

Good Tidings

August 2020



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church

Rev. Arlene M. Tully

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Phone: 401-333-5203

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Dear Church Family,

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to drag on – and in fact, worsens in some parts of the country – I admit that I’m perplexed by the resistance to wearing face masks in public. Of course, it’s summer and it’s hot, and none of us *wants* to wear a mask. But the consensus of the medical and scientific communities is that face masks help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. In fact, Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the CDC, recently said, “I think if we could get everybody to wear a mask right now I think in four, six, eight weeks we could bring this epidemic under control.” The discomfort of wearing a mask seems like a small price to pay to slow down a virus that has already sickened nearly 4 million Americans and killed more than 140,000 (as of this writing). So, why do so many people refuse to wear a mask?

There are numerous reasons people choose not to wear a face mask, but by far the most frustrating to me – and the reason expressed by the most strident anti-maskers – is that being required to wear a mask infringes on their constitutional rights to personal freedom. I have my doubts about whether mask mandates are unconstitutional, but I’ll leave it to law scholars to determine that. More importantly, as a Christian I’m bound by an even higher authority than the U.S. Constitution – one that calls me to Christ-like love for others.

In his letter to the early Christian communities in Galatia, the Apostle Paul wrote:

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Galatians 5:13-14, NRSV)

Here and in his other letters, Paul makes it clear that even though we may have the freedom to choose to do what best serves ourselves, we should instead choose to act out of selfless love for our neighbor. For those of us who seek to follow Jesus – the one who calls us to imitate his self-giving, other-regarding, sacrificial love – individual freedom simply doesn’t outweigh the common good.

So, if wearing a mask helps to prevent me from unwittingly spreading the coronavirus to others, then I will gladly sacrifice my personal freedom and wear one – not because the government (or anyone else) tells me I *have* to, but because I *want* to as a potentially life-saving way of expressing love for my neighbors. *For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arlene'.

Pastor Arlene

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT ARNOLD MILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

- We will begin 9:30 AM Sunday worship services on the front lawn of the church beginning on July 5.
- We will be recording the worship service and will make it available online for those who are unable or choose not to worship in person.
- If you are feeling unwell, or have any of the symptoms of COVID-19 please stay home.
- The only access to the building will be for restroom use via the door near the elevator. We ask that you do not enter any other part of the building. Sanitizing spray will be available in the restrooms and a touchless hand sanitizer dispenser will be located outside of the restrooms.
- We need to collect names and contact information from all attendees each week in the event that contact tracing is necessary. We ask that you preregister for worship online at bit.ly/3fxug0j . If you do not have internet access, please call the office at 401-333-5203 and leave a voicemail listing the names and contact information of all those attending with you. By preregistering you will help greatly reduce the amount of time it takes to check in at the greeters' table.
- We ask that you bring your own lawn chair if possible. We will have metal folding chairs available for those who need one.
- If you have mobility or balance issues, you may wish to locate your chair on the driveway pavement rather than walking across the lawn.
- Social distancing is required:
 - No physical contact with anyone you did not arrive with (no hugging, handshakes, etc.).
 - Maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet at all times from anyone you did not arrive with.
 - Wear a face covering over your mouth and nose from the time you leave your car until you reenter your car. If you do not have a face covering, a disposable mask will be provided for you.
 - Upon arrival at the greeters' table, you will be checked in (if preregistered) or your name and contact information will be collected. You will also be offered hand sanitizer and your temperature will be taken with a no-contact thermometer.
 - No congregational singing, due to the higher risk of aerosolized virus.
 - No paper bulletins. All liturgy will be of the call-and-response type.
 - No passing of collection plates. An offering box will be available on the greeters' table.
 - When Holy Communion is celebrated (first Sundays), we will use prepackaged, individually sealed elements. Unfortunately these are not available with gluten-free wafers. We invite you to bring bread or crackers from home if you need gluten-free elements.
 - No coffee hour or other gathering.

In the event of inclement weather, outdoor worship will be canceled no later than 8:30 AM. We will post the information on Facebook, the church website, and on the answering machine. Only the worship leaders will meet in the sanctuary to live stream and record the worship service.

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the symptoms of COVID-19 include:

Fever or chills; Cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Fatigue
Muscle or body aches; Headache
New loss of taste or smell
Sore throat
Congestion or runny nose
Nausea or vomiting
Diarrhea



WORSHIP BY PHONE

Can't join us in person for outdoor worship and don't have access to the internet to watch our online worship service? You can now listen to our worship service by phone. Just call (401) 217- 4837 to hear a recording of the most recent Sunday service in its entirety – no internet needed!

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

Tuesdays from 6:30 – 7:00 PM

Join us on Zoom as we gather to share our concerns and to pray for the people and situations in need near and far. The link for the Zoom meeting is zoom.us/j/563411339



VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR ON SUMMER HIATUS

Our July experiment with a mid-week social gathering was not well attended, so virtual coffee hour will be on hiatus for the remainder of the summer. The regular Sunday morning coffee hour via Zoom will resume in September. Look for the Zoom link in the September newsletter.

KIDS' TIME

Sunday Evenings at 6:30

Pastor Arlene invites all Sunday School age kids to an informal time of fellowship every Sunday on Zoom. This is a great way to see your church friends and to share any news. Each week we share our joys and concerns and Pastor Arlene leads us in prayer. To join us, go to zoom.us/j/725916133 . (Parents: We have a secure virtual space. Attendees are screened in the waiting room before being allowed in the meeting.)



PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

For the summer Pastor Arlene's office hours will be by appointment. To set up a time to meet (either via Zoom or socially distanced in person, please email her at pastor.amumc@gmail.com or call 401-335-5156.

WORSHIP VIDEO DVDs

If you can't join us in person for outdoor worship and don't have access to the internet to watch our online worship service, but you do have a DVD player, we can provide recordings of the Sunday worship services. Just call Pastor Arlene at 401-335-5156 and she will arrange a no-contact drop off each week.



PRAY ALWAYS. PRAY ALL WAYS.

A new series of weekly videos exploring different types of prayer.



What comes to mind when someone mentions prayer? Maybe you think of sharing your needs and concerns with God, or perhaps reciting The Lord's Prayer, or participating in the worship liturgy. However, there are many other types of prayer and many other ways to talk with and be present to God.

For the next several months, Pastor Arlene will be guiding us on an exploration of new ways to pray. Every week she will publish a new video via Facebook and the church website describing a different prayer practice from a variety of Christian traditions. You can access all the videos, along with a downloadable a prayer guide for each at www.amumc.org/spiritual-formation. By expanding our definition of prayer and enlarging our repertoire of prayer techniques, we'll have the opportunity to greatly enrich our spiritual lives.

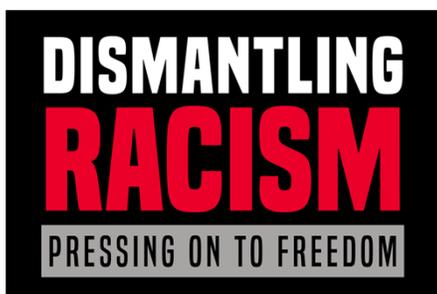
"Pray always." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)



SUNDAY SCHOOLERS' GAME NIGHT

August 3rd at 6:30 PM

Pastor Arlene is hosting a Zoom game night for Sunday Schoolers on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. Join us for games like Wheel of Fortune, Pictionary, Family Feud, Charades, and more. Contact Pastor Arlene at pastor.amumc@gmail.com for the Zoom link



UMC Unveils "Dismantling Racism" Initiative

United Methodist Church leaders have launched a plan of action to galvanize church members and others to actively stand against racism in the wake of the death of George Floyd and protests across the U.S. Find out more at:

UMC.org/EndRacism

www.facebook.com/unitedmethodistchurch

Worship
Video
Team



CAMERA OPERATORS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to operate the new ceiling mounted video camera (pan and zoom) for live streaming worship services. No experience necessary. Please contact Pastor Arlene at pastor.amumc@gmail.com or 401-335-5156.

Finance Committee Report June 30, 2020

Through mid-year 2020, our donation and other income totals \$93,186. This is above budget primarily due to timing. Some large one-time donations have come in earlier than expected. We are also tracking well for total donations. Thank you to everyone for maintaining your pledged or non-pledged income. Expenses of \$107,304 are generally on budget, except for church maintenance expenses. We have had unexpected heating system issues and extra electrical work done this year. The net loss through 6 months is \$14,118. We have been continuing to pay our mission shares payments every month. Our checking account balance includes \$21,400 in SBA funds obtained through a federal government program administered at Navigant Credit Union. If anyone has questions about our financial reports or would like to receive them on a regular basis, please contact Cindy Mauch Treasurer at camauch@gmail.com.

9:16 AM
07/23/20
Cash Basis

Arnold Mills United Methodist Church
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2020

	<u>Jun 30, 20</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Total Checking/Savings	46,512.15
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>46,512.15</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
NAVIGANT SBA LOAN	21,400.00
Boy Scout Cabin	500.00
Current Liabilities	225.40
Kitchen Fund	140.01
FATHERS DAY GIFTS	160.00
MEALS FOR HOMELESS	1,966.41
EASTER-CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	96.25
CHURCH SCHOOL CARTRIDGE FUND	218.69
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP PAYABLE	65.01
PASTOR DISCRETION FUND PAYABLE	1,158.18
SOUND AND TECH PAYABLE	185.66
YOUTH MISSION FUNDS PAYABLE	1,426.52
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>27,542.13</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>27,542.13</u>
Total Liabilities	27,542.13
Equity	
Total Equity	<u>18,970.02</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>46,512.15</u></u>

**Arnold Mills United Methodist Church
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through June 2020**

	<u>Jan - Jun 20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Income			
DONATION INCOME			
PLEDGED DONATIONS	68,613	75,502	-6,889
UNPLEDGED DONATIONS	11,275	6,202	5,073
OPEN PLATE	311	1,754	-1,443
CHURCH SCHOOL	102	242	-140
INITIAL OFFERING	125	100	25
EASTER/LENT/ GOOD FRIDAY	2,597	2,050	547
CHRISTMAS	50	0	50
SPECIAL GIFTS (CHRISTIAN ED)	4,000	4,000	0
Total DONATION INCOME	<u>87,073</u>	<u>89,850</u>	<u>-2,777</u>
Total OTHER INCOME	<u>6,053</u>	<u>710</u>	<u>5,343</u>
Total FUNDRAISER INCOME	<u>60</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>60</u>
Total Income	93,186	90,560	2,626
Expense			
Total STAFF	63,654	71,351	-7,697
Total CHURCH OFFICE	1,147	1,573	-426
TRUSTEES			
Total UTILITIES	9,474	12,202	-2,728
GENERAL MAINTENANCE	9,586	3,450	6,136
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	1,690	1,800	-110
CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	0	500	-500
PROPERTY INSURANCE	3,288	5,770	-2,482
Total TRUSTEES	<u>24,038</u>	<u>23,722</u>	<u>316</u>
Total MISSION SHARES	<u>17,179</u>	<u>17,179</u>	<u>0</u>
Total CONFERENCE & MISSIONS	17,179	17,179	0
Total MISCELLANEOUS	275	360	-85
Total PROGRAM EXPENSES	<u>886</u>	<u>1,925</u>	<u>-1,039</u>
Total STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE	<u>125</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>75</u>
Total Expense	<u>107,304</u>	<u>116,160</u>	<u>-8,856</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-14,118	-25,600	11,482

Trustee Report

After months of holding meetings on Zoom, the Trustee Committee met in person in July on the Cargill Hall lawn. Masked and socially distanced, in our own chairs, it was a pleasure to be together again! The following issues were discussed:

- Based on a decision of the Church Council the Investment Portfolio Strategy has been updated so that the future of our financials will remain strong for the next generation. Our new portfolio mix ranges as follows: 55-60% equities, 38-43% fixed income, 2% cash.
- The exterior carpentry repairs and painting of the church and hall trim and doors has been completed. The parsonage and its garage also had repair work done and then totally painted as the siding was quite worn. Check out the blue porch ceiling!
- The office air conditioning system has been serviced.
- Heating system traps are being investigated.
- The fire alarm system received its quarterly inspection. At the same time Eastland Electric replaced the batteries in the emergency lighting system.
- At the parsonage, the trustees have been dealing with smoke alarm batteries, a missing closet door, the motion light on the garage, water filters, and trimming back the surrounding foliage.
- Plantings in front of Cargill Hall have been trimmed and the beds mulched. Donations from our "Family Day Dedications" have partially funded this project.
- Cumberland Pest Control has been contacted to do the annual spraying a bit early as the wasp situation warrants it.
- Our next meeting will be in September. Enjoy the summer!

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsay Gettinger

Missions Committee Report

August 2020

Note: The various Mission and Social Concern activities continue to be modified or on-hold due to the ongoing 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

The most recent Meals in the Park event was held on Sunday, July 5th at Bouley Field on Social Street in Woonsocket, RI. Thanks to those who provided sandwiches, desserts and volunteering in the park. We fed about 60 people and handed out 80 meals. Who knew sausage and peppers on a hot day would be a hit! Thanks to everyone at the park who got us organized. Our support for this program means so much to so many people. Our next meal is Sunday August 2nd. Please let Karen know if you can bake, make sandwiches and or volunteer in the park. We will be having sausage and peppers again and BBQ chicken. Please call Karen 333-2166 if you have any questions or would like to donate to this wonderful program.

Franklin Farm Community Garden

The Franklin Farm Community Garden volunteers are busy harvesting vegetables for RI Community Food Bank and local soup kitchens and food pantries! So far the harvests have been bountiful so there is need for more volunteers! The Farm Stand remains closed so the harvested vegetables can be donated directly to needy families during these challenging times. Volunteers can log onto the signup page at www.franklinfarmri.org website. Any questions contact Pam or Chip Thurlow; thurlowcp@gmail.com; 401-333-1235.

Dave's Marketplace Day Old Bakery Donations

We are resuming our program of 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 and they are still in need of the baked goods.** A signup chart is available for interested volunteers. Contact Chip Thurlow if interested: thurlowcp@aol.com.

Habitat for Humanity

The Habitat for Humanity project at 277 Talcott Street - now re-labeled at 4 Phillips St. - in Woonsocket has been completed and the Dedication Ceremony for those who volunteered is on Saturday August 1st. Thanks to Rachel Precourt, Elton Odom, Sam Burgos, George Jutras, Chip Thurlow and (former AMUMC member) Zeph Halsey for volunteering at this work site. A new project will be announced when it is approved by the Habitat Board of Directors.

Diabetes Prevention and Education Workshop

The Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation **Diabetes Prevention and Care Workshop here at AMUMC will resume when conditions permit.** Any questions contact Pam or Chip Thurlow; thurlowcp@gmail.com; 401-333-1235.

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

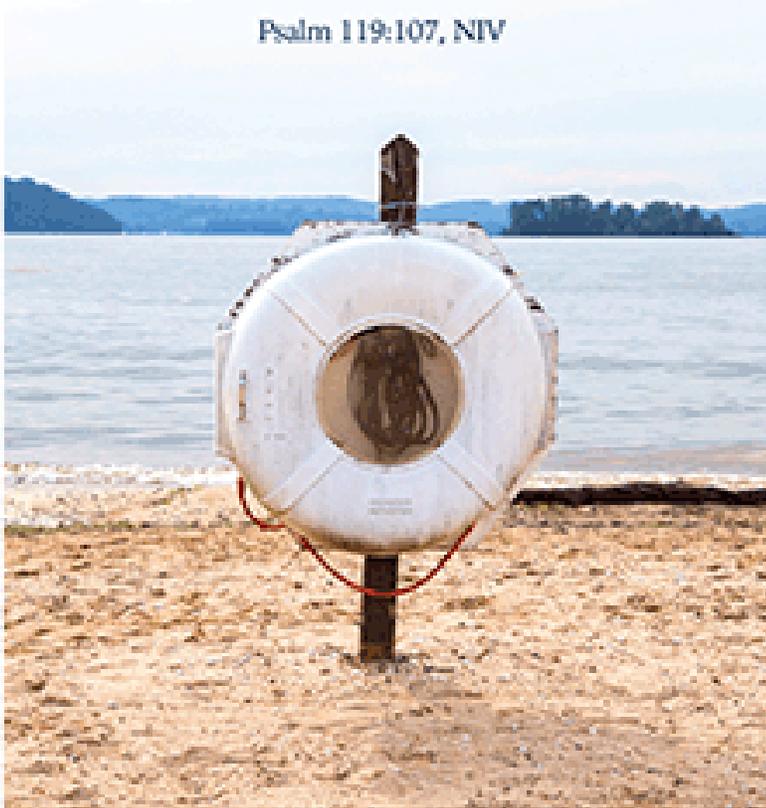
The donated goods are donated to either the Northern RI Food Pantry or the Woonsocket Shelter as necessary.

Chip Thurlow, Chairperson
AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee

Church School News

Preserve my life,
LORD,
according to your word.

Psalm 119:107, NIV



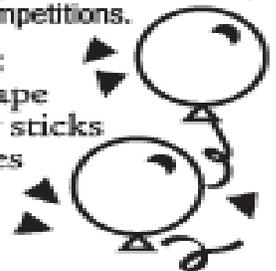
The Christian Education Committee would like to wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy summer!!!

GREAT SUMMER GAMES

Though this year's Summer Olympics were postponed, you can host friendly neighborhood competitions.

What you need:

- Masking tape
- Large craft sticks
- Paper plates
- Balloons
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Green construction paper
- Craft glue



What you do:

Balloon Badminton: Make rackets by taping a stick "handle" to each plate. Blow up and tie a balloon. Use the rackets to pass the balloon back and forth, without letting it touch the floor.

Rhythmic Routines: Using tape, firmly attach one end of a 4-foot ribbon to a craft stick. Display style and skill by waving it around. Try choreographing a routine to a praise song.

Champion Crown: Cut a large hole out of the center of a paper plate. Cut 2-inch ovals from green paper. Glue those "leaves" to the ring as garland. Crown a winner of each game!



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

August 12: Board of Trustees Meeting

August 17: Church Council Meeting

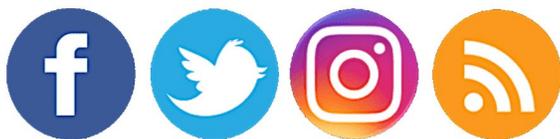
Please Note!!!

The Church Office will be closed Friday's for the month of August!

SPRC News

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.



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Check out our webpage at www.amumc.org

We invite all to our Outdoor Summer Sunday Services:

9:30 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.