

Good Tidings

November 2020



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church

Rev. Arlene M. Tully

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*Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19*

Dear Church Family,

As I write this, the US is undergoing a record surge in the number of COVID-19 infections and public health officials are warning that this may be the beginning of the “second wave” of the pandemic. Even with the promise of a fast-tracked vaccine, we’ll be dealing with the coronavirus for some time. I want to assure you that Arnold Mills United Methodist Church will take every infection control precaution possible and will continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of all who come through our doors.

Church has necessarily looked very different for the last 8 months as we’ve tried to adapt to the challenge of being a community of faith in a time of social distancing. Looking toward the eventual end of the pandemic, I wonder how many of these (or other) adaptations should remain. If God is “doing a new thing”, how do we prepare for it?

I recently attended (virtually) the 2020 Leadership Institute. One of the keynote speakers was Ron Heifetz, who is renowned worldwide for his work on how to build adaptive capacity in societies, businesses, and nonprofits. Heifetz noted that the pandemic has not only radically changed the way we do church in the short-term, but will also have an impact on what church looks like in the future. He offered three essential questions that churches must ask themselves as they look to adapt to the “new normal”:

What is precious and essential from the past to carry forward?

What is no longer serviceable and needs to be discarded?

What innovations will enable us to take the best of our history into the future?

I’ve been thinking a lot about these questions in light of Jesus’ call on us as individuals and as a church (vs. my own personal preferences). They are big questions! I invite you to reflect on them too, since I suspect they are questions we’ll need to ask ourselves as a community of faith in the not-too-distant future.

On a personal note, some of you have noticed that Kirby has not been attending worship. I’m sorry to share that he hasn’t been feeling well. He was recently diagnosed with mediastinal T-cell lymphoma and is undergoing chemotherapy at Tufts. This is an aggressive and incurable cancer, but the hope is that with chemotherapy and medication he’ll achieve 6 months of remission. Time will tell, and in the meanwhile I am confident that he’s receiving the best possible veterinary care. I would very much appreciate your prayers for the chemo to be effective, for Kirby to continue to have a good quality of life, and for me to have the wisdom to know when that is no longer the case.

Finally, as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, I invite us all to cultivate gratitude as a daily spiritual practice rather than a special occasion – even in the midst of pandemics or personal problems. In fact, it’s precisely under crisis conditions when we have the most to gain by a grateful outlook on life. In the face of hard times, gratitude has the power to give us perspective, bring us hope, and make us more resilient. Even when we don’t *feel* grateful, we can choose to *be* grateful. Of the many things for which I am grateful, please know that I am so thankful for each one of you!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Arlene



INDOOR WORSHIP SUNDAYS AT 10 AM

Join us for worship in the sanctuary and Sunday School in Cargill Hall each Sunday at 10 AM. Please read our COVID safety guidelines and find the link to preregister (required for attendance) at <https://bit.ly/3mLB7rn>

WORSHIP VIDEO DVDs

If you can't join us in person for worship and don't have access to the internet to watch our online worship service, but you do have a DVD player, we can provide recordings of the Sunday worship services. Just call Pastor Arlene at 401-335-5156 and she will arrange a no-contact drop off each week.



ADVENT SERMON SERIES

"I Believe, Even When..."

This year's Advent worship series is inspired by Marcia McFee's "Worship Design Studio" and by the words of a haunting anthem by Mark Miller. Miller set to music part of a poem that was scratched onto the wall of a basement during the Holocaust:



I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining.

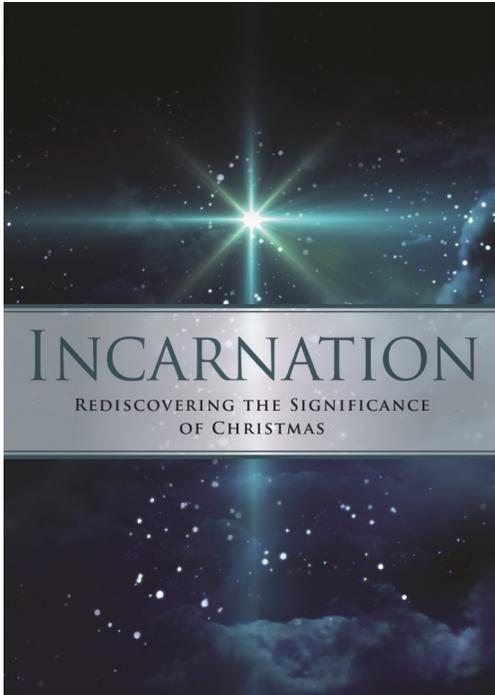
I believe in love, even when I don't feel it.

I believe in God, even when God is silent.

It is a powerful affirmation of belief in spite of what seems like the absence of light, of love – and sometimes even what feels like the absence of God.

The story of Jesus' birth is filled with common themes of human drama – unknowing, doubt, disgrace, fear, oppression, journey, hardship. By exploring the first chapter of each of the Gospels, we will acknowledge the presence of hope through Christ, "even when..."

- November 29 – 1st Sunday of Advent – I Believe in the Sun
Luke 1:26-38—"You will bear a son..."
- December 6 – 2nd Sunday of Advent – I Believe in Love
Matthew 1:18-25—"Don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife..."
- December 13 – 3rd Sunday of Advent – I Believe in God
Mark 1:1-8—"Look, I am sending my messenger before you...he will prepare your way."
- December 20 – 4th Sunday of Advent – I Believe Even When...
John 1:1-5—"What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people."



ADVENT STUDY—*INCARNATION*

5 Sessions Beginning November 29

Adult Study—Wednesdays 10:00—11:00 AM

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

or 7:00—8:00 PM

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

His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men, and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh. In *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, best-selling author Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth.

This Advent season we will come together to remember what's important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, Christians reclaim the Christ Child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness. Now more than ever, we invite you to reflect upon the significance of the Christ-child for our lives and world today!

FREE RESOURCES FROM THE UPPER ROOM

The Upper Room is offering several excellent resources for spiritual wellness for individuals and families during COVID-19. Included are digital devotionals, videos, eCourses, podcasts, etc., all of which can be accessed free of charge. Go to

www.upperroom.org/covid-19



**Vital
Conversations**



VIDEO DISCUSSION SERIES: “VITAL CONVERSATIONS”

Wednesdays at 10 AM or 7 PM via Zoom beginning October 21

“Vital Conversations” features contemporary theologians, sociologists, and other thought-leaders dealing with challenges of race, culture, and oppression in the church and world today. The videos (ranging from 11-20 minutes) are presented by the General Commission on Race and Religion of The United Methodist Church.

Racism and the U.S. Church

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

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

GAME NIGHT

SUNDAY SCHOOLERS' GAME NIGHT—November 2 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

WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

Tuesdays from 6:30—7:00 PM

Join us on Zoom as we gather to share our concerns and to pray for the people and situations in need near and far. The link for the Zoom meeting is zoom.us/j/563411339



VIDEO CAMERA OPERATORS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to operate the new ceiling mounted video camera for live streaming worship services once we return to the sanctuary. No experience necessary. Please contact Pastor Arlene at pastor.amumc@gmail.com or 401-335-5156.



VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

Sunday morning coffee hour is back. Join us as we gather online at 11:30 AM to catch up with old friends and get to know new ones at zoom.us/j/678414614



PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Arlene's office hours are by appointment while the church building is under shutdown. To set up a time to meet (either via Zoom or socially distanced in person), please email her at pastor.amumc@gmail.com or call 401-335-5156.

October Finance Committee Report

As of September 30, 2020, year-to-date, total Church Income was \$132,894 while Expenses were \$155,325, causing a Net Loss of \$22,431. Our largest Income variance was in the Pledged Donations category, which is behind budget by \$11,057. On the expense side, the largest negative variance of \$4,349 is for General Maintenance expenses, which are above budget due to issues with the church's heating system. The Navigant Credit Union checking account balance was \$36,011 as of September 30th. We continue to maintain a loan at Navigant Credit Union of \$21,400 that is expected to be turned into a grant by year end. This is part of a special Federal Government loan program that was made available earlier this year to small businesses and non-profits due to Covid 19. If you would like to receive the church's monthly financial statements or have any questions, please contact Cindy Mauch, Treasurer at camauch@gmail.com.

During October, statements of donations made through September 2020 were distributed by Financial Secretary Karen Oswain. If you did not receive one or if you have any questions about your giving to date, please email her at finance.amumc@gmail.com. We also began our 2021 budget process. Our Stewardship Campaign to determine our 2021 Income budget is being managed this year by Lindsay Gettinger. If you have not received an estimated 2021 giving card, please contact George at our Church Office (401-333-5203 or office.amumc@gmail.com) and he'll be glad to send one to you. Your timely return of your card helps us determine our income and expense plans for next year. Thank you!

Finance Committee Members: Keith Johnson, Karen Oswain, Laura Thompson, Lindsay Gettinger, Pauline Belisle, Elton Odom, Sammy Burgos, Cindy Mauch

Missions Committee Report November 2020

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 Meals in the Park event was held on Sunday, October 11th at Bouley Field on Social Street in Woonsocket, RI. We served over 110 meals and came home with zero leftovers! Thanks to those who donated the soup, sandwiches and desserts. And the volunteer help in the park was truly needed! Thank you for the socks which got handed out! Our support for this program means so much to so many people. **Our next meal is Sunday, November 29th, the Thanksgiving weekend.** So, if you are baking feel free to bake and add to the freezer. We should expect to feed 130 people. Please let Karen know if you can bake, make sandwiches and or volunteer in the park. Please call Karen 333-2166 if you have any questions or would like to donate to this wonderful program.

Franklin Farm Community Garden

The Franklin Farm Community Garden volunteers, a part of the Historic Metcalf-Franklin Farm Preservation Association (HMFFPA), finished a wonderfully successful 2020 harvest season, even though the health care crisis forced a variety of modifications to the activities at the Farm. After extensive preparations with the RI Department of Health, the RI Community Food Bank and Cumberland Town officials, the volunteers developed protocols and permission to plant, harvest, box and ship farm fresh vegetables. This year was the fourth highest harvest total in 14 years of feeding needy families, primarily in northern RI. The harvest totals were over **39,000 pounds of zucchini, cucumbers, summer and winter squash, tomatoes, eggplant pumpkins, peppers and string beans!**

In recognition of the extraordinary need to provide food for needy families, the Franklin Farm volunteers also developed a matching fundraising drive for the RI Community Food Bank called: **Squash Hunger! The \$10,000 matching pledge by the HMFFPA was exceeded as over \$11,000 was raised, which results in over \$21,000** which was donated to the RI Community Food Bank in support of their ongoing work to provide food for a variety of RI families. Any questions contact Pam or Chip Thurlow; thurlowcp@gmail.com; 401-333-1235.

Dave's Marketplace Day Old Bakery Donations

The Monday, Wednesday and Friday transportation of day-old baked goods from Dave's Marketplace at Chapel Four Corners to various community organizations continues! Thanks to the many volunteers who work to make this program successful: Rachel and Elton Odom, Lynn Janke, Rich Bizier, A signup chart is available for interested volunteers. Contact Chip Thurlow if interested: thurlowcp@aol.com, 401-333-1235.

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.

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 transported 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

Bible Sunday: November 15th

Our current workshop unit is "Rebekah". The children will learn that Rebekah was a strong and determined woman who was chosen by God and that God chooses us as God chose Rebekah. They will also learn that like Rebekah, they can show hospitality and kindness to others, that God gives us opportunities to serve, and we can recognize these opportunities.

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)

NOVEMBER Birthdays

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

November 4th: Wesley Gorman

November 20th: Pasquale Saccoccio

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

The Christian Education Committee would like to wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy Fall Season!!!

Puzzle!

Write the words below in alphabetical order inside the squares. Then read down the second column to discover the sentence that begins and ends Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150.

FEAST
KHAKI
MOUTH
ESSAY
LLAMA
ORBIT
CARRY
UDDER
BRUSH
ITEMS
APPLE
LEARN
CIDER

A				

Answer:

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Answer: Praise the Lord!

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

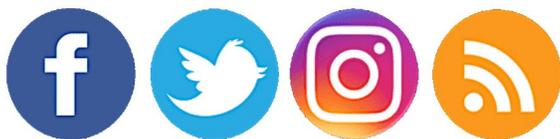
Upcoming Events

November 3rd: Election Day
November 11th: Veterans Day
November 11th: Board of Trustees Meeting
November 15th: Bible Sunday
November 16th: Church Council Meeting
November 26th: Thanksgiving Day
November 29th: Student 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

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Month ▾

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Nov 1 Daylight Saving Time ends ● 10am Communion Service ● 10am Indoor Worship Service	2	3 Election Day (General Elections)	4	5	6	7
8 ● 10am Indoor Worship Service	9	10	11 Veterans Day ● 7pm Board of Trustees Meeting	12	13	14
15 ● 10am Indoor Worship Service	16 ● 7pm Church Council Meeting	17	18	19	20	21
22 ● 10am Indoor Worship Service	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 Black Friday Native American Heritage Day	28
29 United Methodist Student Sunday ● 10am Indoor Worship Service	30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5



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Rev. Arlene M. Tully



Check out our webpage at www.amumc.org

We invite all to our Indoor Sunday Services with reserved
seating at 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion celebrated the first Sunday of each month.