011. Junior High and High School students and ADULTS are welcome to participate. First performance October 30<sup>th</sup>.



### PRAISE TEAM

Instruments / voices lead worship music in contemporary arrangements; practice Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.

When the Praise Team performs, Sunday morning warm-up will be at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.

### ADULT CHOIR and ENSEMBLES

practice Wednesdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 10:00 am. Our first Sunday to sing will be the service on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**High School students and ADULTS are all invited to participate.**

