

Good Tidings

January 2023



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,

Happy New Year! I hope your Christmas was merry and you received the very best gifts of the season: hope, peace, joy and love. The new year presents us with the opportunity to examine the past year and think of ways to make the coming year even better. Some make resolutions, some try new things, and some simply spend some time imagining what the future holds in store for them.

As we begin the new year, we regroup not only in our personal lives, but within our church community. Members of our teams and committees who have given generously of their time will be rotating off. Others will begin a new term. As each committee holds their first meeting in January I ask your help. How can we make this transition as smooth as possible? What do new members need to know about the function of the team and the other members? What one thing do you wish someone had told you at your first meeting? I also hope those of you who are taking on a new position in the church will feel free to ask questions and bring us to task if we are speaking in "committee code." Remind us that not everyone knows what mission shares are or what SPRC means. (FYI: Mission Shares are monies sent to the New England Annual Conference as part of our obligation the United Methodist church and its mission in and around the world. SPRC stands for the Staff Parish Relations Committee.)

Beyond committee work, the new year is a time to reexamine the life of the church. What resolutions would you make for our church family? What are our growth areas? I hope we will spend some time in prayerful listening as together we seek a "Jesus sized dream," for the people of Cumberland.

A new year lies ahead of us, full of possibility and promise. May God fill the coming year with joy and laughter, hope and wonder.

Looking forward to all that lies ahead,

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

Pastor Heather

PS. Thank you so very much for your kind and generous gift to me and my family! Thank you for the cards and kind notes. Thank you for your continuously warm welcome of me and my family.

New Sunday Schedule begins January 8

9:30 am Adult Bible Study

9:30 am Choir Practice

10:30 am Worship

8:30 Worship takes a winter pause.

We will resume February 26, 2023, the first Sunday in Lent.

This allows more time to clear the roads and driveways and allows us to worship as one community for a short time. Please remember when the weather is particularly wintry, you can always join us online. If you are feeling unwell, or unsure about driving in wintry conditions, please stay home.

Meals in the Park

We served 140-150 meals on Sunday December 4th, Tami Noke's soup was a hit and the homemade desserts were appreciated and delicious! On Saturday it took only 65 minutes to brown 30 pounds of ground beef and make 5 boxes of instant potatoes to make 5 large pans of shepherds pie. Our next meals are January 8th and February 19th. Thank you very much for sharing your time and your continuous support for this community meal.



HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



TOGETHER
OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways

YOUR DONATION CHANGES THE WORLD ONE LIFE AT A TIME

GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:
Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit/debit card at ResourceUMC.org/SSGive

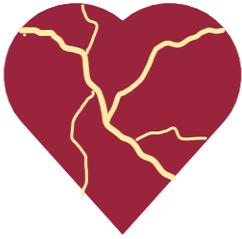


TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

December 2022



Dear Friends,

As followers of Christ, we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to be good stewards of all that God has blessed us with. As United Methodists we are able to have an impact on worldwide events through our connectional system, but our presence and our voices are still needed. Earlier this year a group of concerned United Methodists came together to focus on social justice issues and Hearts for Social Justice was born. In September, Rhode Island United Methodists Association and Hearts for Social Justice officially joined forces and became Hearts for Social Justice/Rhode Island United Methodists in Action.

The challenges are many and the need is great. From environmental issues to food insecurity, from racial injustice to religious persecution, from the housing crisis to voting rights, from clean water to healthcare access, the need to make sure that God is in the process is more important now than ever. No one can do it all, but there is strength in joining together that allows our voice to be louder, our reach greater.

If you have a passion for social justice, or if you are a newcomer to the idea, you are needed. Whatever issue calls to you, you are needed. Whether you are ready to become actively involved in the group, or feel called to participate in specific actions, you are needed. Whether you want to be on the frontlines, or work behind the scenes, you are needed.

Hearts for Social Justice is involved with the Friendship Breakfast at Mathewson St UMC in Providence. Members are advocating for gun control and the unhoused in Rhode Island, for racial justice across our Conference, and for global climate justice; and that is just the beginning. Our goal is to become an information resource as well as a public face bringing God into these far-reaching, complex issues.

To that end, we are inviting you to join us for a Prayer Walk at the RI State House on Monday January 2, 2023 at 11am. This is the day before the 2023 Legislative session begins. Our intention is to pray for the legislators and state leaders, and their work for our state. We hope to see you there.

Contact us today at HSJ.RIUMA@gmail.com if you're ready to join us or if you'd like more information. And follow us on Facebook at [Hearts for Social Justice RI](#).

In Faith,

Coni

Coni Ferland Co-chair

Effie

Rev Effie McAvoy Co-chair

Hearts for Social Justice

Rhode Island United Methodists in Action

Missions Committee Newsletter Report

January 2023

Meals in the Park

On Sunday, December 4th we served 140-150 meals for the Meals in the park Program. Tami Noke's soup was a hit and the homemade desserts were appreciated and delicious! On Saturday it took only 65 minutes to brown 30 pounds of ground beef and make 5 boxes of instant potatoes to make 5 large pans of shepherds pie. Our next meals are **January 8th and February 19th**. Thank you very much for sharing your time and your continuous support for this community meal.

Happy Basket Program

Our church members provided over 160 pounds of boxed and canned goods and \$849 in funds for qualifying Cumberland families. We also made a \$1,000 anonymous donation in August in support of this ongoing (since 1996!) program that enriches the lives of so many 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 the past 16 years!



Melinda Acosta, John Johnson and Chip Thurlow with the \$924 donation.



Donation Boxed and Canned Goods

Autumn Villa Personal Care Donations

This year we collected a variety of personal care items for the Autumn Villa Assisted Living Facility on Diamond Hill Road in Cumberland. The residents will benefit from these donated items either for themselves or as gifts for their family members as they are unable to travel to make purchases themselves. Thank you for your continued generosity for enriching the lives of others in our community.



171 pounds of Personal Care Items

The Adopt-A-Family Gifts

Our generous church members provided 27 Christmas gifts for five children and their parents for the Adopt-a-Family Program. 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 these families over the years.



Family #194



Family # 260



Bags r\Ready for Delivery

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity Northern RI and West Bay Affiliate is celebrating their 30-year anniversary this year! The current project is **83 & 85 Oakland School Street in Burrillville, RI**, which will be a duplex - two housing units connected by one central wall. The next date for AMUMC volunteers is **Saturday, January 21st, 2023**. If you have any questions, please contact Chip Thurlow: thurlowcp@aol.com, 401-333-1235.

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

During this, the 16th season of raising farm fresh vegetables for needy families in Rhode Island, the volunteers grew and distributed over **35,000 pounds** of various vegetables to the **RI Community Food Bank** and to local soup kitchens and food pantries in Northern RI. Any questions, please contact Pam or Chip Thurlow; 401-333-1235, thur-lowcp@gmail.com

Dave's Marketplace Day Old Bakery Donations and Cintas Clothing Donation

Distribution of the items from these businesses continues as scheduled by the Missions Committee members. If you have any questions, please contact Chip Thurlow: thurlowcp@aol.com; 401-333-1235.

Chip Thurlow, Chairperson, AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee

Join us for a Fair Trade Coffee Hour!

Members of Hearts for Social Justice here at AMUMC invite you to Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 22nd to learn more about the Fair Trade initiative. We'll be serving coffee and snacks made to Fair Trade standards and providing information about the Fair Trade movement.

What is Fair Trade? It is an arrangement designed to help producers in developing countries achieve sustainable and equitable trade relationships. It is a global movement to improve the lives of farmers and workers. The movement focuses on products that are typically exported from developing countries to developed countries. Fair Trade certification covers a growing range of products, including bananas, honey, coffee, cocoa beans, cotton, dried and fresh fruits and vegetables, nuts, spices, sugar, tea and wine. Supporters believe that Fair Trade is making a significant positive impact in the world.

Member organizations who certify to being "Fair Trade" partners all agree on five basic principles:

Payment of Fair Prices

No Child, Forced or Otherwise Exploited Labor

Workplace Non-Discrimination, Gender Equity, and Freedom of Association

Democratic and Transparent Organizations

Long-Term Direct Trading Relationships

Fair Trade also is focused on environmental protection. To sell Fair Trade products, farmers must improve soil and water quality, manage pests, avoid using harmful chemicals, manage waste, reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and protect biodiversity.

Learn more about Fair Trade on January 22nd. See you at Coffee Hour!

AMUMC Social Justice team

Christmas Eve Service Pictures



Pastor Heather Bailes Baker



Liturgist Lindsay Gettinger



Candle Light Service - Silent Night



January 2023

"I have a dream..." Martin Luther King cast his vision for all to see and aspire to. He also worked to bring it about. **What is your dream for creation? for justice?** How will you work to bring about a healthy, equitable, and inclusive future for all of God's kin-dom? Read God's vision: [Isaiah 65:17-25](#).

What if we switched to renewable energy? What if rooftops welcomed the sun with solar panels? What if plentiful green spaces were filled with trees and pollinators and grew organic food for the community? What if oceans were clear of plastic? What if humans and all of nature were thriving, not merely surviving? **Hold the vision, live the vision, share the vision.**

Imagine you live in a recreational vehicle (RV). Your water tank holds only 50 gallons. Every time you turn on the water, the noisy electric pump turns on too, sucking up your RV's battery power. Would you keep the water running while you brush your teeth or rinse the dishes? Would you take long showers? Imagine saving the world.

Feeling overwhelmed by all that needs to be done to protect the planet and its people? Imagine a huge bowl of something you'd like to eat. You take a bite and then another bite – not the whole thing at once. **Choose one action you can do and do it.** Don't stop there. Take on another "bite," and then another. You are making a difference.

Bringing about a better environment for all requires individual choices *and group effort*. **Power up for change with a group.** Join your church's green team or a national organization, like Interfaith Power and Light, Sierra Club, or the Ocean Conservancy. Or pull together a small group of folks willing to work locally. Start by reading [what Margaret Mead says](#) about a small group of committed people.

Moving or decluttering? Keep in mind that 146 million tons of solid waste goes in to landfills in the U.S. every year. Imagine that! Located in "someone else's backyard," landfills are notorious for environmental injustice and for methane, which contributes to global warming. Look for alternatives. **Donate, rehome, or recycle instead of trashing.**

When you need to return an item of clothing you bought online, do you imagine it is handled with care and eventually sold to someone else? Unfortunately, much of what is sent back gets sent on to landfills. Before you buy, take your measurements, use the size charts, and rely on customer reviews. **Before you return anything,** check with friends. Perhaps they would add the piece to their wardrobe if it's right for them.

It's a new political year, a new opportunity for you to urge local, state, and federal lawmakers to act on behalf of Earth. Describe your vision for change. Even if you do not know the details of what legislation or policy is needed, you can speak as a person of faith, as an advocate for God's creation. **Ask those in power to support what you value.**

Look beyond your insurance policy to see what's happening at the office. Collecting money from all the policy owners, the company invests it – often in fossil fuels. Imagine if that money went instead to renewables or other life-giving enterprises! It's your money. **Find an insurer that invests in the future not the past.**

Imagine your home as warm as you need it to be without costing you or Earth a penalty. Reap the advantages of a [smart thermostat](#) for heating and cooling or add weather stripping or caulking around windows and doors, thermal drapes or blinds, and insulation. **These relatively inexpensive changes pay off rapidly for you and for future generations of earth-dwellers too.**

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



The children will be wrapping up the unit "In the Manger" and then move into their next unit called "Peacemakers".

Bible Verses: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

Let justice roll down like waters. (Amos 5:24)

Main Idea: Throughout the Bible we read stories of people who tried to bring peace and justice to all of God's people. Their stories inspire us and help us learn how to be peacemakers today.

Objectives: The children will

- * Explore how, even in Bible times, being a peacemaker often took courage and skill.
- * Learn that peacemaking is based in fairness, justice, equality, and love.
- * Make a commitment to being peacemakers in their own homes, schools, and communities.

Important Dates

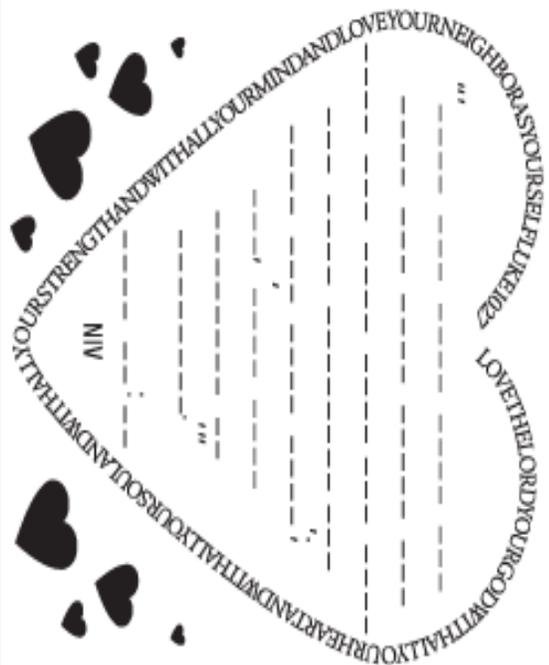
January 1: Epiphany of the Lord

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.

Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength and with all your soul; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27, NIV

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Our Amplify Website:

[https://my.amplifymedia.com/
arnoldmillsumccumberlandri](https://my.amplifymedia.com/arnoldmillsumccumberlandri)

Access Code: DTLSGY

Upcoming Events

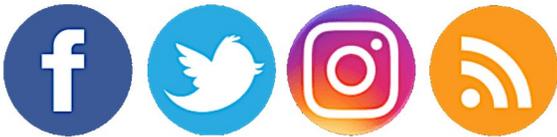
January 1: New Years Day
January 2: Prayer Walk - RI State House
January 7: Troop 1 Eagle Scout Court of Honor
January 10: Arnold Mills Pack 1 Meeting
January 11: Habitat Committee Meeting
January 12: Board of Trustees Meeting
January 15: Human Relations Day
January 16: Church Council Meeting
January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 19: Arnold Mills Cemetery Committee

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

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
<p>Jan 1</p> <p>Epiphany of the Lord</p> <p>New Year's day</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Children's Sunday School <p>2 more</p>	<p>2</p> <p>New Year's Day (substitute)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am Prayer Walk - Hearts for Socia 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Adult Spiritual Formation - Zoor 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Epiphany of the Lord</p>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm Troop 1 Eagle Scout Court o
<p>8</p> <p>Baptism of the Lord</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Adult Spiritual Formation - 0 9:30am Choir Practice - Sanctuary 10:30am Children's Sunday School <p>3 more</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Arnold Mills Pack 1 Meeting - C 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom 	<p>11</p> <p>Human Trafficking Awareness Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Habitat Committee - Cargill H 7pm Adult Spiritual Formation - Zoor 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Board of Trustees - Cargill H 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>Human Relations Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Adult Spiritual Formation - 0 10:30am Children's Sunday School <p>2 more</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Church Council - Cargill Hall 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Adult Spiritual Formation - Zoor 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm Arnold Mills Cemetery Comr 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>3rd Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Adult Spiritual Formation - 0 10:30am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Sunday Service 11:30am Coffee Hour - Cargill Hall 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Adult Spiritual Formation - Zoor 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>4th Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Adult Spiritual Formation - 0 10:30am Children's Sunday School 10:30am Sunday Service 11:30am Coffee Hour - Cargill Hall 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom 	<p>Feb 1</p> <p>First Day of Black History Month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Adult Spiritual Formation - Zoor 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church
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Phone: 401-333-5203
E-mail: office.amumc@gmail.com
Rev. Heather R. Bailes Baker



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

(paused until February 26).

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.