

# Good Tidings

December 2021



**Arnold Mills United Methodist Church**

Rev. Arlene M. Tully

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## *A Christmas Epistle from Minnesota*

*Greetings Cumberland Friends in Christ,*

*Thanks to your Pastor I am able to bring you Advent/ Christmas greetings from Minnesota. The Season is much more "normal" than last years "mid Virus" days. Like you, I have been able to attend "in person" worship and, unlike last year, outside music/other groups are able to bring the joy of the season into our facility.*

*At the end of last year Karen's father (John) died after a brief illness. A few months later her mother (Barbara) moved from Myrtle Beach to here at the Glenn (the same apartment Lois and I occupied). She has adjusted very well...playing Bridge several times a week, attending the Catholic services here six days a week and attending most of the planned "social activities". She, like me, miss our spouses but enjoy being close to our Children, Grand Children, and Great Grandchildren (Tommy 6 and Anna 4). In October our youngest Grandson Kevin was married to his fiancé Laura. While I shared in his brother's ceremony ten years ago, this time I had to settle for the prayer at the reception (walker by my side). Tom and Karen continue to look after us, monitor our doctor's visits and get us out to their home for a "home cooked" meal or other activities (plays, concerts etc.). My health remains good though the walker is a necessary "companion". I continue to Lector at the Plymouth Presbyterian Church (every four to six weeks), contribute an "Inspirational Quote" for the daily schedule of activities and just recently was elected to be the President of the Resident Council. As a result of the "reorganization" of the guidelines for all Senior Resident facilities in Minnesota, all facilities must have a Resident Council to serve as a "communication highway" between residents and administration. Now I can continue to be an "activist" but (with my fellow Council members) do it "legally. I continue to cherish hearing from folks in RI (please include your e-mail address). Living in such a facility is an amazing experience and I realize more and more each day how important outside contact (family, friends) is to are aging, both at home and in facilities like the Glenn.*

*From "Lutheran Land" here in Minnesota I leave you with this "message" from Martin Luther:  
"Good news from heaven the angels bring, Glad tidings to earth they sing:  
To us this day a child is given, to crown us with the joy of Heaven".*

*And as Minnesotan Charles Schulz affirms as Linus tells Charlie Brown  
"For unto you is born in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord...That's what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown."*

*Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy/Healthy 2022.*

**Tom Conboy**

Rev. Thomas Conboy Jr.  
The Glenn #106  
5300 Woodhill Ave.  
Minnetonka MN 55345  
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952-452-9194



## ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES — “Be Not Afraid”

This Advent we’ll be exploring the theme, “Be Not Afraid”. There’s much to be anxious about in the world around us – COVID-19, political divisiveness, economic uncertainty, natural disasters, etc. And many of us struggle with fears in our personal lives – fear of loss, failure, illness, death. The undercurrent of fear in our culture affects us all, to some degree.

But there is a good word for us in this season of Advent. It’s heard in the words of Jesus and the announcements of the angels: “Be not afraid.” That reassurance was given to all the major characters in the Christmas narrative. This Advent, as we revisit the stories promising the coming of Emmanuel,

we’ll be reminded that the Christian response – the *Christmas* response – to the very real problems that threaten us is not to deny them, but to live beyond the fear they provoke, because *God is with us*.

*The 1st Sunday of Advent—November 28: “The Opposite of Fear” — Fear of Harm*

*The 2nd Sunday of Advent—December 5: “Daring Greatly” — Fear of Failure*

*The 3rd Sunday of Advent—December 12: “The Only Opinion That Matters” — Fear of Rejection*

*The 4th Sunday of Advent—December 19: “What If?” —The Fear of the Unknown*

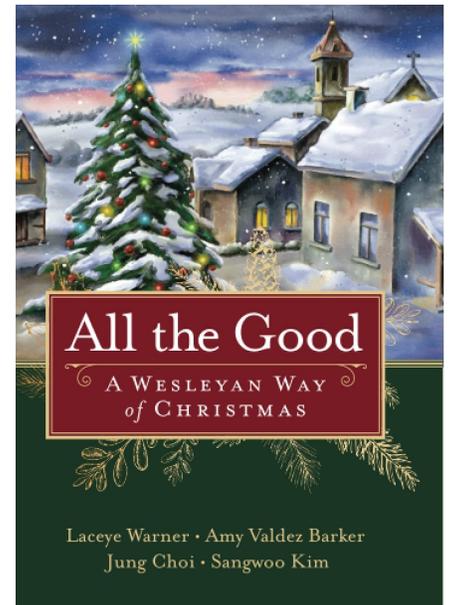
## ADULT STUDY FOR ADVENT —“All the Good”

Sundays at 9 AM, beginning November 28

In person or via Zoom

In *All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas*, a group of diverse Wesleyan scholars will take us on an Advent journey guided by the practices in John Wesley’s means of grace. In four sessions of study, prayer, and conversation, we will look at preparing the way for God, the discipline of prayer, the substance of good works, and the recognition of God’s presence with us in communities that are called to serve the world as the embodiment of God’s love.

Contact Johnna Kosnoff at [jkosnoff@yahoo.com](mailto:jkosnoff@yahoo.com) or 310-343-8699 to reserve a book (and if you’re planning to join the class online, to get the Zoom link).



## ADVENT FOR FAMILIES

*An Illustrated Advent for Families: Do Not Be Afraid* is an opportunity for families to take time each week during the Advent season to be intentional and focus on their faith. These weekly reflections explore our Advent theme, “Be Not Afraid.” Devotions include a suggested scripture to read, a short reflection, discussion questions, an activity, a coloring page, and a prayer. An Advent calendar is also included. Contact the church office at [office.amumc@gmail.com](mailto:office.amumc@gmail.com) or 401-333-5203 for your copy of *An Illustrated Advent for Families: Do Not Be Afraid*.

## REENTRY TEAM COVID UPDATE

The Reentry Team continues to monitor COVID statistics and recommendations from the CDC, RI Department of Health, and the New England Conference. The following changes were made to our COVID protocols at the November 14 meeting:

- With the authorization of the Church Council, the Reentry Team has ordered portable HEPA filtration units and an air humidifier (to maximize the effectiveness of the HEPA filters) for the sanctuary in order to provide adequate air filtration, so that windows can be closed for the winter. HEPA units will also be set up in Sunday School rooms and other areas of the building that are regularly used. Units will not be installed in Cargill Hall due to the very high volume of air in that space, which would require a costly commercial filtration system.
- Due to the waning effectiveness of vaccines, RI's rising infection and hospitalization rates, and the state's current "High Transmission" status per the CDC, we will continue to observe our current COVID protocols in order to protect others (particularly the immunocompromised and unvaccinated), with these changes:
  - Coffee hour
    - \* Upon the installation of the HEPA filters, the window fans currently in use in the sanctuary will be relocated to Cargill Hall. At that time, we will resume Coffee Hour following the 10:30 worship service.
    - \* For the time being, only coffee will be served (no food) and servers will space out pickup areas.
    - \* Intake and exhaust fans will be placed in the windows for ventilation.
    - \* People are asked to maintain a 3 foot distance from persons not in their household, and to increase that distance to 6 feet when unmasked to drink.
  - Choir
    - \* Fully vaccinated members of the choir may resume singing.
    - \* Masks will be worn while singing (during practice and in worship).
    - \* During worship, the number of choir members singing at one time will be limited by the ability to maintain appropriate social distancing.
    - \* A HEPA unit will be placed in the chancel area during worship services when the choir is singing

If you have any questions or concerns for the Reentry Team, please email [reentry.amumc@gmail.com](mailto:reentry.amumc@gmail.com) or leave a message with the church office at 401-333-5203.



### SUNDAY SCHOOLERS' GAME NIGHT—December 6 at 6:30 PM

Pastor Arlene and Lee Ann Cotta host 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, Trivia, and more. Contact Pastor Arlene at [pastor.amumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.amumc@gmail.com) for the Zoom link

# CHRISTMAS EVE AT ARNOLD



## Carols and Cocoa at 5:00 PM

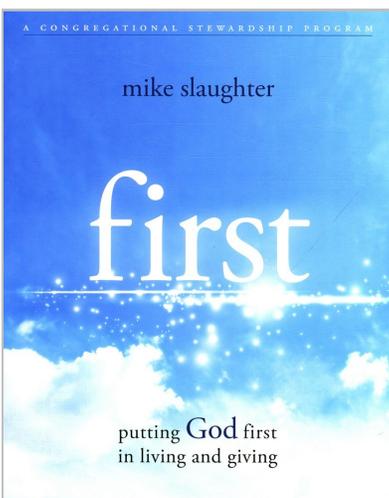
Join us for an old-fashioned outdoor carol sing, with story time for the kids and hot cocoa to keep us warm! (In case of wet weather, we'll meet in the sanctuary.)

## Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols at 9:00 PM

Join us for a traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. We will hear the Nativity story narrated and sing Christmas hymns and carols. Our worship will conclude with candlelight and "Silent Night".



## Stewardship Campaign Update *Putting God First in Living and Giving*



We have had a great response to our Fall Stewardship campaign! Thank you to everyone who has submitted a commitment card with a planned donation amount for 2022. Your commitment helps us plan our budget for the coming year. If you have not yet submitted your card, you can call George in the church office at 333-5203 or email him at [office.amumc.org](mailto:office.amumc.org) and request one. If you have any questions about your pledge for this year or next year, please contact Financial Secretary Karen Oswain at [finance.amumc@gmail.com](mailto:finance.amumc@gmail.com).

If you would like to set up a safe and secure automatic donation from your checking account for 2022, please visit our website [www.amumc.org](http://www.amumc.org) and click on the "Give" tab, then click on the "Give Online" tab to set up your Vanco account.

If you already have an automated account set up and you are changing your pledge amount for 2022, you will need to update this on your Vanco account. Due to their security protocols, if you have not accessed Vanco in the past 90 days you will need to select a new password.

Thank you! Cindy Mauch for the Stewardship Team

# Missions Committee Newsletter Report December 2021

## Meals in the Park

The November Meals in the Park was held on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. AMUMC volunteers provided shepherd's pie and homemade desserts. Another group provided the sandwiches and lunch bags. Masks are still encouraged for these events. **2022 meal dates are January 9th, February 27th and April 3rd.** We are looking for gently used Winter hats and gloves for men and women to hand out on an as needed basis at the meal site. Thank you for continuing to support Arnold Mills United Methodist Church with this mission project. Please call Karen Oswain at 333-2166, or email at [kkoswain@netscape.net](mailto:kkoswain@netscape.net) if you have any questions or would like to serve at this wonderful program.

## Adopt-A-Family

Our church members responded beautifully again to provide Christmas gifts for two families with five children and their mothers. These Northern RI families rely on the support of so many volunteers to provide happy loving experiences through holiday gift giving. Our dedicated long-term generosity continues to be appreciated by so many families over the years.

## The HAPPY Basket Program

Our church members provided over 100 pounds of boxed and canned goods and over \$400 in funds for needy Cumberland families. Our participation in this program allows the volunteers to provide turkeys, Christmas gifts and additional food items in order to provide enriched holiday experiences for those families. Our AMAZING generosity enriches those families in so many ways. John Johnson, the Director of the HAPPY Basket Program, shared that he is so grateful for the ongoing support provided by our AMUMC members for over 15 years!

## Autumn Villa Holiday Donations

Because of the ongoing health crisis, the Autumn Villa senior living facility residents were limited in having family members or friends from visiting. The week before Christmas AMUMC members and friends provided casual gifts and personal care items for the staff to distribute to the residents. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

## Cintas Clothing Donation

**The Cintas clothing and our church donations** to the St. James Episcopal Church Clothing Closet and occasionally to the Community Care Alliance, both in Woonsocket, have resumed and are now on the first and third - and if possible, the fifth - **Wednesday** of the month. Rob Blais, Rich Bizier and Chip Thurlow are usually the drivers. Many of the clients benefit from these clothes as they are need them for interviews and employment.

(contuned on next page)

# Missions Committee Newsletter Report

## December 2021

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

Harvest nights have ended for the season. **The volunteers harvested and donated over 30,000 pounds of farm fresh vegetables primarily to the RI Community Food Bank in Cranston and local soup kitchens and food pantries.** Planning is underway to obtain funds for the restoration of the interior of the historic 1850's farmhouse. In addition, the replacement of the garage doors and the Tractor Barn overhead doors is also underway. Funding for the restoration of the historic barn complex is also a priority for the all-volunteer non-profit organization that manages the Franklin Farm on behalf of the Town of Cumberland. The hiking and bird watching opportunities still are available from dawn to dusk every day. You can marvel at the wondrous views, for the 65-acre property is available for casual open space usage. You can park by the barn complex and enjoy the beautiful outdoor open space. Any questions, please contact Pam or Chip Thurlow; 401-333-1235, [thurlowcp@gmail.com](mailto:thurlowcp@gmail.com)

### **Dave's Marketplace Day Old Bakery Donations**

**The Monday, Wednesday and Friday transporting of day-old baked goods from Dave's Marketplace at Chapel Four Corners continues to various community organizations!** Thanks to Rachel and Elton Odom, Lynne Janke, Lu and Rich Bizier and Chip Thurlow. We could use one or two more volunteers to assist with the Monday deliveries, usually to the Cumberland Senior Center at the Monastery. Please contact Chip Thurlow if you have any questions: [thurlowcp@aol.com](mailto:thurlowcp@aol.com); (401-333-1235).

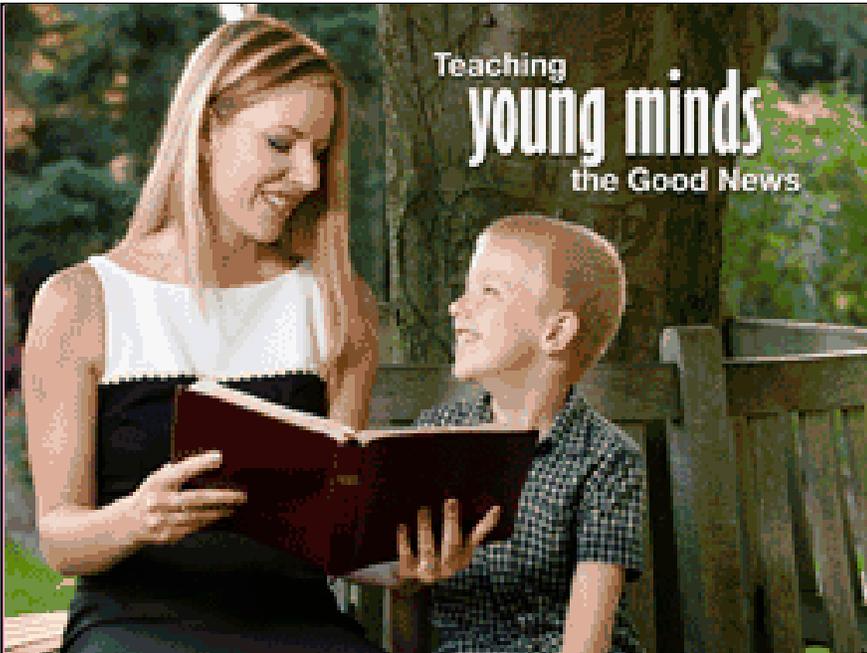
### **Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity Northern RI and West Bay Affiliate is celebrating their 30-year anniversary this year! The next project is under development. They will be building FOUR homes this year, just like the home on Clairmont St in Cumberland near the South Cumberland Middle School in 2008-2009, two units connected by one wall. Two families on one side of the street, and hopefully two veterans on the other side of the street. They will announce the location when they move forward with construction.

Any questions, contact Chip Thurlow: [thurlowcp@aol.com](mailto:thurlowcp@aol.com), 401-333-1235.

Chip Thurlow, Chairperson, AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee

# Church School News



## Important Dates

December 24: Christmas Eve

December 25: Christmas Day

## Sunday School Registration

This year we are adding an electronic form for anyone who prefers registering online. Just go to the Children & Youth page under Education on the church website and look for the online form.

**Main Idea:** During the month of December, we will be working with our Christmas unit called "Good News!"

**Main Idea:** The first people to hear the good news of Jesus each had a special role to play in introducing that news to the world. Each of us is called to share the Good News of God's Son, Jesus. The children will learn that ordinary people were chosen by God to play a role in Jesus' coming. They will discover ways to share the good news with others through word and deed and explore ways they can share good news today.

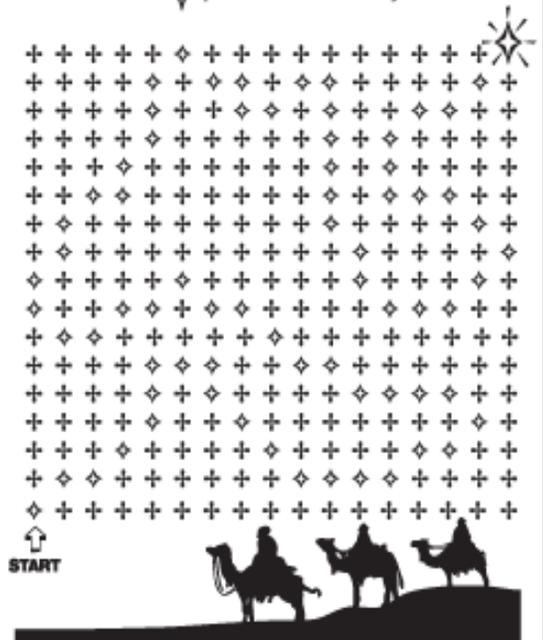
**Bible Verses:** For nothing will be impossible with God. (Luke 1:37)

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." (Luke 1:47)

"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus." (Matthew 1:21)

# Puzzle!

Starting in the lower-left corner, help the wise men follow the path that leads to baby Jesus.



Now unscramble these words to discover what gifts the wise men brought Jesus.

LD OG    NCAKNRIENFSE    RYHMR

## Worship Committee News



A big thank you to all our greeters who will be serving for the 2021-2022 term.

They are: Jean Clark, Lucinda Bellairs,

Karen Roeber, Marianne Alger (with Jude), Johnna Kosnoff and Kathy Murphy.

Our Liturgists for this year are:

Chip Thurlow, Cindy Mauch, Lindsay Gettinger, Johanna Kosnoff, Sandi Ferretti

Thank you Rebecca Puleo for arranging our Liturgists and thank you all for serving.

Also: I want to take this opportunity to recognize

Acolytes: Stacy Johnson

Altar Flowers: Sharon Bizier

Altar Guild: Rachel Odom and Ann Hetherington

Altar Steward: Ross Hancock

Choir Rep: Pam Thurlow

Greeters: TBD

Liturgist: Rebecca Puleo

Music Director: Joey Mazzarella

Ushers: Rich Bizier assisted by Mark Farnell (10:30);

Usher at 8:30 TBD

We are looking for someone to be an usher at the 8:30

AM service. Can you help? If so, please e-mail me at

[thurlowcp@gmail.com](mailto:thurlowcp@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events

December 1: World AIDS Day

December 6: Kid's Game Night

December 6: Boys/Girls Scouts Meeting

December 9: Board of Trustees Meeting

December 13: Boys/Girls Scouts Meeting

December 14: Cub Scouts Meeting

December 18: Charles Wesley's Birthday

December 20: Boys/Girls Scouts Meeting

December 24: Christmas Eve

December 25: Christmas Day

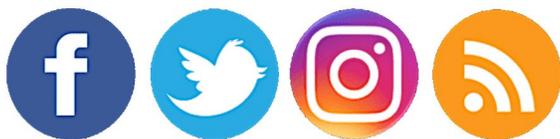
December 27: Boys/Girls Scouts Meeting

December 31: Watch Night/New Years Eve

## SPRC News

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

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](mailto: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](https://twitter.com/ArnoldMills_UMC)

Instagram at [https://www.instagram.com/arnold\\_mills\\_umc](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](mailto: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.

Today

< > December 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>28</p> <p><b>1st Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p><b>Hanukkah Begins</b></p> <p><b>United Methodist Student Day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Indoor Sunday Service</li> </ul> <p>3 more</p>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Special Charge Conference - Zoom</li> <li>7pm Boy/Girl Scouts Troop - Cargill Hall</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom</li> </ul>	<p>Dec 1</p> <p><b>World Aids Day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2pm Book Discussion Group - Church</li> <li>7pm Adult Study - Zoom</li> </ul>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p><b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Indoor Sunday Service</li> <li>9am Adult Sunday School - Vestry</li> <li>10:30am Communion Service</li> </ul> <p>2 more</p>	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Kid's Game Night</li> <li>7pm Boy/Girl Scouts Troop - Cargill Hall</li> </ul>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom</li> </ul>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2pm Book Discussion Group - Church</li> <li>7pm Adult Study - Zoom</li> </ul>	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Board of Trustees - Cargill Hall</li> </ul>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p><b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Indoor Sunday Service</li> <li>9am Adult Sunday School - Vestry</li> <li>10:30am Indoor Sunday Service</li> <li>10:30am Childrens Sunday School -</li> </ul>	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Boy/Girl Scouts Troop - Cargill Hall</li> </ul>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Cub Scout Pack 1 - Holiday Pack</li> <li>6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom</li> </ul>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2pm Book Discussion Group - Church</li> <li>7pm Adult Study - Zoom</li> </ul>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>Charles Wesley's Birthday</b></p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p><b>4th Sunday of advent</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Indoor Sunday Service</li> <li>9am Adult Sunday School - Vestry</li> <li>10:30am Indoor Sunday Service</li> <li>10:30am Childrens Sunday School -</li> </ul>	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Boy/Girl Scouts Troop - Cargill Hall</li> </ul>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom</li> </ul>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2pm Book Discussion Group - Church</li> <li>7pm Adult Study - Zoom</li> </ul>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Christmas Eve</b></li> <li><b>Christmas Eve</b></li> <li><b>Day off for Christmas Day</b></li> </ul>	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Christmas Day</b></li> <li><b>Christmas Day</b></li> </ul>
<p>26</p> <p><b>1st Sunday after Christmas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Indoor Sunday Service</li> <li>9am Adult Sunday School - Vestry</li> <li>10:30am Indoor Sunday Service</li> <li>10:30am Childrens Sunday School -</li> </ul>	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Boy/Girl Scouts Troop - Cargill Hall</li> </ul>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2pm Book Discussion Group - Church</li> <li>7pm Adult Study - Zoom</li> </ul>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>New Year's Eve</b></li> <li><b>Day off for New Year's Day</b></li> <li><b>New Year's Eve</b></li> </ul>	<p>Jan 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>New Year's Day</b></li> <li><b>New Year's Day</b></li> </ul>



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Rev. Arlene M. Tully



Check out our webpage at [www.amumc.org](http://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, public celebrations and prayer concerns,

and

Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month.

Livestreaming of the 10:30 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.