

Good Tidings

February 2019



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church

Rev. Lynn McCracken

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Dear AMUMC Family,

2019 promises to be a year of all things new. I have asked for your prayers for the Special Session of General Conference which will take place in St. Louis, MO on February 23 of this year.

The Susquehanna Conference of the UMC put out a video which explains the history behind the historic decision that will take place at the Special Session. I have summarized it for you.

In 1968 there was a merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church. This formed our current United Methodist Church. We agreed to ordain women, have promote racial equality, and to work together ecumenically to address economic, social and political problems all in the name of Christ.

Four years later a delegate from Southern Indiana named Russell Kibler addressed the General Conference. At a global gathering a committee that had studied the Social Principles was recommending change on the position on homosexuality and other issues.

Before the body was this statement: *"Homosexuals, no less than heterosexuals are persons of sacred worth who need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship which enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. Further, we insist that all persons are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured."*

Kibler wanted to know what was meant by "Homosexuals would have their human and civil rights ensured."

This was his question to the first public debate on homosexuals in the denomination and ended with the addition to the United Methodist Book of Discipline: "The UMC does not condone the practice of homosexuality, and considers this practice to be incompatible with Christian teaching."

Since then, every four years at General Conference, the UMC wrestles with gay and lesbian inclusion. Over the years the conversation has deteriorated. In 2008 some 200 protestors interrupted the Conference to make a statement by silently covering the communion table with a black shroud, defying Conference actions that denied gay and lesbians to serve as clergy.

In 2012, seeking to acknowledge our division over the issues, the Board of Church and Society petitioned the General Conference to add the statement: "As a denomination, we are conflicted regarding homosexual expressions of human sexuality."

The motion was defeated. We could not even agree to disagree.



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In 2015, the Supreme Court established same sex civil marriages as a Constitutional right. The ruling seemed to call the question of unity within the UMC. Do we affirm the language of our Book of Discipline? Or, is there disagreement in our biblical and theological interpretation?

During the 2016 General Conference, the body was at an impasse. Delegates pleaded with their Council of Bishops to lead the church in a path forward, which is radical in our system. Bishops do not dictate legislation; the body decides on our business.

After extended meeting behind closed doors, a plan emerged. With the Council's approval, the Bishops formed a 32 member commission to provide recommendations on same sex marriages and the licensing and ordination of LGBTQ clergy.

Over the course of 17 months, the Commission on a way forward worshipped, studied, argued and prayed. They completed their work without taking a single vote and submitted their report to the Council of Bishops.

Since then, reviews have been made to the Jurisdictional Council (the highest legal authority in the UMC).

On February 23, 2019 the Special Session of General Conference will meet in St. Louis, MO to discern our WAY FORWARD.

This is the legislations that the Commission of the Way Forward (COWF) will bring to our General Conference in February:

Finally, after explaining how COWF functioned, the report turns to "A Conversation within the Commission on a Way Forward," which contains the proposed plans.

The One Church Plan, endorsed by the Council of Bishops, would allow but not require United Methodist clergy to perform same-gender weddings where legal, and allow but not require annual conferences to ordain LGBTQ pastors. "The One Church Plan is built on the belief that it is possible to live with more space while we focus on our common mission," the report states.

The Connectional Conference Plan would create "three values-based connectional conferences" in the U.S., and provide for central conferences to align with one of those connectional conferences or become one of their own. According to the report, the "Connectional Conference Plan addresses the reality of the UMC as it is now."

The Traditionalist Plan is mentioned in the report, but details written by "a few members of the Council of Bishops" appear in appendix 3. "The Traditional Model maintains our global United Methodist teaching on human sexuality," the plan states.

COWF considered a traditionalist plan but discontinued work on it because it received "modest support" from both COWF and Council of Bishops. When the bishops later asked COWF to include a Traditionalist Plan, "the time available did not allow for the full conciliar process utilized for the other two plans."

Other plans that are not part of the COWF report have been submitted by others for consideration by the Special Session of General Conference.

To read more about this please Google The Commission on the Way Forward of the UMC.

As you can see by reading this newsletter article, it is imperative that we hold those attending the Special Session of General Conference in prayer.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Lynn

Board of Trustees

AMUMC Trustees met on January 10, 2018. The first order of business was to ask for volunteers or assign responsibilities for the year. Approved by all present were the following:

Lindsay Gettinger - Chairperson and Building Use Organizer

Fran Carr - Assistant Chairperson and Grounds Overseer

Rich Bizier - Parsonage Problems Liaison

Paul Roeber - Technology Geek Expert

Dave Larson - Heating System Go to Guy

Scott Murphy - Secretary and Insurance Agent

Tom Cabana - Treasurer and Good News Man

Tom Hetherington - Legal Advice Go to Guy

As there is room for one more, anyone looking to work hard is welcome to apply!

The Irish Step-Dancing Recital held in December was a great success as over 180 visitors were packed into Cargill Hall. The organizers had it merrily decorated for Christmas and did a fantastic job of cleaning up. They loved our stage!

The display case near the offices will be receiving a functional update thanks to Rachel Precourt and Fran Carr. Keep looking...

Paul Roeber has been hard at work upgrading the sanctuary's sound system and has purchased equipment in order to provide sound and visuals from the church to the hall for our future overflow crowds. He and Dave Larson will be the volunteer AV guys for functions.

Our parsonage tenant requested new programmable thermostats and the majority of the Trustees agreed that was a worthwhile improvement and gave the go-ahead.

A few other improvements are in the works and will be reported on as they happen.

Till next month,
Lindsay Gettinger, Chairperson

Trustee Report for January 2019

The Trustees have had a relatively calm winter so far. Preventive maintenance measures are taken care of monthly, the snow removal companies are lined up, the parsonage has no repairs needed, and our new folding machine and security camera are up and running.

Cargill Hall has been booked by the Boy Scouts for an overnight and the Pinewood Derby as well as a private birthday party.

The only unexpected issue was a continually running toilet in the downstairs boys' restroom. A flooded downstairs was discovered by scouts who immediately went to work mopping the water up and setting up fans. No damage was done and actually the crisis spurred several ladies and our custodian to clean out the hallway closets and the basement storage area! If any committee has an overflowing, disorganized closet perhaps it is time to tackle it. Stay tuned for announcements on giving our historical building a good spring cleaning this year!

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13 at 7:00 P.M. Representatives from Rockland Trust, the managers of our portfolio, will be in attendance to review 2018 and answer any questions. All members of AMUMC are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsay Gettinger, Trustee Committee Co-Chair

Church Treasurer's Report

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Current assets at year end totaled \$20,657.03. There are \$4,501.05 in funds restricted to special uses. The largest of these is a \$1,426.05 balance in a fund for a youth group mission trip or activity.

Total Operating Revenue for the year was \$199,286. The only area of shortfall in comparison to budget was in the category of unpledged donations. Operating Expenses totaled \$219,913 for the year. Expenses were very close to budget. There were some unexpected Trustee expenses related to tree removal and elevator maintenance and repairs during the year.

There was a \$20,626 Operating Loss for the year. This was offset in by \$19,800 in Rental Income received from the parsonage tenant. Cash flow was tight but this Rental Income helped pay regular operating expenses in 2018. With a new Pastor moving into the parsonage in June, this Rental Income will be ending and will result in much tighter cash flow.

Church members generously gave to many special funds this year that are outside of the AMUMC Operating Budget. A total of \$2,388 was donated to the Special Sunday funds (such as Golden Cross Sunday and UMCOR Sunday.) Happy Basket and Easter Basket donations totaled \$773. A special collection for the Hope Christian School in Israel received \$700. Meals for the Homeless fund collected \$390. UMCOR disaster relief donations totaled \$375. A donation to a student at St. Anselm College raised \$233. Thank you to all for participating in these important mission projects!

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Mauch Treasurer

Church School News



Throughout the month of February The children will continue hearing the stories of Daniel in the Lion's Den and The Fiery Furnace through mid February. Then they will begin their fifth unit titled Elijah.

The main idea is: In Daniel we hear stories of people God called to be faithful and to stand up for God. Their stories inspire us and help us learn more about what God calls us to do and be.

Objectives: By the end of the unit children will

- Discover biblical characters who stood up for their beliefs in God's rules;
- Discuss ways to stand up for what they believe;
- Experience ways God calls us to be faithful even though it may be hard to do;
- Discover that being faithful to God, we are setting an example for those who may not know God;
- Discover that sometimes it takes courage to stand up for our faith in today's world.

Junior Church February 3rd

Please report directly to Cargill Hall where we will be making Valentines!



A MESSAGE OF *Love*

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.



What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.



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

5th - Jacob Gorman
15th - Lana Prochniak
Caiden Gauvin
22nd - Cole Parent

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



Boy Scout Sunday February 3rd, 2019

Troup 1 Arnold Mills will be joining us at our 10:30 a.m. worship service. All Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Scout leaders are invited to wear their uniforms to church that day.

The AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee

Ongoing Projects

Dave's Marketplace Day Old Bakery Donations

Dave's Marketplace at Chapel Four Corners has selected us to deliver the day old bread on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the year. Our volunteers transport the bakery items to the Cumberland Senior Center, the Woonsocket Shelter, the Northern RI Food Pantry, Progreso Latino in Central Falls or the Salvation Army of Pawtucket. If you are interested in assisting with some of these donations, please contact Chip Thurlow: 401-333-1235; thurlowcp@aol.com.

Soup Kitchen Meals in Woonsocket

AMUMC provides one lunch a month to needy families and individuals at an inner city location. We feed up to 100 meals during this lunch and are now packing a brown bag meals "to go" for evening sustenance. This is a year round program and coordinated by local churches, business and individuals for the City of Woonsocket. The next meal is Sunday February 17th and then March 17. We are always looking for home made baked goods. Any questions, please contact Karen: kkoswain@netscape.net; 401-749-3609

Habitat for Humanity

The Habitat for Humanity restoration project in Burrillville at **66 Wallum Lake Road** is progressing nicely. Skill levels vary from framing carpenters to novices. A variety of jobs are available, even for the inexperienced! Our church has committed to the **second Saturday of each month**. Please contact Chip Thurlow.

Thank you to the members of the AMUMC family for:

The Cumberland Senior Center continues to receive Dave's Marketplace baked goods and some of the boxed and canned goods donated in the baskets in the hallway.

The Cintas clothing donations that continue to the St. James Episcopal Church and occasionally to the Community Care Alliance, both in Woonsocket. Ron Blais, Rich Bizier and Chip Thurlow provide the twice monthly deliveries.

The ongoing donations of boxed and canned food goods and personal care items to the Northern RI Food Pantry, the Food Pantry at the Cumberland Senior Center at the Monastery and the Woonsocket Shelter.

Chip Thurlow, Chairperson
401-333-1235; thurlowcp@aol.com)



Boy Scout Sunday - Feb. 3, 2019

We are pleased to sponsor the Troop 1 Arnold Mills Boy Scout Troop. They will be participating in the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Boy Scout Sunday. We invite all who are involved in scouting to wear their Uniforms that day.

Worship Committee

Happy Birthday! On January 29th Lucille Martin celebrated her 93rd birthday.



On February 10th Rev. Tom Conboy will turn 89!
Thank you acolytes, you are doing a great job!

Thanks to those who donated poinsettias that beautified our sanctuary during the Christmas season.

A signup sheet for Altar Flowers is posted on the bulletin board outside of Cargill Hall. Please take the time to honor someone and enhance the beauty of our church.

You may direct any questions or comments to any member of the Committee:

Sarah Gauvin, Ross Hancock, Joey Mazzarella, Rebekah Puleo, Ann Marie Rivard, Sharon Bizier, Tom Shackelford, Brittney Lambert or myself.

Pam Thurlow, Chairperson



Snow Cancellation Policy

During times of heavy snow or other bad storms, the cancellation of church services will be broadcast on the RI Broadcasters Service, so cancellations will show up on TV and news web sites just like school cancellations. You are always urged to use their discretion, and stay at home if getting to the church would entail any risk in bad weather.



February 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 8:30am & 10:30am <u>Worship Services</u> 10:30am <u>COMMUNION Service</u> 11:30 AM <u>Fellowship Hour</u>	4 <u>Dave's Market Donation- P.L.</u> 7:00 PM <u>Boy Scouts- Hall</u>	5	6	7 7:00 PM <u>Choir Rehearsal- sanctuary</u>	1 Boy Scouts <u>Pinewood Derby Setup - Hall</u>	2 Boy Scouts <u>Pinewood Derby - Hall</u>
10 8:30am & 10:30am <u>Worship Services</u> 11:30 AM <u>Fellowship Hour</u>	11 <u>Dave's Market Donation- P.L.</u> 7:00 PM <u>Boy Scouts- Hall</u>	12	13 7:00 PM <u>Board of TRUSTEES- Library</u>	14 7:00 PM <u>Choir Rehearsal- sanctuary</u>	15	16
17 8:30am & 10:30am <u>Worship Services</u> 11:30 AM <u>Fellowship Hour</u>	18 <u>Dave's Market Donation- P.L.</u> 7:00 PM <u>Boy Scouts- Hall</u> 7:00 PM <u>Church COUNCIL- Library</u>	19	20	21 7:00 PM <u>Choir Rehearsal- sanctuary</u>	22	23
24 8:30am & 10:30am <u>Worship Services</u> 11:30 AM <u>Fellowship Hour</u>	25 <u>Dave's Market Donation- P.L.</u> 7:00 PM <u>Boy Scouts- Hall</u>	26 6:30 PM <u>Cub Scout Pack Meeting - Hall</u>	27	28 7:00 PM <u>Choir Rehearsal- sanctuary</u>		



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church
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Phone: 401-333-5203
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Rev. Lynn McCracken



Check out our webpage at www.amumc.org

We invite all to our 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.