

Aurora First United Methodist Church

October, 2018
Worship 10:15

From Heart to Heart, House to House, Town to Town, One Kingdom to Another

A Note from our Pastor

This October let us thank God for our roots. We thank God that, as members of Aurora First UMC, we have **"received Jesus Christ the Lord, we walk in him, and are rooted and built up in him"** (Col 2:6-7). We also thank God for rooting us in a congregation that is rooted in the teaching of Grace alone, Faith alone, and Scripture alone, and in rooting us in Christ alone.

For many people, October 31st is a day to dress up in costumes and go from door to door asking for candy. For many Christians, October 31st or the last Sunday in October is Reformation Day. On this day we celebrate God's work through his servant, Martin Luther, to preserve the message of the gospel as the free gift of God's grace in Jesus Christ through faith alone.

On October 31st, 1517 tradition holds that Martin Luther nailed 95 theses or disputes on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. The theses were written against the teachings of indulgences, purgatory, and other beliefs and practices of the church that were inconsistent with the clear teaching of the Bible. The church was selling God's gift of forgiveness of sins that was intended to be free! Luther took his reform movement outside of the church in order to preserve the true teachings of Scripture. The Reformation movement and indeed the whole Christian church are founded on the following biblical teachings:

Grace alone: At the center of the Christian faith is the assurance that salvation is based on the unearned free gift of God's grace. Though we are sinners, disobedient children, deserving of God's wrath and anger, we receive the riches of his love and forgiveness.

Faith alone: God's gift of grace is received through faith in what Jesus has done for us. Our good works and the good things that we do flow out of having a right relationship with God, but these good things don't have the power to make us right with God. **"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast"** (Eph. 2:8-9). This is the teaching that separates Christianity from all other world religions. Other religions point to what we have to do in order to be made right with God. Christianity points to what Jesus has done for us to make us right with God.

Scripture alone: The Bible is the inspired Word of God. It alone is the source for what we believe and what we practice in the Christian church. All other gifts that God has given to us and to the church such as tradition, experience, and human reason function to serve our understanding of the Holy Scriptures. Moreover, the Scriptures are used to judge the validity of these things, not the other way around.

Christ alone :Our basis and assurance of salvation is the person of Jesus Christ, his life, death, and resurrection. Christianity is both inclusive and exclusive. **"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"** (John 3:16). Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6).

During the month of October I encourage you to take some time to remember Reformation Day the core teachings of Christianity that were preserved by God through Martin Luther. Be comforted by the fact that God continues to work through particular people in particular places to turn people from sin and wrong doing so that they might take refuge in Jesus Christ alone. Take comfort in the truth that God continues to turn you from sin and wrong doing and preserve your life in Jesus Christ alone through his holy Word and Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

As Luther said in verse two of his famous hymn, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*: “*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth, his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.*” (UMH #110)

Pastor Elaine

16th-century guidance for today

How can we know whether we're following God's will? Sometimes we act, only to see in hindsight that we caused harm. Or self-righteousness blinds us to the good guidance of others.

St. Ignatius of Loyola pondered the difficulty of aligning our actions to God's ways. He taught the need for “discernment of spirits” — examining internal thoughts and emotions to see if they originate with and lead to God. Ignatius called it “consolation” when he felt loved by God and eager to care for people in need, and “desolation” when something left him full of darkness and fear that moved him away from God and neighbor.

Think of a time you made a decision and then felt peaceful, full of light, convinced it was “right.” And when have you done something despite feeling tangled in knots about it, and perhaps later felt worse? Life isn't always so clear-cut, but the more we practice discernment, the better we will recognize and follow God's will.

Make it count!

This is our time on the history line of God. This is it. What will we do with the one deep exhale of God on this earth? For we are but a vapor and we have to make it count. We're on. Direct us, Lord, and get us on our feet.

—Beth Moore
Newsletter Newsletter



Life of our Church...

Church Worship Leaders...

October 7th: Liturgist: R.Moorhead
Greeter: J. Hart
Usher: S. Hart
Communion: Elder

October 14th: Liturgist: J. Hizer
Greeter: J. Whitaker
Usher: B. Nocks

October 21st: Liturgist: D. Fehling
Greeter: J. Hubbartt
Usher: S. Hubbartt

October 28th: Liturgist: J. Hart
Greeter: A. Elder
Usher: D. Elder

Worship Service Attendance

September 2nd: 32
September 9th: 31
September 16th: 30
September 23rd: 34
September 30th: N/A

Offering Received:

September 2nd: \$2,966.00
September 9th: \$933.00
September 16th: \$1,131.00
September 23rd: \$1,020.00
September 30th: N/A

Average giving 4 weeks: \$1,512.50

Gifts received and given in July:

Communion offering: \$148.00 (Received)
(Our gift to St.Vincent dePaul)
Clearing House: \$50.00 (Given)

**If you are unable to serve on the date assigned, will you please contact someone to switch with you and notify the church office, THANK YOU!*

From your Trustees...

Progress!!!!

- ◆ Stairlift is installed, inspected, in use!!!! New handrail to be installed very soon.
- ◆ Old World Plasters scaffold is in place, the back pews are carefully covered and they have begun reconstructing the ceiling molding and all that was damaged by the recent leak which has been repaired and thoroughly tested by the recent 'monsoon season' we have had!
- ◆ Plumber has been contracted and will begin updating the plumbing in Fellowship Hall to allow for the new kitchenette area there and will check for any plumbing work needed in the basement kitchen area.

The addition of an ADA unisex bathroom on the main floor still on the "radar screen" but project completions are good!

Your Trustees



The Aurora Ecumenical Church Association
has discerned God's call for unity in prayer.

We will join together monthly at 7pm.

**We will Praise and Worship
We will Pray**

**...for our Community
...for our Nation
...for our World**

**Thursday, October 4th at 7PM, at The Life
Church on Conwell Street**

***Surely then you will find delight in the Almighty
and will lift up your face to God. You will pray to
him, and he will hear you, and you will fulfill your
vows. What you decide on will be done, and light
will shine on your ways. Job 22:26-28***

One-Liners

Be a rainbow in someone else's
cloud."

—Maya Angelou

"When I was young, I admired
clever people. Now that I am old, I
admire kind people."

—Abraham Heschel

"Compassion is language the deaf
can hear and the blind can see."

—Mark Twain

"By swallowing evil words unsaid,
no one has ever harmed his stomach."

—Winston Churchill

"I find television very educational.
Every time someone switches it on, I go
into another room and read a book."

—Groucho Marx

"Instead of putting others in their
place, try putting yourself in their
place."

—Author unknown

*JoyfulNoiseletter.com

"Looking back over a lifetime, you see that love was the answer to everything."

—Ray Bradbury

"A diamond is merely a lump of coal that did well under pressure."

—Henry Kissinger

"Change always comes bearing gifts."

—Price Pritchett

"The more we pray, the more we come to the heartbeat of God."

—Richard J. Foster

In our thoughts and prayers...

Our prayer list of friends and families...*Jim & Barbara Scott, Tammie Howard, Leslie Joyce, Mary Schewe, Dottie Fedroff, Nancy & Glendal Stork, Joan & Fred Fehling, Cary Eichel, Melinda Walker Edgerton, Danny Martin, John Harrington, Monica Haller, Caity Whitaker, John Hubbart, Matt Whitaker, Amzy Gray, Tom Yauba, Neresa Moore, Ron Bradford, Megan Reidel, Mel Green, Josh Hensley, Larry Starker, Bill Butte, Gabe Amsperger, Allen Weiss, Leisha Workman, Kenny Peters, Casius Slayback, Sharon White, Meredith Carp, Chris Jameson, Lisa Lee, Jaxson Salisbury, Mike Terrell, Mike Ross, Nancy Ross, Cheryl Edwards, Kevin Brayshaw, Cory Lewis, Michelle BeCraft, Nielen Hansen, John Palmer, John Cox, Cory Lewis.*

Those with unspoken cares and concerns...

Those having recently lost loved ones...

Teachers and students...

Care givers...

The Heroin/Drug Epidemic in our community and county...

Our Military troops and their families... *Will Calkins, Cainan Baxter, Will Baxter, Robert Young, Oliver Bugariski, Gary Good, Sarah Boyken.*

Our Church, our Council of Bishops, Jurisdictional Council and all UM Bishops.

Those in Assisted Living, Nursing Homes and Care Centers...*Jim Blair Sr., Bob Ernsting, Jeanette McIntosh, Delores Tandy, Earnie Worthington, LaVerne Whitham, Larry Starker, Martha Kaiser, Marge Arthur, Rick Strzynski, Bernie Skidmore, Virginia Knippenberg, Pat Clark, Kevin Adams, Mary Ball*

Shut ins...*Bob Myers, Jerry Stonebraker, Jean Witte*

Missions...**Local:** AA, NA, CASA, Heart House, St. Vincent DePaul, Clearinghouse, YES Home, Parent Cafes... **United Methodist:** Red Bird Mission, Mountain Mission, UMCOR

(If you know of someone in need of prayer, PLEASE let the church office know...likewise, if you have placed a name on our list or know of someone on our list that has received healing PLEASE let us know that we might celebrate with them that they are feeling better and remove their name from the current list at least for a time. THANK YOU!)

One Liner's:

"Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud." Maya Angelou

"Compassion is language the deaf and hear and the blind can see." Mark Twain

"Instead of putting others in their place, try putting yourself in their place." Author unknown

"By swallowing evil words unsaid, no one has ever harmed his stomach." Winston Churchill

Thank you...

- Thank you Shelly Hubbartt for the beautiful Fall decorations at our front door! Pumpkins, gourds, corn stalks, bale of straw...awesome!!!!
- Thanks to everyone who took their time to help man the Farmers' Fair parking lot on George Street during the fair and to Aurora Terminal for allowing us to use their space! This project was started by Jim Blair Sr. many years ago and special thanks this year to his kids for seeing that this project continues.
- Thanks to our members who set up (and took down) the chairs for parade watchers Saturday morning and for all the cookies donated to accompany the coffee and soft drinks that morning!
- Thanks to Debbie Fehling for the new "Change the World" jar in the back of the Sanctuary.

Don't forget...

The Crop Walk Sunday, October 21st starting at AFUMC at 2 p.m. Enjoy a Sunday afternoon walk through town. Monies raised by this annual walk are a side benefit to the fun and exercise you get! See Ellaine for all the information....

Our **Fall Rummage Sale** will be Friday and Saturday, November 2nd and 3rd!!!! Start laying aside the articles you no longer use and would like to donate and let Janet Hart or the Church office if you would like to have something picked up! Hours of the sale will be in next month's newsletter...

October Lectionary...

October 7th - (20th Sunday after Pentecost)
Mark 10: 2-16

October 14th - (21st Sunday after Pentecost)
Mark 10: 17-31

October 21st - (22nd Sunday after Pentecost)
Mark 10: 35-45

October 28th - (23rd Sunday after Pentecost)
Mark 10: 46-52



PHILLIP'S FLOCK by Doc Goodwin



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Stick with it!



Infinite treasure

The present moment is always full of infinite treasure. It contains far more than you can possibly grasp. Faith is the measure of its riches: what you find in the present moment is according to the measure of your faith. Love also is the measure: the more the heart loves, the more it rejoices in what God provides.

The will of God presents itself at each moment like an immense ocean that the desire of your heart cannot empty; yet you will drink from that ocean according to your faith and love.

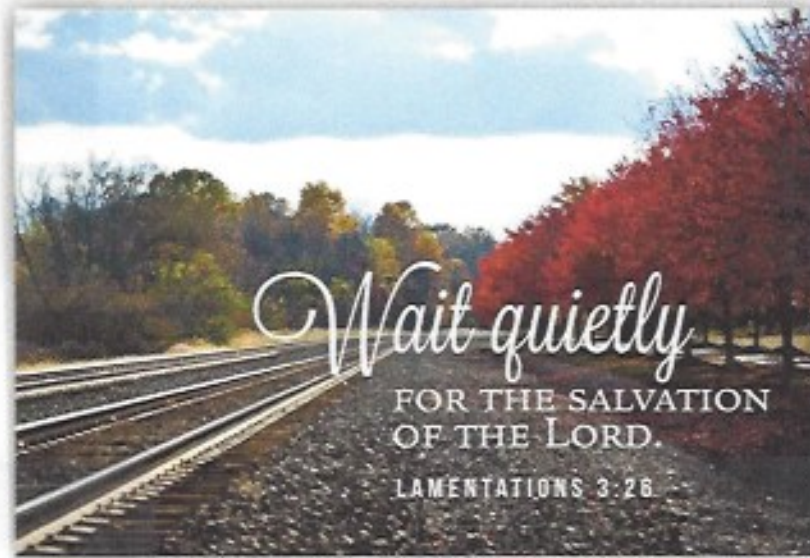
—Jean-Pierre de Caussade

"If I've learned anything about friendship, it's to hang in, stay connected," says journalist Jon Katz. "Don't walk away, don't be distracted, don't be too busy or tired, don't take them for granted. Friends are part of the glue that holds life and faith together."

This applies to church life too. When we're annoyed by some aspect of congregational life or caught in conflict with other members, it's tempting to drift away to another church — or no church. Even when all is fine, we sometimes let church take a back seat. But our bonds with the family of God are "part of the glue that holds life and faith together." For the sake of the benefits we gain and give, may we "hang in [and] stay connected" with our church family. May we not "walk away [or] be distracted, ... be too busy or tired." May we not take one another for granted but thank God for this "glue" — even when things get a bit sticky!

October

2018



The Mission of the First United Methodist Church of Aurora is to...provide a welcoming environment for people to worship and gain fellowship with the Lord and to faithfully offer the message of Jesus Christ through word and action to our local and global community.

PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR:

Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

Website: aurorafirstumc.org

Church Phone: 812-926-0535
Pastor's Home Phone: 812-926-1472
Pastor's Cell Phone: 859-640-4638
Pastor's Email: ellaine.hussung@innumc.org

Pastor: Ellaine G. Hussung

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