

June 2023



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church

Rev. Heather R. Bailes Baker

Web Page: www.amumc.org

Phone: 401-333-5203

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A note from our pastor...

Beautiful Beloveds,

Tis the season for graduations, weddings, recitals, and so many more celebrations. In this busy and joyful month we celebrate athletes and academics, music and dance, fathers, graduates and more. We give thanks for teachers and students as they wrap up another year of school. And we look ahead to rest and play in the summer season. Tis the season of endings and beginnings.

June is also the season for Annual Conference, the yearly business and worshipful meeting of the United Methodist Church. This too holds the joyful celebration of new beginnings and the grief and gratitude of holy endings. In our time together we'll celebrate with those who are called to ministry as they move through the stages of licensing and ordination. We'll celebrate those who have reached the milestone of 50 years of ordination, like our own, Rev. Wendy Van Orden. We'll pause to remember those who have died in the last year and the mission and ministries of those churches that have closed in the last year. We will also discuss and vote on each of fourteen churches who have discerned it is time for them to leave the United Methodist Church. *And*, we'll look ahead to a vision of ministry of the United Methodist Church in New England. I ask your prayers for all delegates, clergy, and Conference leaders as we listen to one another. I pray the voice of the Spirit speaks louder than all other voices.

In this season of endings and beginnings, may we make and take time to reflect with gratitude on the work of the Spirit, within, around and through us. May our hearts be filled with hope and gratitude.

Peace,

Spather R Failes Taken

Pastor Heather

Coming This Month in Worship

June 4, 2023 Promotion and Graduation Sunday Peace with Justice Sunday Communion Served in 8:30 and 10:30 Worship

> June 11, 2023 Text: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 Unlikely Dinner Guests

June 18, 2023 – Father's day

Text: Genesis 18: 1-15 Genesis 21: 1-7

Sarah laughed...

June 25: Summer Sunday Schedule Change –

9:30 am One shared worship experience outdoors weather permitting

What is Methodist Disaffiliation All About?

You may have read about and seen articles in the newspaper about United Methodist congregations voting to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. What is this all about and how might it impact our Arnold Mills congregation? First of all, this is a formal legal process related to who owns the real estate property of any United Methodist congregation. Legally, all church property is held in trust for the benefit of the entire denomination. This creates a problem for any congregation which discerns that they can no longer accept the interpretations of scripture, teachings of our discipline (UM church rules) and denominational leadership. Therefore, in 2019, a Special General Conference voted to allow individual congregations to exit/disaffiliate from their United Methodist Conference for reasons of conscience related to human sexuality. This process would also allow local churches to individually own their church property if they disaffiliate prior to December 31, 2023. A rather lengthy and detailed set of criteria has been established to accomplish this act.

This act, however, goes far deeper than the legality of who should own the real estate and church property. This is a matter of individual and congregational interpretation of what Jesus taught about love, acceptance, and how we interact within our communities. How should we interpret the scriptures in Leviticus or Timothy related to sexual practices? How do we associate with the observations of Jesus as he repeatedly demonstrated love for all neighbors and called upon the church leaders of His time to be more inclusive of all peoples? To date, our church has not discussed this subject as a congregation, nor have we formalized our position.

It is anticipated that the upcoming New England Annual Conference in June will highlight the difference of interpretation of scripture within congregations. This year, 14 out of 568 United Methodist congregations in New England have voted for and are requesting disaffiliation. Their request will be considered at Annual Conference. Some of these churches have felt that New England United Methodist leadership has been too progressive and others have felt the opposite, ...that they have been too conservative.

In recent discussions at the May meeting of the AMUMC Church Council, it was determined that the Council would take a stance in support of full inclusion of our lgbtqui+ siblings in the life and leadership of the United Methodist Church. This position is consistent with the posture of our New England Conference, who voted in 2016 to stand in "non-conformity" with the Discipline of the United Methodist Church. It was the general agreement of your Council that we should not just sit back and observe the process but that we should take a positive and public step in reinforcing our love and respect for all of our neighbors.

This is not the end of this process but a first step. What our vote will initiate is an opportunity to create dialogue and questions between individual members and friends of our church. We hope to begin the process to officially become a "Reconciling Congregation," and formalize our intention that AMUMC is church where *all are welcome*, without exception. Experience at other churches has shown that dialogue and sharing of concerns is a process that generally leads to stronger bonds within the congregation and mutual support. This is a process which we will be initiating in the fall, as summer activities begin to wind down. I invite your participation in this process and believe that the "amazing" Arnold Mills community will become stronger as we clarify our religious beliefs with a spirit of Love and Joy.

Sincerely,

Keith Johnson, Council Chair

Missions Committee Newsletter Report

June 2023

Meals in the Park

Thank you very much for providing a good lunch for 140 people. The people we fed were very grateful for this meal. **Our next meal is June 4th** where we will do the customized hotdogs (Yes, the celery salt is already packed.) We will be making a fruit salad and a side pasta and or couscous salad on Saturday June 3rd 9 AM in the church kitchen. If anyone would like to make some desserts and start to fill the freezer again. Thanks again.

Any questions, please contact Karen Oswain at KKoswain@netscape.net

Cintas Clothing Donation and the St. James Episcopal Church Clothing Closet

The twice monthly clothing donations continue from the Cintas Warehouse in Woonsocket to the St. James Church clothing closet. In addition, our church members responded to the call for NEW socks and underwear for the St. James Clothing Closet as their funding for those items had been discontinued. The delivery schedule is posted in the coat room.

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

During the16th 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. **On Saturday, April 22nd**, the volunteers held a clean-up day remove the winter debris around the 1857 Farmhouse and the Barn complex and to harrow in the compost and the winter rye cover crop. **On May 19th over 8,000 seeds were planted! So, the Monday and Thursday volunteer tending nights from 5:30 PM to dusk have begun!** In addition, the farm fields continue to be open for casual outdoor enjoyment for families and their pets. Restoration work gradually continues on the historic farmhouse and the barn complex. Any questions, please contact Pam or Chip Thurlow; 401-333-1235, <u>thurlowcp@gmail.com</u>

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity Northern RI and West Bay Affiliate is celebrating their 30-year anniversary this year! The current project is to erect **two** duplexes at **83 & 85 Oakland School Street in Burrillville, RI.** The first duplex is almost complete and the final projects do not require our volunteer assistance. The second duplex foundation will be installed in the next several weeks and then the volunteer groups can be assigned the various construction tasks. We will notify AMUMC volunteers when we can return to the work site as we have done previously.

Dave's Marketplace Day Old Bakery Donations

Since 2016, volunteers from AMUMC have transported day old baked goods three times each week to the Cumberland Senior Center, the Northern RI Food Pantry or the Woonsocket Shelter. The schedule of the three donations each week and the many volunteers making the deliveries is posted on the bulletin board in the coat room.

The Woonsocket Shelter

The Woonsocket Shelter has received donations of persons care items and household items (sheets, towels, quilts, curtains, etc.) for families to relocate into independent living when they leave the shelter. In addition, AMUMC volunteers have been donating day old baked goods from area supermarkets – currently Dave's Marketplace – for over 15 years to the shelter. On Fridays, Elton and Rachel Odom make the weekly deliveries to the Shelter.

The Missions Committee has resumed monthly meetings. If you are interested in participating in the planning or implementation for the projects and programs, please contact Chip Thurlow for information on the scheduling of those meetings.

Chip Thurlow, Chairperson, AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee

Thank You to our Amazing Meals in the Park Volunteers!















2023 Juneteenth Celebration

Shepherd of the Valley UMC invites you to celebrate Juneteenth with us! The day that commemorates the final notification to enslaved persons that they were free from the bonds of slavery!

On Saturday June 17, 2023 at 10 AM we will honor Ms. Opal Lee (the Grandmother of Juneteenth) by walking 2.5 miles in Hope, RI beginning and ending at Hope Park located at 22 Clinton Ave., Hope RI 02831

Fellowship, games, and a cookout will immediately follow at SOV Church located at 604 Seven Mile Road, Hope, RI 02831.

Please contact Val at sovumcantiracism@gmail.com with any questions.

The Margaret Stearns Service Award for 2023

The Margaret Stearns Service Award Committee members are pleased to announce that Josie Cunningham, a graduate of Franklin High School and Joelle Madour, a graduate of Cumberland High School, have been selected to receive the Award this year!

Josie plans to attend James Madison University in Virginia and major in Marketing and Business Administration. Josie, and her family – parents Steve and Nancy and sister Jessica, are members of AMUMC. She participated in fudge and stained-glass candy making for the AMUMC Holiday Fair. Josie was also a member of the Distributive Clubs of America and a member of the Connect For Cancer Club at Franklin High School.

Joelle plans to attend Tufts University with a major in neuroscience with the intent to attend medical school. Joelle and her family – parents Georges and Rita and brother are refugees from Syria. Her brother, Joseph, received the Stearns Service Award in 2018, graduated from Brown University and now attends Brown Medical School. Joelle is fluent in three languages – Arabic, English and Spanish and has participated and organized a variety of community service projects.

Both applicants will receive the \$1,500 each for the Margaret Stearns Service Award for 2023 at the June 4th Promotion Sunday Service.

The 46 year history of the award recipients is posted on the bulletin board in the Coat Room.

Margaret Stearns Award Committee Members

qun violence

Chip Thurlow, LeeAnn Cotta, Marianne Alger and Chuck Tramontana

Wear Orange on June 4th!

The Social Justice committee of AMUMC invites you to wear orange to our Worship Service on Sunday June 4^{th.} We are participating in a nationwide campaign of faith-based and other organizations to end gun violence.

Already in 2023, there have been 225 mass shootings in our country! Wearing orange signifies our grief for the victims of gun violence and our intent to take action to prevent gun violence by advocating for sensible gun safety measures.

There will be an optional photo opportunity in front of the church immediately after the worship service.

UNITED METHODIST SPECIAL SUNDAY PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY Deace with JUSTICE SUNDAY 50% REMAINS IN 50% REMAINS IN 50% FUNDS PEACEMENT SUPPORT Deations support programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize networks to engage in social advocacy and action.

UMC Peace With Justice Sunday June 4, 2023

This Special Sunday is celebrated to raise awareness for creating peaceful solutions, supporting peace-related ministries in each conference and learning about peaceful just efforts around the world. Offerings on this Special Sunday support programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize actions in support of identified Economic, Health and Gender Justice Priorities. Half of the funds remain in each local Annual Conference to support local and peaceful and just ministries.



For a \$10 donation you can honor a special man in your life with a listing in our Father's Day bulletin on June 18. Monies collected will be put toward maintaining the church grounds.

DUE SUNDAY June 11, 2023

In loving memory of:	
In honor of:	
In honor of:	
Your Name:	

Please include a \$10 donation for each dedication and submit it with this form, Attn: Fran Carr, <u>no later than June 11</u> to ensure proper listing in the Father's Day bulletin. The form can be submitted to the church office, placed in the offering plate or mailed to: Arnold Mills United Method Church, 690 Nate Whipple Hwy., Cumberland, RI 02864; Attn: Fran Carr

Rev. Wendy Van Orden is celebrating the 50th anniversary of her ordination.

To celebrate the occasion, we are collecting to help her purchase a new stole, a symbol of ordination. If you would like to contribute, please mail or place a specially marked gift in the offering plate.

Solar Panels and Heat Pumps for AMUMC

A team is being formed to plan our next steps for installing solar panels on the church and heat pumps for Cargill Hall. The Trustees have approved moving forward with this work and provided initial approval of some of the funding needed. If you are interested in serving on this team, please contact David Larson (adl21412@gmail.com or 401-225-9530) or show up at our first organizing meeting after coffee hour on June 4th.

Thank you,

Dave

Arnold Mills Cemetery Trivia Karl Ikerman

Cemetery Fact: Somewhere in the Evergreen section lies a former member and his wife, Roberta. He is the inventor of Coffee Syrup. Can you find George?

Finance Committee Update April 30, 2023

As of April 30th the church checking account balance was \$25,606. This included \$16,986 in donations given specifically for environmental projects to improve the energy efficiency of the church. These funds will be managed by the Trustees. Operating Income through April totaled \$60,931 and Expenses totaled \$76,819, for a Net Loss of \$15,888. We have an ongoing situation where donation and other income remains relatively the same year to year, while our expenses continue to go up. This creates an ongoing loss. In order to cover operating expenses, we occasionally request funds from the Trustee portfolio. The Church Council recently approved a \$10,000 withdrawal from the portfolio to be transferred to the checking account for operating purposes.

If you would like to receive the detailed financial reports or if you have questions, please email <u>treasurer.amumc@gmail.com</u>. Thank you to everyone who contributes through your pledged and unpledged donations!

Finance Committee members: Keith Johnson, Karen Oswain, Laura Thompson, Elton Odom, Sammy Burgos, Lindsay Gettinger, Pastor Heather Bailes Baker, Cindy Mauch

12:03 PM 05/13/23 Cash Basis	Arnold Mills United Methodist Church Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January through April 2023			
	Jan - Apr 23			
Income				
DONATION INCOME	\$60,066			
OTHER INCOME	840			
FUNDRAISER INCO	ME25			
Total Income	\$60,931			
Expense				
STAFF	45,072			
CHURCH OFFICE	624			
UTILITIES	9,936			
GROUNDS MAINTEN	IANCE 1,580			
CUSTODIAL MAINTE	NANCE 1,869			
PROPERTY INSURA	NCE 4,913			
MISSION SHARES	10,640			
MISCELLANEOUS	796			
PROGRAM EXPENS	ES 1,371			
STEWARDSHIP & FI	NANCE 18			
Total Expense	\$76,819			
Net Income (-Loss)	(\$15,888)			



June 2023

Tips for June 2023

Weddings, graduation celebrations, holidays, get togethers—all are important, and all can produce lots of waste. The average American wedding typically dumps 400–600 pounds of trash into landfills. **Choose alternatives to trashing:** Collect and compost food scraps and compostable plates and utensils. Avoid paper and plastic, substituting glass or ceramic dishes, serving platters, and silverware, which can be washed and reused.

A marriage is supposed to be sustainable, so **start with a sustainable wedding dress**. Shop for vintage, second hand, and rental gowns <u>here</u> and at Goodwill or another local thrift shop, which may also have a wedding dress sale event. When the big day is over, be sure to donate your gown to make a special day for someone else.

Go local and seasonal with the flowers. Home or locally grown seasonal bouquets mean fewer transport emissions and less likelihood of poor treatment of the farm workers—a justice issue. Once the event is over, deliver the flowers to a hospital, nursing home, or to some people you love or who need a lift. Compost any flowers that have withered.

Make a statement with party favors that give back. Look for something plantable, like herbs, succulents, seed packets. Or display a sign that you've made a donation in your guests' honor, such as planting trees or <u>saving a</u> <u>favorite endangered wildlife creature</u>, perhaps one that fits the theme of the day. Invite additional contributions and send an electronic notice with the amount raised and a thank you for caring for God's creation.

<u>Nix the balloons.</u> They are not biodegradable, and they consequently harm birds and marine life. Also, helium is a nonrenewable gas needed in welding, rocket propulsion, and even scuba diving. Wasting helium in the momentary fun of balloons jeopardizes the other uses. Instead, **add sparkle and fun to the event** with tissue-paper pom poms, garlands from upcycled materials from home, fabric bunting, streamers made from recycled paper, or bubbles.

Turn out the lights for the sake of fireflies. Fireflies flash to attract mates. However, with so much artificial light at night, they can't see each other. If they can't mate, they can't make more fireflies. Let God's "nightlights" shine.

Conserve water (save the planet too). Time watering for early morning or later evening to avoid quick evaporation. Use a broom rather than a hose to clean up outside. Wash the car from a bucket, not from a running hose. Reuse rainwater and household gray water for outdoor plants. Set up a rain barrel.

Enjoy the great outdoors this summer—see and hear God at work! Look up to the sky. Is it blue? Full of clouds? Birds flying? What do you hear? Look out at eye-level. Perhaps you see flowers, colors, a bunny. Look closely at the ground. Be patient. Life is teeming there. Lift your eyes again to the sky. **Pray your praise and gratitude for God's gifts of ecosystems, habitats, and beauty.**

Stop throwing away trees at every meal. Instead **use cloth napkins** and simply throw them in the wash with another load. Patterned napkins will hide stains and lengthen the usable life of the napkins. Find some distinctive napkin rings to mark each person's and reuse the napkins a day or two before washing. If you visit garage sales, you can likely rescue napkins and rings from being trashed.

Use one space only between sentences. Back in the day, the rule was two spaces. But those extra spaces are really trees lost. With an average of more than 5,000 extra spaces per book, a years' worth of publications adds up to more than a quarter of a billion extra pages (and 26,000 trees!) Trees are life for the planet. Type for their lives.

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 church school wrapped up another successful year at the end of May.

We are looking forward to Rally Day on September 10th!

Important Dates

June 4th: Promotion Sunday with Ice Cream Social.

June 11th: Graduation Sunday

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.

June 2023 Trustee Report

The Trustee Committee met on May 11, 2023 at 6:30 PM in the library. Issues covered include the following:

- Our portfolio continued to make gains in April. We are up \$65,000 YTD.

- The Sustainability Project donations stand at approximately \$17,000. It was decided to focus on adding heat pumps and solar panels to Cargill Hall. It was voted on to approve up to \$30,000 to be taken from the portfolio as a 50% match after fundraising events are conducted. Solar panels are acceptable in the Arnold Mills Historical District.

- We will look into having a glass company install portholes in the office and vestry doors, like those in the doors going into Cargill Hall and the choir room.

- We will be replacing the climbing platform floor of the swing set.

- We continue to look for a handyman who will take on small carpentry and paint jobs.
- The boiler is scheduled to be drained for the summer.
- The dehumidifier in the basement will be set up for the summer and the AC units serviced.
- Many thanks are due to the scouts for the excellent spring clean up they gave our grounds!
- Mothers' Day Donations received \$290 for future outdoor projects.
- A copy of the cemetery plots is being requested to be kept in the church office.

- Upgrading the two parking lots by seal coating, reconfiguring parking spaces, and restriping is being investigated.

- The Cumberland police have been invited to walk through our church in order to give us advice about security measures, both during the week and during Sunday services.

- The Covid Preventative Plexiglass is down!

• The Trustee Manual is almost complete.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Gettinger, Co-chair

Fran Carr, Scott Murphy, Tom Cabana, Dave Larson, Tom Hetherington, Mark Farnell



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> Our Amplify Website: https://my.amplifymedia.com/ arnoldmillsumccumberlandri Access Code: DTLSGY

Upcoming Events

- 6/3: Meals in the Park Cooking
- 6/4: Peace with Justice Sunday
- 6/4: Promotion/Graduation Sunday
- 6/8: Board of Trustees Meeting
- 6/8: July 4th Parade Committee Meeting
- 6/11: Selden Whitcomb Memorial Service
- 6/14: Flag Day
- 6/17: Scouts Blue & Gold Ceremony
- 6/18: Father's Day
- 6/19: Juneteenth

6/20: Arnold Mills Cemetery Committee Meeting6/22: July 4th Parade Committee Meeting6/25: Summer Sunday Schedule Change6/28: John Wesley's Birthday

SPRC News

Our committee includes Stacey Johnson, Cindy Mauch, Anne Hetherington, Chris Ferretti, Lee Ann Cotta and Olivia Carney.

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 <u>amumcsprc@gmail.com</u>



Arnold Mills UMC's Social Media

<u>Find us on social media!</u> We are on Facebook 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 <u>office.amumc@gmail.com</u>. 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.

June 2023
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Today

Q (3) 🚯 Month 🗸 🧱

SAT 3 e 8am Meals in the Park Cooking - Kitc e 10am Wayne Hemond Memorial Ser	10	17 • 4:30pm Scouts Blue & Gold Ceremor	24	Lut T
FRI	σ	5	23	9
THU Jun 1 First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month	8 • 6:30pm Board of Trustees - Cargill H • 7pm July 4th Parade Committee Mer	5	22 7pm July 4th Parade Committee Mei	29
wED 31 9.30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - Libra	7 9.30am Prayer Shawi Ministry - Libra	14 Hag Day Hag Day • 9:30am Prayer Shawi Ministry - Libra	21 9.30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - Libra	28 John Wesley's Birthday 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry - Libra
TUE 30 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom	6 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom	13 • 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom	20 • 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom • 7:30pm Arnold Mills Cemetery Comr	27 • 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom
MON 29 Memorial Day Memorial Day	5 • 6pm Reserved for Scouts - Cargill Ha	12 • 6pm Reserved for Scouts - Cargill Ha	19 Juneteenth Juneteenth • 6pm Reserved for Scouts - Cargill Ha	26 • 6pm Reserved for Scouts - Cargill Hi
SUN 28 Day of Pentecost 8:30am Sunday Service 9:30am Adult Spiritual Formation - 0 10:30am Sunday Service 11:30am Coffee Hour - Cargill Hall	4 Peace With Justice Sunday Promotion/Graduation Sunday Trinity Sunday e 8::0em Sunday Service 4 more	11 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am Sunday Service 9:30am Adult Spiritual Formation - 0 10:30am Sunday Service 3 more	18 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day Father's Day e 8:30am Sunday Service 3 more	25 4th Sunday after Pentecost Summer Sunday Schedule Change 9:30am Outdoor Sunday Service 11:30am Coffee Hour - Cargill Hall



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church 690 Nate Whipple Hwy. Cumberland, RI 02864

Phone: 401-333-5203 E-mail: office.amumc@gmail.com Rev. Heather R. Bailes Baker





Check out our webpage at <u>www.amumc.org</u> We invite all to our Outdoor Summer Sunday Services beginning June 25 at 9:30.

Livestreaming of the 9:30 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.