

Good Tidings

March 2026



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church

Rev. Heather R. Bailes Baker

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A note from our pastor...

Beautiful Beloveds,

Spring is coming. Or at least the calendar insists that it is. Whether that means daffodils and sunshine or one more surprise snow squall is anyone's guess. It's New England. We know better than to put the winter coats away too quickly. And yet, there are signs. A little more light at the end of the day. A bird brave enough to sing before the frost has fully lifted. The quiet promise that change is stirring beneath the surface.

We find ourselves in Lent, walking steadily toward Easter, holding our theme: "Tell Me Something Good."

At first glance, that might feel like a bold request in a world that is not always good. The headlines are heavy. Immigration enforcement actions that separate families. Fear in vulnerable communities. Another shooting right here in Rhode Island. Grief that feels too close to home. It would be easier, perhaps, to skip straight to Easter alleluias.

But Lent is not about pretending things aren't hard. And it doesn't have to be about shame, spiritual self-scolding, or proving our seriousness to God. Lent can be tender. It can be spacious. It can be an invitation to walk more closely with Jesus and to rediscover the good news of his life and love, even, and especially, in a complicated world.

Our series, "Tell Me Something Good," asks us to return to the roots of our faith. The word radical comes from radical- is: rooted, grounded. What if the good news brings us back to what grounds us? Loving our neighbor. Caring for the vulnerable. Pursuing justice and mercy. Resting in God's unending grace.

The good news is not flimsy or shallow. It is extravagant and persistent. It smells like perfume poured out in love. It tastes like bread multiplied and shared. It sounds like children laughing and stones dropped instead of thrown. It feels like feet washed with tenderness. The good news is alive, and Lent gives us space to notice it.

If you'd like companions on your Lenten journey, I hope you'll join our Wednesday night Bible Study on Zoom. It's not too late; Lent is generous like that. Come as you are. Bring your questions. Bring your weariness. Bring your hope.

It's also early enough in the season to begin, or begin again, a simple Lenten practice. Pick up one of our "Tell Me Something Good" devotionals or daily devotional cards at church. Try something new: a short prayer walk as the days lengthen, a photo-a-day practice that captures glimpses of beauty, writing one thank-you note each day, or keeping a small gratitude list. Ask yourself: What will help me notice the good? In myself? In my neighbor? In this world God so loves?

Lent is not about shrinking our hearts. It is about stretching them. It is about lifting others, even as God lifts us. It is about remembering that being human is not a failure, it is beloved.

So as the seasons shift, whether gently as a lamb or more lion like with one more blast of cold wind, may we keep asking one another, "Tell me something good." And may we trust that, with Jesus, there is always good news to be found, rooted deep and rising toward the light.

With you on the journey, Peace,

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

Pastor Heather

Worship with Us in March!

Worship with us in March!

We continue our Lenten worship series, *Tell Me Something Good*. Together we enter a season rooted in the deep, challenging, and life-giving good news of Jesus, good news that grounds us in love of neighbor, justice, mercy, and grace, and invites us to trust that even when it stretches us, it is still, truly, good.

March 1 — 2nd Sunday in Lent

The Good news is...great love for God and neighbor

Luke 7: 36-50; Matthew 25: 35-40

March 8 — Third Sunday in Lent

The good news is...together, the impossible is possible

Mark 6: 32-44; Ephesians 3: 20-21

March 15 — Fourth Sunday in Lent

The good news is...protection and care for the vulnerable

Matthew 19:13-15; Deuteronomy 24: 17-22

March 22 — Fifth Sunday in Lent

The good news is... rooted in justice, mercy and faithfulness

John 8: 2-11; Matthew 23: 23

March 29 — Palm/Passion Sunday

The good news is...inspiring us to act

Mark 11: 1-11

Our Lenten Bible Study Continues: 7pm, Wednesdays, March 4 — April 1 - Zoom

Led by Rev. Dr. Adama Brown

Looking for something good in the middle of a busy week? This might be it.

Each Wednesday evening, you're invited to log in from the comfort of your own home: tea in hand, slippers on, maybe even a blanket around your shoulders, and join others from our community for conversation and reflection. No commute. No icy sidewalks. Just a cozy space to gather, see familiar faces on the screen, and connect heart-to-heart.

Together, we'll explore the upcoming Sunday's scripture through the lens of our Lenten theme, "Tell Me Something Good." We'll ask honest questions. We'll listen for what roots us in love, justice, mercy, and grace. We'll make space for the good news to surprise us, challenge us, and steady us.

It's not too late to join. Come once or come each week. Bring your curiosity, your weariness, your hope. In a world that feels heavy, this is one small, meaningful way to stay grounded—and to remind one another that the good news is still alive among us.

Pastor Heather's Off Campus Office Hours

March 4—Apothica Café

March 11 —Phantom Farm

March 18—Apothica Café

March 25 —Phantom Farm

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.

Finance Committee 2025 Financial Report

For the full year 2025, Operating Income from donations and fundraisers for AMUMC totaled \$227,229. This included pledged and unpledged donations, along with special gifts on holidays and for fundraisers. Thank you for your generous support! Operating Expenses for the year totaled \$244,441. These expenses include salaries and benefits for the Pastor, Office Administrator, and Music Director, along with the cost of programs, the church building and parsonage, and support of Conference Mission Shares. The net operating loss for the year was \$17,212. We ended the year favorable to budget.

We also supported Conference Special Sundays and Disaster Relief activities with total donations of \$3,923, and collected \$1,336 for the local Happy Basket program.

During 2025 a total of \$30,000 was withdrawn from the portfolio, with approval of the Church Council, for operating purposes, to ensure that our cash flow can support ongoing expenses. At year-end, the balance in the Navigant Credit Union checking account was \$37,618.

Financial reports are produced monthly. If you would like to receive them, please email camauch@gmail.com.

Many thanks to our dedicated Finance Committee members: Keith Johnson, Elton Odom (Asst. Treasurer), Cindy Mauch (Treasurer), Karen Oswain (Financial Secretary), Pauline Belise (Counter coordinator), Sammy Burgos, and Pastor Heather Bailes Baker.

Celebrating 200 Years! 1827-2027 Sign up to get involved

We are forming teams to work on various aspects of our 200th Anniversary celebration. Sign up now to get involved!

Rededication event (February 2027)—a planning committee is needed to develop the program and details of this important event, marking the opening of the church in February 1827.

Merchandising—join this committee to generate ideas and manage production of merchandising such as T shirts, banners, and memorabilia. We hope to have some items produced in time for our Holiday Fair later this year.

Cook Book—let's have some fun creating a 200th Anniversary Cookbook! We need YOU to contribute your favorite recipes and to coordinate the assembly of the cookbook.

Additional teams will be formed later this year as we consider having a float in the 2027 July 4th parade, a summer 2027 picnic, and a Rally Day 2027 celebration.

Sign up posters are in Cargill Hall, and emails are being sent out with links to sign up for these teams.

Please contact Cindy Mauch Lay Leader with any questions you may have.

Arnold Mills Cemetery Trivia - Karl Ikerman

M is for March, M is for Mud and M is for Money. March is often a muddy month with the spring thaw. March is also a time you can save some money before any price hikes. The original price of a casket plot in 1843 was \$23 and annual care was \$27/yr. Today that plot is \$1200 and with inflation will certainly continue to increase. Save money buy now! A worthwhile investment in your future.

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 March 2026

Meals in the Park

AMUMC volunteers cooked American Chop Suey and glazed carrots for our February 1st meal in Pawtucket. **We served over 75 people in zero-degree weather!** This was the first time we offered homemade desserts at the Pawtucket meal site, many compliments on the homemade treats! **Our next scheduled meal is May 3rd.** We will keep you posted if any cold weather pop up meals are scheduled. Questions can be forwarded to Karen Oswain, 401-749-3609.

Donations for Un-housed Families

AMUMC members and friends collected various items for needy families who have challenges in appropriate housing, clothing and food. **Five deliveries were made from the end of January into February.** The donated items: blankets, sheets, clean pillows, clothing, food, etc. were delivered to the **Community Church of Providence** for their guests and distribution to various housing centers in the Providence and surrounding areas. AMUMC volunteers also made 6 trays of American Chop Suey and delivered them to the Mathewson Street Church, along with bottled water and snacks. Questions can be directed to Dave Larson, Cindy Mauch or Chip Thurlow.



Meal Serving and Sleeping Areas



Sample AMUMC Donations



House of Compassion

The non-profit House of Compassion on Mendon Road in Cumberland provides housing for up to 12 needy individuals. AMUMC members have donated Coffee Hour items and additional items in support of their mission.

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. **Allotment Garden space is available for rental - 20' by 4' with irrigation included! Log onto: www.franklinfarmri.org to sign up!** When the snow melts (!) 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 is again providing 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 March 2026

Plan for April's Earth Day/Month. Consider visiting local environmental centers or setting up a resource fair with handouts, seedlings, samples, and crafts such as making seed balls or mobiles from nature items. Look for a service-to-Earth project, such as trail or invasives clearing. Hold an outside worship service with liturgy on the theme of Creation care.

Dispose of worn-out, stained, torn clothes and fabric scraps with Earth in mind. Send them to [ReTold Recycling](#). As of 2025 this repurposing company has diverted 312 tons from landfills, the equivalent of saving 4.4 million liters of water, preventing 980,805 pounds of coal burning, and removing emissions from 206 gas-powered cars for a year.

Connect the dots. Climate change is affecting food prices. Super storms, drought, floods, extreme heat—all mess with food production and our budgets. Food cost is the second biggest way climate change is impacting people globally. Climate change is real.

Be a bee saver. One in three bee species is facing risk of extinction largely because of neonicotinoid pesticides in lawncare products such as Round Up. First, do no harm: boycott those products and their suppliers (Amazon and Home Depot). Second, do good: plant gardens or patches that offer pollinator blooms early spring through autumn.

Use your influence at work. At your place of employment—in your office, on your work team—invite others to join you in doing something for the environment. Could they agree to avoid single-use plastics? Recycle paper? Reuse rather than trash? Compost lunch food scraps? Even one action by a group is powerful! Publicize your efforts for more impact.

Read more. A book club could read *Saving Us*, by Katherine Hayhoe, or *Stewards of Eden*, by Sandra Richter, for starters. As part of the discussion, encourage people to talk about what they are doing and bring their questions.

Watch for connections to faith. As a Sunday school class, choose a speaker, film, or panel to discuss sustainability, the connection of climate change to environmental justice, and actions individuals, families, and the church can take.

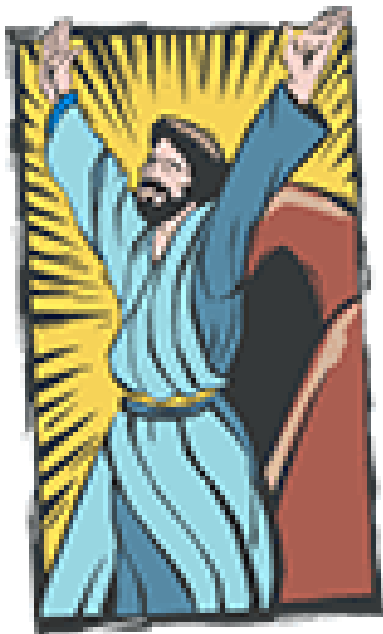
Wait before you buy. Sorting out wants from needs takes time. Give yourself a deadline of 48 hours, a week or two, perhaps a month to reflect then decide to buy or not. Avoid mindless consumerism.

Update your laundry practices. More earth-friendly options are available, including powders in tablet form, liquids in non-plastic pods, refills, wool dryer balls, clothes pins for hanging up laundry to dry. Avoid plastic bottles, save emissions from transport and from dryers, save water. Check out [blueland.com](#) and [ecoroots.com](#).

Spread the ban. Banning single-use bottles and bags prevents millions of tons of plastic from entering the waste stream, forces companies to innovate, and helps shift consumers' mindset as people recognize the dangers. Contact your employer, city council, and state lawmakers to say, "No more!" Make it official.

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](#).

Church School News



THESE ARE WRITTEN
 SO...that by
BELIEVING
 you may have
LIFE
 IN HIS NAME.
 JOHN 20:31, ESV

Important Dates

March 1st — Communion Sunday, church school begins downstairs

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.

This month the church school will be working with the unit called "Easter People".

Bible Verse: But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

(John 20:31, GNT)

Main Idea: The lives of Jesus' friends were changed on the day of resurrection. Our lives are changed as we become Easter people through God's grace.

Objectives:

Children will

- * learn the Easter story as it is found in John's Gospel;
- * identify ways that people changed because of the Resurrection;
- * recognize that we can also experience change through God's grace.

Puzzle!

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

CODE:

A=☺	D=☁	H=☼	M=☔	P=◆	T=■	W=☼
B=▲	E=+	I=●	N=↑	R=●	U=□	Y=☔
C=○	G=●	L=★	O=↓	S=○	V=☼	Z=☔

Mt. Hermon ○ ↑ ↓ ☼ Jericho ☼ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ ★ ★ ●

Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ ★ ○ ☺ ★ ☼ + ☼ ■

Sea of Galilee ● □ ○ ■ ☔ ☼ ↑ ● ○

Mediterranean Coast ● ● + + ☔ ☔



Answers: Mt. Hermon: mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy

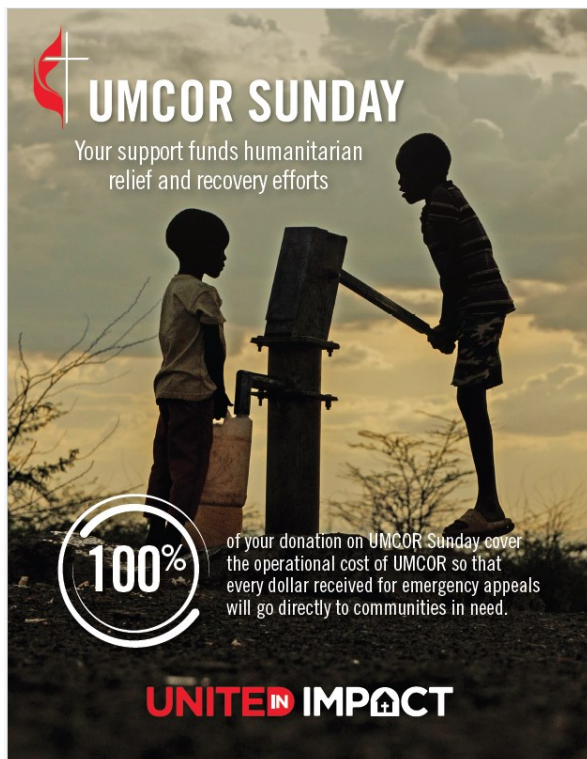
Trustee Report for March

The Trustee Committee met on January 8th and February 12th at 6:30 PM in the library. Pam Thurlow, co-chair ran both meetings and also welcomed two new members, Phil Irons and Glenn Gillespie. The following items were on the agenda:

- Thankfully, the church's portfolio continued its upward climb.
- Abe Collins from Sol Power provided the trustees with a wrap-up presentation of the Solar Installation.
- Boiler feed pumps were installed in January.
- Additional product information has been requested from Eastland Electric about the new lighting fixtures to be mounted in the Cargill Hall ceiling.
- Three bids have been received for replacing the windows in the parsonage. After one more requested refinement, a decision should be made at the March meeting.
- All entry locks and keys are in the process of being changed and updated. A new key-holder system will also be instituted.
- It has been necessary to call a plumber for sink and toilet issues.
- The Giamatteo Family rented Cargill Hall for a birthday party on February 14th. The trustees wish to thank Joni Robert for welcoming the family and helping them enjoy our church hall!
- Spirit-filled and Spirit-Led, a prayer group, rented Cargill Hall on 01/14/26.
- The grounds have been kept clear of ice and snow these wintry months thanks to the hard work of Mr. Ryone, Mr. Bradley, and the supervising of Fran Carr!
- The next meeting will be held on March 12, 2026 at 6:30 PM in the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Gettinger, Pam Thurlow, Tom Cabana, Scott Murphy, Dave Larson, Mark Farnell, Phil Irons, Glenn Gillespie

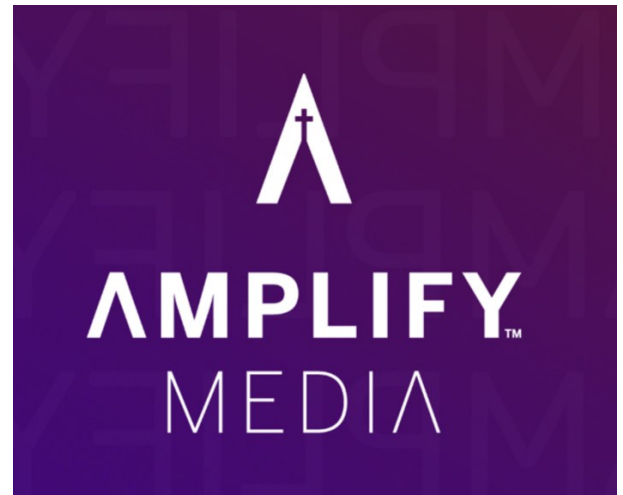


UMCOR Sunday - March 15, 2026

Celebrate UMCOR Sunday with us! Together, we can support UMCOR's work in disaster response, environmental sustainability, and global migration assistance. Your generosity transforms lives and offers hope where it's needed most.

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

Sun Mar 8 - 11:00 AM - SPRC Meeting - Library

Sun Mar 8 - Daylight Savings Starts

Mon Mar 9 - 3:00 PM - Franklin Farms - Library

Wed Mar 11 - 6:30 PM - Habitat Committee - Library

Thu Mar 12 - 6:30 PM - Trustees Meeting - Library

Sun Mar 15 - UMCOR Sunday

Tue Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day

Thu Mar 19 - 7:00 PM - July 4th Parade Committee - Library

Sunday Worship is at 10:00 AM

Our Calendar is available at amumc.org under Church News



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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