

Good Tidings

April 2026



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church

Rev. Heather R. Bailes Baker

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A note from our pastor...

Beautiful Beloveds,

April arrives this year with a strange mix of ache and hope. We don't have to look far to see how heavy the world feels. Our nation is at war abroad and strained by division at home. Violence and injustice continue to wound communities close to home and across the globe. Families are grieving. People are suffering. The headlines rarely give us a moment to breathe.

And yet, here we are, people of faith, still daring to ask one another, "Tell me something good." As we come to the end of our Lenten worship series, I've been thinking about how radical that really is. Not because it asks us to ignore what is painful or pretend everything is fine. Quite the opposite. The good news of Jesus never asks us to look away from the truth. It asks us to look deeper, to see the suffering, the injustice, the fear, and still trust that God is moving, still creating, still calling us toward love.

As we've moved through the season of Lent, we've remembered together that the good news is not polite or predictable. It is extravagant, untamed, persistent. **The good news is alive in the world.** And because it is alive, it calls us to tell the truth: about suffering, about injustice, about the world as it is, and to tell the good alongside it. Not a shallow good, but a rooted one. A good that grounds us in love of neighbor, care for the vulnerable, pursuit of justice and mercy, and trust in God's unending grace.

As we move into Holy Week and the Easter season, I hope you will join us for worship. These days are rich with meaning, and they hold us gently as we walk with Jesus from the palms to the table, from the garden to the cross, and finally to the dawn of resurrection. Make and take the time to come and walk the prayer labyrinth, worship with our Bishop and Rhode Island United Methodist siblings, attend our Good Friday Worship, and invite someone to join you for our Easter Celebration. You'll find all the details for Holy Week, Easter Sunday, and our upcoming Easter season series, "Cup of Freedom" later in this newsletter.

My prayer for us this month is simple:

May we be people who tell the truth with courage.

May we be people who tell the good with conviction.

And may we trust that the God who brings life out of death is still at work, in us, through us, and all around us.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Heather R. Bailes Baker'.

Pastor Heather

Holy Week Worshipful Opportunities

Holy Week Labyrinth (Indoor) – March 31–April 4
A meditative prayer walk open throughout the week:

Tuesday–Friday: 9am–1pm

Wednesday & Friday: 5pm–8pm

This quiet, contemplative space invites all to breathe deeply, pray, and listen for God’s presence.

Holy Thursday Worship – April 2, 7pm

Bishop Tom Bickerton preaching

Rhode Island United Methodists Worship Together
Hosted at Shepherd of the Valley UMC
604 Seven Mile Rd, Hope, RI

Good Friday Worship– April 3, 7pm (Onsite & Online)

The good news is revealed through nonviolence

Luke 22:47–53; 23:33–38, 44–46

A solemn, powerful service reflecting on Jesus’ final hours and the radical nonviolence at the heart of his witness.

Easter Sunday – April 5 at 10am (Onsite & Online)

The good news is... alive in the world

Matthew 28:1–10

Easter Season Worship Series

“Cup of Freedom.”

When death seems to have had the last word and rising up feels locked down, we call on the power of love and life. We take up Jesus’ cup of freedom, we call on the name of the One Who Is Truly Sovereign, and we claim the freedom to move forward, to sing, to follow, to rise again, to love, heal, and be opened. In the end, we are filled with the freedom of the Spirit of God.

April 12 —2nd Sunday of Easter

Alisha Pina, the new director of the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty will be preaching.

April 19 —Third Sunday in Easter

Freedom to Sing

Acts 5: 27-32; Psalm 118: 14-29; John 20: 19-31

April 26 —Fourth Sunday in Easter

Freedom to Follow

Acts 9: 1-6, 7-20; Psalm 130; John 21: 1-19

Pastor Heather’s Off Campus Office Hours

April 1—Apothica Café

April 8 —Phantom Farm

April 15—Apothica Café

April 22—Phantom Farm

April 29—Apothica Café

Meet Pastor Heather for conversation. No agenda. Come and chat.

Phantom Farms,

2920 Diamond Hill Rd, Cumberland

Apothica Cafe, 3 Dexter St, Cumberland

If that time doesn’t work for you, call, text, or email Pastor Heather to set up an appointment for coffee, conversation, prayer or a walk & talk.



Fair Trade Coffee

Heads up: prices will go up on our next order.

Coffee — \$11/bag

Hot Cocoa — \$7/can

Make checks payable to AMUMC, Memo: Fair Trade

If you have special requests, questions or suggestions, please contact Pastor Heather or George Jutras, office.amumc@gmail.com .

Mayday Pot Luck

May 3, 2026

Save the Date

Join us after the service for a May Day potluck brunch! Did you celebrate May Day with your family? Did you have a favorite dish? There are plenty of ways to help out, bring a dish if you can, but stay for the meal anyway! Share your favorite memory, I loved pancakes with strawberry syrup!

Watch for the sign-up sheet in Cargill Hall.

Coming May 17— Miracle Sunday

The Opportunity Before Us

From April 12 to May 17, 2026, millions of United Methodists will join in a six week journey of prayer, learning, and generosity—inviting our whole connection to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

On Miracle Sunday, May 17, 2026, we will participate in a worldwide offering that will help raise up a new generation of outstanding clergy leaders outside the United States. This work is urgent: fewer than 5% of pastors outside the U.S. hold a master’s degree in theology, compared to more than 71% within the U.S.

The Miracle We Seek

Our shared goal across our denomination is bold: to endow 500 scholarships in perpetuity, ensuring that courageous, well-prepared leaders can serve in some of the most challenging missional communities around the world. Achieving this in a single Sunday will require prayer, faith, and a miracle. Yet we trust the Holy Spirit to multiply our gifts beyond what we can imagine.

May 17 — The Bishop is Coming to our church!

Regional Gathering with Bishop Bickerton

Bishop Bickerton will be joined by our interim conference treasurer, Lonnie Chafin to address our financial condition as an annual conference. It is the expectations that all clergy attend one of the regional gatherings. This is an opportunity for AMUMC to show our amazing hospitality for our United Methodist neighbors.

Summer Worship Update: July 5-September 6, our worship moves to 9:30am, in Cargill Hall

As we look ahead to the summer months, our Church Council has been in thoughtful conversation about how best to care for our congregation: spiritually, practically, and safely. After prayerful consideration, the Council has decided that **our summer worship services will begin at 9:30 a.m., Sunday, July 5 through Sunday, September 6.**

In addition, **we will gather indoors in Cargill Hall** rather than worshiping outside as we have in previous summers. While many of us have cherished those outdoor services, the Council felt it was important to prioritize safety and consistency. Since we have begun the practice of locking our doors during worship to protect the congregation, gathering indoors allows us to maintain that safety measure while also gathering in the coolest and most comfortable space in the building.

Cargill Hall offers us a place where we can worship together, stay cool, and continue to welcome one another with the warmth and joy that define our community.

Thank you for your flexibility, your grace, and your commitment to caring for one another. We look forward to a meaningful and refreshing season of summer worship together.

Arnold Mills Cemetery Trivia - Karl Ikerman

April is the time we think of renewal, and Easter time of re-birth. New tree buds, fresh grass, a time of planning for the next harvest. “Bloom where you are planted”, “Pushing up Daisies”, that could be you “down the road”. Plan for your Harvest now with a Green burial, and save thousands!

The Arnold Mills Cemetery is a non-denominational, not for profit cemetery. We have space for single burials as well as for families and is one of the few facilities that has “Green Burials”.

Missions and Social Concerns Committee Newsletter April 2026

Meals in the Park

Our next scheduled meal is May 3rd. We will be cooking for this meal on Friday May 1st. Pulled Pork and Spanish Rice, Please contact Karen O 401-749-3609 to sign up for this cooking event. Homemade desserts are always welcome! Next meal after May is June 7th.

Donations for Un-housed Families

Thank you for the generous donations for the Unhoused individuals and families over the past few months. The various items such as blankets, quilts, personal care items as well as food items were shared with the various organizations in the Providence area. Questions can be directed to Dave Larson, Cindy Mauch or Chip Thurlow.

Personal Care Donations

Joni Robert has organized personal care items for distribution to the many agencies managed by the Community Care Alliance in Woonsocket. For example: soaps, skin care lotions, deodorant, shampoo & conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste & floss and feminine care products. In addition, Child Care Items such as diapers, baby wipes, toys, art supplies, games and puzzles are also welcome. A bin is on the ramp porch for donations if necessary.

House of Compassion

The non-profit House of Compassion on Mendon Road in Cumberland provides housing for up to 12 needy individuals. AMUMC members will continue to donate Coffee Hour items and occasional Dave's Marketplace day old baked goods.

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

The Franklin Farm Community Garden volunteers are planning for the planting and harvesting of vegetables and programming in the new greenhouse which was purchased with funds from grant applications and has been installed behind the garage. The snow has melted and the trails and fields are available for visitors to wander around and enjoy the beautiful open space daily from dawn to dusk!

Habitat for Humanity

The Directors of the Habitat for Humanity program are considering a few options for the next build in Northern RI. They will announce that decision shortly. AMUMC volunteers usually work on the third Saturday of the month. Any questions, contact Chip Thurlow (401-333-1235, thurlowcp@aol.com)

Cintas Clothing Donation and the St. James Episcopal Church Clothing Closet

The Cintas Uniform Warehouse in the Cumberland/Woonsocket Industrial Park continues to provide quality clothing donations to local clothing closets in Northern RI! In addition, the clothing donated to our church that is appropriate for the clothing closets is also delivered there. The staff and clients of the Coat of Many Colors at the St. James Church and the Connecting for Children and Families agency, both in Woonsocket, are thrilled to receive the donations.

Dave's Marketplace Day Old Bakery Donations

Since 2016, volunteers from AMUMC have transported day old baked goods three times each week to the Cumberland Senior Center, the Northern RI Food Pantry and/or the Woonsocket Shelter. The schedule of the three donations each week and the many volunteers making the deliveries is posted on the bulletin board in the coat room.

The Woonsocket Shelter

The Woonsocket Shelter receives donations of personal care items and household items (sheets, towels, quilts, curtains, etc.) for families to relocate into independent living when they leave the shelter.

Chip Thurlow,
Chairperson, AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee



Tips for April 2026

Through the waters of baptism, we are reminded of God's renewing grace and gift of water that literally keeps us alive. Working to keep water safe, clean, and available to all is a sacred trust. Check out your own water usage with this tool at watercalculator.org, which also gives practical tips for reducing use.

Drought is increasingly affecting all of us. **Treat water as sacred.** Avoid wasting it. Don't let water run when brushing teeth, loading the dishwasher, cleaning vegetables, getting ready to shower. Little things you *can* do factor into dealing with the big changes of a shifting climate.

In rainy weather it's easy to forget the long dry spells caused by climate change. **Look for ways to conserve water:** Set up a rain barrel, plant tea bags with your flowers and veggies to hold moisture longer, and use leftover pet water for the plants. Inside, fix leaks, add a low-flush toilet, and install a fine-spray shower head.

One quarter-pound beef burger requires enough water to fill 10 bathtubs. Simply swapping one a month for a veggie burger would add up to 5,400 gallons of water saved per year. Producing turkey burgers is also less costly to our water supply. Going meatless helps even more. **What you eat matters to the planet.**

Now is a great time to **add native plants to your garden.** Native plants use less water, prevent erosion, and don't need fertilizers. They also reduce air pollution and support pollinators and wildlife. For ideas, consult a Master Gardener or search for "plants native to [your state]."

One congregation fired up 75 volunteers from the church and community and planted 400 trees along the banks of the stream that runs through the church property. In short order, the church saw improved water clarity, healthier vegetation, and more fish. And their downstream neighbors experienced much less flooding.

Run your dishwasher only when full and skip pre-washing. Handwashing results in using more water (up to 27 gallons vs. 3 for the machine). Heating the water for those extra gallons also costs your wallet and the environment. The dishwasher is more hygienic because it heats the smaller amount of water to a degree your hands – and germs – can't stand.

Who are the experts in your community related to water? **Invite them to present a program** on a nearby body of water or a waterway. Ask that they also address ways individuals and your congregation can be helpful in caring for water locally.

Find out about serving on a Citizen Advisory Committee related to water issues. A CAC is a group of community representatives who provide expertise, diverse perspectives, and recommendations to officials on projects, policies, and issues. Serving is one way to live out your call as a steward of God's creation.

On a balmy spring day with light rain (but no lightning) grab some rags, a bucket, and a kid or friend or two and go play in the rain – oh, and **help the rain wash your car.** Wipe it down. Add a bit of competition or music for crazy dancing moves! But no running water – let the rain do the rinse job. Fun for you and good for the Earth – the car too.

The United Methodist Creation Justice Movement is providing these Tips as a tool to equip church members, families, and individuals to respond to God's call to care for creation and do justice with our neighbors. For more about the UM Creation Justice Movement, go to umcreationjustice.org.

Native American Ministries Sunday

April 19, 2026



On April 19, we will come together to celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday, a time to recognize the contributions of Native Americans to our faith and communities. Through your generosity, we support Native-led ministries, provide scholarships for Native American students pursuing ministry, and fund impactful programs that empower Native communities.

Community Care Alliance Collection March 15 - April 12

Community Care Alliance runs over 50 programs for family centered services predominantly serving northern RI. They run the Woonsocket Shelter which AMUM Church has been supporting for many years. I am hoping we can expand our giving during this Easter season. I will collect items through April 12, 2026. Please leave items in the hall by the glass display or in the bin outside on the ramp. Many thanks, Joni Robert

Personal Care Items:

Various Soaps
Skin Care Lotions
Deodorant
Shampoo and Conditioner
Hair Care - Combs and Brushes
Toothbrushes, Toothpaste and Floss
Cleaning Supplies
Feminine Care Products

Child Care Items:

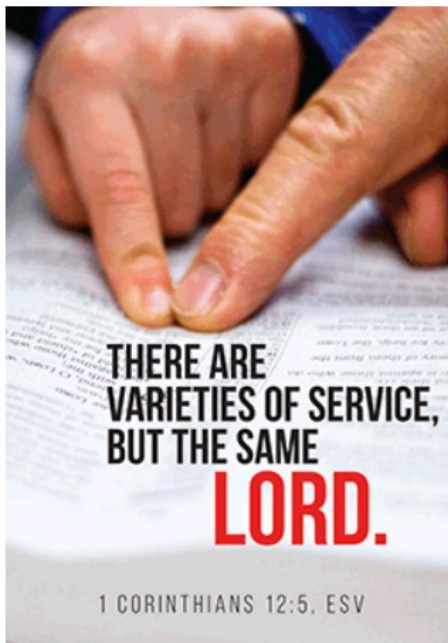
Diapers
Diaper Cream
Baby Wipes
New Crib Sheets
Toys
Art Supplies
Games

Margaret Stearns Service Award

Since 1978 the Margaret Stearns Service Award has been presented by the Arnold Mills United Methodist Church to graduating high school seniors continuing their education. Currently, two \$1,500 awards each will be issued. Although academic excellence and financial need are considered by the Selection Committee, the essential characteristic of an ideal candidate is a "demonstrated concern for others at home, school, church or community". Applicants must be able to demonstrate how their own concern for others has benefited someone else. The applicant must be a graduating senior at Cumberland High School, a Cumberland resident and/or a contributing member of the Arnold Mills United Methodist Church graduating from any high school with plans for further education at a junior college, college, university, business school, technical school or vocational school.

Applications are available through the AMUMC Office Manager: office.amumc@gmail.com or thurlowcp@aol.com. This year the deadline for submission of the applications is **April 10, 2026**.

Church School News



Important Dates

April 5th -- Easter Sunday,
there is **NO** church School

Sunday School Registration

We now have 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 or click [here](#) for the form.

Beginning mid-April, the church school will begin its final unit for the 2025-2026 year titled "Seven Helpers".

Bible Verse: There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. (1Corinthians 12:5-6, CEV)

Main Idea: It takes a variety of people and talents to do God's work. The early church chose seven wise and good helpers to assist the apostles and take care of those in need. Today, each of us plays an important role in serving others and helping with the work of God's church.

Objectives

Children will have the opportunity to

- *become familiar with the biblical story of the seven helpers;
- *learn about people who are helpers in the church and world;
- *experience being helpers themselves;
- *experience how working together can multiply our helping efforts.

Puzzle!

This Bible verse teaches an important lesson about how we should treat others — and why.



Start with the asterisk in the center circle and follow the arrows. Write the words in order on the blanks below.

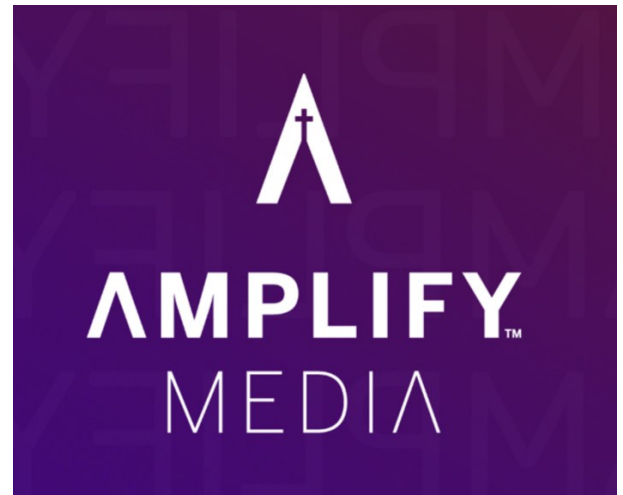


*And _____ ,
 _____ ,
 _____ ,
 _____ .

Answer: *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NKJV

Amplify offers many different resources. Check out: "Radicle Methodism: Back to our Roots" a four-part history course to examine the beginnings of Methodism, the people and the movements that crossed oceans and centuries. Explore the very beginnings of Methodism that, like the radicle - the first part of the seed that sprouts to become the root system and the future plant - were vital to the denomination as we became rooted and grounded.

You can access stories, studies, and so much more through any device. To see everything Amplify offers, visit the site below.



Our Amplify Website:

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/arnoldmillsumccumberlandri>

Access Code: DTLSGY

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests are emailed each week to our weekly prayer 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 email office.amumc@gmail.com or call 401-333-5203. 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. You can also submit prayer requests, and update us by scanning the QR code.



SPRC News

Our committee includes Bolaji Campbell, Alex Kithes, Cindy Mauch, Karen Roeber, Sue Cardoso, Jane Sell, Emma Caraballo and Margaret Waterman. (Updated 1/20/2026)

If you have any questions, praise to share, comments or concerns having to do with church staff feel free to see any member of the committee or email us at amumcsprc@gmail.com

Arnold Mills UMC's Social Media



Find us on social media!

We are on Facebook and on Instagram.

Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Arnold-Mills-United-Methodist-Church-115722435105941>

Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/arnold_mills_umc

Listen to sermons on our website at <http://www.amumc.org>

AMUMC Upcoming Events

This Month

Tue Mar 31– Tuesday of Holy Week

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM , Walk the Labyrinth

Wed Apr 1 - Wednesday of Holy Week

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM , Walk the Labyrinth

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Walk the Labyrinth

7:00 PM - Zoom Bible Study

Thu Apr 2 - Maundy Thursday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM , Walk the Labyrinth

7:00 PM - Holy Thursday Worship

Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church

604 Seven Mile Rd, Hope, RI

Bishop Tom Bickerton Preaching

Fri Apr 3 - Good Friday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM , Walk the Labyrinth

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Walk the Labyrinth

7:00 PM - Good Friday Worship - Sanctuary

Sun Apr 5 - 10:00 AM - Easter Service - Sanctuary

Thu Apr 9 - 6:30 PM - Trustees Meeting - Library

Thu Apr 9 - 7:00 PM - July 4th Parade Meeting - Cargill Hall

Thu Apr 16 - 7:00 PM - Arnold Mills Cemetery Meeting - Library

Sat Apr 18 - 8:00 AM - Pack 1 e-Waste Drive

Sun Apr 19 - Native American Ministries Sunday

Mon Apr 20 - 7:00 PM - Church Council Meeting - Library

Thu Apr 30 - 7:00 PM - July 4th Parade Meeting - Library

Sunday Worship is at 10:00 AM

Our Calendar is available at amumc.org under Church News



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church
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Cumberland, RI 02864
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E-mail: office.amumc@gmail.com
Rev. Heather R. Bailes Baker



You are welcome. Join us for Worship on Sunday!

Worship and Church School begin at 10am in the sanctuary.

Livestreaming of our worship is available for those who cannot attend in person. After each service the video will be archived for viewing anytime.

Learn more: www.amumc.org