

Step Onto the Lenten Pathway...Wilderness: 'State of the Wild'

Lent begins in the wilderness. The Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness where he comes face to face with temptation and struggle. Yet, in his forty days of fasting, resisting, and wandering, Jesus is shaped and formed for ministry.

Similarly, through the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit. We rarely enter the wilderness willingly, but hopefully through our wandering we remember *who* we are and *whose* we are. The wilderness can become sacred even if it remains dangerous. There is no wilderness space too harsh or threatening to God's love.

This year's theme is: *'Wilderness: 'state of the wild'...*and we invite you to use the Lenten devotional booklet (a gift from the Worship Committee) available on the Welcome Table. Entitled, 'Wilderness'...this book includes art, poetry, reflections and also pages for your own thoughts and reflections as the season unfolds. Weekly themes include: *The Wilderness is Somewhere We've Been Before/The Wilderness is a Place of Beginnings/The Wilderness is a Place of Mystery & the Unknown...*among others.

Additionally, begonia plants will be available for the next two Sundays (Feb 18th & 25th). Through the solemnity of Lent there is ample proof of hope that comes to us in growth; clear evidence of God's ongoing acts of Creation. You are invited to nurture your plant over the coming weeks, returning it in blossom for Easter Sunday worship to brighten and enliven the sanctuary space,

This year's Zoom Lenten Study, *Act/Fast (Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis)* will begin **Wednesday, February 21st @ 7pm**. The Zoom link will be on our website this week. Resource books are available today from the Welcome Table, although you do not need the resource to participate.

Further Lenten resources can be found on the AUC website at: auroraunitedchurch.ca with new resources posted every week.

The Worship Committee wishes you a meaningful Lenten season.

Palm Sunday-March 24/Good Friday-March 29th/Easter Sunday-March 31st



Contacting Our Church Staff by Phone 905-727-1935 or Email

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Rev. Andy Comar x 22 Minister of Faith Formation & Pastoral Care
Suzanne Whitehurst x 21 Secretary
Trevor Gibbs x 24 Bookkeeper
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Aurora United Church

February 25, 2024~11 am

Church Office Hours 9 am ~ 12 pm (noon) Monday ~ Thursday

Aurora United Church Office 905-727-1935 x 21 ~ www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

Annual License w/Podcasting, no. A-718074 for Mar 01, 2023- Feb 28, 2024

Hearing assists available from the volunteer in the sound booth.



February 25th to March 3rd ~ Lent 2

Sun. Feb 25	11 am—Worship ~ Lent 2 11:15—Funday Sunday ~ children's program 2 pm—AgeCare Aurora ~ service
Mon. Feb 26	1 pm—UCW Grace ~ Historic Chapel
Tue. Feb 27	
Wed. Feb 28	10 am—Chartwell Hollandview ~ service 10 am—2 pm — Aurora Community Café ~ St Andrew's Presbyterian Church 5 pm—Welcome Table ~ Trinity Anglican 5:15 pm — 6:45 pm — Faith-A-Peal, Handbells ~ Sanctuary 7 pm—8:15pm — Bellissimo, Handbell 7 pm— Act/Fast Lent Study Group ~ Zoom
Thurs. Feb 29	11:30 am — 1 pm — Martha's Table ~ St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 7 pm — 8:30 pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
Sat. Mar. 2	9:30 am -10:30 am—Rise & Shine Breakfast ~ Binions Hall
Sun. Mar. 3	11 am - Worship ~ Lent 3 11:15—Funday Sunday ~ children's program



The AUC Rising From The Ashes capital fundraising campaign was launched following worship on Sunday January 28th. Laurie Irwin (LEI Consulting Inc.) and Mary Lynne Stewart (Mary Lynne Stewart and Associates – MLS), the consulting team who are providing the campaign planning and implementation made a presentation to the congregation. Brian North, chair of the EDGE Property Committee also updated the congregation on the status of the building project.

Check out the AUC website to watch the video presentation, view the PowerPoint presentation, read more about the campaign and see how you can make a donation today. Go to: <https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/news/auc-rising-from-the-ashes> or click on the AUC Rising From The Ashes scrolling banner

The Life and Work of our Congregation continues....



News From the Edge

Church Community Update February 2024

While winter is a time for sleep in nature, there is no sleep where our church construction is concerned.

Our construction teams have come a long way in securing tenders from the trades in preparation for each phase of construction, to ensure we meet our critical timelines. The Board of Trustees continue to keep a close eye on the funds available while releasing approvals as needed to keep things moving forward.

Here are some of the updates we are excited about:

The two elevator/stairway shafts, one being at the northwest corner of our footprint, and the other being at the southeast corner which will be in the Tower, rise up to complete the concrete work of our construction contracts.

The structural steel is the next big step forward and will commence early March. This is when the form of the church building will begin to be revealed.

If we engage our imaginations, we may see – the bones of the building forming and witness first hand – the Phoenix Rising!

The EDGE Property Committee (EPC) continues the work of monitoring the progress of the construction project. Recently, EPC has focused on the interior work for the identified priority areas of the church, and in doing so, assisting the efforts of the Fundraising Team.

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Lenten Study Group on Zoom



Lent is here; instead of giving something up, why not think about what you would like to learn from your journey this year? Grief, anxiety, hope, love, pain, despair, awe—many emotions are used to describe our relationship with all of Creation. What is your personal, physical, and spiritual relationship with God's Creation?

You do not need to have the book to join the study group!
Every Wednesday from February 21 to March 27
at 7:00 pm

Check out the AUC website for the Zoom link:
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/news/act-fast-lenten-study-group

Aurora Community Café
10 am—2 pm
Join us @
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

If you would like to volunteer contact Rev. Andy at:
andy@auroraunitedchurch.ca

Bookkeeper Position Vacancy

Share the opportunity.



See: <https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/news/bookkeeper-for-auc>



Save the Date
Saturday, April 20th,
10 am—2 pm

Donations:
Children's books, and only adult paper back.
Drop-off: Fri Apr. 19 4-7 & Sat Apr. 20 8-10am
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Save the date for the AGM - Sunday March 17,
following worship!



"The Joy of Growing Your Own Food!" Zoom event with Paul Zammit

Help impoverished Kenyan women in the slum community of Kibera to feed the orphaned children they have taken into their hearts and homes.

Support this special Zoom event with celebrity gardening expert, Paul Zammit. Learn how to grow food in whatever space you have- in a garden, on a patio, even a balcony!

Monday, Feb 26, 7:30 pm to 9 pm EST.

Presentation followed by Q & A.
Registration by Donation. (Suggested minimum \$25, but also a pay-what-you-can option).

Sponsored by Village of Love Canada.
For details and a secure donation link to CAP Network website, our mother charitable organisation,
CRA #88898 7500 RR0001, go to:
www.villageoflovecanada.org/grow-food



Welcoming Arms Lent Appeal

Sudden illness can profoundly affect a person's ability to earn a living, many who become ill are laid off, or forced to quite work because of the effects of treatment, leaving a family without food and necessities of life. 14% of seniors who live alone are living in poverty. Many of these people come to Welcoming Arms for assistance, food vouchers, toiletries and a listening ear. Aurora United Church is in partnership with six other churches in supporting Welcoming Arms, through financial assistance, volunteers, and providing toiletries each week.

How Can You Help...Toiletries

Drop off items Sunday or at the office M-R 9am-12.
For a full list see:

<https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/news/welcoming-arms-lent-appeal>



Sunday Morning Nursery

If you are interested in serving as a Nursery volunteer (ages teen to adult) contact the office at:
info@auroraunitedchurch.ca



Community of Faith Profile



As many of you are aware, Rev. Lorraine and Rev. Andy advised us at our last AGM meeting of their intention to retire in June of 2025. While we wish them heartfelt congratulations on their decision, as a congregation we now have work to do. Community of Faith Profile (CFP) Committee is seeking your input. This information will be used by the Search Committee that will be formed later this year. To help with this we are inviting you to take 10 minutes of your time to answer the two questions on the survey: <https://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca/news/community-of-faith-profile-committee>

Caring for Your Lenten/Easter Begonia

Wondering how you are going to keep your begonia bright and beautiful for the weeks of Lent in order to display it in the sanctuary on Easter morning? Here are a few tips, gleaned from our AUC plant experts: *keep in a bright spot, but not too bright; keep moist, but not too moist; water when surface is dry...from the bottom. Why not offer it a few words of encouragement...praying for it to realize its full potential in God's good creation? Something we all desire.* 😊



Coffee Time After Worship

We hope you will stay following Worship...
to greet friends, ~ old and new.



The Life and Work of our Congregation continues....