

Good Tidings

January 2021



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church

Rev. Arlene M. Tully

Web Page: www.amumc.org

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Dear Church Family,

Now that Christmas is over, most of us have some work to do. The tree has to come down and the ornaments carefully put back in their boxes. The yard decorations and strings of lights need to be brought in (assuming they're not frozen in place until the spring thaw!). All the wrapping paper and gift boxes are piled up to go to the recycling center. The nativity figurines are waiting to be put back into their proper slots in the Styrofoam. And the red and green storage bins need to go back in the attic. Christmas is over and we've turned our attention to New Year's resolutions.

But these words by poet and theologian Howard Thurman are a reminder that there is yet more to do. We've been given a post-Christmas agenda:

The Work of Christmas
*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.*

As Thurman suggests, we haven't properly observed Christmas unless we've committed ourselves anew to honoring the Christ child by reaching out to those who are suffering, by working to make peace, and by radiating Christ's love.

So from our kneeling place beside the manger, let us slowly rise and step back out into the cold January air and to the world from which we came. Let each of us be bearers of the nativity light into all the needful places in our lives and in our world. Let us get on with "the work of Christmas" – and *then* we will have truly celebrated Jesus' birth.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Arlene

WORSHIP VIDEO DVDS

If you can't join us in person for 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 the office at 401-333-5203 and we will arrange a no-contact drop off each week.



NEW SERMON SERIES “God Is Holding Your Life”

Six-Week Sermon Series

Beginning January 10

Inspired by Marcia McFee's
“Worship Design Studio”

Life is a series of exclamations from “Oh No!” to “Help!” to “Oh Yeah!” We can swing between disappointment, helplessness, and gratitude on a daily basis. As we enter the new year, we had hoped we would be past the “Oh No!” of the last several months. Instead we find ourselves with ongoing prayers for “Help!” The Book of Psalms knows all about this. Written over a span of time from exile and isolation to the rebuilding of the community, the poetry of the Psalms will accompany us in this series, reminding us that through it all, we can trust and even give our thankful “Oh Yeah!” because God is, indeed, holding our lives.

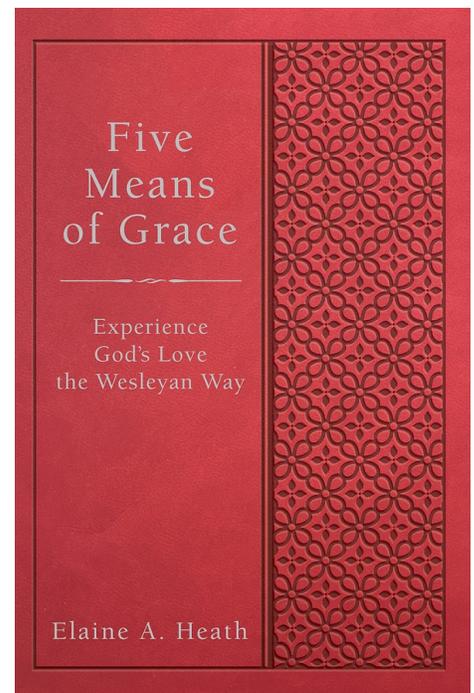
NEW STUDY—*FIVE MEANS OF GRACE*

Wednesdays 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM beginning January 13

Recharge. Reboot. Reorder. Whatever you want to call it, we need a process that helps us continuously renew our relationship with God so that we don't drift away from our faith. Based on The Wesley Covenant for Renewal, “Five Means of Grace” is a six-week, video-based study that will show you how to reorder your life through prayer, searching Scripture, receiving the Lord's Supper, fasting, and conferencing (worshiping together). You'll learn how to recognize and affirm the outward signs, words, and actions of an invisible divine grace, deepening your relationship with God and making your faith more complete. You are encouraged, but not required, to read the companion book.

10:00 AM Session—<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84755871803>

7:00 PM Session—<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/839125938>



GAME NIGHT

SUNDAY SCHOOLERS' GAME NIGHT – January 4 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, and more. Contact Pastor Arlene at pastor.amumc@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

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 (Please note that we will not meet on December 29 or January 5.)



VIDEO CAMERA OPERATORS NEEDED

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



VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

Grab your favorite morning beverage and join us on Zoom to catch up with old friends and get to know new ones. We gather online Sunday mornings at 11:30 AM at zoom.us/j/678414614

(Please note that we will not meet on December 27 or January 3.)



PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Arlene's office hours are by appointment while the church building is under shutdown. 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.

Stewardship Update

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Thanks to the many families and individuals who are both members and friends of Arnold Mills United Methodist Church for promising to support our church and her missions in 2021!

As a result of the Stewardship Campaign held in the fall, we are close to meeting the same pledged amount as 2020. Forty-two "Estimate of Giving" cards have been returned as of the end of December and will still be gladly accepted!

We had sent out 124 letters based on John Wesley's writings about earning, saving, and giving with the knowledge that this year might be a tough one for some and did not know what to expect in return. Yes, some pledged contributions have been reduced, some not returned, and yet others have been increased. This is a very personal matter and should never deter anyone from joining us with acceptance and joy. Everyone is welcome to our little church in God's world!

With gratitude to all,

The Stewardship Committee

Trustee Report

Even with the church building closed up tight, the work of the trustees has not stopped. In the past month the boiler has been repaired and is now up and running, the gutters on both the church and parsonage have been cleaned out, new carbon monoxide detectors have been installed, and a locksmith finally fixed our doors so that all close and lock easily!

But the major accomplishment was a massive amount of tree work which became very necessary due to two major wind, rain and snow storms! A representative from Stanley Tree service had walked the grounds with Fran and Lindsay in early December and given the church a quote to trim all low hanging branches, remove a massive branch that had broken off from one of the old pine trees, and take down two older, weakened trees. We were added to their busy schedule for early March. Not two weeks had passed when another enormous pine came down on the road and covered the sidewalk! So Fran called Stanley Tree Service again to see if they could at least remove that hazard. Not only did they oblige to that request but they decided to spend a day doing all the tree work. This crew was pleasant, industrious and deserve a good word for helping us out! They did apologize for not being able to clear all the small branches due to the snow but were told that we have a scout group that hopefully will help with a yard cleanup in the spring as is the custom! Cheers for our community!

Hoping to see everyone in church soon,

Lindsay Gettinger

Trustee Co-Chair

Christmas Greetings from Rev. Tom Conboy

Greetings AMUMC Family,

Thank you for your many cards and notes received during the Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas Season. The "greetings from Cumberland" certainly, were a blessing to me and made the Virus "lock in" here at the Glenn much easier.

Your Faith, Joy, and the outreach of your "online" services are not only a blessing to me but to countless others in Cumberland and beyond.

May God's wonders, presence and love be with you in 2021 and beyond.

Rev. Thomas Conboy Jr.

Church Missions Committee Report

January 2021

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 Meal in the Park event was held on Sunday, December 27th at Bouley Field on Social Street in Woonsocket, RI. Thank you for your donations of sandwiches, chips, desserts and homemade masks for these needy families. We fed around 60 people, many who were able to have second and even third servings! **The next meal is Sunday, January 17th. We will be serving baked beans and franks. If anyone would like to make a brown bread or a pan of corn bread let Karen know. We will need volunteers in the park for this meal.** Thank you for continuing to support Arnold Mills United Methodist Church with this mission project. Please call Karen 333-2166 if you have any questions or would like to donate to this wonderful program.



HAPPY Basket Program

The revised HAPPY Basket Program with donations of boxed and canned goods and financial contributions was another definition of the generosity of our AMUMC community. **We donated over 105 pounds of needed food items and over \$700 of financial contributions!**



The Revised Christmas Gift Giving Program

The Adopt-A-Family organization in Woonsocket was not able to run the Christmas gift giving program this year so the Boys and Girls Club of Woonsocket chose to manage the gift giving in their place. Even though AMUMC members were not able to select gift ornaments from the Christmas Tree in Cargill Hall after the Holiday Fair, we rose to the challenge and selected gifts from family lists provided online. **We provided over 30 gifts for the five children assigned to us!**



Autumn Villa Donations

Because of the current health crisis, the Autumn Villa senior living facility residents were prohibited from having visits with family members or friends. The week before Christmas AMUMC members and friends provided casual gifts and personal care items for the staff to distribute to the residents. The response was AMAZING!!! Our donations filled three boxes that the staff shared according to the needs of the residents.



Franklin Farm Community Garden

The Franklin Farm Community Garden was resting comfortably under a blanket of snow until the heavy rains, but the Winter Rye loved the moisture and warm weather. The Franklin Farm volunteers organized a “traditional Christmas lightening” on the main house, the barn and a hay wagon. Hopefully AMUMC members have used the opportunity to drive by in the evenings to enjoy the festive light show. Any questions contact Pam or Chip Thurlow; thur-lowcp@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 resumed following extensive adjustments to address protections for our drivers and the clients who access the clothing closet program at St. James Church.** Rob Blais, Rich Bizier and Chip Thurlow are the drivers for the twice or thrice monthly deliveries – the first, third and fifth Thursdays of the month.

Dave’s Marketplace Day Old Bakery Donations

The Monday, Wednesday and Friday transporting day old baked goods from Dave’s Marketplace at Chapel Four Corners to various community organizations has been suspended, hopefully, temporarily. Apparently, the Administrative staff at the Dave’s Marketplace Corporate headquarters are concerned about possible liability for the donations. Contact Chip Thurlow if you have any questions: thurlowcp@aol.com; 401-333-1235.

Habitat for Humanity

The next Habitat for Humanity project is under development. We will notify AMUMC members when volunteer dates are announced. Any questions, contact Chip Thurlow: thurlowcp@aol.com.

Clothing and Boxed and Canned Goods Donations

The donated goods are forwarded 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



The Christian Education Committee would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year!!!

Beginning the last Sunday in December and for the first 3 weeks of January, the children will be focusing on the story of The Good Samaritan.

In this unit and through the story of the Good Samaritan the children will learn that Jesus teaches us to love God and other people. They will learn that when they follow Jesus' teachings, they show God's love to other people, whether they live close to them or far away.

Bible Verse: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27)

Puzzle!

Complete each saying below. Then place the words from those blanks in the correct order to complete Proverbs 23:4.

1. When the going gets tough, the tough _____ going.
2. People who live in glass houses should _____ throw stones.
3. If the shoe fits, _____ it.
4. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is _____ to enter the kingdom of God."
5. Good things come _____ those who wait.
6. When in Rome, _____ as the Romans do.
7. Don't wear _____ your welcome.
8. If you want something done right, do it _____.

Write the unscrambled proverb here:

_____ PROVERBS 23:4

JANUARY Birthdays

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

January 7th: Allison Stewart

January 25th: Pedro Cardoso

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

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

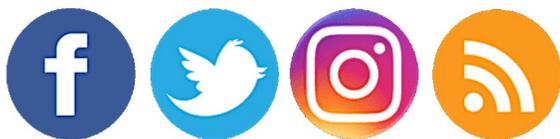
Upcoming Events

January 1: New Years Day
January 13; Board of Trustees Meeting
January 18: Church Council Meeting
January 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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.

Today

< > January 2021







SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27 ● 10am Online Worship Service	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve New Year's Eve	Jan 1 New Year's Day New Year's Day	2
3 ● 10am Online Worship Service	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 ● 10am Online Worship Service	11	12	13 ● 7pm Board of Trustees - Zoom	14	15	16
17 ● 10am Online Worship Service	18 Church Council Meeting - Zoom Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20	21	22	23
24 ● 10am Online Worship Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 ● 10am Online Worship Service	Feb 1 First Day of Black History Month	2	3	4	5	6



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church
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Cumberland, RI 02864
Phone: 401-333-5203
E-mail: office.amumc@gmail.com
Rev. Arlene M. Tully



Check out our webpage at www.amumc.org

Effective November 8, 2020 we have online worship only.

Worship videos will be posted by 10 AM each Sunday.

We will return to in-person worship as soon as it is safe to do so.