

NOVEMBER 2020

THE EVANGEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF  **AUDUBON PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

GENEROUS BEGINNINGS

We believe in a generous God. God created world filled with so many good things and has worked wonders throughout history for our God. We are created in the image of this generous God. Generosity is a part of our spiritual DNA. To say it is more blessed to give than to receive is making a statement about our need to give to others so that we might be complete. This does not mean that giving is self-serving, but rather that in giving, we are made whole. In the book of Genesis, we read that humanity was created in the image of God. When we give, we are more completely living out the image of God that is within us.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 & 22 AT 10:30 AM AS WE EXPLORE OUR GENEROUS BEGINNINGS.



Rev. Geoff Helton

Lead Pastor

geoff@audubonparkumc.org
[fb.com/geoffhelton](https://www.facebook.com/geoffhelton)



One of the main ways that we're communicating as a church during the Coronavirus pandemic is Pastor Geoff's weekly email.

You'll get a short message from Pastor Geoff each week and hear more about church what's happening at the church.

To sign-up email pastor Geoff at geoff@audubonparkumc.org

or go to our website:
[www.audubonparkumc.org/
connect/pastors-e-note](http://www.audubonparkumc.org/connect/pastors-e-note)

If you've signed up and still aren't receiving our emails, we recommend that you check your spam folder.

FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

As October ends and November begins we enter the Holiday Season here in the United States. The holidays season brings a spotlight to our losses. Whether it's the loss of a loved one or the losses we're all experiencing due to the pandemic.

As I write this, my girls are trying on their Halloween costumes but our family won't be trick or treating this year. We had plans to travel to Portland to spend Thanksgiving with my wife's family but that's been canceled and we'll have a much smaller celebration with just my wife, my girls, and I. We don't know how the pandemic will effect our Christmas celebrations yet but I can't image that Christmas will look anything like normal.

The holidays will be so very different this year, and yet this provides us with an opportunity to focus on the true spirit of the holidays. Rather than focusing on the candy, this year we'll be working to spend the day as a family. We'll be dressing up in our costumes, watch movies, play games. While we will certainly miss the opportunity to gather with family, this year our Thanksgiving celebrations may be a great opportunity to truly reflect on how many reasons we have to give thanks to God. This Christmas, we probably won't be rushing around to crowded stores to buy presents or journeying to crowded airports, but maybe this will make room for us to focus on preparing our hearts for the coming of the newborn King.

So while things may be different this holiday season, may we keep our eyes open for the new thing God might be doing this year. May we reclaim these holidays from consumerism and frantic activity to a time of sabbath and celebration. In this spirit, I wish you all the happiest of holidays.

Grace & Peace
-Pastor Geoff



Do Not Be Afraid

FACING OUR FEARS

WITH THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS

AN ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES BEGINNING ON NOVEMBER 29TH

These words -- "do not be afraid" -- are the hallmark of the Gospel. Throughout the Old and New Testaments they signal the coming rescue of God. This promise inspires courage, trust, and faith. These words are prominent in the story of Christ's birth. The angel Gabriel greets Mary with these words in the quiet of her home and heavenly host addresses the shepherds with them as they keep watch by night. They are also the words the angel of the Lord uses at the end of Jesus's Earthly Life when he encourages the women who came seeking Jesus in the tomb.

When our world is shaken, it's easy for fear to spread. But God promises to be with us no matter what comes our way. In times of uncertainty, it's more important than ever to trust in God's promises, presence, and love. Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30am this advent for meaningful worship that confronts our fear and inspires us to trust in the God who came to us at Christmas.



Rev. Glenn Kennedy

Associate Pastor of
Congregational Care

glenn@audubonparkumc.org

FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE PASTOR

Dear Friends

Pastor Geoff's recent sermon on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) sparked a memory moment for me that I will pass along.

In the mid-1980s, our family was busy doing life. Carol had begun working on a teaching degree, our three kids were all in school, and I was pastoring two small churches and keeping my horse breeding project going. We lived in a little neighborhood of suburban "farm-etts."

Across the road from us was a family of five whose kids were around the ages of ours, and so there was some back and forth between us. Their oldest lad, Joey, was about fifteen when this story took place. Joey had

the body of an adult. As a matter of fact, he was built kind of like those old Blacksmiths you see pictures of...but he had suffered some fairly serious brain damage at birth that left him more like a young child in many ways. We never knew when Joey might come over for a visit. If we had a youth group function or a church picnic going on in our back yard, chances are pretty good Joey would make an appearance. Monday was my day off, and if Joey wasn't in school, I could about count on a visit at some point.

On this particular Monday, I had the Ferrier come to trim the feet of a couple of colts. It was their first trim...that, in itself, is adventure enough. We had no sooner gotten started when Joey came running over, climbed up on the fence to watch, and to offer 'helpful' suggestions. Suddenly, the fence (which I had planned to work on later that day) gave way. Joey and various splintered boards hit the ground with a loud crash. The colt we were trimming did his best equine interpretation of the cow who jumped over the moon (the Ferrier and I playing the part of the moon!). Needless to say, I wasn't real happy with Joey and managed to persuade him to go back to his place till we were done.

We finished our trimming – I went in for some lunch...then after lunch came back out to attend to the needed fence repairs. At the first sound of hammer on nails- here comes Joey happily waving his hammer in the air, insisting on helping. "Okay, Joey, we'll give it a try...be careful not to bend the nails or split the ends of the boards...real slow and easy now..." Joey didn't do "slow and easy." Bent nails and split board ends were adding up quickly. Finally, I called a halt to the exercise and tried to nicely hint that Joey's time could be better used at his house. Joey did not do "hint's" very well. Finally, I became downright stern... "Joey, I want you to go on home...NOW!" Joey paused from the board he was working on...dropped his hammer, walked over to me...threw his big arms

around me, and said, "oh Glenn, it's all right, I can still help, what are neighbors for?!" With that, my heart melted; suddenly, the bent nails and split boards didn't matter so much. I said, "grab your hammer and get back to work. We've got to get this finished before supper time, and next Monday, you can help me paint it!"

I reread Jesus' list of Beatitudes three or four times in a couple of days after Pastor Geoff's sermon. Each time, I stopped and took a minute to remember and give thanks for my friend and neighbor Joey when I came to the 6th Beatitude (Matthew 5:8)

"Blessed are those who have pure hearts because they will see God."

Joey's pure heart helped me to see God a little clearer, a little better, that day. He had such a "pure heart" that even a reprimand was heard as an invitation. No wonder Jesus seemed to love children so much.

A few years later, I was assigned to another parish halfway across the state. We were gone from the Spokane area for nine years. Shortly after returning, we were eating Sunday lunch at the old Grannies Buffet in north Spokane. I looked up from my lunch to see a big bull of a man hurrying toward me... he'd been bussing tables... It was Joey! He hugged me tight, asked about each of our kids by name, grinning ear to ear. Again, my heart was truly warmed. Again, I caught a fresh glimpse of God. Thank you Lord... thank you Joey, for being such a good neighbor!

"Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God." (and help others see God too!)

*Blessings,
- Pastor Glenn*



Tesla and Elizabeth shared pictures of themselves with their new third grade bibles! The church also gave bibles to two other members of the Sunday School class: Luke and Lyric.

This is just one of the ways that we nurture faith in our young people. Thank you for the many ways that you support the youth and children of our church!

Youth Ministry Upcoming Events

Youth Sunday School Schedule: Youth Sunday School (6th - 12th grade) will meet every Sunday online on Zoom from 9am - 10am. Contact Drew for the Zoom link.

SCAVENGER HUNT AND ...

Sunday, November 22nd, 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Youth Group will be meet in Kendall Yards near Central Food at the open area by the big red art. We will be walking on Centennial Trail, doing a scavenger hunt, and . . . Getting donuts from Hello Sugar!

ALL UMC ZOOM EVENT!!!

Sunday, November 29th, 2:00pm - 3:30pm

The youth at Audubon Park UMC will be joining up with other churches, pastors, and youth leaders in the Spokane area for an All Youth Zoom Event! This will be a great time to meet new people, play some fun games, and enjoy fellowship all in the comfort of your own home.

ATTENTION: For the safety of our youth and young adult helpers all participants will be required to wear a face mask for youth group events. Thank you in advance for your understanding during these uncertain times.

Contact Drew Homchick for more info:
drew@audubonparkumc.org.

MIDWEEK VESPERS & COMMUNION
WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM



ADVENT WREATH MATERIALS AVAILABLE

It's likely that we will not be able to worship together in person by the end of the year. So we want to encourage you to prepare an advent wreath so that you can light your wreath alongside us during worship.

You may already have a wreath. If so you'll want to make sure you have fresh candles. If you don't have a wreath, we encourage you to make one! We have some supplies (including a candle holder and candles) at the church that can help you. These supplies are first come, first serve so don't wait to contact us if you'd like one.

Contact Laura in the church office to arrange a time to pick one up. While not necessary, if you'd like to help us pay for these supplies we recommend a \$20 donation.

November

For more information on church meetings or events, please see the website, your group leader, or e-mail us at: office@audubonparkumc.org.

Sunday, 11/1

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday, 11/4

An Altar In the World with Pastor Glenn 1:00 pm.
Midweek Vespers & Communion 7:00 pm

Thursday, 11/5

Sermon on the Mount Pastor Geoff 7:00 pm

Sunday, 11/8

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

Tuesday, 11/10

Audubon Park Food Bank 8:30 -11:30 pm

Wednesday, 11/11

An Altar In the World with Pastor Glenn 1:00 pm.
Midweek Vespers & Communion 7:00 pm

Thursday, 11/12

Sermon on the Mount Pastor Geoff 7:00 pm

Sunday, 11/15

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday, 11/18

An Altar In the World with Pastor Glenn 1:00 pm.
Midweek Vespers & Communion 7:00 pm

Sunday, 11/22

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

Tuesday, 11/24

Audubon Park Food Bank 8:30 -11:30 pm

Wednesday, 11/25

An Altar In the World with Pastor Glenn 1:00 pm.
Midweek Vespers & Communion 7:00 pm

Thursday, 11/26 - Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, 11/29

Audubon Park Online Worship 10:30 am

November Birthdays

2 - Matt Enzler, Diane Strobeck
4- Vicki Mitchell, Barbara White, Kim Streeter
6- LaDonna Jacobs, Ted Schmidt
10- Mickey Moreau
11- Paul Cottrell
13- Matt Nicol
15- Dave Forsberg, Drew Homchick
24- Jim Anderson, Judy Hartman
29- Brenda Banks

November Anniversaries

21- bob & Mary Anne Kem
22- Glenn & Perri Charbonneau

A graphic for Sunday School Online. It features a stylized yellow church steeple with a purple roof and a heart-shaped window. The background is light blue with white clouds. The text "SUNDAY SCHOOL" is in large purple letters, and "Online" is in smaller blue letters below it.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Online

Children in Preschool to 5th Grade are invite to join us online for virtual Sunday School! WEEKLY ZOOM | Sundays at 9:00 AM!

- WEEKLY ZOOM | Sundays at 9:00 AM!
- WEEKLY ONLINE BIBLE LESSONS & VIDEOS

Go to our church website for more info!
[AUDUBONPARKUMC.ORG/GROW/KIDS-MINISTRY-ONLINE](https://audubonparkumc.org/grow/kids-ministry-online)
(The password is: johnwesley)

Address Service Requested

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