

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF AUBURN
SUNDAY, November 22, 2009
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
10:00 a.m.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRE SERVICE MUSIC: Thanksgiving Medley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please indicate your presence by signing the pew pad)

PRELUDE: “We Gather Together” F. Ritter

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

LEADER: Be glad and rejoice, for God has done great things.
Our mouths are filled with laughter and shouts of joy.

PEOPLE: **A harvest of abundance surrounds us.**
We will eat in plenty and be satisfied.

LEADER: Praise God for all the bounty we enjoy.
Give thanks for every good and perfect gift.

PEOPLE: **We lay aside our worries and our fears.**
God has dealt wondrously with us, and we rejoice.

LEADER: Seek first God’s realm of righteousness.
Let God reign in all your thoughts and relationships.

ALL: **We know God is with us here.**
We trust God to supply what we most need. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE:** “We Gather Together” UMH No. 131

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER: (In Unison)
God of life and all living, we give you thanks on this November Sunday for the chilly, windy beauty of these late autumn days – for the leaf-lost trees and wet streets, for geese and birds vanishing south, for squirrels finishing their acorn gathering, for early dark and for the sober brown and gray of earth and sky and pond which remind us of pilgrim garb. We thank you for the warmth we find in family, friends, and church that sustains us now and in the winter months of our lives. We thank you for the harvest of good words we find in the Good News, the ingathering through forgiveness of all who confess their sins and the reconciliation of so many people. We thank you for Jesus Christ who is our model, strength, redeemer, and friend, and in whose name we gather together to worship today. This we pray through Christ our Lord who has taught us to pray saying,...

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD

MOMENTS WITH THE CHILDREN: Pastor Rich

HYMN: “Give Thanks” TFWS No. 2036
(Please remain seated)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Joel 2:21 - 27 OT, Page 799

***ACT OF PRAISE:** Psalm 126 UMH No. 847
(Sung Response #1)

ANTHEM “A Thanksgiving Garden” The Wesleyan Singers
(by Joseph M. Martin)

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 6:25 - 33 NT, Page 6

SERMON: “Why Worry When You Can Give Thanks Instead?”

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

THE SERVICE OF PRAYER

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER
ORGAN PRAYER RESPONSE

THE SERVICE OF GIVING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY: "Give Thanks" Methodist Bell Ringers

*DOXOLOGY: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; No. 95

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (In Unison)**

Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice in the opportunity to share. Here are the fruits of your generosity and our hard work. In thanks for the perfect offering of Jesus Christ, we bring ourselves with our gifts. Show us how to combine our efforts to build wholesome relationships, extend your church, and minister in your name throughout the world. Amen.

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS: UMH No. 38

WE DEPART TO SERVE

***HYMN: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" UMH No. 694**

BENEDICTION: (Please be seated)

Please do not leave today without first greeting someone whom you do not know!

CHORAL BENEDICTION:

***POSTLUDE "Battle Hymn of the Republic" R. Wilson**

***CONGREGATION STANDS - if you are physically able**

UMH = The United Methodist Hymnal (red)

TFWS = The Faith We Sing Hymnal Supplement (black)

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF AUBURN**

****A Reconciling Congregation***

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.

Rev. Richard A. Cullen, Pastor

**Worship Services
Saturday, 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.**

TODAY'S LITURGIST:
TODAY'S ACOLYTE:

DAVID SARGENT
REID BUZZA

LITURGIST NEXT SUNDAY:
ACOLYTE NEXT SUNDAY:

MARJORIE SMITH
PAIGE COTE

USHERS FOR
THIS SERVICE ARE:

Roy Cossey, Marci Ellingwood,
and Julie and Paul Farnsworth

WE WELCOME you to our worship service during this Pentecost Season. It is our hope that you will be moved and inspired through your presence in this service. If you are visiting for the first time, please fill out one of the pew cards and visit our Visitors Information Booth which is located in our Fellowship Hall. Please join us for our coffee hour following this service and plan to worship with us again either next Saturday at 4:00 p.m. or next Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

**The cornucopia on the altar is given to the Glory of God
as we give thanks for our many blessings.
It was created by Mike Gould and will be
incorporated into the Thanksgiving baskets.**



Attendance last Saturday, November 14th: 11
Attendance last Sunday, November 15th: 207

WE HAVE AVAILABLE LARGE-PRINT HYMNALS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO USE THEM. THEY ARE LOCATED ON THE BOOK RACK IN THE VESTRY. PLEASE PICK ONE UP ON YOUR WAY INTO CHURCH, BUT BE SURE TO RETURN IT TO THE BOOK RACK ON YOUR WAY OUT.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES NOW AVAILABLE: If you have any difficulty hearing in the sanctuary, please consider using one of the "assistive listening devices" that are now available and can be picked up at the Visitor's Information Booth in the vestry. The device is simple to use and unobtrusive. We have four devices to begin with but can purchase more if they are needed!

Today we welcome as new members Jan and Dan Cote, Audrey Grant, Edie Jordan, and Rhonda Poisson.

THANK YOU BETTY YOUNG AND DONNA BAIN!

Please join me in recognizing and thanking Betty Young and Donna Bain for their many years of faithful service to those most in need at the High Street Congregational church food pantry. Due to other commitments, Betty and Donna are no longer able to be regular volunteers at the food pantry. Their years of experience, knowledge, and compassion for our shoppers will be greatly missed. Thank you Betty and Donna! *Eric Hawes*

CONSECRATION SUNDAY INITIAL RESULTS: Many thanks to everyone who helped make our second Consecration Sunday such a wonderful experience: to Sue Lajoie for coordinating the Celebration Luncheon; to Joel Irish for his leadership as chairperson; to Rev. Wanda Stahl for her leadership and preaching; and to all of the members of the Consecration Sunday planning committee! On Sunday, November 15th, we had 170 people in worship and 150 for lunch. We received 86 "estimate of giving" cards for 2010 totaling \$118,646. Again, thank you for your support of this important event and for your support of the mission and ministry of your church. If you have not sent in your "estimate of giving" card as yet, please be sure to do so immediately. The Finance Committee will now be able to put together the budget for 2010 based on your generous commitment!

TODAY – IT'S THE GIVING TREE!!:

It is time for the Christmas Giving Tree Project already! We hope to again be successful in helping many deserving families to have a nicer Christmas. The strength of this project is that it is anonymous – only Norma and Pam have last names of the recipients and that is so important to us. Often folks are hesitant to ask for help and many times afraid that others will know and then they would be embarrassed. So sometimes they refuse to ask or accept any assistance. For many years, this has proven to be the strong point of the Giving Tree. The tags have been put on the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall. **The deadline for the donated gifts to be at UMC is Sunday, December 6th.** As in the past, we ask that you tag your gifts with the tags from the tree and if you are buying all the gifts for a child, you can use a Christmas bag and only use one tag. Make sure that you include the name of the individual, as well as the letter of the family (such as "Family A" or "M" or whatever). Thank you so much for your assistance with the Mission again this year – without your help this would not be possible.

TODAY - SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

Thanksgiving Sunday is a Family Sunday and children will participate in worship. Mary MacMahon will tell the Godly Play story of Baptism for children ages 3 – 5.

TODAY - YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS: Come and join us for our Youth Group meetings. Everyone is always welcome to join us:

7th – 12th Graders - The next meeting is **Today, November 22nd, at 6:00 p.m.** here at Auburn UMC. This year, we will be meeting every Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m.

4th – 6th Graders - Kids 4 Christ will be eating and meeting at their next meeting on **Sunday, November 29th, at 11:30 a.m.** after church. Come and join us!

TODAY - CHRISTMAS WREATH ORDERS!:

To help you with your Holiday decorating and also to benefit our church fair, we will again be taking orders for our beautiful balsam wreaths made “Down East” and decorated here at church. After the worship service, continuing **through Sunday, November 29th**, and at the **Fair on November 21st**, there will be a table set up to take wreath orders. We will also have someone taking orders at a couple of the Saturday services, as well. The wreaths will be available for **pick up here at church on Saturday, December 5th, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.** We have ordered only a specific number of wreaths based on past sales, so be sure to get your order in early. The prices are \$16 for a decorated wreath and \$9 for a plain one that you decorate. Don’t miss out on these beautiful Maine Wreaths!

UMW INFORMATION:

UMW ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK BANQUET -- All women of the church are invited to attend the United Methodist Women’s Annual Christmas Potluck Banquet on **Tuesday, December 1st, at 6:00 p.m.** Please bring a dish to share - main dish, salad, bread, or dessert and be prepared for a fun evening to start off the Christmas season. The program will be presented by Maine author, Bobbi Lachance, who will speak about her book, Wishes. The business meeting will be short - election of officers and acceptance of the 2010 budget. If you have questions, please speak to Lucille Webber, UMW President.

UMW Circle Meetings:

Naomi Circle - **Tuesday, December 15th, at 1:15 p.m.**

(Leader: Shirley Keene, Tel: 782-1334)

Ruth Circle - **Tuesday, December 15th, at 6:00 p.m. at Chickadee Restaurant in Lewiston.**

(Leader: Lucille Webber, Tel: 998-5234)

PLEASE NOTICE CHANGE!:

What: Bean and Casserole Supper

When: **Saturday, November 28th**

Menu: Beans, casseroles, hot dogs, cole slaw, breads, and pie.

HANGING OF THE GREENS: Please plan to join us on **Sunday, November 29th**, right after the worship service for the annual “Hanging of the Greens” as we prepare our sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Children and adults alike are welcome to participate. Please sign up to indicate that you are available to help. Thank you for your support.

PIES! PIES! PIES!:

The Outreach Committee is once again hosting the PIE SOCIAL following the Christmas Concert on **Friday, December 4th, at 7:00 p.m.** We need pies, pies, and more pies! Last year we served more than 250 people – a wonderful outreach to our community and to our congregation, and a great way to start the holiday season. Please sign up to bake or donate a pie or two for us. The sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex. **Pies need to be dropped off in the church kitchen anytime Thursday afternoon or evening (December 3rd), or anytime Friday the 4th, if possible.** Please leave pies on the counter and cream pies in the refrigerator. Thank you!

MEN’S BREAKFAST:

When: **Saturday, December 5th, at 7:30 a.m.**

Where: Auburn UMC.

Please be sure to add your name to the sign-up sheet so we will know how many to expect to feed!

FREE CONVERSATION SERIES AT CLOVER HEALTH CARE:

What: Conversation Series About Memory Loss and Dementia

When: **3 – 4:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month.**

Where: Clover Health Care, 440 Minot Avenue, Auburn

Cost: No Charge

Facilitator: Bonnie Iwans, LSW

Conversation Topic: *Holidays: A Time for Sharing.*

Date: **December 9, 2009.**

For more information, phone the Maine Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association in Portland at (207) 772-0115, OR, check out the website at <http://www.alz.org/maine>

MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The next Missions Committee meeting will be on **Sunday, December 13th, at 11:30 a.m.** Beginning in 2010, the Missions Committee will meet on the 4th Sunday of each month – the first being on January 24th.

SENIOR CITIZENS AND FRIENDS LUNCHEON:

When: **Tuesday, December 15, 2009.**

Entertainment: *EL Chamber Choir* at 11:30 a.m.

Menu: Roast turkey breast, stuffing, mashed potato, cranberry sauce, squash, peas, and pie.

Please be sure to sign up with your reservations before we are all full up!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH MITCH THOMAS AND FRIENDS:

You won’t want to miss “An Advent Afternoon of Christmas Music” with Mitch Thomas and Friends. The concert features soloists: Kristen Thomas, Katie St. Pierre and Caroline Young Coffin; bassist, Jeff Munson; pianist, John Twitchell; drummer, Rick Smith; guitarist, Neil James; and organists, Norma Rice-Gould and John Whitmore. The annual event will be held on **Saturday, December 19th, at 2:30 p.m.** at the Auburn United Methodist Church. This is a FREE Concert!

TRINITY SOUP KITCHEN MILK FUND: Nearly 15 years ago our congregation agreed to pay for all of the milk that is purchased at the Trinity Soup Kitchen. The intention was that donations would be solicited from the congregation and the Missions Committee would provide the remainder from the Mission budget. The cost per week is \$28.50. We will report each week how much money has been received. Thank you for your support. Donations by cash can be put in the milk fund container located on the table in the narthex.

Checks can be placed in your weekly offering or mailed to the church. Please be sure to note that the money is designated for the “Trinity Milk Fund.”

Needed each week: \$28.50

Received on 11/15/09: \$34.41

Year-to-date: \$364.82

FOOD PANTRY IS BUSIER THAN EVER!!

The need at the High Street Food Pantry is greater than ever. *We are especially in need of canned vegetables, canned fruit, soup, and tuna.* The High Street Pantry is a collaboration among our church, High Street, West Auburn Congregational, and St. Michael’s Episcopal Church. Please put your donations in the grocery cart outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your support! *Eric Howes, Food Pantry Coordinator*

NAME TAGS: Please be sure to use your name tag every Sunday so that we can know who you are! Name tags are now available on the board to the right of the entrance to the sanctuary. If you do not as yet have a name tag, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Please indicate your desire to have one and one will be provided. Please note that we have name tags for the children as well which are located on the right wall as you go into the Sunday School wing. The children’s name tags are organized by class and alphabetized – please be sure that your child returns their name tag to the board!

TIME TO UPDATE: If you would like to have your family’s birthday/anniversary information added to the church’s list, which appears each month in the Beacon, please contact the Church Office at 782-3972 or office@auburnmethodist.org.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!!! Third Thursday 9:30 a.m. – Noon

The food pantry very much needs a new regular volunteer for the *third Thursday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to noon.* Can you help? If so, please give me a call at 786-3783 or send me an e-mail at howes@roadrunner.com. Our current regular volunteers are Lois Beechum, Avis Baird, and Clayton Manson. For information about being a food pantry volunteer please speak with one of them, Betty or Donna, or one of our fill-in volunteers such as Dick Babb and Janet Irish. As you probably know, the food pantry is a project involving our church, High Street, West Auburn Congregational, and St. Michael’s Episcopal Church. Each week there are three volunteers who run the pantry. Additionally, other volunteers shop for food at Good Shepherd Food Bank, organize shelves, pick up and deliver of federal food, maintain records, etc. Keeping the pantry open once a week takes many hands. And right now if you are available we need yours on the third Thursday of the month. Thank you for your consideration.

Eric Howes

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Volunteers are needed for the Trinity Soup Kitchen on the **3rd Sunday of each month from 4:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.** Join us at 247 Bates Street, Lewiston. For Sunday evening's Soup Kitchen, contact person is now Marcia Baxter at Tel: (207) 784-2429.

PEW OFFERING ENVELOPES: Pew offering envelopes are available in the pew racks for your use. If you have forgotten your offering envelope or do not have offering envelopes, please feel free to use the pew envelopes.

THE UPPER ROOM Daily Devotional Guide: Issues for the all-new *January – February, 2010*, are available right now. These booklets are provided for you free of charge and may be found in the bookrack on the left before entering the sanctuary. These are offered in both extra-large type and regular-sized print – please take one for your personal use.

SUNDAY SERVICE VIDEOTAPES: We are taping almost all of the Sunday worship services. They can be found on the table in the narthex. Please be sure to sign them out and back in once returned.



**SO DO NOT WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW,
FOR TOMORROW WILL BRING WORRIES OF ITS OWN.
TODAY'S TROUBLE IS ENOUGH FOR TODAY.**

Matthew 6:34

The United Methodist Church of Auburn 782-3972
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Rev. Richard A. Cullen, parsonage 782-7484
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Gladys Chapman, Preschool Director
Diane Nadeau, Secretary
Peter Poliquin, Custodian
Norma Rice-Gould, Organist
Sarah Dow, Choir Director
William Buzza, Bell Choir Director
Mitch Thomas, Saturday Worship Service Music Coordinator
Lucille Webber, Congregational Nurse
Maynard Chapman, Treasurer
Sue Lajoie, Financial Secretary
Jim Sargent, Beacon Editor (E-mail: jsargent@megalink.net)

*As a reconciling congregation, we are part of a nation-wide network of churches who believe that all of God's people are of sacred worth. We recognize the great diversity of people to be not only part of God's plan but one of God's greatest gifts as well. We believe that part of our mission as reconciling Christians is to raise awareness of the issues surrounding diversity and to work for social justice. We believe that in doing so, we more fully embody the United Methodist Church's mission to open our hearts, open our minds, and open our doors to all people. We invite you to come in, worship, and know that you are welcome and loved exactly as you are.

STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY

All persons are of sacred worth. As brothers and sisters in Christ we covenant to follow his example of unconditional love, compassion, and justice in our mission and ministry. Therefore, we continue to welcome and nurture the full participation of people of every age, cultural heritage and ethnic origin, sexual orientation, economic status, faith background, family structure, gender, gender identity, marital status, race, social standing, and varying capability.

SUNDAY, November 22nd – FOOD FOR THANKSGIVING BASKETS DUE TODAY!

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS	11:00 a.m.	Children's Choir
9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal	11:15 a.m.	Coffee & Conversation
NO Adult SS	11:30 a.m.	Pageant Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship Service/ <u>NO</u> SS	6:00 p.m.	Jr./Sr. Youth Group @HERE

MONDAY, November 23rd –	6:00 p.m.	Bells Rehearse
a.m. Life Coach appts.	7:00 p.m.	Serenity Fellowship
1:00 p.m. GS Troop #1146	7:30 p.m.	AA / Alanon

TUESDAY, November 24th -

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. PICK-UP FOR THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS!

a.m. Life Coach appts.	5:30 p.m.	4 Park Avenue
10:00 a.m. Lego Robotics	6:00 p.m.	GS Troop #634

WEDNESDAY, November 25th –

a.m. Life Coach appts.		
7:15 a.m. Rotary Breakfast	6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
9:00 a.m. Caron Art Class	6:30 p.m.	Private Men's Group

THURSDAY, November 26th – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

1:00 p.m. Church Thanksgiving Dinner



FRIDAY, November 27th – PASTOR'S SABBATH (Church Closed)

NO Music Together 6:30 p.m. BS Troop 111

SATURDAY, November 28th -

4:00 p.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Music Together
5:00 p.m. Public Bean Supper

SUNDAY, November 29th – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal	11:30 a.m.	Pageant Rehearsal
9:00 a.m. Adult SS	11:30 a.m.	Kids4Christ Youth Group
10:00 a.m. Worship Service/ SS	11:30 a.m.	Hanging of the Greens
11:00 a.m. Children's Choir	2:00 p.m.	Norma's Xmas Music Recital
11:15 a.m. Coffee & Conversation	6:00 p.m.	Jr./Sr. Youth Group @HERE
