

Good Tidings

March 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,

Spring is coming! Even though we haven't had too much of a winter, I'm looking forward to seeing my first Rhode Island spring. As the weather warms, and the ground emerges, it might be tempting to transition from whining about winter to murmuring about the mud. While so much of spring is beautiful it's not all easy. Plants are working hard to break through the winter-hardened soil. Farmers and gardeners start working longer hours, to turn the soil, and plant, and prepare for the coming growing season. It might be tempting to climb into bed and stay there till summer.

Just like we want to skip the hard parts of each season, we'd like to do the same with our spiritual journey. It's tempting to skip all the way from a very, merry Christmas to the joy of resurrection, but we have to walk through the rest of Lent, and the drama of Holy Week. If we just hit the good bits, the story becomes saccharine sweet. But, if we meet the real, human, flesh and blood Jesus, then we begin to grasp the depth of God's love for us. Knowing Jesus fully changes cheap grace into life-changing amazing grace.

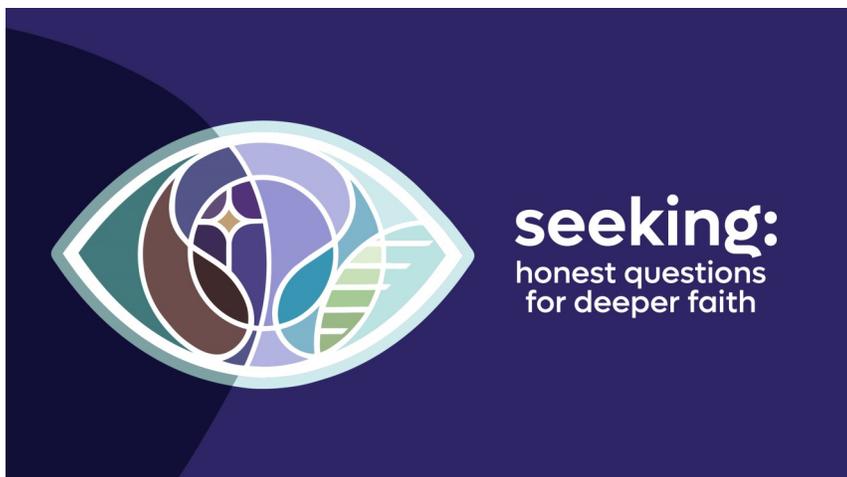
Our Lenten series this year invites us to wrestle with the honest questions of our faith and engage the full story of Jesus. Week by week, we'll hear stories of Jesus encountering people as they are, and asking and inviting questions. As our lenten journey continues may the breaking through of spring be reflected in the in-breaking of God's spirit into our lives. May our hearts be warmed, and our souls emerge beautiful and radiant.

Peace, Pastor Heather

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

Lunch and Learn— 12pm,-1pm, March 16,

We're hosting! Bring a bag lunch, or just come enjoy a cup of coffee and treat as we chat and learn together. This month, the people of Emmanuel Episcopal church present and we host at AMUMC.



Coming Soon....In Worship

March 5—Seconds Sunday in Lent

How do we begin again?

John 3: 1-17 | Genesis 12: 1-4a

March 12—Third Sunday in Lent

Will you give me a drink?

John 4: 5-42 | Exodus 17:1-7

March 19—Fourth Sunday in Lent

Who sinned?

John 9: 1-41

March 26—Fifth Sunday in Lent

Can these bones live?

John 11: 1-45 | Ezekiel 37: 1-14

**Small Group
Opportunities**
Sundays Onsite &
Wednesdays Online

9:30-10:15 am Sunday Mornings Onsite

We explore the scripture of the day through conversation, art and poetry.

7pm Wednesday Evenings Online (Zoom)

Flunking Sainthood: a year of breaking the sabbath, forgetting to pray, and still loving my neighbor by Jana Riess

Join us as we read and talk about the book and our own adventures in spiritual practice (both the beautiful blessings and flops and failures we've experienced)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/839125938>

6:30 –7:00 pm Tuesday Evening: Prayer Group (Zoom)

All are welcome. Let's share life's joys and sorrows in prayer.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/563411339>

Seacoast District and New England Conference Events

Our church is one of 80 United Methodist churches in the Seacoast District. Our district, led by District Superintendent Rev. Wanda Santos-Perez covers parts of eastern Connecticut, southeastern Massachusetts, and all of Rhode Island. The Seacoast District is one of seven districts of the New England Conference. Our conference led by Bishop Peggy Johnson covers all six states of New England.

CCORR quadrennial anti-racism training—March 4 & 11 (Seacoast District)—Intersectionality

This in-person training is REQUIRED for clergy and lay ministers serving on ministry teams. Laity, especially those in leadership positions, are strongly encouraged to attend. Continuing Education Credit (.5 CEU) is available for completing the training. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

2023 Margaret Stearns Service Award

Since 1978 the Margaret Stearns Service Award has been presented by the Arnold Mills United Methodist Church to graduating high school seniors continuing their education. Two awards - **\$1,500 each** - will be issued each year. Although academic excellence and financial need are considered by the Selection Committee, the essential characteristic of an ideal candidate is a "demonstrated concern for others at home, school, church or community". Applicants must be able to demonstrate how their own concern for others has benefited someone else.

The application submission deadline is April 17, 2023.

Eligibility

The applicant must be a graduating senior at Cumberland High School, a Cumberland resident and/or a contributing member of the Arnold Mills United Methodist Church graduating from any high school with plans for further education at a junior college, college, university, business school, technical school or vocational school. A contributing member would be a student who attended the AMUMC church school (student or teacher aide), be a member of any of the youth groups, complete the confirmation process, and/or volunteer at one or more of the AMUMC activities and events such as the July 4th food sale, the Holiday Fair, the variety of Missions Committee activities, etc.

Interested AMUMC high school seniors can apply by requesting the application from the Cumberland High School Guidance office or, if they attend other High Schools, they can email their request to: amumcstearnserviceaward@gmail.com

Charles Thurlow; Chairperson, Margaret Stearns Service Award Committee
Arnold Mills United Methodist Church
690 Nate Whipple Highway
Cumberland, RI 02864
401-333-1235

March Trustee Report

The Trustee Committee held its monthly meeting on February 9, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. with all seven members in attendance. The following topics were discussed:

- The portfolio gained in value in January.
- The donation designated to be used on a sustainability project was discussed and will continue to be as the committee looks into more energy efficient ways to heat and cool the church and parsonage.
- Marques Cleaning Service will be stripping and waxing the floors in Cargill Hall before Easter.
- A contractor needs to be found to add windows or portholes in the office, vestry, and library doors.
- The roadside sign was scrubbed of mold, looks much better, and is scheduled to be scraped and painted in the spring.
- The director of our area Habitat for Humanity Organization now has an office in our vestry. We welcome her!
- The Facility Use Agreement with the Scouts still has not been signed so is being pursued.
- New exterior lights for the parsonage have been purchased and will eventually be installed.
- The parsonage chimney and furnace flu were inspected and found to be in good condition.
- We hope to repair the parsonage's front concrete steps this spring. Other projects we hope to handle are landscaping the front church lawn, updating the downstairs lavatories, and sprucing up the children's swing set.
- A Trustee Handbook is in the works and contact information for all the vendors we use is being added.
- We have asked Craig Emerson to hold an AED informational session after church one Sunday so anyone interested in how to operate the device may attend.
- Trustees will represent AMUMC at the Arnold Mills Historic District meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Gettinger, Co-Chair

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

Missions Committee Newsletter Report March 2023

Meals in the Park

AMUMC served 120 meals on Sunday February 19th. We served American chop suey and Korean beef BBQ with rice, Venus Di Milo soup and/or chicken soup and homemade desserts. Our next meals are **April 2nd, May 7th, June 4th and July 23rd**. Thank you very much for sharing your time and your continuous support for this community meal. Karen O 401-333-166; kkoswain@netscape.net. Also a huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who donated to the blanket drive! We provided enough bedding for everyone staying at the pop-up emergency shelter during the extremely cold weekend on February 2nd to February 5th.



St. James Episcopal Church Clothing Closet

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. We celebrated with two "Silly Sock Sundays" and the donation of hundreds of pairs socks and men's and women's underwear. A Thank You letter from the Pastor and the Director of the Coat of Many Colors is posted on the Bulletin Board in the Coat Room.



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity Northern RI and West Bay Affiliate are 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. Thank you to Marianne and David Alger for volunteering to install the cellar steps in one of the living units. **The next date for AMUMC volunteers is Saturday, March 18, 2023.** If you have any questions, please contact Chip Thurlow: thurlowcp@aol.com, 401-333-1235.

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 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. The farm fields are 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, thurlowcp@gmail.com

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.

Cintas Clothing Donation

Distribution of the clothing items and doorway mats continues, primarily to the St. James Clothing Closet in Woonsocket, 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



UMCOR Sunday is March 19

This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity.

In 2022, you gave almost \$2.2 million which provided hope and safety for com-

munities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change.

The special offering on this Sunday underwrites UMCOR's "cost of doing business" making it possible for UMCOR to focus on responding to communities and individuals when they need immediate assistance.

It allows UMCOR to preserve the promise that 100% of any donation to a specific UMCOR project or missionary will go towards that project and not administrative cost.

Special Sunday

Pizza & Game Night — Friday, March 3rd at 6:00 PM

YOU'RE INVITED! Church Family Game Night with Snacks.

When? Friday March 3rd **What time?** Wander in any time after 6 pm

Where? Cargill Hall-come as you are!

Who? Young, old, and everyone in between!

Why? Arnold Mills has an abundance of amazing people, let's have a night of fun and get to know some of them! Board Games and cards will be provided or bring your own.

We will have popcorn, you may bring a non-alcoholic drink and/or snack to share and there are rumors of homemade pizza! Watch for sign-up sheet in Cargill Hall!

Creation Justice/Social Justice

Creation Justice

Meet after church Sunday, March 5th at 11:45 AM: Are you interested in reducing the greenhouse gas footprint of our church - or even your own home? Let's meet and discuss ways to make that happen. **Meet with us during coffee hour after church on Sunday March 5th.** We plan to discuss the following:

1. **Using the sun to power the church:** Arnold Mills has received a large donation to help kick-start a program for installing solar panels on Cargill Hall and/or other decarbonization efforts like heat pumps. We will discuss options including the potential to offset most of the church's electric use through solar panels.
2. We would like **Arnold Mills UMC to host a "Carbon Footprint Fair"** to help the community learn about their carbon footprint and explore ways to reduce their carbon footprint. We have a tentative date of April 15th, just before Earth Day, and need to strategize on what firms we might want to invite and what other topics could be covered. We would like your input on this idea. Let's discuss!

Social Justice

Arnold Mills UMC Social Justice Team Meeting - Sunday, March 12th after Coffee Hour: LEARN - SHOW SUPPORT - ADVOCATE: One and all are welcome to join the **Social Justice Team Meeting at 11:45 AM on Sunday, March 12th in Cargill Hall.** During our listening sessions last year, we heard the congregation speak about several areas of concern. There are several proposed bills in the RI House and Senate that address your areas of concern. These bills often "die in committee" unless our elected representatives hear from us. We will use this meeting to review and discuss some of the pending legislation, choose some which we support, and come up with plans to advocate for their passage.



March 2023

Tips for March 2023

World Water Day on March 22 points to a creation justice issue: Across the globe, according to the United Nations, 2.2 billion people are without access to safe water. **Help make clean water a reality.** Learn about and support any of these [15 nonprofits](#). Clean water prevents death and disease.

The greatest consumer of water (about 40%) in your house is your toilet. Older models use about 5.5 gallons per flush. **Switch to a new toilet** that uses only 1.6 gallons.

Fill your dishwasher full and **don't "pre-wash" with running water.** A good scraping – preferably into a compost bucket – or just a splash of water is plenty. Or soak the worst in a sink or bowl to conserve water.

If you brush your teeth with the water running, the cost to the earth's water supply is six gallons. **Brush your teeth with the water off** (except to rinse) costs only 0.25–0.5 gallons. Similarly, lather your hands first and then do just a quick rinse to save water.

Join the [Biggest Hour for Earth](#), March 25. Switch off your lights and **spend 60 minutes to do something positive** for the planet. Join people in 190 countries in raising awareness and making a difference. Invite family, friends, your Sunday school class, or congregation to participate too.

With a hint of spring in the air, **start a garden inside.** If you can, involve children or grands in the endeavor, planting seeds in cups or pots. As you talk and work together, you will be growing not only food and flowers, but also a new generation that loves nature and wants to care for it – because you do! If need be, make showing your young gardeners the progress of the plants a part of a weekly Zoom call to those far away.

Look for new possibilities for your church's land. One church sits at the top of a hill with a long lawn soaking up the sun. But the congregation turned a portion of the hill into a garden. Now, the vegetables they grow feed 20 families, who were identified by the local school as food insecure. And no one has to mow the lawn.

Love God; love God's creation: **Become a "creation-care thinker."** At home, at work, at school, at church, in your organizations, with your friends, through your voting – approach any opportunity with the mindset of caring for creation. Speak up with ideas. Help others see the possibilities and take action.

More and more products are available, for example, [shampoo](#), [laundry detergent](#), [food wraps](#), [hand soap](#), [toilet paper](#), and [phone cases](#). Companies like these are looking out for the earth, not just for their bottom line. Many of them also donate a portion of their revenue to other causes that support the environment. **Align your purchases with your values.**

The #1 contributor to climate change is the drastic increase in the last 70+ years in greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide and methane) from the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) for electricity, heat, and transportation. **Drive less AND advocate** for renewable energy sources through new laws at local, state, and federal levels.

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



“FATHER,
FORGIVE THEM;
FOR THEY KNOW
NOT WHAT
THEY DO.”

LUKE 23:34, KJV

For the month of March the children will begin their Easter unit called, Symbols of Holy Week.

Bible Verse: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

(Luke 23:34a)

Main Idea: Using symbols can help double the children's learning potential by both seeing and hearing Bible stories. The symbols used to tell the story of Holy Week will help the children comprehend and tell others the story of the last days of Jesus' life.

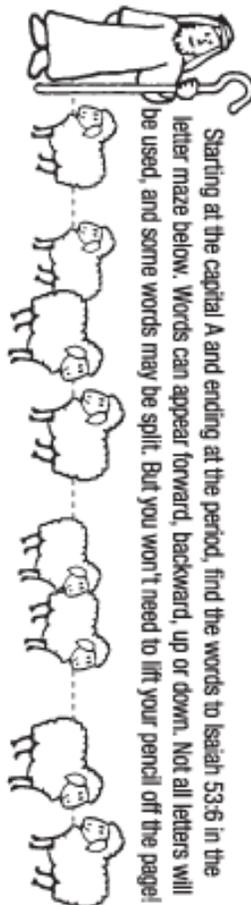
Important Dates

March 3: Pizza & Game Night - Cargill Hall

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

Puzzle!



Allwelikesbelievewraywecommandsotherrighteousnessof
gospelthorevealstartthetestimonynsalordrtheiniquity
rightasisepraisedwselfoaputownwayaposahumcornerfo
heavenouerisagoneadogivsicaruoogercorlaidoirreasonsus
returncaphaventrustedeallturnedrespossesnhtruths.lla

Starting at the capital A and ending at the period, find the words to Isaiah 53:6 in the letter maze below. Words can appear forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters will be used, and some words may be split. But you won't need to lift your pencil off the page!

Answer: All we like sheep have gone astray, we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6, NRSV

NOW
Available



What if you could stay engaged and encouraged anywhere and anytime with a library of the best media for study and reflection? Through any device you now have 24/7 access to motivating stories, insightful teaching, and powerful resources. To see everything we can do with Amplify, just visit the site below

Our Amplify Website:
[https://my.amplifymedia.com/
arnoldmillsumccumberlandri](https://my.amplifymedia.com/arnoldmillsumccumberlandri)
Access Code: DTLSGY

Upcoming Events

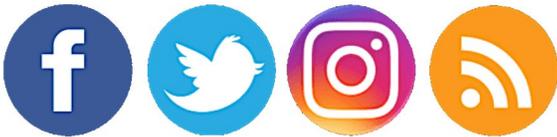
March 3: Pizza & Game Night - Cargill Hall
March 8: Habitat Committee - Cargill Hall
March 9: Board of Trustees - Cargill Hall
March 12: Daylight Savings Time Starts
March 14: AOL Pack/Troop Meeting - Cargill Hall
March 16: Lunch & Learn - Cargill Hall
March 17: St. Patrick's Day
March 19: UMCOR Sunday
March 20: Church Council - Cargill Hall
March 23: July 4 Parade Committee - Cargill Hall

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 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED Mar 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
<p>1st Sunday in Lent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Sunday Service 9:30am Adult Spiritual Formation - 0 10:30am Childrens Sunday School <p>3 more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Mutual Learning - OnSite/Zoom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Cub Scout Pack 1 Meeting - Car 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom 	<p>First Day of Womens History Month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Adult Spiritual Formation - Zoor 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Pizza & Game Night - Cargill Ha 	
<p>2nd Sunday in Lent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Sunday Service 9:30am Adult Spiritual Formation - 0 10:30am Childrens Sunday School <p>3 more</p>	<p>6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Habitat Committee - Cargill H 7pm Adult Spiritual Formation - Zoor 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Board of Trustees - Cargill H 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving's Time Starts Scouting Ministries Sunday (Alt) Daylight Saving Time starts <p>5 more</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm AOL Pack/Troop Meeting - Car 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Adult Spiritual Formation - Zoor 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Lunch & Learn - AMUMC - Car 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Patrick's Day St. Patrick's Day 	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4th Sunday in Lent UMCOR Sunday 8:30am Sunday Service 9:30am Adult Spiritual Formation - 0 <p>3 more</p>	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Church Council - Cargill Hall 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Adult Spiritual Formation - Zoor 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm July 4th Parade Committee Me 	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>5th Sunday in Lent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Sunday Service 9:30am Adult Spiritual Formation - 0 10:30am Childrens Sunday School <p>2 more</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Adult Spiritual Formation - Zoor 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Apr 1</p>



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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

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.