

Good Tidings

May 2020



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church

Rev. Arlene M. Tully

Web Page: www.amumc.org

Phone: 401-333-5203

email: office.amumc@gmail.com

Dear Church Family

As I write this, we are in the 7th week of sheltering in place from the novel coronavirus. While Governor Raimondo is optimistic about the “flattened curve” of infection rate, it is clear that life will not return to normal for some time. It is almost certain that restrictions will be lifted in stages, and larger gatherings of people will continue to be prohibited for the foreseeable future. I expect that we will continue to deal with the challenges of being a scattered community of faith to some degree for the next few months, if not beyond.

Yet even in the midst of these challenges, grace abounds. We are still a church, even without a church building. We have been able to use technology to offer online worship services, Bible study, prayer meetings, coffee hour, and children’s time. We have been blessed to have Joey and Stephanie Mazzarella provide high quality music for our online services. Choir members were able to remotely share hymns for the Good Friday Tenebrae service. And our liturgists and dramatists continue to participate in online worship. I am so appreciative of each person’s willingness to share their gifts “virtually”.

Of course, not everyone has access to the internet, so there are folks who are feeling disconnected from their faith community. It is important for us to maintain “the ties that bind” while we are physically separated from one another, so I encourage all of us to make an effort to be in regular contact with those who do not or cannot participate in online activities. A simple phone call can make all the difference for those who are feeling isolated. (You can get a phone directory by calling or emailing the church office at 401-333-5203 or office.amumc@gmail.com.) I would also ask that you let me know if you become aware of someone in need of help (e.g., picking up a grocery order or prescription) or financial assistance. You can contact me at pastor.amumc@gmail.com or 401-335-5156.

Finally, rest assured that we are planning ahead to provide a safe, healthy environment for all ages when we are finally able to return to our church building. Feel free to contact me with any suggestions or concerns. Know that I hold you in prayer during this time of separation and look forward to the day we are able to be together again. In the meantime, may God’s loving presence give you comfort and strength.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arlene'.

Pastor Arlene

“May the Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.” (Genesis 31:49)

"To Stand Again: Practices of the Resurrected Life"

A video discussion series

Wednesday evenings from 6:30—7:30 through June 10



The Resurrection shows us that there is life that comes after all of our “tomb” experience. In this series, authors and scholars, pastors and professors, reflect on a life lived on this side of the resurrection. If the resurrection did happen, then there must be some difference not only in our lives, but also for the world. What is the hope when faced with death, decay, and brokenness? How can one survive the destructive powers of this world? The answer to this question involves a journey into the tomb and an emergence out of it.

Join us on Zoom at zoom.us/j/839125938



Mother's Day May 10, 2020

For a \$10 donation you can honor a special woman in your life with a listing on Mother's Day. Monies collected will be put toward maintaining the church grounds.

DUE MAY 7th, 2020

I would like the following dedications:

In loving memory of: _____

In loving memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

In honor of: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Phone: _____

Please include a \$10 donation for each dedication and submit it with this form to the church office at 690 Nate Whipple Hwy, Cumberland, RI 02864 Attn: Mother's Day Dedications.

Report of the Finance Committee

As of March 31, 2020 our checking account balance was \$19,814.50. This included some designated funds totaling \$5,912.13 for special purposes including Homeless Meals, Pastor's Discretionary Fund and a Youth Mission fund.

Total Income for the first quarter was \$43,273 and total Operating Expenses were \$57,046, for a first quarter Net Loss of \$13,773. Expenses are higher than budget primarily due to an unexpected increase in repairs needed to the church's heating system.

The Finance Committee has met via a Zoom meeting and email exchanges to respond to the current financial challenges related to the Covid19 pandemic. Through the generosity of the New England Conference, we have been able to waive some property insurance and pension payments. We have also received through Navigant Credit Union an SBA loan/grant which will help offset some salary expenses in the short term. The Church Council has made a commitment to maintain our current staff during this difficult time. We also have an option of delaying Mission Share payments until later in the year, although for now we are pleased to report that our Mission Share payments are up to date.

Thank you for your continued financial support! Your donations, whether through direct debit from your bank account or credit card, online payments through your bank, or checks sent to the church, are helping us weather this storm. If you have any questions please let me know at camauch@gmail.com and I would be happy to answer them.

Respectfully Submitted, Cindy Mauch

AMUMC Income Statement

Jan - Mar 20

DONATION INCOME	
PLEDGED DONATIONS	\$34,148
UNPLEDGED DONATIONS	7,305
OPEN PLATE	311
CHURCH SCHOOL	102
INITIAL OFFERING	120
CHRISTMAS	50
Total DONATION INCOME	<u>42,036</u>
Total OTHER INCOME	<u>1,237</u>
Total Income	<u>\$43,273</u>
Operating Expenses	
Total STAFF	\$31,696
Total CHURCH OFFICE	936
TRUSTEES	
TOTAL UTILITIES	5,603
GENERAL MAINTENANCE	5,275
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	855
PROPERTY INSURANCE	3,288
Total TRUSTEES	15,021
Total CONFERENCE & MISSIONS	8,590
Total PROGRAM EXPENSES	577
Total STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE	111
Total Expense	<u>\$57,046</u>
Net Ordinary Income or Loss	<u>-\$13,772</u>

Trustee Committee Meeting

The Trustee Committee met on April 8, 2020 off-site through Zoom.

The following issues were discussed:

- Our portfolio has taken a hit this year but luckily we had set aside the cash which will be needed to paint and make repairs on the church, hall, and parsonage. The signed contract and deposit will be sent to Painters Pride as soon as the funds are transferred into the general fund.
- Three steam traps were replaced on our aging heating system.
- The paving projects will be revisited in the future.
- The basement dehumidifier and the office air conditioners will be serviced to be ready for warm weather.
- The grounds in front of the parsonage have been cleaned up.
- Due to the Covid-19 restrictions the scout grounds clean-up, the wall mounting of the television, the parsonage lock repair, the installation of new blinds in the vestry, and all building usages have been put on hold.
- Being able to ring our bell in the steeple is a project in the works.
- Three spotlights over the stage are out and will be replaced.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Whether or not this will be a zoom meeting is yet to be determined.

THANKS TO ALL FOR SUPPORTING AMUMC IN MANY WAYS! WE MISS YOU!

Lindsay Gettinger

Margaret Stearns Service Award

The Margaret Stearns Service Award Committee members discussed the potential challenges for issuing the award this year. For the past 42 years our church family has offered the award to graduating Cumberland and AMUMC High School seniors who demonstrate a concern for others at home, school, church, or community through involvement in activities, programs and efforts to improve the lives of our fellow citizens. The applicants can be organizers or participants in projects on a local, regional, national and even international level.

The traditional process involved the submission of applications that described their commitment to service activities, two letters of reference along with their high school transcript, as well as an in person interview. The current home schooling format for all Cumberland students and the social distancing constraints required a different procedure. In cooperation with the Cumberland High School Guidance Department staff, we authorized online submission of applications with possible video interviews.

The result is that the Committee did receive applications that we are in the process of evaluating. We remain hopeful that our church family will be able to continue this beneficial long standing tradition of recognition and praise for conscientious students who are committed to working to improve the lives of our fellow citizens as they prepare their journey toward advancing their post-high school learning.

The Margaret Stearns Service Award Committee

Chip Thurlow; Chairperson

LeeAnn Cotta

Chuck Tramontana

Paul Roeber

Marianne Alger

Rebekah Puleo

Missions Committee Report

May 2020

Note: The various Mission and Social Concern activities are 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 and Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser

The Meals in the Park events have been postponed for the foreseeable future. **Please look for announcements for any change in plans in the coming weeks.** Thanks for the volunteers for providing 90 lunches and distributing over 120 meals to the guests. Karen Oswain is the organizer for the Meals in the Park Program.

Pasta Supper Fundraiser to benefit New Beginnings Meal Site.

The Pasta Supper Fundraiser will be rescheduled for a future date. We will notify AMUMC volunteers and the public when it is rescheduled. Feel free to contact Karen Oswain for additional information on this event.

Diabetes Prevention and Education Workshop

The Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation **Diabetes Prevention and Care Workshop here at AMUMC has also been cancelled for the time being.** Any questions contact Pam or Chip Thurlow; thurlowcp@gmail.com; 401-333-1235.

Margaret Stearns Service Award

The Margaret Stearns Service Award applications have been distributed to Cumberland High School Guidance Department. The submission of completed applications was **extended based on the current health crisis.** Any questions contact Chip Thurlow; thurlowcp@aol.com; 401-333-1235.

Dave's Marketplace Day Old Bakery Donations

Our volunteers have been selectively transporting day old baked goods from Dave's Marketplace at Chapel Four Corners on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to various community organizations such as the Cumberland Senior Center at the Monastery. **The Cumberland Sr. Center is open only for takeout lunches during this health crisis so they are still in need of the baked goods.**

Habitat for Humanity

The Habitat for Humanity current project at 277 Talcott Street in Woonsocket is currently on hold. A reopening will be announced when it is approved by the Habitat Board of Directors.

Cintas Clothing Donation

The Cintas clothing and our church donations to the St. James Episcopal Church and occasionally to the Community Care Alliance, both in Woonsocket have been **temporarily cancelled for the current time.**

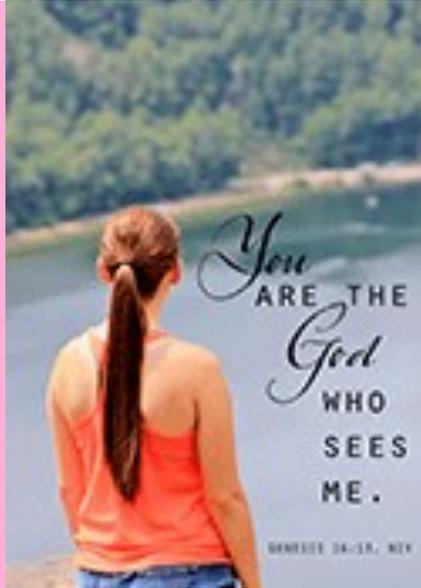
Clothing and Boxed and Canned Goods Donations

The donated goods are donated to either the Northern RI Food Pantry or the Woonsocket Shelter as necessary.

Chip Thurlow, Chairperson

AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee

Church School News



The last unit for this church school year is titled "Rebekah".

The main idea is that Rebekah was a strong and determined woman who was chosen by God. God chooses us, as God chose Rebekah.

Like Rebekah, we can show hospitality and kindness to others, and we can recognize these opportunities.

During this uncertain time in all of our lives we have seen many acts of hospitality and

many of us have shown acts of kindness to those in need.

Bible verse: My people, you are my witnesses and my chosen servant. I want you to know me, to trust me, and understand that I alone am God. I have always been God; there can be no others.

(Isaiah, 43:10, CEV)

*** Here is a link to a website that offers free online church school lessons during the time that churches are closed because of Covid-19.

<https://www.gocurriculum.com/go-online-video-resource>

MAY Birthdays

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

May 2nd: Josie Cunningham

May 6th: Sydnee Gauvin

May 13th: Ayden & Zachary Jarl

May 26th: Shane Carney, Joaquín Cardoso

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

A Message from Christian Ed

On behalf of the Christian Ed committee, I wish you all a Happy Mother's Day.

LeeAnn Cotta

CHANGED!

Make this cute puppet to show and tell the amazing story of metamorphosis.



What you need:

- Needle and string
- 12 small pom-poms
- Wooden craft stick
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Coffee filter
- Markers

What you do:

1. Sew pom-poms together to make a caterpillar body. Tie off that string.
2. Thread another string up through the first pom-pom, leaving 12 inches to dangle. Repeat with the ninth pom-pom, leaving two dangling strings.
3. Wrap those strings around opposite ends of the stick, adjusting their length to about 6 inches. Tie in place.
4. Glue on eyes.
5. Flatten the coffee filter and draw a symmetrical design on it. Pleat in the center to create wings.
6. Move the caterpillar puppet by holding the stick. Glue on the wings as you describe the transformation into a butterfly.

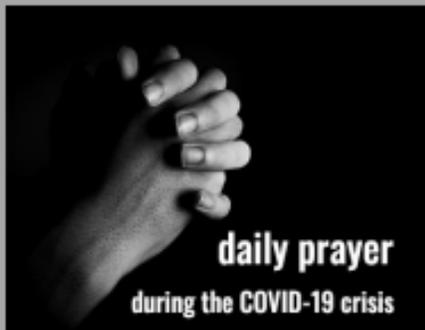
May 2020



New England Conference
The United Methodist Church

Connected is a publication of the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church. This monthly insert is designed put Conference news directly into the hands of our local church members.

Find more at www.neumc.org.



daily prayer
during the COVID-19 crisis

A daily prayer from Conference leadership

During these difficult days of COVID-19, Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar and the members of the Extended Cabinet (the District Superintendents and members of the Conference executive staff) are sharing a daily prayer based on the Revised Common Lectionary for the week.

You are welcome to use these in worship or in your own devotions.

You can find the prayers on our website www.neumc.org; look for the link on the lower right side of our homepage.

Or you can receive the daily prayer right in your email. Go to the bottom of the homepage and sign up for our UMCatalyst weekly email newsletter and you will receive the daily prayer as well as all the latest Conference news.

The Zarephath Fund

Helping those who fall through the safety net

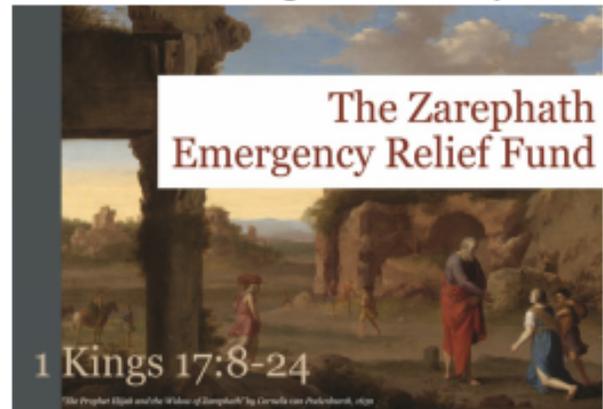
The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) is extending deeply into our life together as the church.

In this unprecedented time, the blow to the U.S. economy is having a profound impact on clergy and lay people in the New England Conference.

While government actions are providing assistance to many, there remain gaps; many faithful pastors and people in our pews are unable to benefit from the safety net of governmental action.

The Zarephath Emergency Relief Fund is intended to assist the conference's most vulnerable congregations in this moment.

Applications for urgent assistance may be made by a local church pastor, church treasurer, or lay leader via email or letter to their District Superintendent.



Find the application form on our website.

To donate:

Give electronically on the Foundation website at www.umfne.org

OR

Send a check payable to "UMFNE" with "Emergency Relief Fund" in the memo line to the Foundation at:

16 Route 111
Building 3, Suite 102
Derry, NH 03038

Thank you for your support of our pastors and congregations.



FIND MORE ON OUR CONFERENCE WEBSITE:
www.neumc.org

Camp and Retreat Ministries

Our camps and retreat center take their programs online

There's no canoeing or lighting campfires (at least for those of you inside!), but you can still go to camp – or rather camp can come to you.

New England's camping and retreat ministry is adapting to the new normal of COVID-19 by bringing "that camp essence" to kids and adults with a variety of online activities including crafts, virtual lunch gatherings, and spiritual retreats.

Wanakee United Methodist Center in New Hampshire and Camp Aldersgate in Rhode Island both offer traditional summer camp for kids.

But Wanakee Executive Director James Tresner says he understands that families are not thinking about summer right now.

"Camps specialize in engaging kids, and we know that's what parents need more than ever," Tresner said. "Right now, what we can do best for our community is create space for finding connection – just like we do in the summer."

They began "[Wanakee from Home](#)" with a photo scavenger hunt on March 18, and have been offering 7-10 activities a week since March 23.

Camp Aldersgate Program Director Megan Lynch said that when thinking about launching their Virtual Camp, reproducing what it feels like to be at camp was just as important as the activities themselves.

"For me, it's trying to make sure the camp essence or the camp feeling transfers from our property onto a computer," said Lynch.

Aldersgate's Virtual Camp started April 10, and uses a combination of videos and live virtual gatherings that in-



clude science activities, crafts, yoga, and virtual lunches.

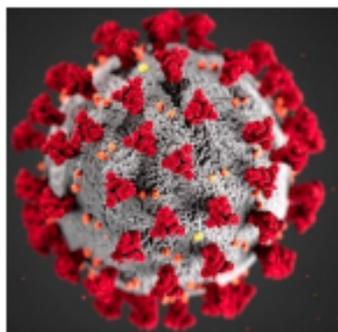
For now, rather than trying to offer full retreats online, Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center in Massachusetts has worked with its scheduled presenters to create shortened "taste of" versions – 90 minutes or so – on the topics such as "Cultivating Hearts for Discernment" and "Time Management on Purpose."

Lawrence Jay, Rolling Ridge executive director, said:

"It does allow people to be able to connect from a distance ... so that will hopefully allow us to be able to expand our community and our network. And I think the thing is that people are now getting more familiar with making those online connections, relating with people across a device ... Now that people are getting more familiar with it, I think that there may be more interest [in online offerings]."

**Find out more on each camp's website:
www.neumc.org/campsandretreatcenters**

Share your story ...



COVID-19: How is your church continuing in ministry and mission?

We know that despite social distancing, our churches are continuing to fill vital roles supporting those in need in their communities.

We are asking churches to share the good news about how you are continuing to do ministry and mission amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Send your photos and stories to communicate@neumc.org and we'll share them.

Let's Connect

Do you have a story to share? A feature idea? A question to ask? Contact Beth DiCocco, Conference Director of Communications, at communicate@neumc.org or (978) 682-8055 ext. 150

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@verizon.net.

Pam Thurlow, Chair

Worship Committee

Upcoming Events

May 10: Mother's Day

May 13: Board of Trustees Meeting

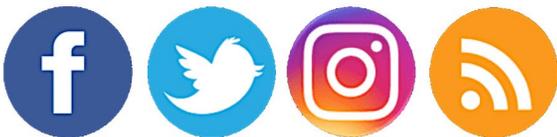
May 25: Memorial Day

SPRC News

We are pleased to welcome Christopher Ferretti as our youth representative.

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.



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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, children's message, special music by our choir, public celebrations and prayer concerns, and Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month.