

JANUARY 2019

Good Tidings!



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church

Rev. Lynn McCracken

January, 2019

690 Nate Whipple Hwy., Cumberland, RI 02864 ~ 401-333-5203 ~ amumc@verizon.net ~ www.amumc.org



Dear AMUMC Family,

Here we stand on the threshold of another new year. 2019 holds many hopes, dreams, expectations, and fears for each of us. We cannot predict what the future will bring, yet we can pray about how we want to be.

My prayer for you is that you will choose to make this year, a year in which you cultivate compassion. **According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Compassion** refers to both an understanding of another's pain and the desire to somehow mitigate that pain.

www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/compassion

They say, "A picture is worth a thousand words." I am sharing this photograph of our grandson, Jackson, at his preschool last summer. This is a *special needs* classroom, and the little boy crying was experiencing a rough day. Although there are many words that could describe this photograph, the one word that jumps out at me is "compassion."

In the gospel stories, there are many ways Jesus teaches us about compassion. He heals the sick, opens the eyes of the blind, raises the dead, teaches constantly about how to love God and neighbor. Jesus invites us to "go and do likewise." The culmination of Jesus' ministry is his invitation to go and do likewise. It is found in Matthew 25:34-40.

³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, ^[a] you did it to me.'

In order for us to be companions with Jesus, we must remind ourselves, as we have compassion for others, we are walking right alongside Jesus. We are tearing down the walls that divide us and inviting God to guide us in all that we do and all that we are.

I invite you to return your gaze to the photo. This photo of our grandson is a reminder that we too can be that person who reaches out to fill a special need of compassion for another's pain. May you be blessed in every such action you share.

In Christ's Love,
Lynn

Dear AMUMC Family,

At midnight, on December 31, we will step over the threshold to enter the new year, 2019. It will be a time of significant change for our Arnold Mills UMC community. Please join me in daily prayer beginning on January 1, that our Bishop and Cabinet appoint a new pastor to lead you in the coming years.

What a glorious time of year
to join the AMUMC family!

If you are interested in joining the church, please speak with Pastor Lynn. Another membership class will take place on March 11th at 11:30 a.m. in the church vestry. If you cannot make this date, but wish to join the church you may discuss options with Pastor Lynn.

Human
Relations Day

The first United Methodist Special Sunday of 2019 will be here before we know it. Human Relations Day is

January 20th, a day to **support the ministry of Christ among those on the margins.**

Thousands of United Methodist communities will come together to receive a special offering that nurtures at-risk youth, strengthens communities' self-improvement efforts and advocates for the oppressed.

Over the years, on H.R. Day, we have collected thousands of dollars that have gone toward making a real difference in communities across the United States. Will you help us make a difference this year?



Church School News



January 7th: Allison Stewart; and 25th: Pedro Cardoso

Blessings on your birthday!

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Stewardship Committee Update

We start 2018 with pledge commitments of approximately 90% of our 2017 level. We have some work to do. There are still some families that have not yet submitted their 2018 pledge. Pray about your support for our church. Please mail or bring your pledge with you to church on Sunday. Only with your support can we continue to be the vibrant, active, community and missions minded church that we are.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

H.A.P.P.Y. Baskets: The HAPPY Basket donations for distribution to the Cumberland Senior Center this year totaled **\$350!** The program provides Christmas turkeys and toys for needy families in northern Rhode Island. **Over the past seven years we have donated over \$3,600 to the HAPPY Basket Program.**

Adopt-A-Family Christmas Gifts: Thank you for your continued generosity this year by donating 65 gifts for needy children and their parents in this annual Christmas holiday program! And thank you to the May family and the Youth Group for organizing and bagging the gifts!



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

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. Any questions, please contact Karen: kkoswain@netscape.net; 401-749-3609

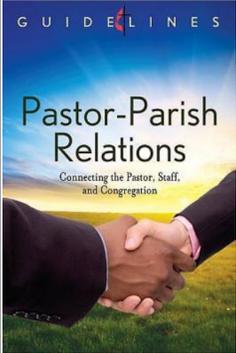
Habitat for Humanity - The Habitat for Humanity restoration project in Burrillville, 66 Wallum Lake Rd, is progressing nicely. Skill levels vary from framing carpenters to novices. A variety of jobs are available, even for the inexperienced! Our church has committed to the second Saturday of each month. Thank you to Rachael Precourt for her participation in this wonderful program. If you are interested, please contact Chip Thurlow.

Thank you to the members of the AMUMC family for:

- the Cumberland Senior Center donation of 224 pounds of boxed and canned goods. Each $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of donated food is a serving for one person. Thus, we provided about 800 servings for families during this holiday season!
- the 65 Adopt-A-Family gifts for needy children and their parents in northern RI, which means a happy Christmas for those children and their families.
- the Cintas clothing donations that continue to St. James Episcopal Church and the Success for Wear programs in Woonsocket. Ron Blais and Chip Thurlow provide the twice monthly deliveries.
- the ongoing donations of boxed and canned food goods and personal care items to: Northern RI Food Pantry, Food Pantry at the Cumberland Senior Center, and the Woonsocket Shelter.

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

Staff Parish Relations Committee - Who We Are And What We Do



Have you ever wondered what the Staff Pastor Relations Committee “SPRC” Committee is all about? Our committee has 9 members (along with the Pastor and Lay Leader). The purpose of the Committee is as follows:

“To encourage, strengthen, nurture, and support the pastor, staff and their families, and to promote unity in the church.” Our responsibilities include:

Serving as the liaison between the congregation and the pastor and staff.

On an annual basis, recommending to the Church Council the compensation packages for the pastor and staff.

Helping staff to succeed in their jobs through adequate supervision, evaluation, continuing education, prioritizing workloads, and encouraging self-care.

Developing and maintaining job descriptions and other personnel policies and procedures

Hiring staff when openings arise

Supporting and explaining to the congregation our church’s connectional responsibilities (regional, national, international connections) and method of pastor appointments.

Members of the committee for 2018 are: Sandy Angell, Al Belisle, Amy Berdos, Rachael Gillardi (youth representative), Ann Hetherington, Stacey Johnson, Steve Smith, Lee Ann Cotta and Nancy Gillardi (Co-Chairpersons).

The meetings of the SPRC are confidential meetings—all matters brought before us are discussed and resolved in a confidential setting. Anyone with a question or concern is encouraged to contact any SPRC member who will bring these questions to the committee.

Happy New Year from your SPRC Committee!

Worship Committee

In this New Year let us once again resolve to strengthen our religious faith and to pray for peace in our community, state, nation and the whole world. Come and fill the pews while listening to great music and hearing the good word.



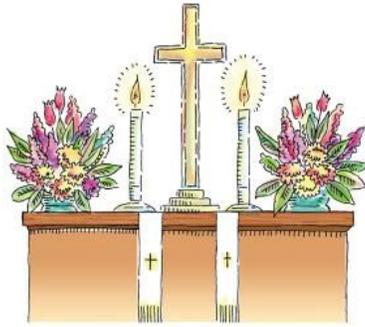
BIG thanks to Nancy Dolan, Fran Carr, Selden Whitcomb, Rich Bizier, Pauline Belisle, Cindy and Dana Mauch, and Ron and Regina Blais who decorated the church beautifully for Christmas. this year!

The **2018 Sign up charts** are up and hung just outside of Cargill Hall. Many Sundays are available for altar flowers and we invite you to sign up soon for your preferred date.

Prayer Concerns – Sincere condolences to Marianne Alger after her mother returned home to the Lord in late December. Also for: Glenn Date; Maureen McCracken, Courtney’s Mom; Steve (lung cancer); Betty Woods (pneumonia); Kelsey (chemo) Joni Robert’s neighbor; Tanya (chemo); Tom Conboy; JoAnne Jones, Kim’s mom; Stacey Johnson’s Mom, Jeanne Whetstone; Megan (young woman with terminal cancer); John T. (metastasized cancer); Terry (pancreatic cancer); Eden’s Mom (cancer).

Prayers for all shut-ins and those in nursing/assisted living homes including: Joyce Burrell, Dawn Cavallaro, Margaret Kelly, Jo Psybyski, Marion Shepherd, Jim Terry.

Also for: Benjamin Gallant (based in Japan); the Emerson Family and all children and families involved in the foster care and adoption process.



Altar Flowers

Dear Church Family,

First let me thank you all for keeping the altar supplied with beautiful flowers last year. Your support is appreciated.

In 2017 we had altar flowers for memorials, birthdays, anniversaries, christenings and other special occasions. On many Sundays, the flowers were left at church and then sent off to provide some cheer to someone who was ill. Others chose to use our beautiful silk flowers, with the funds going to the Pastor's discretionary fund.

If you'd like to make a donation toward flowers for the coming year, please sign your name to your selected date on the new Flower Calendar in the hallway near Cargill Hall. Some dates have already been reserved, and the remaining spaces go fast, so don't delay.

After you select your Sunday on the calendar the form below can be filled out and mailed with your check **PREFERRABLY TWO WEEKS OR MORE** before your chosen Sunday to the Church Office or dropped in the collection plate on any Sunday. Thank you for your generosity!

Sharon Bizier, Flower Coordinator

*****Please Cut Here*****

ALTAR FLOWER ORDER FORM - Sign up on the annual calendar near Cargill Hall to reserve the Sunday (or call the office 333-5203). Fill out this form and submit with check made out to "AMUMC" with "flowers" in the notes section. Either staple check to the form or submit in envelope marked "flowers". Do not submit payment separately. Deliver to one of the following: (a) Church Office, (b) offertory plate (c) mail to "AMUMC, Attn: Flower Coordinator, 690 Nate Whipple Highway, Cumberland, RI 02864"

Name _____ Phone _____

Sunday you signed up to put flowers on the altar _____

Dedication to be included in the Sunday's Bulletin _____

Choose **either** a floral arrangement **or** dedication-only donation only below:

Option 1 ___ \$36.00 Floral arrangement - you may pick colors: _____

___ I will take the flowers after the service. ___ Please donate the flowers to cheer someone.

Option 2 ___ \$36.00 Dedication-only donation. One of the church's beautiful silk arrangements, appropriate for the season, will be used that Sunday rather than live cut flowers, and the \$36 will be donated to Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Please remember to have your form and payment turned in at least two weeks prior to your chosen Sunday.

Thank you!

COUNTERS: DO NOT DEPOSIT ATTACHED/ENCLOSED CHECK – PLACE IN FLOWER COORDINATOR’S FOLDER. Flower Coordinator must log in all order forms and payments. If this is a dedication-only donation, the check will be returned to counters so it can be logged as donation.



January 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <u>New Year's Day!</u>	2	3	4 <u>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</u>	5 <u>4:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 414</u>	6 <u>10:00 AM Pinewood Derby Car Workshop</u>
7 <u>8:30AM & 10:30AM Worship Services</u> <u>Baptism of the Lord</u> <u>10:30 AM Church School</u> <u>11:30 AM Fellowship Hour</u>	8 <u>6:30 PM Boy Scouts - Hall</u>	9	10 <u>7:00 PM Board of Trustees - Library</u>	11 <u>Cub Scout Den Meeting</u> <u>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</u>	12	13
14 <u>8:30AM & 10:30AM Worship Services</u> <u>Holly May Preaching</u> <u>Human Relations Day (special offering)</u> <u>10:30 AM Church School</u> <u>11:30 AM Fellowship Hour</u>	15 <u>Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance - Office Closed</u>	16 <u>6:00 PM Franklin Farm Committee</u>	17	18 <u>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</u>	19 <u>Set-Up/Pinewood Derby</u> <u>4:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 414</u>	20 <u>Set-Up/Pinewood Derby</u>
21 <u>8:30AM & 10:30AM Worship Services</u> <u>10:30 AM Church School</u> <u>11:30 AM Fellowship Hour</u> <u>11:30 AM Finance Committee - Library</u>	22 <u>6:30 PM Boy Scouts - Hall</u>	23 <u>7:00 PM Boy Scout Parents - Library</u>	24	25 <u>7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</u> <u>7:15 PM July 4th Parade Committee</u>	26	27
28 <u>8:30AM & 10:30AM Worship Services</u> <u>10:30 AM Church School</u> <u>11:30 AM Fellowship Hour</u>	29 <u>6:30 PM Boy Scouts - Hall</u>	30 <u>6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack Meeting - Hall</u>	31			



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Address Service Requested

