

# Good Tidings

March 2022



**Arnold Mills United Methodist Church**

Rev. Arlene M. Tully

Web Page: [www.amumc.org](http://www.amumc.org)

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Dear Church Family,

Psalm 51 is traditionally a part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Each year we begin the season of Lent by hearing these pained and remorseful words, attributed to Israel's great King David. Tradition has it that David wrote this psalm out of deep shame. His desire for Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah (David's fiercely loyal military commander, led David to arrange to have Uriah murdered. When David was called out by the prophet Nathan for what he'd done, David was overcome with guilt and wrote this psalm to give voice to his shame and self-loathing.

It took me a long time to come to terms with this psalm. To be honest, I resented that it was part of our Ash Wednesday observances. I resented that it put David's words into my mouth – that *his* confession became *my* confession. And perhaps what bothered me most was verse 17: "The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." I wondered, is that what Ash Wednesday is supposed to be about – God wanting our hearts to be broken? I really struggled with the notion that God's Lenten intention for us is to wallow in broken heartedness over our sin.

But then I heard someone suggest something that completely shifted my perspective. Maybe the "sacrifice acceptable to God" isn't a heart that's broken, but one that's *broken open*.

Parker Palmer says there are two ways for the heart to break. It can break *apart* or it can be broken *open*. He says that a brittle heart that's broken apart knows only pain, and can be difficult to reassemble. But a heart that's supple enough to break *open* rather than *apart* is an expansive heart – a heart broken open into the largeness of life, into greater spaciousness for compassion and grace, into an enlarged capacity for empathy and the ability to attend to the suffering of others.

For me, that's the purpose of using the words of Psalm 51 as our own confession of sin – as an admission of the ways we've turned away from our relationship with God and the ways we've hurt one another. The purpose isn't to break our hearts *apart* – to feel the pain of guilt and shame as some sort of punishment for our sin – but rather to let the sorrow we feel about our sin break our hearts *open*, so that our heartbreak can be transformed into new life.

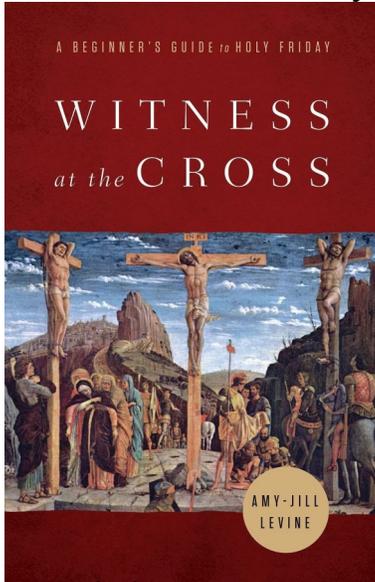
As we once again begin our journey through this holy season of Lent, may we do so offering our hearts to God – allowing them to be broken – trusting in God's grace to break our hearts *open*, and not *apart*. And in so doing, may our hearts become ever more spacious, ever more expansive, and ever more like the heart of Jesus.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Arlene

## WITNESS AT THE CROSS

### A Six-Week Study for Lent beginning Wednesday, March 9 at 7 PM via Zoom



Zoom link:

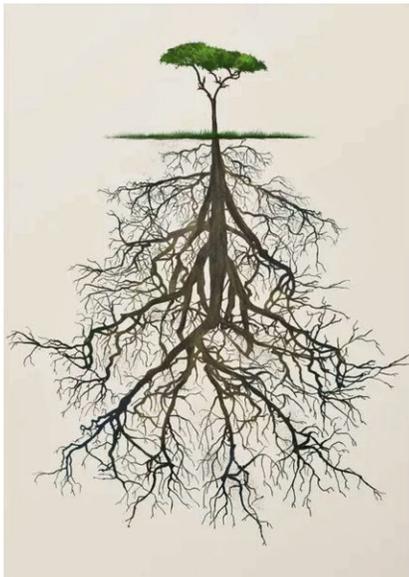
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/839125938>

Join us for a Lenten study, based on Amy-Jill Levine's book, *Witness At the Cross*, available from most major booksellers.

From the publisher: "Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; the women from Galilee; the two thieves crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.

In *Witness at the Cross*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play. Each gospel writer portrays different individuals and groups of people at the cross, each offers different images and dialogues, and so from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.

Each Gospel has its own story to tell, all the witnesses have their own memories, and every reader comes away with a new insight. The witnesses at the Crucifixion watch Jesus die, and we watch with them, and we watch them. And we come away transformed."



### LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES: "Growing Deeper"

During the 40-day period of spiritual self-assessment known as Lent, it is common for Christians to "give something up" – to fast from some food or activity as a way of prompting reflection and repentance. However, many people find it more helpful to "take something on" for Lent and begin a new spiritual formation practice.

This year our Lenten theme is "Growing Deeper" — growing closer to God by going deeper in our spiritual practices . Join us each Sunday as we examine one classical spiritual discipline that can help transform our connection with God, our discipleship of Jesus, and our relationships with one another.

### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP—MARCH 2 AT 7:00 PM

On Ash Wednesday we will gather in the sanctuary to mark the beginning of the Lenten season with the traditional imposition of ashes. This year the focus of our worship during Lent will be "Growing Deeper" – growing closer to God by going deeper in our spiritual practices and habits. On Ash Wednesday we'll begin with an ancient form of prayer – The Examen – which has been practiced by Christians since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Examen is a means of spiritual self-examination, the purpose of which is to become more conscious of the movement of God in the everyday events of our lives. Join us as we seek to "grow deeper".



# Missions Committee Newsletter Report

## March 2022

### **Meals in the Park**

Thank you to everyone who baked, made soup, donated warm clothes and served in the park on Sunday, February 27th. **Our next time hosting is April 10th (Palm Sunday)**. Thank you again for your service to our community. Please call Karen Oswain at 333-2166, or email at [kkoswain@netscape.net](mailto:kkoswain@netscape.net) if you have any questions or would like to serve at this wonderful program.

### **Cintas Clothing Donation**

The Cintas clothing and our church donations to the St. James Episcopal Church Clothing Closet will continue as Community Care Alliance of Woonsocket is no longer taking over management of the program. So, we will continue the deliveries as we have been doing in the past. Any clothes placed in the bins at church will be added to the donations.

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

The informative annual Franklin Farm video progress report was presented to the Cumberland Town Council on Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup>. It is posted on the Franklin Farm Website. Go to: [franklinfarmri.org](http://franklinfarmri.org) and scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the four young volunteers holding sunflowers. You can see the amazing activities and programs that were offered this past year. In addition, the hiking and bird watching opportunities are still available from dawn to dusk every day. You can marvel at the wonderful views, for the 65-acre property is available for casual open space usage. You can park by the barn complex and enjoy the beautiful outdoor open space. Any questions, please contact Pam or Chip Thurlow; 401-333-1235, [thurlowcp@gmail.com](mailto:thurlowcp@gmail.com)

### **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 and Rich Bizier and Chip Thurlow. We could use one or two more volunteers to assist with the Monday deliveries, usually to the Cumberland Senior Center at the Monastery. Please contact Chip Thurlow if you have any questions: [thurlowcp@aol.com](mailto:thurlowcp@aol.com); 401-333-1235).

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity Northern RI and West Bay Affiliate is celebrating their 30-year anniversary this year! The next project is under development. They will be building FOUR homes this year, just like the home on Clairmont St in Cumberland near the South Cumberland Middle School in 2008-2009, two units connected by one wall. Two families on one side of the street, and hopefully two veterans on the other side of the street. They will announce the location when they move forward with construction.

### **A 22 Year Summary of the AMUMC Missions Committee Projects and Programs**

As our church members explore implementing Social Justice activities, a 22-year summary of over 35 projects and programs has been created for our members to review and provide any additional information. We will be posting the summary on our Website: [amumc.org](http://amumc.org) and welcome additional information by contacting Chip Thurlow; [thurlowcp@aol.com](mailto:thurlowcp@aol.com)

Chip Thurlow,

Chairperson, AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee  
[thurlowcp@aol.com](mailto:thurlowcp@aol.com), 401-333-1235.

## 2022 Arnold Mills Directory

Please remember to email a clear photo of yourself (and any family members) to George in the church office at [office.amumc@gmail.com](mailto:office.amumc@gmail.com) for our future directory as soon as possible. You may even take the photo with your camera phone. The photo will print best if the background is a solid color or at least very simple. If you are unable to email a photo, you may submit a printed photograph and we will scan it. The Directory will not be published to the public. Please include the following information with your email: Last name, First name(s) of people in the photo, address, \*phone number(s) and \*email(s). If you have any questions, please contact George at 401-333-5203 or Johnna at [jskosnoff@yahoo.com](mailto:jskosnoff@yahoo.com).

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### Trustee Report

The Trustee Committee met at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, February 10th in Cargill Hall. The following issues were discussed:

- We all agreed that one bathroom in the parsonage might be a challenge for our incoming pastor's family of four. Therefore, we will be consulting with contractors as to the best way to add a full bath. Any suggestions of contractors from our congregation would be welcome.
- If anyone is interested in helping to record our Sunday services the help would be appreciated. It would be nice to see more close up shots of all the speakers.
- One of the Eagle Scouts has constructed a "Little Library" which will be placed in front of Cargill Hall, stage end, near the visitor parking spaces. We are looking forward to this method of exchanging good books!
- Renaissance Lighting in Tiverton has been contacted and the owner has come to evaluate the antique lamp posts in front of our church. An estimate on the restoration is being worked on.
- We had a request for ten hours of community service hours from a young man. Cleaning out the window wells and making repairs to the swing set were two suggested projects.
- Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10th at 6:30 P.M.

If anyone has any suggestions or comments about the care of our property, please talk to any of your trustees. We are here to care.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Gettinger, Fran Carr, Scott Murphy, Tom Cabana, Tom Hetherington, Dave Larson, Matt Cedor, Mark Farnell



**Change begins when people unite.  
Justice is realized when people act.**

The United Methodist Church possesses a rich tradition of statements, writings, and resolutions affirming the vocation of all Christians to live in healthy, charitable, and just relationship with the whole of creation. Increasing numbers of United Methodists are responding to this call by taking action for ecological healing and environmental justice within local churches and communities, through our connectional system, and in partnership with ecumenical, interfaith, and public environmental movements.

At the same time, in an age of widespread social and environmental degradation threatening human and planetary wellbeing, many United Methodists are asking with renewed urgency what more we are called to do in faithfulness to God to care for creation and do justice with our neighbors. The interconnected crises of rising CO2 emissions, climate chaos, biodiversity collapse, land, water, and air pollution, and multiple forms of social inequity, including especially systemic racism, economic injustice, and intergenerational violence, require widespread change at every level of personal, social, cultural, economic, and political life today. The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement has emerged in this *kairos* time of urgency, crisis, and opportunity to join our many faithful responses together through the power of collective, connectional action.

This website hub (<https://umcreationjustice.org/>) has been created to build connections within and partnerships outside the United Methodist Church, to facilitate communication for the sharing of best practices and resources, to increase power through collaborative action, and ultimately to grow the number and impact of Christians engaged in ministries of creation care, renewal, and justice.

# UMCOR Sunday – March 27, 2022



UMCOR supplies for DRC flooding

## WHAT IS UMCOR SUNDAY?

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to respond with extravagant grace. Through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering understates UMCOR's "cost of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go towards that project and not administrative cost.

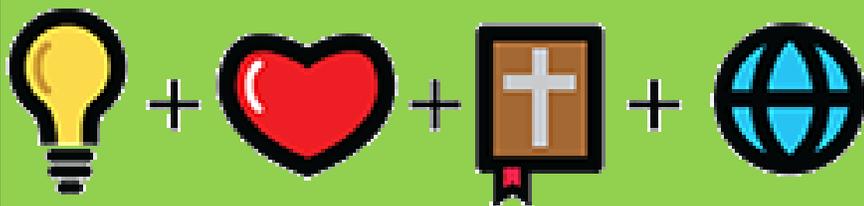
UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities and to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times. Also, UMCOR doesn't just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR builds relationships and helps communities rebuild, in the years following a disaster.

UMCOR responds to U.S. and international disasters, addresses diseases and poverty, assists refugees and immigrants, provides clean water and works to reduce hunger. UMCOR would be unable to do this work without your support. From training Conference Disaster Coordinators and Early Response Teams to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly to disasters.

Your sustaining gifts on UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for UMCOR to share God's love with communities everywhere.

# Church School News

During the month of March, the children will continue learning about Jesus' baptism. Beginning on March 20th, they will move into the Easter unit called "Easter: Go and Tell".



## MAKING DISCIPLES

**Bible Verse:** "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)

**Main Idea:** The resurrected Jesus told his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded. Jesus combined his instructions with a promise: "Remember, I am with you always". (Matthew 28:20)

The children will learn that:

- \* Jesus rose from the dead, that through Jesus
- \* God offers new life to people everywhere
- \* Jesus expected his followers to continue the work he started
- \* What Jesus told his followers applies to Jesus' disciples today
- \* Each of us has unique abilities we can use to tell the good news of Jesus.

## MARCH Birthdays

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

March 2nd: Lexi Johnson-McMahon

March 11th: Olivia Lyon

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

## Important Dates

March 2: Ash Wednesday

March 4: World Day of Prayer

## 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.

## Puzzle!

Complete the Scripture verses (NIV, unless marked) using letters found in the words



See! The winter is \_\_\_\_\_; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come. (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

"Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it \_\_\_\_\_, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you." (Luke 11:36)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the \_\_\_\_\_, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them ... ? (Psalm 8:3-4)

We all, like sheep, have gone \_\_\_\_\_, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the \_\_\_\_\_ and members of the household of God. (Ephesians 2:19, ESV)

## Worship Committee News

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**

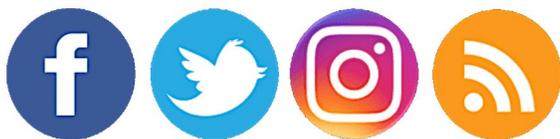
## Upcoming Events

March 2: Ash Wednesday—7:00 PM Service  
March 4: World Day of Prayer  
March 7: Kids Game Night  
March 7: Boys/Girls Scouts Meeting  
March 9: Habitat Committee Meeting  
March 10: Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 14: Boys/Girls Scouts Meeting  
March 17: St. Patrick's Day  
March 21: Church Council Meeting  
March 22: Cub Scouts Meeting  
March 27: UMCOR Sunday  
March 28: Boys/Girls Scouts Meeting

## 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
27 <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> ● 8:30am Indoor Sunday Service ● 10:30am Indoor Sunday Service ● 10:30am Childrens Sunday School -	28 ● 7pm Boy/Girl Scouts Troop - Cargill †	Mar 1 <b>First Day of Women's History Month</b> ● 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom <b>First Day of Women's History Month</b> ● 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom	2 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> ● 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	3	4 <b>World Day of Prayer</b>	5
6 <b>1st Sunday in Lent</b> ● 8:30am Indoor Sunday Service ● 10:30am Communion Service ● 10:30am Indoor Sunday Service ● 10:30am Childrens Sunday School -	7 ● 6:30pm Kids Game Night - Zoom ● 7pm Boy/Girl Scouts Troop - Cargill †	8 ● 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom	9 ● 6:30pm Habitat Committee - Cargill † ● 7pm Adult Study - Zoom	10 ● 6:30pm Board of Trustees - Cargill †	11	12
13 <b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b> Daylight Saving Time starts ● 8:30am Indoor Sunday Service ● 10:30am Indoor Sunday Service ● 10:30am Childrens Sunday School -	14 ● 5pm Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts Meeting	15 ● 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom	16 ● 7pm Adult Study - Zoom	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	18	19
20 <b>3rd Sunday in Lent</b> ● 8:30am Indoor Sunday Service ● 10:30am Indoor Sunday Service ● 10:30am Childrens Sunday School -	21 ● 7pm Church Council - Zoom	22 ● 6pm Cub Scout Pack 1 - Pack Meetir ● 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom	23 ● 7pm Adult Study - Zoom	24	25	26
27 <b>4th Sunday in Lent</b> <b>JMICOR Sunday</b> ● 8:30am Indoor Sunday Service ● 10:30am Indoor Sunday Service ● 10:30am Childrens Sunday School -	28 ● 7pm Boy/Girl Scouts Troop - Cargill †	29 ● 6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom	30 ● 7pm Adult Study - Zoom	31	Apr 1	2



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Rev. Arlene M. Tully



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