

# Good Tidings

June 2021



**Arnold Mills United Methodist Church**

Rev. Arlene M. Tully

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## **COVID UPDATE**

May 25, 2021

The Reentry Team has been carefully monitoring COVID infection and immunization rates, as well as the recommendations for faith communities from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Rhode Island Department of Health, and the New England Conference's Reentry Team. Based on the trends over the last several weeks and the updated public health guidelines, the Reentry Team recommended to the Church Council that we reopen the building for worship and for use by church and outside groups. On May 25 the Church Council voted to accept the recommendations.

### **The Recommendations**

- Return to in-person worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 6, with a live stream of the service for those who choose not to attend.
- Maintain most of the safety protocols for indoor worship that were in place when we last worshiped in the sanctuary, but reduce social distancing requirement to three feet. (The guidelines are available at [bit.ly/3vnbrp0](https://bit.ly/3vnbrp0) or from the church office.)
- Require mask wearing, social distancing, and ventilation whenever we gather in any group that may include non-vaccinated people (i.e., committee meetings, study groups, etc.).
- Reopen the building for use by church and outside groups effective June 6.
- Require that all spaces used be properly sanitized (wipe down tables, chairs, door knobs, railings, restrooms, etc.) after each use with a disinfectant that is known to be effective against the coronavirus. As an additional safety measure, groups will not be scheduled to use the same space within 48 hours of the last time that space was used.

### **What about the New CDC Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People?**

- The CDC guidance for discontinuing the use of masks and social distancing by fully immunized people is a general public health recommendation and not tailored to any particular context. The CDC states what **individuals can do**, not what **congregations should do**.
- Our congregation consists of both vaccinated and unvaccinated people (including children, those who have not yet been vaccinated, and those who have chosen not to be vaccinated). Unvaccinated people (and those who are vaccinated, but immunocompromised) continue to be at risk for infection. Dropping safety protocols such as mask wearing and social distancing puts them at greater risk. Those who are unvaccinated should also not be stigmatized by having them follow a different set of guidelines from those who are vaccinated. Therefore, regardless of vaccination status, we will **all** continue to observe safety protocols for the sake of the unvaccinated.

### **The Theological Rationale for these Recommendations**

- Scripture is clear that we are to prioritize the needs of those who are at risk or in need. The Torah, the Prophets, the ministry of Jesus, and the practice of the early Church all point to the call to sacrificially love and provide for our neighbor.
- As the Apostle Paul reminds us, the church is one body in Christ. As such, we are no more protected than the least protected among us. God arranged the body of Christ so that "there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." (I Corinthians 12:25-26)

- In a recent update from the Conference Reentry Team, Bishop Devadhar suggested that, at this point in the pandemic, “We are on the Jericho Road.” Using the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), he warned churches that are returning to in-person worship to carefully consider whether our choices care for the vulnerable (as did the Good Samaritan) or focus only on getting to our desired destination (like the priest and the Levite who passed by on the other side of the road).
- Our concern for, and love of, neighbor is not limited to our community of faith. The requirement that outside groups follow the same safety protocols as the congregation is intended to keep **all** persons who enter our building safe. Additionally, this is the recommendation of the chancellor of the New England Conference.

### **Summer Worship**

- We received positive feedback about outdoor worship last summer, with many requests that we continue to offer outdoor worship during the summer every year. We are recommending that 2021 summer worship take place outdoors during July and August, except if it is raining (in which case worship will take place in the sanctuary). A live stream of the service will be available.
- Current safety protocols for outdoor worship will remain in place, with these changes:
  - Congregational singing will be allowed
  - Worship bulletins (including hymns) may be distributed

### **Looking Ahead**

- The Reentry Team is currently researching media equipment that will provide a consistently high quality live stream of worship services for those who must, or prefer to, worship from home.
- The team will continue to monitor COVID numbers and public health guidelines, with particular attention to the emergence of variant strains of the virus and data regarding vaccination effectiveness over time. Appropriate recommendations for increasing or relaxing safety protocols will be made as the situation dictates.
- As always, the Reentry Team welcomes your questions and feedback. You can contact any member of the team individually or send an email to [reentry.amumc@gmail.com](mailto:reentry.amumc@gmail.com).

Your Reentry Team members are:

Matthew Cedor  
 Lee Ann Cotta  
 Keith Johnson  
 Stacey Johnson  
 Johnna Kosnoff  
 Cindy Mauch  
 Joe Mazzarella  
 Karen Oswain  
 Pamela Thurlow  
 Rev. Arlene Tully

## **GUIDELINES FOR INDOOR WORSHIP**

### **Effective June 6, 2021**

- Worship will be in the sanctuary at 10 AM. Facebook live streaming of the service will continue, with the video archived for later viewing.
- We will not be offering a coffee hour and ask that socializing take place outdoors.
- Worshipers should reserve a seat at <https://signup.com/go/oqZVREf> or by calling the office at 401-333-5203. Seating for worshipers will be limited to 28 households in order to accommodate the required social distancing.
- A greeter's station will be located in the entryway, where names and contact tracing information will be logged (or checked off, if preregistered).
- Anyone who is not feeling well or who has been exposed to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 should stay at home.
- We ask that face masks be worn at all times. Masks will be available at the greeter's table for those who do not have one. The liturgist, vocalist, and preacher may remove their masks only to speak or sing.
- A distance of three feet should be maintained at all times between persons from different households.
- We are not yet resuming congregational singing.
- Collection plates will not be passed, but a collection box will be located at the back of the sanctuary where people can drop their offering on their way out.
- When Communion is celebrated, individually sealed elements will be distributed as people arrive. Worshipers will consume the elements in their seats, and place the empty packaging in a trash receptacle at the back of the sanctuary when leaving worship.
- Worship leaders will be limited to the preacher, liturgist, accompanist, and one vocalist (or multiple vocalists from the same household).
- Pews cushions, hymnals, Bibles, etc., will remain in storage for the time being.
- Plexiglas barriers will continue to separate the two sides of the center pews.
- Windows will be opened and exhaust fans will be used to increase ventilation.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be conveniently located and small bottles of hand sanitizer will be located in each pew.
- Hearing enhancement devices will be sanitized by ushers before and after use.
- All foot traffic in the sanctuary should be one-directional, indicated by signage. Interior doors will be propped open to minimize touching.
- Worshipers should enter and exit by the front door only (unless they need the elevator, in which case they would enter by that door).
- The sanctuary will be sanitized weekly, and between any services or events that are less than 48 hours apart.
- All services and events in the sanctuary (including funerals, etc.) are expected to abide by the safety guidelines listed above.



## SUNDAY SCHOOLERS' GAME NIGHT—June 7 at 6:30 PM

Pastor Arlene hosts 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](mailto:pastor.amumc@gmail.com) for the Zoom link

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## VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR GOES ON SUMMER HIATUS

Now that summer weather has arrived, participation in the Sunday Zoom coffee hour has dwindled. (After all—who wouldn't rather be outside rather than in front of a computer screen?) Therefore we will once again go on hiatus for the summer, beginning Sunday, June 6. Hopefully by the time we resume coffee hour in the fall it will be in person rather than online!

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## HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU TODAY?

Prayer is an important means of grace through which we experience the presence of God, and with which we can bring to God the needs of others. Intercessory prayer (prayer on behalf of others) is an expression of Christian love and compassion, and it is part of who we are as a community of faith.

### If you would like us to pray for you:

- Add your prayer to the weekly list of concerns that is emailed to the entire congregation. (It will also be shared with the prayer group and the pastor.)
- Or share your prayer with the Tuesday evening prayer group. (It will also be shared with the pastor.)
- Or share your prayer confidentially with the pastor only.

### To submit a prayer concern:

- Visit [www.amumc.org/prayer](http://www.amumc.org/prayer). All prayer request submissions are sent confidentially to the pastor.
- Or contact Pastor Arlene at [pastor.amumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.amumc@gmail.com) or 401-335-5156.
- Or contact the church office at 401-333-5203.

### If you would like to pray for others:

- Contact the church office to receive the prayer list via email or mail.
- Join the Tuesday evening Zoom prayer group from 6:30—7:00 at [zoom.us/j/563411339](https://zoom.us/j/563411339)



## 2021 Margaret Stearns Service Award

The Margaret Stearns Service Award Committee received an offer from an anonymous organization to fund two additional awards for 2021. This offer was approved by both the Trustees of that organization and the Church Council of the Arnold Mills United Methodist Church.

The result is that the following applicants have been approved to receive the Margaret Stearns Service Award for 2021: Brigitta Larson; Andrew, Christopher and Emilia Ferretti.

Brigitta will be graduating from Bishop Feehan High School and the Ferretti siblings will be graduating from the Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy.

We will make arrangements to issue the \$600 awards to them at a convenient and safe time over the next few weeks.

The Margaret Stearns Service Award Committee Members

Chip Thurlow - Chairperson

Lee Ann Cotta

Chuck Tramontana

Marianne Alger

Rebekah Puleo

Darren Chisnell

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## Peace with Justice Sunday

This month we are celebrating Peace with Justice Sunday, one of six Special Sunday offerings of the United Methodist Church. Peace with Justice Sunday is a faithful expression of shalom in the Bible. It calls the church to strengthen its capacity to advocate publicly in communities and nations throughout the world. The offering is administered by the General Board of Church and Society, and benefits peace with justice ministries locally and around the world. Together, we strengthen God's family with ministries that challenge structures of inequality and empower people and communities through systemic change.

Donations to this offering can be made safely and securely on our website [www.amumc.org](http://www.amumc.org) on the Give page. You may also leave a donation in the offering box at our outdoor 10 am Sunday service, or send a check (with a notation on the memo line of PWJS) to AMUMC Counters, 690 Nate Whipple Highway, Cumberland RI 02864. Thank you!

The Finance Committee



PEACE WITH JUSTICE  
SUNDAY  
DEMAND  
JUSTICE  
+  
CHANGE

**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](http://ResourceUMC.org/SSGive)



TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN  
OR CODE WITH YOUR  
SMARTPHONE CAMERA

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

## Church Missions Committee Report June 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, May 16<sup>th</sup>.** Our volunteers fed 80 people and handed out over 100 meals! We also have a new side gig of delivering the extra meals to folks who are housed at a local motel. **Our next two Meals in the Park are June 7<sup>th</sup> and July 25<sup>th</sup>.** 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 serve at this wonderful program.

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

The three garden areas have been plowed, harrowed, and the raised bed biodegradable coverage material has been installed by our tractor team volunteers. The irrigation lines have been installed and the seeds and seedlings are due to be planted the last week of May. **Tending nights are on Mondays and Thursday evenings from 5:30 PM to dusk.** If you want to participate in this wonderful program that raises farm fresh vegetables for needy families, join the other volunteers who have more fun than we are allowed to have! Health protocols are still in place for the safety of the volunteers performing the various tasks at the Farm. Interested in helping out? Check out our website: [franklinfarmri.org](http://franklinfarmri.org); or the Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/historicmetcalffranklinfarmri/](https://www.facebook.com/historicmetcalffranklinfarmri/) Any questions, please contact Pam or Chip Thurlow; 401-333-1235, [thurlowcp@gmail.com](mailto:thurlowcp@gmail.com)

### **Cintas Clothing Donation**

**The Cintas clothing and our church donations** to the St. James Episcopal Church Clothing Closet and occasionally to the Community Care Alliance, both in Woonsocket, continue with weather and scheduling permitting. 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 of day-old baked goods from Dave's Marketplace at Chapel Four Corners continues to various community organizations!** Thanks to Rachel and Elton Odom, Lynne Janke, Lu McNeal, Rich Bizier, Chip Thurlow and new volunteer, Mark Farnell for making the thrice weekly runs. Please contact Chip Thurlow if you have any questions: [thurlowcp@aol.com](mailto:thurlowcp@aol.com); 401-333-1235.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

The next Habitat for Humanity project is under development and will be announced when health protocols will allow volunteers to be onsite. We will notify AMUMC members when those volunteer dates are announced. The fundraising campaign celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our partner – the West Bay Northern RI chapter - has ended and we raised \$275 on behalf of the wonderful work performed by this organization. Any questions, please contact Chip Thurlow

Chip Thurlow,

Chairperson, AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee

401-333-1235; [thurlowcp@aol.com](mailto:thurlowcp@aol.com)

# Church School News

## Honoring Our Graduates

### College Graduates

#### Jessica (Cabral) Gomes

Masters of Science in Health-care Management

University of Massachusetts- Dartmouth

#### Amelia Larson

Bachelor of Arts in Economics and International Relations

William & Mary

### High School Graduates

#### Brigitta Larson

Bishop Feehan High School

attending Emerson College

#### Andrew Ferretti

Blackstone Valley Prep

attending University of Rhode Island

#### Christopher Ferretti

Blackstone Valley Prep

attending Northeastern University

#### Emilia Ferretti

Blackstone Valley Prep

University of Pittsburgh

### Recent Confirmands

Joaquin Cardoso, Olivia Carney, David Cedor, Jessica Cunningham, Josie Cunningham, Benjamin Johnson-McMahon, Cole Parent, and Pasquale Saccoccio.



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

June 6th: Joshua Lyon

June 8th: David Cedor, Tucker Condon

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

## Important Dates

Graduation Sunday - June 13th

# Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues to decode  
Proverbs 3:5, NRSV.

**CLUES:**

Y = T, D = I

Y K T P Y D X Y J Z

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V Q K R F D Y J O V V

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C Q T K J Z O K Y, O X R

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R Q X Q Y K Z V C Q X

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C Q T K Q F X D X P D L J Y.

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Answer: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. Proverbs 3:5, NRSV

## 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@gmail.com](mailto:thurlowcp@gmail.com).

Pam Thurlow, Chair

Worship Committee

## Upcoming Events

June 6: Indoor Sunday service begins

June 7: Kid's Game Night

June 10: Board of Trustees meeting

June 12: Pinewood Derby

June 13: Promotion Sunday

June 14: Flag Day

June 15: Cemetery Association meeting

June 19: Juneteenth

June 20: Father's Day

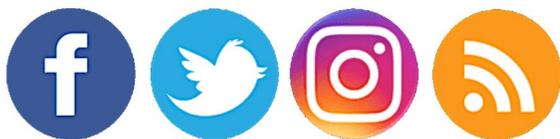
June 20: First Day of Summer

## 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](mailto: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](https://twitter.com/ArnoldMills_UMC)

Instagram at [https://www.instagram.com/arnold\\_mills\\_umc](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](mailto: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
30 Peace With Justice Sunday Trinity Sunday 10am Outdoor Sunday Service 11am Online Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour	31 Memorial Day Memorial Day	Jun 1 6:30pm Prayer Meeting	2 10am Adult Studies 2pm Book Discussion Group - Church 7pm Adult Studies	3	4 7pm Pinewood Derby Setup - Cargill	5
6 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 10am Indoor Sunday Service 11am Online Worship Service	7 6:30pm Kid's Game Night	8 6:30pm Prayer Meeting	9 10am Adult Studies 2pm Book Discussion Group - Church 7pm Adult Studies	10 7pm Board of Trustees - Zoom	11 7pm Pinewood Derby Setup - Cargill	12 8am Pinewood Derby - Cargill Hall
13 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 10am Indoor Sunday Service 10am Promotion Sunday 11am Online Worship Service	14 Flag Day	15 6:30pm Prayer Meeting 7:30pm Cemetery Association Annu	16 10am Adult Studies 2pm Book Discussion Group - Church 7pm Adult Studies	17	18	19 Juneteenth Juneteenth
20 4th Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day First day of Summer Father's Day 2 more	21	22 6:30pm Prayer Meeting	23 10am Adult Studies 2pm Book Discussion Group - Church 7pm Adult Studies	24	25	26
27 5th Sunday after Pentecost 10am Indoor Sunday Service 11am Online Worship Service	28	29 6:30pm Prayer Meeting	30 10am Adult Studies 2pm Book Discussion Group - Church 7pm Adult Studies	Jul 1	2	3



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Check out our webpage at [www.amumc.org](http://www.amumc.org)

Indoor worship will resume on June 6 at 10 AM.

Summer outdoor worship will resume on July 4 at 10 AM.

Livestreaming of all worship services will be available for those who do not attend the services in person. After each service the video will be archived for viewing anytime.