



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church

Rev. Arlene M. Tully

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COVID-19 Update

Now that the COVID infection rates are dropping and the vaccines are beginning to roll out, some of you have been asking when we will return to in-person worship. After reviewing the most recent COVID data and public health guidelines, the AMUMC Reentry Team is not recommending a return to in-person worship at this time. Our primary concern remains the commitment to “do no harm,” and the risks of in-person worship continue to outweigh the benefits.

The Reentry Team’s recommendation to stay the course at this time is based on the following:

- Infection Rates
 - The COVID infection rate has been steadily decreasing from its post-holiday peak, however the numbers are still close to those that prompted us to suspend in-person worship in October (and more than 10 times higher than when we initially suspended worship last March!).
 - Additionally, there are virus variants emerging, the impact of which is not yet known.
- Vaccinations
 - While some age groups have already received their vaccines, many more people have not yet had the opportunity to be vaccinated. In Rhode Island the estimated timeline for immunizing those under 65 ranges from the middle of March to the middle of June, depending upon age.
- Guidelines
 - In their most recent recommendations, the New England Conference’s Reentry Team urges “extreme caution” when considering the resumption of in-person worship. They state: “The only ‘safe’ choice is not to hold indoor, in-person, events until the CDC demonstrates that a significant immunization level has been reached.”
 - The RI Department of Health’s most recent guidelines continue to limit in-person worship services and recommend: “When possible, houses of worship are strongly encouraged to provide virtual services as an alternative to in-person services.”
 - The CDC’s most recent publication of “Considerations for Communities of Faith” states: “To decrease your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19, CDC recommends that you do not gather with people who do not live with you at this time.”

The pandemic is a constantly changing situation, so please know that the team will continue to monitor COVID and immunization data, along with any new guidelines from the New England Conference, RI Department of Health, and CDC, and will update recommendations appropriately.

Looking ahead, the Reentry Team recommends the following (subject to change based on future COVID information):

- Easter Sunday
 - In addition to virtual worship online, weather permitting there will be an in-person worship service on the church lawn. The guidelines established for outdoor worship last summer ([click here](#)) will remain in effect.

- Return to Outdoor Worship
 - We will return to weekly outdoor worship on Mother's Day, May 9 at 10 AM. Livestreaming of the service will be available for those who do not attend the service in person.

Please note that if the infection rates continue to decline and the number of people being vaccinated accelerates, the Reentry Team will adjust recommendations accordingly and we may return to in-person worship sooner.

As always, the Reentry Team welcomes your questions or feedback. You can email the team at reentry.amumc@gmail.com or contact any member of the team directly.

Your Reentry Team members are:

Lee Ann Cotta

Matthew Cedor

Keith Johnson

Stacey Johnson

Johnna Kosnoff

Cindy Mauch

Joe Mazarella

Karen Oswain

Pamela Thurlow

Rev. Arlene Tully



LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES “A Season of Reflection”

Lent is intended to be a 40-day period of self-examination and reflection, a time of being honest with ourselves, of reassessing our relationships with God and neighbor, of reexamining our commitment to living as disciples of Jesus. The Lenten season is the spiritual equivalent of an annual physical exam – a time to take stock of our lives, our hearts.

This year the theme of our Lenten worship series is “A Season of Reflection”. Each Sunday we will examine one of the probing questions posed by Jesus in the Gospel of John and consider our own answers to those questions. You can join us online at our [Facebook](#) page or via the link on the home page of our website (www.amumc.org). Worship videos will be posted by 10 AM each Sunday.



SUNDAY SCHOOLERS’ GAME NIGHT—March 1 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

LENTEN STUDY — “24 Hours That Changed the World”

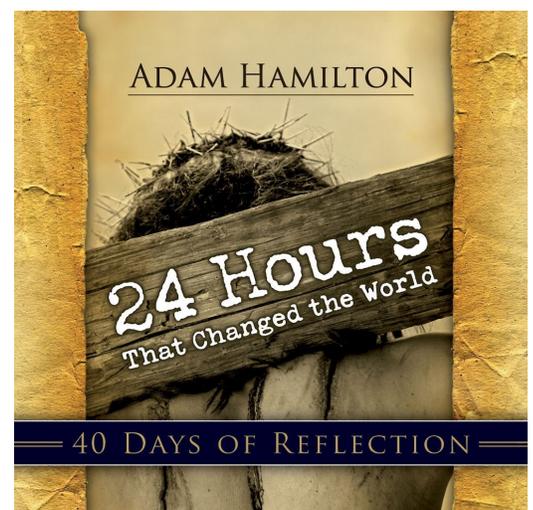
Via Zoom Wednesdays 10 AM or 7 PM

Pastor and popular author Adam Hamilton helps us relive the one day in history that changed everything. Drawing on insights from history, archaeology, geography, and the Bible, Hamilton takes us to the Holy Land and provides a deeper understanding of the most amazing day in history. We will see the sites where those earth-shaking events took place, and walk where Jesus walked along the road that led to the pain and triumph of the cross.

Reading the companion book is recommended, but not required.

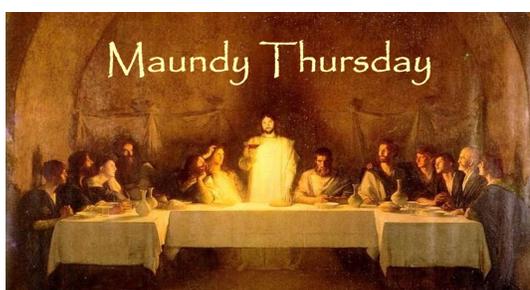
10 AM Session—<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84755871803>

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



HOLY WEEK AT ARNOLD MILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“A Season of Reflection”, our Lenten worship series based on questions posed by Jesus in the Gospel of John, wraps up with virtual services for Holy Week (descriptions below). Services will be available on our [Facebook](#) page and on our [website](#).



MAUNDY THURSDAY

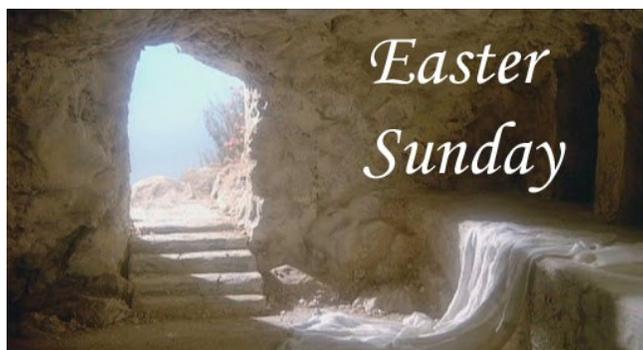
“Do You Know What I Have Done for You?”

This year we will observe Maundy Thursday with a retelling of the events of the Last Supper. This service will include scripture readings, music, prayers, and dramatic monologues to help us reflect on Jesus’ last hours with his disciples, and on the question, “Do you know what I have done for you?” The worship service will be available online by 6 PM on April 1.

GOOD FRIDAY

“Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me? ”

Our Good Friday service will include meditations on Jesus’ arrest, trial, and crucifixion using artwork depicting the *Via Crucis*, or “Way of the Cross”. We will walk with Jesus from his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane to the placement of his body in the tomb as he demonstrates the answer to the question, “Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?” The service will be available online by 6 PM on April 2.



EASTER SUNDAY

“Woman, why are you weeping? ”

We close our “Season of Reflection” with Jesus’ final question, posed to Mary outside the empty tomb: “Woman, why are you weeping?” In addition to virtual worship on Easter morning, we will be offering worship outdoors on the church lawn (weather permitting) at 10:00 AM. Please read our outdoor worship guidelines available [here](#).

Church Missions Committee Report March 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, January 17th** 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. **The next meal is Sunday, February 28th and then April 11th. If anyone would like to make cookies for the April 11th meal please let Karen know. We will need volunteers in the park.** 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.

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 day old baked goods from Dave's Marketplace at Chapel Four Corners to various community organizations was reinstated at the beginning of February! Apparently, there was a misunderstanding about the corporate directive to discontinue the free coffee stand and the hot meal counter where customers can serve themselves. So, we are back delivering the day-old baked goods to local agencies! Contact Chip Thurlow if you have any questions: thurlowcp@aol.com; 401-333-1235.

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

If you want to hike in the snow and marvel at the wondrous views, the 65-acre property is available for casual open space usage – hiking, bird watching and/or kite flying. You can park by the barn complex and enjoy the beautiful outdoor open space. The Directors presented the Annual Franklin Farm presentation to the Cumberland Town Council via a Zoom conference on Wednesday February 17th. A three-minute video was shared with the Council members that reviewed activities and events over the past year. The 3 and ½ minute video is available if you Google “Franklin Farm RI Video” and click on the 2020 video listing. Any questions, please contact Pam or Chip Thurlow; 401-333-1235, thurlowcp@gmail.com

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.

Chip Thurlow,

Chairperson, AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee

A Note of Thanks

Thank you for the beautiful sympathy cards and phone calls received upon the recent death of my mother. They were truly appreciated and most uplifting.

Rachel Odom and Family



UMCOR Sunday Giving Opportunity!

This month we celebrate UMCOR Sunday, formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing. Since 1940, UMCOR has helped people around the globe during times of crisis and human suffering.

UMCOR acts as the arms and legs of our church, moving towards the most vulnerable in their darkest days. When we give to UMCOR and meet the needs of those suffering, we are following the words of Jesus, who said: "I was hungry, and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me (Mt. 25:35-36). As we respond, we are recognizing Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster.

To donate to UMCOR this month, you can visit our website at www.amumc.org and click on the "Give" button. Our safe and secure online donation system now lists Special Sunday giving opportunities including UMCOR. You may also send in a donation via the mail with a check made out to AMUMC and "UMCOR" noted in the memo section. Send your check to AMUMC Counters, 690 Nate Whipple Highway, Cumberland RI 02864. Thank you for continuing to support UMCOR!

The Finance Committee

Trustee Meeting Report

The Trustee Committee once again met in a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2021. We will continue this way until meeting in person is approved but have decided to meet on the second Thursday of each month.

The following issues were discussed by the five members present:

- Scott Murphy's excellent minutes were approved. We are grateful to him for volunteering to continue in that position! All the other officers also agreed to maintain their positions for 2021.
- There were a few heating issues in January and February but Dave Larson keeps a keen eye on the church and has resolved or is taking care of necessary components. He is also researching maintenance contracts.
- A new kitchen window has been ordered for the parsonage. Tom Hetherington and Lindsay Gettinger have purchased from Lowe's a new storm door and bi-fold closet doors. Sometime in March these three projects in the parsonage are scheduled to be completed.
- Fran Carr is in charge of the snowplowing and walk shoveling and is pleased with the results so far this winter.
- Tom Cabana and Tom Hetherington have updated the documentation for the Rockland Trust safe deposit box. They are planning a trip to see just what it contains...
- Tom C. will also be gathering quotes to fix the parsonage driveway this spring.
- Lindsay G. and Dave L. offered to work on plans for updating the children's lavatories.
- Constructing a memorial garden in honor of Lucille Martin will hopefully commence this spring.
- Everyone agreed that fixing the church bell in the steeple is also a project for the future.
- Some of us hope to attend a New England Conference Trustee training by Zoom on Wednesday, 02/24/21, from 6:30-8:00 P.M.

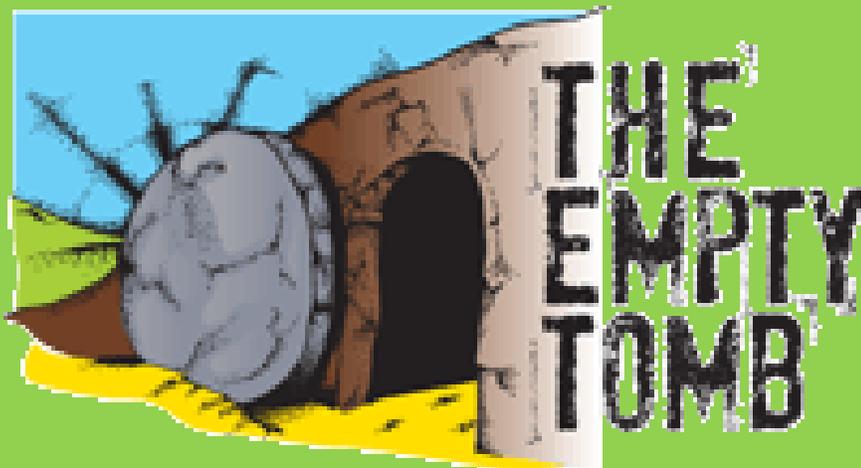
Please contact any of your trustees with ideas as we welcome any helpful input!

Sincerely,
Lindsay Gettinger

Church School News

Important Dates

March 28: Palm Sunday
 April 1: Maundy Thursday
 April 2: Good Friday
 April 4: Easter Sunday



The children will begin the Easter unit titled "The Empty Tomb".

Bible Verse: He is not here, but has risen. (Luke 24: 5c)

Main Ideas: They will explore how Jesus' followers felt when they found the empty tomb. They will discover that the tomb was empty because Jesus is alive.

They will recognize that Jesus did as he promised--he rose from the dead. Finally they will come to understand that Jesus' resurrection shows that they too will have new life with God.

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

MARCH Birthdays

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

March 2nd: Lexi Johnson-McMahon

March 11th: Olivia Lyon

March 18th: Ben Johnson-McMahon

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

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV

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.
Pam Thurlow, Chair
Worship Committee

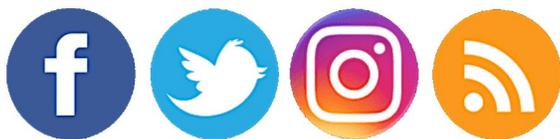
Upcoming Events

March 11: Board of Trustees Meeting
March 14: UMCOR Sunday
March 15: Church Council Meeting
March 17: St. Patrick's Day
March 28: Palm Sunday
April 1: Maundy Thursday
April 2: Good Friday
April 4: Easter Sunday

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

< > March 2021






Month ▾

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 10am Online Worship Service 6:30pm Confirmation Class - Zoom	Mar 1 First Day of Women's History Month	2	3	4	5	6
7 10am Online Worship Service	8	9	10	11 7pm Board of Trustees - Zoom	12	13
14 UMCOR Sunday (One Great Hour of SI) Daylight Saving Time starts 10am Online Worship Service 6:30pm Confirmation Class - Zoom	15 7pm Church Council - Zoom	16	17 St. Patrick's Day St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20
21 10am Online Worship Service	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 10am Online Worship Service 6:30pm Confirmation Class - Zoom	29	30	31	Apr 1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday	3



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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.