

# Good Tidings

September 2021



**Arnold Mills United Methodist Church**

Rev. Arlene M. Tully

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## It's September

It's September, and normally we would be looking forward to Sunday School registration and the shared excitement of a new school year. Church committee work would be re-invigorated and we would be looking forward to Christian fellowship in worship, work projects, choir practice, and sharing together our joys and concerns. This September will be different but, take comfort, we still have the love of Jesus to

share with each other and we can plan, adopt, and rejoice in the strength of our Church family – Arnold Mills United Methodist Church.

The United Methodist Communications committee has conducted several studies recently on the Covid 19 impact on the health and focus of a representative sample of Methodist Churches across the United States. From a sample of 1,933 churches, they report that pastors' attitudes were significantly more positive in March 2021 than in earlier surveys. They found that pastors were more confident in their ability to respond to adverse circumstances than they had been pre-Covid. They noted reports of being Hopeful, Calm, Resilient, Encouraged and Inspired.

They reported that 65% of the churches had added on-line worship services since the pandemic started --- bringing the percentage offering on-line services today to 88%. Based on the data available, the combined attendance at online and onsite worship was up over pre-pandemic attendance for 59% of the churches, about the same for 20%, and was lower at 21% of the churches in the survey. When it came to financial support, 90% of the churches reported that 'things were tight—we are managing'. Giving was somewhat down at about half of the churches in the survey. The top three priorities for the local churches were: **Member Care, Worship, and Communications.**

Where would Arnold Mills stand, if it were part of this survey?

- We created online worship, prayer meetings, multiple teaching/learning opportunities and committee meetings.
- Our combined online and onsite attendance is up from our average attendance pre-pandemic.
- Our financial support is down slightly but we are 'managing' ... a tight situation.
- We have focused on Worship opportunities and Communication.
- We have been sensitive to the Re-entry process and ways to assure the health of our compromised participants, in particular.

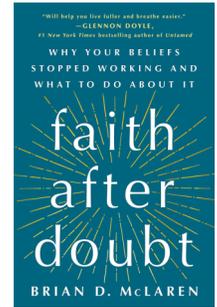
This September, we are challenged to remain adaptive and creative to meet the challenges of this shifting pandemic while providing our friends and members with a multitude of opportunities to interface as Christians. Our strength comes from sharing our faith and interacting together. We know this. We want this. We pray daily for the joy of our combined efforts. I am Hopeful that we will be successful as a congregation to learn, to share, to adapt, and to be an example for the younger generations as well as our community, this September.

Keith Johnson, Chair – Church Council

## BISHOP'S BOOK DISCUSSION

Bishop Devadhar and the New England Conference will host a series of discussions with Brian D. McLaren, author of the book the bishop is recommending for 2021-2022: *Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to do About It*. These online gatherings will be from 8-9 PM on Mondays from September 13 to October 4, 2021. For more information or to register for the event, go to:

[www.neumc.org/eventdetail/15266800](http://www.neumc.org/eventdetail/15266800)



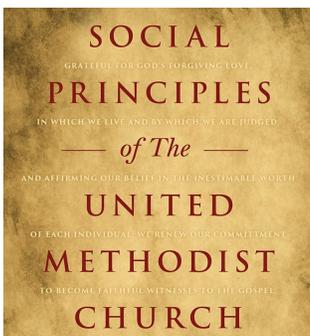
## SUNDAY SCHOOLERS' GAME NIGHT—September 6 at 6:30 PM

Pastor Arlene hosts 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, Family Feud, and more. Contact Pastor Arlene at [pastor.amumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.amumc@gmail.com) for the Zoom link

## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS – October 2 at 9:30 AM

Saint Francis of Assisi was well known for his love of nature, simple living, and gentleness. Legend has it that birds and animals responded to his kindness by listening to his sermons. For centuries Christians have commemorated Francis on his feast day in October by blessing animals.

A Blessing of the Animals service will be held on the church lawn on Saturday, October 2 at 9:30 AM. Bring your pets and invite your friends who love animals. For the safety of your pet we ask that all pets be leashed or caged.



## SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES: "Living Our Principles"

The United Methodist Church has a long history of concern for social justice. Its members have often taken outspoken positions on controversial issues involving Christian principles. The United Methodist Social Principles, found in our *Book of Discipline*, are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the United Methodist Church to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation. Join us as we learn more about the Social Principles during the month of September.

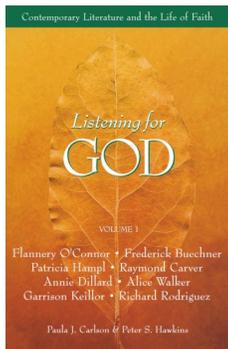
## WEDNESDAY DISCUSSION SERIES – "The Social Principles"

7 PM Zoom Class <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/839125938>

Begins September 1

As people of faith, we live in a world not yet fully realized as the realm of God. We believe that by grace God's kingdom is within our reach as we put our faith into action, transforming both the personal body and the body politic, the mind and the soul into the image and reflection of Christ. The Social Principles of the United Methodist Church represent the biblical and theological framework for such action. Join us on Wednesdays in September as we explore the Social Principles using curriculum developed by the General Board of Church and Society.





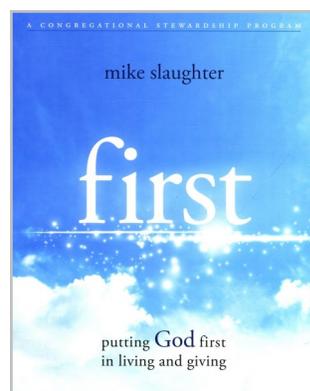
## NEW BOOK DISCUSSION – *Listening for God, Vol. 1*

Wednesdays at 2 PM on the church lawn beginning September 8

Where do you listen for God? In this collection of stories and essays from writers such as Flannery O'Connor, Frederick Buechner, and Annie Dillard, the challenge is to pay attention everywhere. *Listening for God* is a resource intended to help you investigate how life and faith merge in surprising ways and places. Contact Pastor Arlene for more information at [pastor.amumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.amumc@gmail.com) or 401-335-5156.

## FALL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM – “First”

What happens when we truly put God first in all aspects of our lives? In a culture guided chiefly by shiny, life-promising distractions, “enough” seems elusive and keeps us indebted to that next source of satisfaction. What if the Giver of Life offered freedom from this downward spiral—would you take it? *First: Putting God First in Living and Giving* is a four-week stewardship program to help participants reassess priorities, create a culture and a lifestyle of faithful living and giving, and make a meaningful contribution to the world. Watch for daily devotions via email beginning 9/26 (contact the office if you would like to receive them by mail) and join us on Sundays during October for a sermon series based on Mike Slaughter’s book, *shiny gods*.



## Arnold Mills Rally Day September 1961



This picture was taken in September 1961 – 60 years ago. This was the Arnold Mills Sunday School group at that time along with their teachers. Rev. Miller (standing in rear -Left) was our Pastor. Look at the bow ties, the bonnets, the jackets, and the nicely groomed students – ready to learn about Jesus! At least one active member of our present church is sitting in one of those front rows. Can you spot her?

## Let's Be Disciples Together!

Hi Folks,

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?" I often hear people ask, "How do we do this?" A way to get started is to study God's word so, let's study it together. Pastor Arlene has recommended "**Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series**," written by Rev. Anne Robertson, an Elder in our Conference. It's a 3 part study but we will start with only a six week commitment this Fall to study part 1, "**What Is the Bible?**" before deciding to pursue parts 2 and 3.

This course assumes no prior knowledge of the Bible but gives a broad overview so that we may know the basics as we examine the biblical stories in more depth. The material is designed for small groups, which I am excited about because this allows us to exchange ideas and perspectives to help us learn from one another. The homework is mostly, "Read the next chapter and think about the reflection questions." However, if you want to go deeper, you have the option of doing the "Extra Mile" homework, which generally includes some research and writing.

Here are some comments found on the website by prior participants of the course:

*"I've read the Bible twice from cover to cover and studied it from time to time with others, but never till now have I been able to read and understand it."*

*"I really appreciated the simplicity, the humor, and questions of the lessons. I loved this study and am so glad I took it. I am now going to read the Bible for the first time!!"*

*"The Bible's organization and sequence make more sense to me now . . . I was shocked by how little I knew before this course."*

*"I was expecting boring academic stuff--but it wasn't dusty!"*

*"The course raised many of the questions I didn't know I had."*

*"I have enjoyed reading the Bible twice with different groups but never got such 'bird's eye' views and 'book worm' views as with this unique course. It was enriching and fascinating and the material was presented in an entertaining way."*

*"It was a high point in my week. Valuable and fun!"*

I hope to begin the study the week of September 12 and I am willing to be flexible regarding the day and time we study and whether we meet over Zoom or in person. Also, you are welcome to bring a friend! So **if you are interested, please contact me right away** at [jskosnoff@yahoo.com](mailto:jskosnoff@yahoo.com) or 310-343-8699.

In Christ, Johnna Kosnoff

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## AMUMC TRUSTEE COMMITTEE NOTES FOR AUGUST

The trustee committee held a small group meeting in August. Primarily discussed was the recent purchase of the visual and auditory equipment for the improvement of both "Church on the Lawn" and Sanctuary Services.

Dave Larson has stepped up to become our Technology Committee Chair. Thank you, Dave, and Pastor Arlene for all the time and energy you both have put into this project!

Other topics included tiling work to be done at the parsonage, the washing and waxing of the Cargill Hall floor, and eradication of the wasp nests out front and on the lawn by Cumberland Pest Control.

We are still hoping to be able to hold an indoor Yard Sale in September if covid regulations do not prevent this from happening.

That's it until we meet again!

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

## Meet our new AMUMC members



**Johnna Kosnoff:** I grew up with 3 brothers in rural Indiana, where my family belonged to a Baptist church. After graduating from Eastern Kentucky University with a BA in Paralegal Science, I returned to Indiana to work as a Litigation Paralegal. Shortly after this, I met David, who became my husband, and I joined a Methodist Church. David and I have 2 grown boys (Kyle and Joshua.) Kyle is a Data Science Analyst, living in CA and Joshua is starting his senior year at Purdue, studying Biomedical Engineering. In our 30 years together, David and I have moved our kiddos around the Midwest and the West Coast and to Hong Kong. We moved to New England almost two years ago and are enjoying this part of the country. We are eager to explore more as covid restrictions permit. I completed some seminary classes while in Hong Kong and am now working to become a Certified Lay Minister. If you want to explore New England with me (or be my guide), please let me know. I'm willing to mask up and get out

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**Mark Farnell:** Greetings AMUMC, I truly feel part of "the Blessed Community" of God's Love, here at AMUMC. I was initially drawn to AMUMC for many personal reasons, but mostly because of my very short history with AMUMC in my youth. I feel my purpose for being at AMUMC is to serve with the Methodist Quadratic Principles that are based on the Bible, Reason, Christian Experience, and Tradition, with the additional focus to serve the International Methodist Principle of Social Justice. I look forward to serving in this capacity with the AMUMC Missions Committee, as well as other local, regional, national and international Methodist churches at large. Or by grace, whatever God's will is, for my life. To quote our Bishop this week, "We are called to respond with compassion and relief, but also to seek ways to prevent suffering and injustice." I seek God's Blessing, and the Blessing of the AMUMC, as we continue to share our Christian Experiences together. Thank you all again, for the warm and loving welcome.

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**Lucinda Bellairs:** I grew up in Cincinnati, first going to my Dad's Presbyterian church. When he died early, from car accident injuries, my mother switched us to the large Methodist church in our school district. It was ironic that she was the Methodist, since my Dad's was named John Wesley Hargrave. I was active in church as a youth, but not during college or as a young adult. I went to Kalamazoo College in Michigan and then moved near Detroit to work. When my Mom moved north to be near us, she found a church and we got back to church with our 3 little girls. We raised them in Oxford, MI and in the Oxford UMC. There I was active in the choir and hand bells. VBS, bible study, quilting ministry and served on the conference UMC camping board. Out of college (with a BA in history) I had a variety of jobs, then got an associates in electronics. I worked for 31 years for HP repairing and installing large computer systems, retiring in 2012. Then I helped my oldest daughter, Cindy, babysitting her two boys who are now 2nd and 4th grade. Last July, I came to MA/RI to help my daughter Liz who has a 2 and 4 year old. I enjoy doing genealogy. I feel like a gypsy, making trips back to MI where my husband Mike helps Cindy's boys while I help here. My third daughter, Katy, is in Pittsburgh and maybe in a year or so she may start expanding the family. Then I will try to be in all 3 places, if I can still keep up! Now I am looking forward to singing in the choir and getting to know folks at AMUMC.

# Church Missions Committee Report

September 2021

## Meals in the Park

The most recent Meal in the Park event was held on Sunday, July 25th. Our volunteers served grilled hot dogs, fruit salad, pasta salad, homemade desserts and a pb&j sandwich dinner bag. Our next Meal in the Park is September 26th. Our dessert cupboard is bare if anyone would like to start to bake and freeze cookies, we will be looking for 120 pieces for this meal. 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 serve at this wonderful program.

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

The vegetables continue to grow in abundance as the volunteers at Franklin Farm are now harvesting cucumbers, eggplants, tomatoes, onions, peppers and three string bean varieties for donation to the RI Community Food Bank and the local agencies. The zucchini and summer squash have completed their cycle and are no longer available. The Farm Stand has been re-opened for limited hours so check out the opportunity to select some farm fresh vegetables for your family. The antiquated overhead doors in the garage and tractor barn will be replaced in a few weeks which will assist the volunteers in completing their many tasks and educational programs more efficiently. If you want to participate in this wonderful program that raises farm fresh vegetables for needy families, join the other volunteers **on tending nights on Mondays and Thursday evenings form 5:30 PM to dusk.** Check out our website: [franklinfarmri.org](http://franklinfarmri.org); or the Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/franklinfarmri/](https://www.facebook.com/franklinfarmri/) Any questions, please contact Pam or Chip Thurlow; 401-333-1235, [thurlowcp@gmail.com](mailto:thurlowcp@gmail.com)

## 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 as the donations are available. 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 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 Rich Bizier, Chip Thurlow and Mark Farnell. Please contact Chip Thurlow if you have any questions: [thurlowcp@aol.com](mailto:thurlowcp@aol.com); 401-333-1235.

## Habitat for Humanity

The next Habitat for Humanity project is still under development. We will notify AMUMC members when volunteer dates are announced. The Habitat Board of Directors meet on alternate months in Cargill Hall and are now able to resume their meetings as we have updated our usage at our church for non-church groups. Any questions, contact Chip Thurlow: [thurlowcp@aol.com](mailto:thurlowcp@aol.com).

Chip Thurlow,

Chairperson, AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee

# Church School News



The first unit of the church school year will be "Who is Jesus?"

**Main Idea:** As Christians we believe the Bible gives many examples to help people discover who Jesus is. Jesus is the Messiah, the special one sent by God.

The children will become familiar with the stories that tell about Jesus as God's Son; discover the meaning of the word Messiah; recognize that Jesus was not the Messiah people expected; and be given the opportunity to explore who Jesus is to them.

**Bible Verse:** Who do you say that I am? You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:15-16)

## Church School Schedule 2021-2022

September 12, 19, 26

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

November 7, 14, 21, (No church school 28th, Thanksgiving Weekend)

December 5, 12, 19, (No church school 26th, Christmas Weekend)

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

February 6, 13, 20, 27

March 6, 13, 20, 27

April 3, 10, 17, 24

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

## Important Dates

September 12: Rally Day

## 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!

Fit these words from the book of Daniel into the squares. Then transfer them to the blanks below, using the numbers and arrows (across and down) as guides.



**WORD LIST:**  
up, God, his, ever, sets, wise, name, power, times, kings, praise, wisdom, changes, seasons, deposes, knowledge, discerning

" \_\_\_\_\_ be to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_. He \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ ; he \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
them. He gives \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to  
the \_\_\_\_\_ ." DANIEL 2:20-21

## SEPTEMBER Birthdays

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

September 3rd: Jude Alger

September 17th: Matthew Petersen

September 28th: Trey Gauvin

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

Answer: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning." Daniel 2:20-21

## 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](mailto:thurlowcp@gmail.com).  
Pam Thurlow, Chair  
Worship Committee

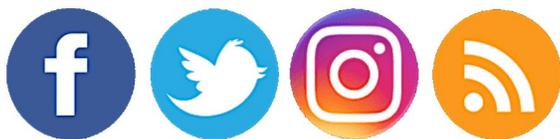
## Upcoming Events

September 6: Labor Day  
September 6: Kids Game Night  
September 9: Board of Trustees Meeting  
September 9-11: Flea Market—Cargill Hall  
September 11: Patriot Day  
September 12: Rally Day  
September 12: Grandparents Day  
September 18: Feather Family Memorial Service  
September 20: Church Council 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.

Today

< > September 2021

Month



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 <b>14th Sunday after Pentecost</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Outdoor Sunday Service - Live</li> </ul>	30 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom</li> </ul>	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2pm Book Discussion Group - Church</li> <li>6:30pm Troop 1 Scout Leader Meetir</li> <li>7pm Adult Study - Zoom</li> </ul>	2 	3 	4 
5 <b>15th Sunday after Pentecost</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Communion Service</li> <li>10am Indoor Sunday Service</li> </ul>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Flea Market Setup - Cargill Hall</b></li> <li>Labor Day</li> <li>Rosh Hashanah Begins</li> <li>Labor Day</li> <li>6:30pm Kid's Game Night</li> </ul>	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom</li> </ul>	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Adult Study - Zoom</li> </ul>	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Flea Market - Cargill Hall</b></li> <li>7pm Board of Trustees - Library</li> </ul>	10 	11 
12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>16th Sunday after Pentecost</b></li> <li>Rally Day</li> <li>8:30am Indoor Sunday Service</li> <li>9am Adult Sunday School - Vestry</li> </ul> 2 more	13 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom</li> </ul>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yom Kippur</li> <li>First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month</li> <li>7pm Adult Study - Zoom</li> </ul>	16 	17 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11am Feather Family Memorial Servi</li> </ul>
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>17th Sunday after Pentecost</b></li> <li>8:30am Indoor Sunday Service</li> <li>9am Adult Sunday School - Vestry</li> <li>10:30am Indoor Sunday Service</li> <li>10:45am Childrens Sunday School -</li> </ul>	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Church Council - Zoom</li> </ul>	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sukkot</li> <li>6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom</li> </ul>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Day of Autumn</li> <li>7pm Adult Study - Zoom</li> </ul>	23 	24 	25 
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>18th Sunday after Pentecost</b></li> <li>8:30am Indoor Sunday Service</li> <li>9am Adult Sunday School - Vestry</li> <li>10:30am Indoor Sunday Service</li> <li>10:45am Childrens Sunday School -</li> </ul>	27 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Prayer Meeting - Zoom</li> </ul>	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Adult Study - Zoom</li> </ul>	30 	Oct 1 	2 

Support



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church  
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Rev. Arlene M. Tully



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

Indoor worship will resume on September 5.

Livestreaming of all worship services will be available during the services for those who do not attend the services in person. After each service the video will be archived for viewing anytime.