

Good Tidings

May 2024



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church

Rev. Heather R. Bailes Baker

Web Page: www.amumc.org

Phone: 401-333-5203

email: office.amumc@gmail.com

A note from our pastor...

Beautiful Beloveds,

On Sunday, April 28, our church took an important vote, discerning that we will officially become a Reconciling Ministry of the United Methodist Church. This is an explicit and outward sign of what you experience every week. At Arnold Mills United Methodist Church all are welcome to worship, to lead, to love, to fully be our authentic selves. No matter what any other church may say, we want our LGBTQIA+ neighbors to know they are welcome to join us, as they are, God's beautiful beloved children. And remember, this is not the finish line of our reconciling process. Rather, it is one more beginning, as we continually work to "draw the circle wide, draw it wider still."

As I write this, our global church is gathered in Charlotte, NC. They are making important decisions about the future of our denomination. As a denomination will we affirm all of God's children as beloved without exception? Will we reorganize our structure to recognize the cultural differences of our global church? Will we revise our Social Principles to reflect our continually growing, changing perspectives on our world community? I am hoping and praying "God's will be done." I pray you join me.

And what if...what if our greatest hopes and dreams come true? Or what if we're disappointed by the decisions of General Conference? In this time of waiting, wondering, and not knowing, we can pay deep attention to what we do know.

Here's some good news. Regardless of any decision of General Conference, the people of Arnold Mills United Methodist Church will continue to follow Jesus and live the love of God. As we gather to worship, as we feed the hungry, as we offer hope to the downhearted, as we resist injustice in whatever forms it presents itself, we will bear faithful witness to the grace and love of God. We will continue to live and serve as the Body of Christ, reaching out with hands to serve and feet to march. For, as Paul reminds us, *I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8: 38-39)*

Whatever tomorrow brings, whatever decisions our global or local church makes, with God's help and by God's grace we will continue to BE the church, living the love of God.

Love and peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Heather R. Bailes Baker'.

Pastor Heather

Coming Soon in Worship

May 5 | “Healed”

John 21: 1-8; Genesis 32: 24-32; Mark 5: 24b-34

May 12 | Mother’s Day

Guest Preacher, Grace Pugh Hubbard, Climate Coordinator for the New England Conference.

May 19 | Pentecost — Wear fiery colors!

“Transformed”

Acts 2: 1-21; Romans 12: 1-16; Matthew 16: 13-20

May 26 | “Known”

Psalm 139

7pm Wednesday Night Study — May 8

We will meet with Bishop Peggy Johnson and her wife, Rev. Mary Johnson, May 8 at 7pm on Zoom. We will be discussing Bishop Johnson’s book, *The Ever-Expansive Spirit of God-For All Who Feel Left Out*, by Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/839125938>

Meeting ID: 839 125 938

Our church is up to lots of things: Reconciling Ministries, Solar Panels, Creation Care, etc.

Our denomination is up to lots of things: General Conference ends May 3.

Need to ask a question or talk about it?

Make an appointment with Pastor Heather to chat in her office, schedule a visit to your home, or meet somewhere off campus for a walk, a cup of coffee, or sit and talk. Email, Call or text, 774.994.3645.

Or stop by Phantom Farms

Wednesdays at 11

Meet Pastor Heather for conversation and connections over coffee. No agenda. Come and chat.

Phantom Farms, 2920 Diamond Hill Rd, Cumberland



As part of our commitment to justice, our church is selling Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee and Tea.

We are currently selling:

Organic Ground Coffee — \$10/bag

Organic Tea — \$4/box

Chocolate Bars — \$3/bar

Make checks payable to AMUMC, Memo: Fair Trade

Check the coat room to see what we have available today! If you have special requests, questions or suggestions, please contact Pastor Heather or George Jutras, office.amumc@gmail.com.

Please pray for our confirmands and their mentors as together they grow in discipleship.

Pedro Cardoso — Chip Thurlow

Michael Emerson — LeeAnn Cotta

Lexi Johnson — Sharon Bizier

Allie Stewart — Stacey Johnson

Bishop Johnson's letter on Our Conference Disabilities Committee



BRENDA P. CAYER
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PEGGY A. JOHNSON
BISHOP
NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

April 11, 2024

Cumberland: Arnold Mills UMC
690 Nate Whipple Hwy
Cumberland, RI 02864

Dear Members of Cumberland: Arnold Mills UMC

Greetings in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Our Conference Disabilities Committee has been working hard this year to raise awareness of how important accessibility is to being an all-inclusive church. As part of their efforts, an accessibility survey was added to the church conference forms.

Cumberland: Arnold Mills UMC scored 64.41% in the Copper (Honorable Mention) category. I commend you for taking the survey and earning copper status. It is our hope that you are now more aware of the less accessible areas of your church campus and are striving to improve your facility for full accessibility.

Since 2001, The United Methodist Church's slogan has been "Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors." The word *open* was used to communicate the state of our hearts, minds, and doors to represent our welcoming spirit to all. I invite you to spend time in prayer and discussion about the ways Cumberland: Arnold Mills UMC could be more accessible and therefore more welcoming to all of God's children.

Thanks again for your support thus far. May God continue to bless your ministries to bring God's kingdom here on earth.

Sincerely,

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

Arnold Mills Cemetery Trivia

Karl Ikerman

Payment plans are interest free for burial plots. Simply take the purchase price and divide by 10 for small equal payments. Prices start at \$600 for 2 urns.

April Trustee Report

The AMUMC Trustee Committee met on April 11th with five members, our pastor and a church friend present. The following items were on the agenda:

- Our portfolio amount increased by over \$21,000 in March with \$20,000 scheduled to be withdrawn for operating expenses.
- Cargill Hall has been air-sealed and insulated by a RISE contracted company.
- The plugs in the walls, created when blowing in the insulation, are scheduled to be painted the week of April 22nd. After Cargill Hall is completed, Ray the Painter will continue painting the hallway to the Cargill entrance and to the lavatories and elevator area.
- The next step in our sustainability project is obtaining quotes on the installation of solar panels.
- A bike rack has been selected and will be ordered and installed for springtime use.
- The committee is very thankful to Karen Oswain for mowing the church lawn again this year.
- The purchase of a new "Gorilla Captains Fort" and a recycled material picnic table was approved. The old swing set and picnic tables will need to be demolished before the new ones are installed. A work day will be planned and the trustees would appreciate help on that day!
- A solar lamp post was installed at the parsonage.
- Darren Chisnell is planning a memorial event for his mother, Jane Shaw, on Saturday, May 25, from 4:30-8 in Cargill Hall.
- The door to the boiler room will be replaced and the fixtures on the exterior doors from the kitchen and Cargill Hall will be upgraded in order to comply with fire department regulations. All extinguishers have now been labeled, new exit signs installed, and exit maps drawn and displayed.
- Our music director was given the go-ahead to purchase an electronic organ computer program, initially on a trial basis.
- The basement dehumidifier will be put into service once Sunday School concludes. At that time, the office air conditioners will also be serviced.
- The AED batteries were replaced and new AED pads will be ordered as they will soon reach the expiration date.
- Quotes on power washing the church are being sought.
- The next meeting will be held on May 9th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Gettinger, Fran Carr, Scott Murphy, Tom Cabana, Dave Larson, Tom Hetherington, Mark Farnell

Finance Committee Report

For the first quarter of 2024, church operating income totaled \$45,383. Thank you for your generosity! Operating expenses totaled \$58,882. The net operating loss was -\$13,499. We are on budget, as this loss was expected. During March, a transfer of \$20,000 was made from the Trustee Portfolio to the church checking account for cash flow purposes. The checking account balance at the end of March was \$20,579.08.

There were two Special Sunday giving opportunities during the first quarter. A total of \$383 was raised for Human Relations Sunday. These funds support social justice and outreach ministries that empower all God's children to reach their full potential. A total of \$430 was raised for UMCOR Sunday. These funds cover UMCOR's administrative costs, allowing this disaster relief organization to use 100% of designated funds for humanitarian response and recovery efforts for communities in need around the globe.

Copies of first quarter financial reports are available in the coatroom. Many thanks to our Finance Committee members, Keith Johnson, Cindy Mauch, Elton Odom, Sammy Burgos, Laura Thompson, Karen Oswain and Pastor Heather Bailes Baker.

A message from the Reconciliation Team.....

Thank You!



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church family, I'm writing in joyful thanksgiving and celebration on behalf of the entire Reconciliation Team. On April 28th, our congregation voted **overwhelmingly** to become a Reconciling Church, committing to the full inclusion of and advocacy for LGBTQ+ people. We adopted the following statement, and in the process became part of the growing network of UMC Reconciling Churches around the world, including 5 others right here in Rhode Island! The statement reads:

"We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed."

Let me tell you a little story. I'm gay, and I didn't come out of the closet until the end of 2019, when I was 27 years old. I had grown up around a lot of religious talk condemning and demonizing LGBTQ+ people, and heard so much of the same hate-filled political rhetoric that we still hear today. I'd known I was..."different" since I was 11 years old, but following a long period of internal denial, I convinced myself that the risk to my relationships, to my health and safety, and my soul was so great that I would remain in the closet forever.

This was still true when I first started attending AMUMC in early 2015. By that point in my life, even though I still hadn't come to terms with who I was deep down, I knew that I would only be comfortable in a church that truly practiced the inclusive, expansive, revolutionary love of God. **And I was so happy to find that in our church community.** From the first sermon I heard, I knew that AMUMC was the church home that I had never had before. Even when life happened, and my attendance started slipping, and the weeks turned to months (and years), I always felt called back to this sacred community.

We know who we are, and the work we do, and all the ways we share God's love with our neighbors. I'm so glad that with this vote, with formally becoming a Reconciling Church, we've found yet another way to tell our neighbors - and the world - what we mean by "All Are Welcome". Thank you for putting the **amazing** in the **truly amazing** Arnold Mills United Methodist Church!

With love, Alex Kithes

HAPPY
Mother's
DAY

Mother's Day (May 12) Dedications

For a \$10 donation you can honor a special woman in your life with a listing in our Mother's Day bulletin on May 12. Monies collected will be put toward beautifying the church grounds.

DUE ON SUNDAY MAY 5, 2024

I would like the following dedications:

In loving memory of: _____

In loving memory of: _____

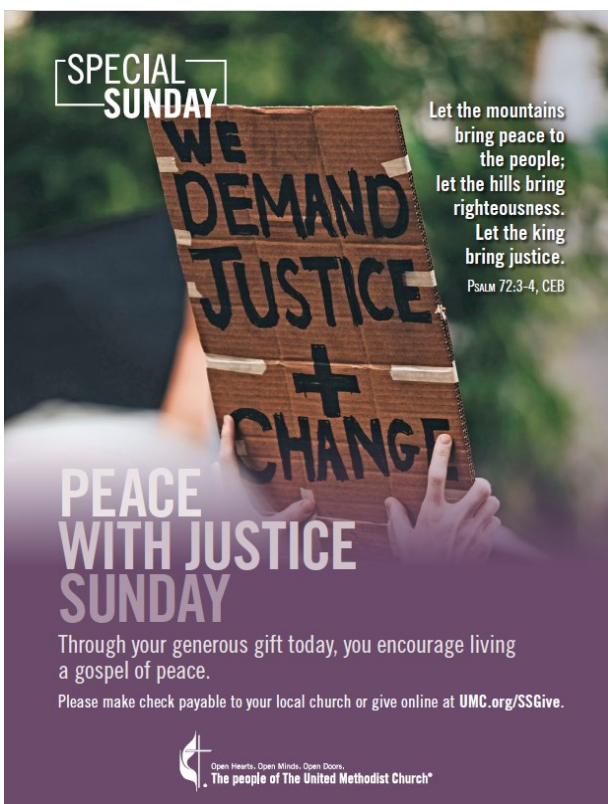
In honor of: _____

In honor of: _____

Your Name: _____ Your Phone: _____

Please include a \$10 donation for each dedication and submit it with this form; Attn: Fran Carr, no later than May 5 to ensure proper listing in the Mother's Day bulletin. Form can be submitted to the church office or placed in the offering plate.

Peace with Justice Sunday May 26, 2024



YOU offer peace!

An offering is taken on this Special Sunday to support programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize actions in support of identified Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities. Last year, your generosity delivered **\$144 thousand** to strengthen and foster just, equitable and durable solutions for peaceful efforts worldwide.

Donations can be made in church; please make checks out to AMUMC with 'Peace with Justice' in the memo line, or via our secure [giving](#) website.

Missions Committee Newsletter Report May 2024

Meals in the Park

On Sunday, April 14th we served 120 meals! We had vegetable soup, chicken and rice and of course our homemade desserts. Thanks to the bakers, servers, soup makers. The next meal date has been changed to **May 19th**. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer for these events or make some homemade desserts. Please continue to save plastic bags if you can get them or paper bags with handles. Thank you. Karen Oswain 401-749-3609.



School Supplies Donations

Thanks to many generous donations, we were able to provide school supplies to **12 of the 15 different Elementary Schools** in our northern RI area. We are hopeful that donations will continue to be made in the basket in the hallway so that all of the elementary schools can benefit from our generosity. **Suggested items for classroom support:** small laptop headphones with auxiliary cords (like the kind used on airplane video devices); computer paper; glue (sticks and bottles); poster boards; pencils, colored pencils, erasable markers; folders and notebooks (any subject, any type); large chart paper. Check out the wonderful Thank You cards that are posted on the Bulletin Board in the Coat Room. Any questions, contact Chip Thurlow; thurlowcp@aol.com; 401-333-1235.

Habitat for Humanity

The new duplex project is to erect **two** residences for military veteran families at **57 & 59 Oakland School Street in Burrillville, RI**. The second duplex foundation is now ready interior work installing the sheet rock and insulation. Any questions, contact Chip Thurlow; thurlowcp@aol.com; 401-333-1235

Ongoing Service Activities:

The Franklin Farm Community Garden and the Historic Metcalf-Franklin Farm Preservation Association

The volunteers at Franklin Farm are preparing for the 2024 harvest season! The gardening areas will soon be plowed over as preparations are made for the planting of the seeds and seedlings in the next few months. The trails and fields are still available for visitors to wander around and enjoy the beautiful open space. Any questions, contact Pam and Chip Thurlow: thurlowcp@gmail.com; 401-333-1235.

Cintas Clothing Donation and the St. James Episcopal Church Clothing Closet

The twice monthly clothing donations continue from the Cintas Warehouse in Woonsocket to the St. James Church clothing closet. The delivery schedule is posted in the coat room. **They are also requesting the donations of children's clothing for distribution to needy families. Those items can be placed in the hallway at our church** and they will be delivered to St. James Church by our volunteers.

Dave's Marketplace Day Old Bakery Donations

Since 2016, volunteers from AMUMC have transported day old baked goods three times each week to the Cumberland Senior Center, the Northern RI Food Pantry or the Woonsocket Shelter. The schedule of the three donations each week and the many volunteers making the deliveries is posted on the bulletin board in the coat room.

The Woonsocket Shelter

The Woonsocket Shelter has received donations of persons care items and household items (sheets, towels, quilts, curtains, etc.) for families to relocate into independent living when they leave the shelter. In addition, AMUMC volunteers have been donating day old baked goods from area supermarkets – currently Dave's Marketplace – for over 15 years to the shelter. On Fridays, Elton and Rachel Odom make the weekly deliveries to the Shelter.

Chip Thurlow, Chairperson, AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee



Tips for May 2024

Reuse! Take your reusable bags to the grocery; purchase a reusable water bottle; print double-sided; turn the backs of printed paper into scrap paper for notes; switch from plastic cups to reusable mugs. Before you trash anything, ask yourself if it can be reused as is or repurposed for a new use.

Reduce! Buy in bulk to reduce packaging and emissions from shipping whether to you directly or to the store. Choose “paperless” for bills and newspapers and reduce the trees cut down. To reduce filling landfills, donate purchases that don’t fit instead of returning them because companies often send “returns” to landfills instead of restocking.

Refuse! Resist the constant pounding of advertising that says buy more and more. Say no to a plastic straw when out to eat and no to a bag for a few items that you can carry easily. Reject products that include pesticides or are wrapped in plastic packaging.

Repair! Learn and use the simple skill of mending. Consult YouTube or a local hardware store for possible fixes for non-working appliances or gadgets. Refinish or touch up wooden furniture; recover chair seats with new fabric; fight for “Right to Repair” laws for your state.

Restore! Look for damage—a stream filled with litter, a beach area polluted with plastic, loss of trees from tornado or fire. Recovering from a climate disaster is accelerated through reforestation. Organize for clean-up locally or contribute funds to reforestation efforts across the world.

Regenerate! On a personal level, compost your food and lawn scraps; participate in no mow May, which helps bees and other pollinators; consider turning growth back to nature by rewilding at least a portion of your property. On a larger scale, examine your agricultural practices for changes that will regenerate the fertility of the soil.

Rethink! We used to think of the earth’s benefits as endless. Earth is telling us we need to think again. If we want our children and grands to live well, we need to support a more sustainable way of being now. Explore thrift stores before catalogs; purchase from companies that are environmentally conscious; buy from local farmers and merchants.

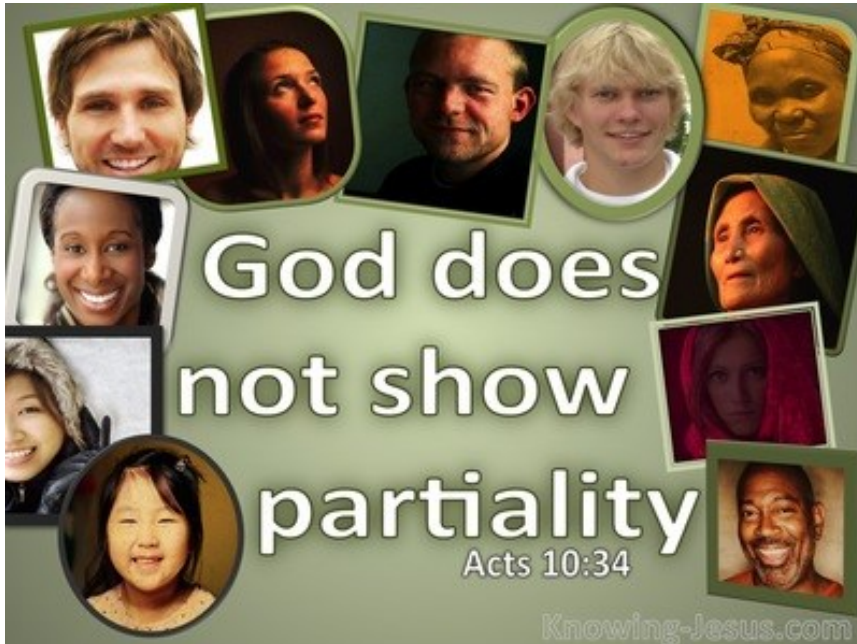
Review! Regularly or at least annually, step back and look critically at your “stuff.” Are you a victim of “creep”? Have “wants” taken higher priority than “need”? Continue asking what else you might do to contribute to the health of Earth and give all a better future. Talk with family and friends about your insights.

Recommit! Keep learning, taking more steps, talking to others about your actions on behalf of creation justice. The comprehensive and complex impacts of environmental issues can lead to anxiety and despair. Our [children need to know](#) we are doing something. Join organizations that are working for legislation and other changes. Watch for and celebrate good news. Persist.

Remember! Remember who you are and Whose you are: You are a beloved child of God. The very first commandment God gave humanity was to care for creation (Genesis 1–2). In your approach to all things created by God and by humans, remember you are a caretaker. Let that sacred charge be your guide.

The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement is providing these Tips as a tool to equip church members, families, and individuals to respond to God's call to care for creation and do justice with our neighbors. For more about the UM Creation Justice Movement, go to umcreationjustice.org.

Church School News



Important Dates

- May 5: Communion Sunday, children begin in Church School.
- May 26: Last day of Church School
- June 2: Promotion Sunday with Ice Cream Social

Sunday School Registration

To register go to the Children & Youth page under Education on the church website (amumc.org). You will find a form you can print and fill in and an online form if you prefer registering online. Use either one to register.

The children have begun their 6th and final unit for the school year titled: **Living God's Word: Acceptance.**

Bible Verse:

"Now I am certain that God treats all people alike."
(Acts 10:34, CEV)

Main Idea: The Bible teaches that God's love is for everyone and that all of us are created in the image of God. As God's people, we should love and appreciate others and be willing to learn from one another and work together.

Objectives:

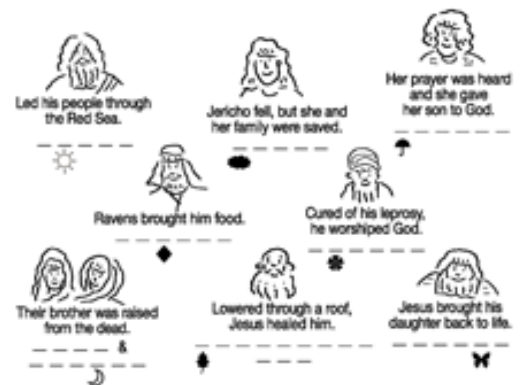
The Children will learn that;

- *we are all created in the image of God;
- *we believe God's love is for all people;
- *God's love is also for us -- we need to accept ourselves;
- *when we recognize our diverse and unique gifts, we can work together to serve God and others;
- *it is important not to prejudge people;
- *we can work to accept others.

Puzzle!

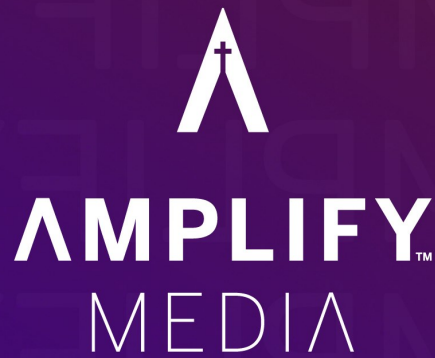
Use the list of names to identify each thankful Bible character. Then use the symbol code to complete Psalm 79:13, NKJV.

NAMES: Elijah, Naaman, Mary & Martha, paralyzed man, Jairus, Moses, Rahab, Hannah



WE ... W _ LL G _ VE Y _ _ _ NKS F _ _ EVE _ ;
 WE W _ LL S _ _ W F _ _ Y _ _ _ _ _ ISE
 _ _ LL GENE _ _ _ NS. Psalm 79:13, NKJV

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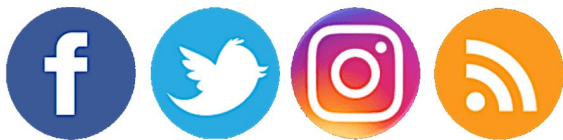
<https://my.amplifymedia.com/arnoldmillsumccumberlandri>

Access Code: DTLSGY

SPRC News

Our committee includes Bolaji Campbell, Olivia Carney, Sandy Ferretti, Cindy Mauch, Karen Roeber, Sue Therien and Margaret Waterman. (Updated 1/4/2024)

If you have any questions, comments or concerns having to do with the staff of the parish feel free to see any member of the committee or you can email us at amumcsprc@gmail.com



Arnold Mills UMC's Social Media

Find us on social media!

We are on Facebook and on Instagram.

Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Arnold-Mills-United-Methodist-Church-115722435105941>

Twitter at https://twitter.com/ArnoldMills_UMC

Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/arnold_mills_umc

Listen to sermons on our website at <http://www.amumc.org>

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests are sent out each week to every address on our email list. We understand that not everyone who asks for prayer in worship during "Sharing Our Joys and Concerns" wishes to have that information shared on the email blast. If you would like to have a prayer request included in the weekly email, please use the "Prayer Request" form on the table in the back of the sanctuary, call the office at 401-333-5203, or email office.amumc@gmail.com. Prayer requests will remain on the prayer list for one month. If you would like a prayer request to remain longer, just let us know.

AMUMC Upcoming Events

May

Thu May 2: National Day of Prayer

Sun May 5: Communion Sunday

Wed May 8 - 6:30 PM: Habitat Committee Meeting

Thu May 9 - 6:30 PM: Trustees Meeting

Thu May 9 - 7:00 PM: July 4th Parade Meeting

Sun May 12: Mother's Day

Sun May 19: SPRC Staff Appreciation Sunday

Mon May 20 - 7:00 PM: Church Council Meeting

Thu May 23 - 7:00 PM: July 4th Parade Meeting

Fri May 24: Aldersgate Day

Sat May 25 - 4:30 PM: A Supper to honor the life of Jane Shaw

Sun May 26: Peace with Justice Sunday

Mon May 27: Memorial Day

**Remember, Sunday Worship Time is now
10:00 AM!**

**The Church Calendar is available at
amumc.org under Church News.**



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church
690 Nate Whipple Hwy.
Cumberland, RI 02864
Phone: 401-333-5203
E-mail: office.amumc@gmail.com
Rev. Heather R. Bailes Baker



You are welcome. Join us for Worship on Sunday!

Worship and Church School begin at 10am in the sanctuary

Livestreaming of our worship service will be available during the service for those who do not attend the service in person. After each service the video will be archived for viewing anytime.

Check out our webpage at www.amumc.org