Good Tidings

September 2026

Arnold Mills United Methodist Church

Rev. Heather R. Bailes Baker

Web Page: www.amumc.org Phone: 401-333-5203 email: office.amumc@gmail.com

A note from our pastor…

Beautiful Beloveds,

"We live in _____ times." How would you fill in the blank?

Words like uncertain, exhausting, frightening, or divisive come easily to mind. There is so much that can leave us discouraged, and so many reasons to wonder whether we are moving toward one another or further apart.

What if we chose a different word? Neighboring.

Beginning September 6, we will begin a new worship series, *Love One Another: Replacing "Othering" with "Neighboring."* We'll spend the month exploring what it means to practice love, not simply as something we feel or believe, but something we do. In a world that so easily encourages us to sort ourselves into "us" and "them," Jesus calls us toward a different way. Jesus calls us toward curiosity instead of assumption, proximity instead of avoidance, compassion instead of fear, and connection instead of isolation.

We may not always understand our neighbors. We may not agree with them. We may not even particularly like them! But we can still choose the small, ordinary acts of love that make a difference: sharing a meal, offering a ride, lending a hand, listening to a story, checking in, making room.

Sometimes the biggest changes in the world don't begin with something monumental. They happen on the ground, in the everyday. Someone notices. Someone reaches out. Someone chooses kindness. Someone says, "How are you?" and stays long enough to hear the answer. Perhaps that is one way we can answer the question, "What kind of times are these?" These are times when we can choose to be neighbors.

September brings a few changes to our Sunday mornings. On September 6, we'll gather one last time in Cargill Hall at 9:30 a.m. for worship.

Then, on September 13, Rally Day, our worship time changes to 10am. We return to our sanctuary and church school begins a new season. We'll check out our newly installed air conditioners. Rally Day marks more than a return to the sanctuary. It is a chance to welcome new faces, to see familiar ones, and to remember that church is not simply a place we go. It's an opportunity to notice who you haven't seen in a while, and check in. Let someone know you've missed them. Church is not just a building. It is a community we create together.

What better way to begin that new season than by remembering that our calling is to be neighbors? Imperfect, beloved neighbors, who keep practicing the holy work of noticing one another, making room for one another, and loving one another. I hope you'll join us. I hope you'll bring your questions, your weariness, your hope, your curiosity, and maybe even a neighbor.

Peace,

Heather R Bailes Baker

Pastor Heather

PS. Again, I want to say, Thank you for your generosity to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund (PDF). Thanks to you, I've been able to help individuals and families pay rent and avoid eviction, find emergency housing, buy groceries, and clothes for a job interview. As you well know, times are tough. In this difficult season, need has increased. Your generosity allows me to help in the midst of crisis, at a moments notice. Thank you. If you'd like to contribute to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, make checks payable to AMUMC, memo: PDF or Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Worship with Us
September Worship Series | Love One Another:
Replacing "Othering" with "Neighboring"

The scene is set. Jesus gathers at the table with his disciples to break bread and break the news that this is their Last Supper together. Alarming fear, bitter betrayal, and tension-laden uncertainty fill the room. In the midst of this unsettling moment, the Gospel of John records Jesus' "famous last words." Central among these was the commandment to love one another.

How do we survive, or even thrive, in times like these? We put love into action, replacing "othering" with "neighboring."

September 6—"Love One Another"
Communion Sunday
John 13: 1-4a; 34-35

September 13—Rally Day—"Show Us"
Worship moves to 10am in the Sanctuary
John 14: 8-14

September 20 —"Abide in Love"
John 15: 1-5; 9b-11

September 27—"You are My Friends"
John 15: 12-17

Pastor Heather's Off Campus Office Hours
11 am, Wednesdays at Phantom Farms*
September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Meet Pastor Heather for conversation.
No agenda. Come and chat.
Phantom Farms,
2920 Diamond Hill Rd, 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.

*Apothica Café has changed their hours and is no longer open on Wednesdays.

Fair Trade Coffee

Coffee — $11/bag
Hot Cocoa — $7/can
Tea — $4/box
Chocolate — $4/bar

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 .

Arnold Mills Cemetery Trivia - Karl Ikerman

Becoming a parent is a time of pride and happiness for most of us. Although rare, some are stillborn babies, and babies that pass away in the first few weeks of life. Often, this is a great emotional and financial burden on the parents. The Arnold Mills Cemetery will provide for burial space in these instances. Peter Bradley, our open and close contractor, will also waive his fee and the JJ Duffy Funeral Home will provide the use of their facility. While we hope you never need these services, we wanted to let you know they are available to everyone. We all care!

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".

A Wider Circle of Faith: Supporting the Rhode Island State Council of Churches

Did you know that Arnold Mills United Methodist Church is a member of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches (RISCC)? Our membership connects us with churches and people of faith across Rhode Island who are putting faith into action. The Council's mission is simple and powerful: **"We are advocates for the voiceless, resourcing our community to do the work of justice, love, and peace."** As part of our membership, our church currently budgets $200 each year to support this work. We would love to grow that commitment to $1,000; we can do it together. On Sunday, October 4, we will receive a special offering for RISCC, when we will also welcome Executive Minister Jeremy Langill as our preacher. If you would like to give, you can make a check payable to AMUMC, with "RISCC" or "Council of Churches" in the memo line. Gifts are welcome on October 4 or anytime between now and then.

What does your gift make possible? Over the past year, **RISCC has trained hundreds** of legally informed observers and legislative advocates **to support Rhode Island's immigrant communities**; helped house hundreds of unsheltered neighbors through **warming centers**; and continued advocating for justice on issues including payday lending, an assault weapons ban, freedom to read, and the protection of human rights. The Council also served as the principal plaintiff in a successful multi-party **legal action to restore SNAP benefits for approximately 42 million people facing food insecurity** during the recent government shutdown. This is what it looks like when the church's circle gets bigger, when our compassion reaches beyond our own walls and our faith becomes a force for justice, love, and peace. Please give generously and help AMUMC strengthen our partnership with RISCC.

Social Justice

It's September. TIME TO VOTE. Voting is part of our advocacy for those in need or those suffering oppression. Your advocacy is needed. The primary elections in RI will be held on September 9th (early voting starts August 20th). This year's general election is Tuesday, November 3rd (you know - "the Tuesday following the first Monday in November of even numbered years"). Please see the links below for helpful voting information for RI and for MA. Make sure you've registered and start researching candidates now, particularly for the primary. Thank you for your advocacy.

Rhode Island Secretary of State Voting Information

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Elections and Voting Information

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SPRC Meeting Notice

Saturday, September 12th @ 7:30 PM.

SPRC will meet with District Superintendent, Rev. Wanda, on zoom.

Missions and Social Concerns Committee
Missions Committee Report
September 2026

Meals in the Park
The planning crew is always welcoming volunteers for the preparation of the meals and the serving at Meals in the Park. Homemade desserts are always welcome! Thank you. Any questions please contact Karen Oswain 401-749-3609

School Supply Donations
Last year our church family donated school supplies to every elementary school in Cumberland, Lincoln and Woonsocket. Those supplies supported the teachers and students in their learning process as many school budgets are not able to provide the wide range of items that are necessary for an enriched educational experience. This year we are expanding the donations to include additional items and, if possible additional schools in Northern RI. Bins are on the elevator porch and in the hallway by the display booth for those donations. A sample of those beneficial donations:

For Un-housed Families
The various community churches are organizing again for this coming fall/winter season, so be prepared for additional requests for donations! Questions can be directed to Dave Larson, Cindy Mauch or Chip Thurlow.

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 harvesting a variety of vegetables – cucumbers, summer squash, peppers, zucchini, tomatoes, green beans and eggplant for needy families**. Ten** local soup kitchens ad food pantries receive the donations. **The harvesting is scheduled on Monday and Thursday evenings - 5:30 PM to dusk. Greeters and guides assist the volunteers in the harvesting, weighing, boxing and shipping the vegetables. The annual Harvest Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2026: www.franklinfarmri.org.** 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 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.

Community Care Alliance and the Woonsocket Shelter
CCA members share the range of services and programs that they provide for needy families. 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

World Communion Sunday
October 4, 2026

Support Future Church Leaders Through World Communion Sunday

Each World Communion Sunday, we remember our oneness in Christ and invest in leaders for tomorrow. Your offering helps fund scholarships for racial-ethnic minority students and international scholars, as well as inclusion training across the church. Give through your church or online and be part of this global impact. We invite you to give generously and be part of this vital mission.

Together, we can make a real difference! Donate.gcfa.org/wcs

Holiday Craft Fair

Arts & Crafts Show

HOLIDAY Bake Sale

2026 Holiday Fair

Save the date!

Join us for the Holiday Fair on **Saturday, November 14.**

Get ready for festive fun, shopping, and activities. More details to come!

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Tips for September 2026

Plan a congregational art show. Invite all ages to contribute the ways they see God's creation through their photography, painting, poetry, or crafts from natural sources. Let the show speak for care for Earth and for justice and restoration to repair the harm people and planet experience.

September is prime time to **plant trees**. Choose sites at your home or church. Work with volunteers to get the trees planted. Talk about the project and why trees are important. Find out if your local government has canopy goals and identify locations that can be planted.

September and October are peak migration season for many birds. **Help the birds out** by minimizing outdoor flood lights and seasonal light displays.

Go scraggly. Even just a month of refraining from mowing will reduce erosion and runoff in your yard while replenishing our groundwater supply, which helps keep streams alive during drought periods. **Tell your neighbors what you are doing and why.** Invite them to ignore the chore too.

Don't discount the "small" things you can do. **Commit to picking up at least 3 pieces of litter** a day and in a year you will have disposed of more than 1,000! Invite your children to participate in the challenge too. You'll be teaching the next generation by showing that you care.

Rescue school uniforms from going to the landfill. Organize friends or a whole school to have a uniform swap periodically. Tout the benefits of the savings for families and for Earth.

Use the air—it's free! Open your dishwasher instead of drawing energy to dry the dishes. Hang dry your laundry or a portion of a load to shorten the cycle at least occasionally. Let your hair dry naturally instead of using a blow dryer.

Advocate for clean air. Particulates from industrial plants, smoke from wildfires, heat-trapping carbon dioxide and methane from uncapped, no-longer used oil wells and from landfills—all need people to speak up against the practices that fill the air we breathe with danger.

In the indigenous Lakota tradition, **consider plants, animals, and the environment in a relational way** rather than as objects in our environment to be owned or used. How would our thinking and actions change if we thought of our environment as something we are in a relationship with?

Green space is critical infrastructure. And like all infrastructure, access to it isn't equally distributed. Lower-income neighborhoods consistently have less tree canopy, hotter temperatures, and worse health outcomes. Restoring forests, urban and otherwise, is one of the most accessible public-private acts of justice. **Speak up for your neighbors.**

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

Important Dates

September 13: Rally Day

Registration can be done online or in person in Cargill Hall from 9:45-10:00.

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.

Welcome back to church school! This year the children will be working through eight workshop units.

* Calling the Disciples
* Teach Us How to Pray
* Follow the Star
* The Burning Bush and Other Images of God
* Jeremiah
* The Lord's Supper
* Rebekah
* Fruits of the Spirit

During the months of September and October the children will be working with the unit **Calling the Disciples**.

Bible Verse: And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1:17-18)

Main Idea: Long ago Jesus called people to be his disciples, to learn from him and teach others. Jesus calls us today to witness, to the good news that he brought and to share Jesus' story with others.

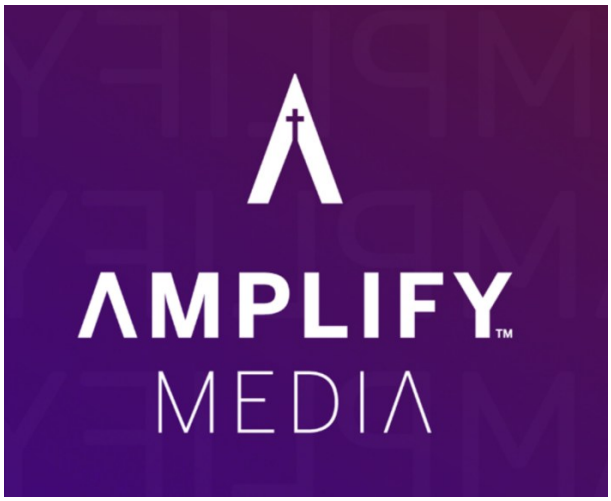
Objectives:

By the end of the unit the children will

* discover the first disciples that Jesus called were ordinary fishermen;
* discover Jesus calls people today to follow and be disciples;
* experience ways we can follow Jesus;
* discover Jesus calls people who are less than perfect to be his disciple;
* experience the story of Jesus calling the first disciples;
* discover different ways of sharing Jesus' story with others

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, Jane Sell, Emma Caraballo and Margaret Waterman. (Updated 4/22/2026)

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

September Calendar

Mon Sep 7 - Labor Day
Tue Sep 8 - 7:00 PM - AMUMC Safety Orientation - Cargill Hall
Wed Sep 9 - 6:30 PM - Habitat Committee Meeting - Library
Thu Sep 10 - 6:30 PM - Trustees Meeting - Library
Thu Sep 10 - 6:30 PM - Creating in Community - Wesley UMC
Sat Sep 12 - 7:30 PM - SPRC Meeting w/DS Rev. Wanda - Zoom
Sun Sep 13 - 10:00 AM - Rally Day - Church School Begins
Sat Sep 26 - 8:00 AM - Pack 1 e-waste drive - AMUMC

Sunday Worship is at
9:30 AM on September 6 in Cargill Hall then
returns to 10:00 AM on September 13 in the Sanctuary.

Our Calendar is available at amumc.org under Church News

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Join us for Worship on Sunday!

Church school and 10 AM worship will resume on September 13.

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