

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF AUBURN
SUNDAY, December 27, 2009
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
10:00 a.m.**

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

PRE SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please indicate your presence by signing the pew pad)

PRELUDE:

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Christ is born!

PEOPLE: Christ is born!

Leader: Because of this birth, life is full of promise for you and for me. Life is full of promise for our community.

PEOPLE: We celebrate today the presence of God's promise in our midst.

Leader: The promise of a small child coming into a crowded, hurting world, and growing to be a liberator.

ALL: It's the promise of you and me, struggling and stumbling together, growing and celebrating, reaching out to make a new presence in our world. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE:** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" UMH No. 224

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER: (In Unison)

O Christmas God – the tinsel falls, the year turns, and the carols fade. The blessing of Bethlehem that touched all the gray in our lives with star silver is past. We read that the holy child grew and became strong and God's favor was with him. In this string of nameless days we long for just such steady becoming – for renewal amid the routine, for courage in current events, for the assurance of God's presence beyond our holidays and into the wintering times of our lives. 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:

"Like a Child"

TFWS No. 2092

(Please remain seated)

EPISTLE LESSON:

Colossians 3:12 - 17

NT, Page 190

***ACT OF PRAISE:**

Psalm 148

UMH Nos. 861 and 862
(Sung response)

ANTHEM:

"African Alleluia"
(by Benjamin Harlan)

The Wesleyan Singers

GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 2:41 - 52

NT, Pages 55 and 56

SERMON:

"Jesus' (un)Eventful Childhood"

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

*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)

Your goodness, O God, has satisfied us with abundance beyond our deserving. The return on your investment in us is not adequate to express our thanks. Use our lives as channels of your grace. May our individual efforts and the combined outreach we can accomplish together turn mourning into joy and hopelessness into purposeful living. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE

*HYMN: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" UMH No. 251

BENEDICTION: (Please be seated)

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

CHORAL BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE**

***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:

QUENT HALL
SIERRA GARY

LITURGIST NEXT SUNDAY:
ACOLYTE NEXT SUNDAY:

PAM MacDONALD
CODY MALPASS

USHERS FOR
THIS SERVICE ARE:

Lois Beechum, Bruce MacDonald, and
Janet and Joel Irish

WE WELCOME you to our worship service during this Christmas 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.



Attendance last Saturday, December 19th: 38
Attendance last Sunday, December 20th: 201

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!

Thank you to Mike Gould for arranging such a beautiful display of the holiday flowers once again this year! We are very fortunate to have your professional eye, Mike – thank you!

FRONT LAWN CRECHE: Have you noticed the new crèche scene on the front lawn of the church? It is a gift of the Men's Group and was made by Joel Irish with painting help from some of our scouts (along with Don Malpass). Many thanks for this wonderful addition to our Christmas witness!

SEEKING SCRIPTURE READERS: If you would like to participate in the worship program but have not yet been invited to act as liturgist, please add your name and contact information to the sign-up list in the Fellowship Hall. Marjorie Smith, our wonderful recruiter, will be in touch with those who would be willing to fill this position (as she needs volunteers) to find out what date you might be available. Anyone; whether you attend services every week, once a month, or twice a year, may read scripture – Ms. Smith would like to speak with you. What a special way to contribute to your church!

TODAY - SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

Today there will be NO Children's Sunday School. Godly Play Only.

PARENTS: Please visit the Sunday School bulletin board (on the wall between the lounge and Pastor Rich's office) for pictures and information relating to this month's theme of Advent.

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, December 27th.**
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, **January 17th, at 11:30 a.m.** after church.

UMW INFORMATION:

SPECIAL DATES: Tuesday, January 5th, at 6:30 p.m. (UMW Executive Board)
Sunday, January 24th – UMW SUNDAY, Officers Installation

UMW Circle Meetings:

Naomi Circle - **NO** meetings in January or February.
(Leader: Shirley Keene, Tel: 782-1334).

Ruth Circle - **Tuesday, January 19th, at 7:00 p.m.**
(Co-Chairwomen: Sue DeRoche and Janice Meserve)

MEN'S BREAKFAST:

When: Saturday, January 9th, of 2010 at 7:30 a.m.

Where: Here at Auburn United Methodist Church.

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: *Family Dynamics and Alzheimer's Disease.*

Date: January 13, 2010.

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>

PUBLIC BEAN SUPPER:

When: Saturday, January 16, 2010, at 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$7.00 per person.

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

Bring your family and friends!

POTLUCK LUNCHEON:

When: Sunday, January 17th, 2010 after worship.

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Hall and let us know what dish you will be bringing to share with everyone. It will be a great opportunity to catch up with each other after the busyness of the holidays. Hope to see you!

SCRAPBOOKING DAY:

When: Saturday, February 27th, 2010 (9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

Where: Here at church in the Fellowship Hall.

Who: Youth Mission Team

Cost: \$25.00 per person (lunch will be provided!).

There will be:

- Beginners classes
- Card making
- Door prizes
- Goodie bags

It is sure to be a great time for a great cause – the Youth Mission Trip to Maryland this Summer!

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 12/20/09:	\$155.38	
Year-to-date:		\$596.27

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 Hawes, 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.

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.



**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

Psalm 95.02

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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, December 27th –

9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal	<u>NO</u>	Children’s Choir
NO	Adult SS	<u>NO</u>	Coffee & Conversation
10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/ <u>NO SS</u>	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group

MONDAY, December 28th – PASTOR RICH IS OFF

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

TUESDAY, December 29th -

a.m.	Life Coach appts.	10:00 a.m.	Lego Robotics
		5:30 p.m.	4 Park Avenue

WEDNESDAY, December 30th –

a.m.	Life Coach appts.	6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
7:15 a.m.	Rotary Breakfast	6:30 p.m.	Private Men’s Group

THURSDAY, December 31st –

NO	Bible Study	PASTOR’S SABBATH
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FRIDAY, January 1st – ENJOY A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

(church office closed)

SATURDAY, January 2nd -

1 – 4 p.m.	Jewelry Party
4:00 p.m.	Worship (HOLY COMMUNION)

SUNDAY, January 3rd – HOLY COMMUNION

9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal	11:15 a.m.	Coffee & Conversation
NO	Adult SS	11:30 a.m.	Nurture Committee
10:00 a.m.	Worship Service/SS	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group
11:00 a.m.	Children’s Choir		

REMINDER

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH IS FOOD CUPBOARD SUNDAY.

We have developed this list to help with the selection of items needed at the Food Cupboard at the High Street Congregational Church. You may leave your donation in the basket near the sanctuary. Thank you. The Missions Committee.

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|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Spaghetti Sauce – 12 oz. | Canned Fruit |
| Spaghetti | Canned Spaghetti w/Meatballs |
| Rice Meals | Beef Stew |
| Macaroni & Cheese Dinners | Chicken Stew |
| Dry Soups | Chowder |
| Beans – Baked Style | Canned Vegetables |
| Canned Soups | Peanut Butter |
| Jelly | Jell-O |
| Cereal | Tuna Fish |
| Crackers | Canned or Powdered Milk |
| Baby Food | Canned Meat |
| Hand Soap | Laundry Soap |
| Toilet Paper | Paper Towels |
| Bleach | Disposable Diapers |