

Good Tidings

April 2020



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church

Rev. Arlene M. Tully

Web Page: www.amumc.org

Phone: 401-333-5203

email: office.amumc@gmail.com

Dear Church Family,

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented us with an unprecedented challenge – that of being a church in “diaspora” – a community of faith that is scattered as we practice “social distancing” and “self-isolation”. We are, for the time being, a “virtual” church – worshiping, studying, and fellowshiping online and by phone. Although we’ve been temporarily forced out of the comfortable patterns we’re used to, by God’s grace we remain a strong, faithful, and caring church. Let me update what we’re doing to sustain our ministries in spite of the disruption:

Worship

- We are posting a worship video on our Facebook page each Sunday morning. The videos include our Music Director, Joey Mazzarella on keyboard with his wife Stephanie doing vocals, liturgists reading the day’s scripture, and Pastor Arlene preaching. You don’t need a Facebook account to view our page. Simply go to www.facebook.com and search for “Arnold Mills United Methodist Church”.
- Our “Virtual Coffee Hour” is Sunday mornings at 11:30 via Zoom. Grab your coffee and a snack and join us for fellowship. (Zoom is a video conferencing platform for your PC, tablet, or smartphone. Participants can see all the other participants ala “Hollywood Squares” or “The Brady Bunch”. If you don’t have an electronic device you can still participate via telephone. A 1-minute tutorial is available at bit.ly/2QOWN7L)
- In addition to Sunday worship, I’ve also been posting a brief video reflection each day on our Facebook page.

Communication

- Our office manager, George Jutras, is working primarily from home, but he checks the church voicemail frequently and will return your call as soon as possible. You can contact George at 401-333-5203 or office.amumc@gmail.com. I will also be working from home and can be reached at 401-335-5156 or pastor.amumc@gmail.com.
- We will be communicating mainly by email and Facebook. If you are not already receiving the weekly emails from the office, please contact George to have your address added to the mailing list. If you do not have internet access, please let George know and he will mail you any news or important announcements.

Pastoral Care

- I am making phone calls to several parishioners each day to check in. However, if you have a need or desire to talk, by all means call or email me rather than waiting for me to call you. I am happy to meet with you by phone, a private Zoom meeting, Skype, Facetime, etc.
- I will be on Zoom for virtual office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to noon. Feel free to drop in. (You can find all the links to recurring Zoom meetings below.)
- We have developed an online “Helping Hands” program, designed to match volunteers who are willing to lend a hand with people who are homebound or self-isolating. For example, a volunteer might pick up a grocery order or prescription. If you are interested in being a helper, or if you need help, please go to bit.ly/2Uoj8Lm. If you don’t have internet access, please call the office. If you are aware of someone who has a need, please be sure to let us know. If you need (or know someone else who needs) financial assistance, please contact me confidentially.

Pastoral Care (continued)

- I am hosting a prayer meeting on Zoom each Tuesday evening from 6:30 – 7:00. If you aren't able to attend, you can call or email me your prayer concern and I'll share it with the group. Please note that (unless you indicate otherwise) those prayer requests will not be included on the public prayer list that George sends out in an email each week.
- I will be on Zoom for "Kids' Time" on Sunday mornings from 10:00 – 10:30. This is an informal time for me to check in with the children, to let them see their Sunday School friends, and to have some fun (e.g., inviting the kids to share their favorite activity from the previous week).
- If your children would like to create cards, write notes, or draw something for our homebound members, please contact the office and George will send you their names and addresses.

Meetings and Studies

- All meetings, studies, etc., will take place on Zoom. Church committees will schedule Zoom meetings as needed.
- The links for recurring Zoom meetings are:
 - Tuesday Evening Prayer Meeting: zoom.us/j/563411339
 - Pastor's Tuesday Office Hours: zoom.us/j/215950264
 - Wednesday Evening Adult Studies: zoom.us/j/839125938
 - Pastor's Thursday Office Hours: zoom.us/j/682278968
 - Sunday Kids' Time: zoom.us/j/725916133
 - Sunday Coffee Hour: zoom.us/j/678414614
- To join a meeting by computer, tablet, or smartphone, simply follow those links.
- To join a meeting by telephone:
 - Dial 1-253-215-8782
 - You will be prompted to enter the meeting ID, followed by #. The meeting numbers are:
 - Tuesday Evening Prayer Meeting: 563 411 339
 - Pastor's Tuesday Office Hours: 215 950 264
 - Adult Studies: 839 125 938
 - Pastor's Thursday Office Hours: 682 278 968
 - Kids' Time: 725 916 133
 - Coffee Hour: 678-414-614
 - If the meeting has not already started, you will be prompted to press # to wait.
 - If you are prompted to enter your unique participant ID, press # to skip.

We will decide when to resume normal operations in concert with the Bishop, District Superintendent, the RI Department of Health, and the Federal CDC. While it's impossible to know with any certainty at this point in time, it seems unlikely that the coronavirus crisis will be over in time for Holy Week and Easter services. We are currently planning online worship in the event that we are unable to gather in person.

Finally, please remember that the church continues to need your financial support. We understand that some of you may be out of work and are unable to sustain the same level of giving. However, if your income has not been affected, kindly remember that our mission and ministry go on and the church continues to have expenses even while we are not gathering for worship. You can mail your offering to Arnold Mills United Methodist Church, 690 Nate Whipple Hwy., Cumberland, RI 02864 (Attn: Financial Secretary), or give securely online at our website (www.amumc.org/give), or use your online bank's Bill Pay option.

Know that I am praying for each one of you and for our church. I trust that we are strong enough to weather this storm, because I trust in the One upon whose faithfulness this community is built. Let us continue to be intentional about caring for one another and for our neighbors, even if from a distance. And when we do finally gather again to worship together in the sanctuary, what a day of praise and celebration that will be! In the meantime, "May the Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another" (Genesis 31:49).

Stay safe. Be kind. Take care of each other.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Arlene

March Trustees Report

The trustees of AMUMC met on March 11, 2020. As you read the following notes, please keep in mind that the scheduled events have since been postponed due to the corona virus outbreak.

- Tom Cabana, our treasurer reported that our portfolio as of 02/29/20 was down \$70,850.
 - Fran Carr reported that heating issues this winter have persisted and the cost of repairs is now close to \$4000. Fran also reported that Bill Gardener will be edging and mulching the Cargill Hall area.
 - Scott Murphy reported that the emergency lights in the back basement need new batteries. Eastland Electric will be contacted.
 - Dave Larson obtained a second estimate for power washing, repairing and painting parts of the church and the entire parsonage. The trustees would like to go with the first estimate we had received in the fall and voted to send them both on to the Council for discussion. (As a footnote, months ago the trustees had \$30,000 for the painting project set aside in a money market fund.)
 - The committee voted to delay the parking lot and driveway repairs except possibly the driveway at the parsonage.
 - The television in the sanctuary will eventually be mounted on the wall where the hymn board hangs now. Paul Roeber also presented his study on technology use in three other New England churches. Our estimated costs to upgrade were discussed.
 - Building Usage events presented by Lindsay Gettinger include:
 - 4/4/20 Annual Scout Grounds Spring Clean Up (rain date 4/11/20)
 - 3/27/20 memorial service for Carolyn Miller Sullivan (daughter of a former pastor Reverend Edmund Miller)
 - 4/4/20 Space2Thrive Easter Party
 - 4/5/20 Ethan McLaren, Eagle Scout bake sale
 - 5/2/20 the Scouts requested use of the hall and kitchen for a Pancake Breakfast.
This was denied due to a previously scheduled event.
 - Phil Lord, our custodian has been contacted about additional cleaning needs due to the virus.
 - Pastor Arlene has notified us of a few minor repairs needed at the parsonage. We are working on them! Until we meet again, stay healthy. It will be one joyful Sunday when we do open up AMUMC!
- Lindsay Gettinger

Message from the Finance Committee

Dear Church Family,

The work of our church is more important than ever during these challenging times. While we cannot join in fellowship in person, you have an opportunity to support the mission of our church through your continued financial support. If you are a regular donor on Sundays, you can now choose several options to meet your pledge obligation or give as you would on Sundays.

- Sign up on our website www.amumc.org to make your ongoing donations safely and securely through your bank checking, savings account or credit card.
- Set up Arnold Mills United Methodist Church on your bank's Online Bill Payment System, and a check will be sent to our church in the mail.
- Send a personal check to us at the church, [690 Nate Whipple Highway, Cumberland, RI 02864](http://690%20Nate%20Whipple%20Highway%20Cumberland%20RI%2002864) Attn: Financial Secretary.

Thank you for ensuring that our church has the financial resources to continue to meet our payroll and regular church operating expenses. Please stay safe and well as we all cope with this unexpected emergency situation caused by COVID-19.

Holiday Fair Message

This would be an opportune time for members and friends of the church to be thinking of the Holiday Fair. During this cozy time at home why not work on a craft, knit, sew, paint or even re-purpose an item. If you are cleaning out cupboards and closets box up the items for our church yard sale (which we hope to hold in June), or save them for our Holiday Fair "Treasures Room". Put on the music and go!

Thank You

Lindsay Gettinger

NEW DISTRICT STRUCTURE

As of July 1, 2020, the New England Conference will have seven districts rather than the current nine. The move to fewer districts is a matter of rightsizing them for the number of members and churches in New England. This puts our districts in line with those of the other conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction.



In deciding the new district boundaries decided attention was given to the historical and cultural differences in each area, and every attempt was made to balance the workload among the superintendents with consideration given to culture, history, church size, distances and traffic patterns. Under this new structure, each district has grown by approximately 20 churches except for the Green Mountain District, which retains its former boundaries.

The new districts are:

Katahdin District – Maine is divided into two districts; these are the churches in the Northern/Downeast half. Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Brannen is the DS.

Many Waters District – Maine is divided into two districts; these are the churches in the southern/western half. Rev. Dr. Karen Munson is the DS.

Green Mountain District – The churches in Vermont. Rev. Jill Colley Robinson is the DS.

Granite District – The churches in New Hampshire. Rev. Taesung Kang is the DS.

Commonwealth District – The churches in Massachusetts west of Interstate 495. Rev. Megan Stowe is the DS.

Freedom Trail District — The churches in Massachusetts east of Interstate 495. Rev. We Hyun Chang is the DS

Seacoast District – Churches in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Southeastern Massachusetts, including Cape Cod and Islands. Rev. Dr. David Calhoun is the DS.

Learn more at <https://www.neumc.org/redistricting>

Missions Committee Report

April 2020 Newsletter

Note: The various Mission and Social Concern activities are being re-evaluated due to the current health crisis. Please follow the various announcements from the church office as decisions are made to reschedule or readjust these services and programs.

Meals in the Park and Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser

The next Meals in the Park event is scheduled for **Sunday April 5th**, at **Bouley Field on Social Street in Woonsocket RI** - Noon to 1PM. **However, the current health crisis might require a cancellation so please look for announcements for any change in plans in the coming weeks.** Thanks for the volunteers for providing 90 lunches and distributing over 120 meals to the guests. Karen Oswain is the organizer for the Meals in the Park Program.

Pasta Supper Fundraiser to benefit New Beginnings Meal Site.

The Pasta Supper Fundraiser was postponed from Saturday March 28th from 4:30 - 7PM to a future date. We will notify AMUMC volunteers and the public when it is rescheduled. Feel free to contact Karen Oswain for additional information on this event.

Diabetes Prevention and Education Workshop

The Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation **Diabetes Prevention and Care Workshop here at AMUMC has also been cancelled for the time being.** Any questions contact Pam or Chip Thurlow; thurlowcp@gmail.com; 401-333-1235.

Margaret Stearns Service Award

The Margaret Stearns Service Award applications have been distributed to Cumberland High School Guidance Department. The completed applications will be due on **April 10th with a possible extension based on the current health crisis.** Any questions contact Chip Thurlow; thurlowcp@aol.com; 401-333-1235.

Missions Sunday Planning

A revised Missions Sunday presentation is currently scheduled for **Sunday April 26th**. Details will be provided later.

Dave's Marketplace Day Old Bakery Donations

Our volunteers have been selectively transporting day old baked goods from Dave's Marketplace at Chapel Four Corners on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to various community organizations such as the Cumberland Senior Center at the Monastery. **The Cumberland Sr. Center is open only for takeout lunches during this health crisis so they are still in need of the baked goods.**

Habitat for Humanity

The Habitat for Humanity current project is at 277 Talcott Street in Woonsocket. Volunteers have been working to finish the interior baseboard and final electrical services. On March 14th, Elton Odom and Chip Thurlow worked to begin installation of the new baseboard system.



Elton and Chip Installing the Baseboard System

As of March 18th, the Habitat coordinators temporarily discontinued the Saturday volunteer work programs. Future work sessions will be announced when they are scheduled.

Cintas Clothing Donation

The Cintas clothing and our church donations to the St. James Episcopal Church and occasionally to the Community Care Alliance, both in Woonsocket have been **temporarily cancelled for the current time.**

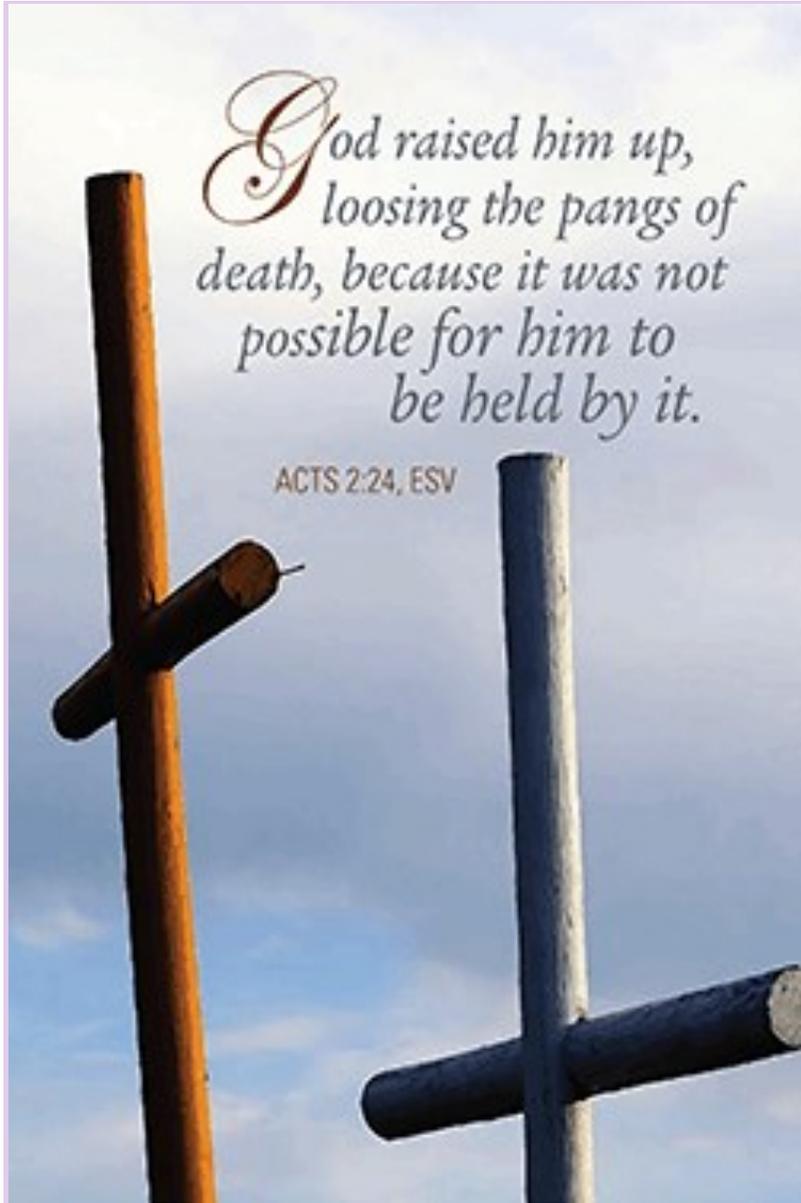
Clothing and Boxed and Canned Goods Donations

The donated goods are donated to either the Northern RI Food Pantry or the Woonsocket Shelter as necessary.

Chip Thurlow, Chairperson

AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee

Church School News



*God raised him up,
loosing the pangs of
death, because it was not
possible for him to
be held by it.*

ACTS 2:24, ESV

APRIL
Birthdays

Here's who's having a birthday this month:

April 3rd: Paula Burgos
 April 10th: Abigail Stewart
 April 25th: Steven Dykas
 April 26th: Michael Emerson

God Bless you all on your birthday and the coming year!

A Message from Christian Ed

On behalf of the Christian Ed committee, I wish you all a safe and healthy Easter Season!

LeeAnn Cotta

Puzzling the Lord's Supper

Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.

Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.

And he took _____, gave _____ and _____ it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my _____ given for you; do this in _____ of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This _____ is the new _____ in my blood, which is _____ out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV

Answer: bread, thanks, broke, body, remembrance, cup, covenant, poured

Worship Committee



I want to take this opportunity to recognize and thank those who serve on the Worship Committee so our experience at worship time is as meaningful as possible. Not only does it take a village to raise a child but also to assist in our church life. When you see these people be sure to say "thanks". Our church wouldn't be what it is without them.

Acolytes: Stacy Johnson
Altar Flowers: Sharon Bizier
Altar Guild: Rachel Odom, Pam Thurlow and Ann Hetherington
Altar Steward: Ross Hancock
Choir Rep: Pam Thurlow
Greeters: Anne-Marie Rivard
Liturgist: Rebecca Puleo
Music Director: Joey Mazzarella
Ushers: Rich Bizier
A reminder that we would like to add to our Altar Guild team and are looking for Acolytes. If you are interested, please contact me at thurlowcp@verizon.net.
Pam Thurlow, Chair
Worship Committee

Upcoming Events

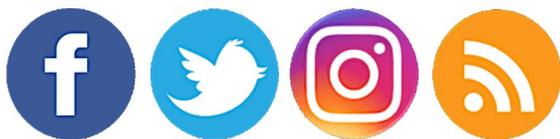
April 5: Palm Sunday
April 8: Board of Trustees Meeting
April 9: Holy Thursday
April 10: Good Friday
April 12: Easter Sunday
April 20: Church Council Meeting
April 26: Native American Ministries Sunday

SPRC News

We are pleased to welcome Christopher Ferretti as our youth representative.

Our committee also includes Lee Ann Cotta, Stacey Johnson, Joyce Fox, Sandy Angell, Anne Hetherington, and Brandon Bell.

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 where you can read Pastor Arlene's Daily Reflection 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>

Subscribe to sermon podcasts at <http://www.buzzsprout.com/434047>

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.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 8:30am Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Hour	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4 8:30am Church Cleanup Day - Boy Sc
5 Passion/Palm Sunday 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Hour	6	7	8 7pm Board of Trustees - Library	9 Holy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Hour	13 Easter Monday	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Hour	20 7pm Church Council - Library	21	22	23	24	25
26 Native American Ministries Sunday 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Hour	27	28	29	30	May 1	2



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Check out our webpage at www.amumc.org

We invite all to our regular Sunday Services:

8:30 a.m. – Quiet, reflective service with communion each week.

10:30 a.m. – Thoughtful service, children's message, special music by our choir, public celebrations and prayer concerns, and Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month.