

Good Tidings

January 2024



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,

Happy New Year! 'Tis the season for resolutions. As you look ahead to 2024, how do you intend to live and love differently? We often commit to healthy habits for our bodies. Don't forget healthy habits for hearts and souls. What spiritual practices might you try as we begin another new year? As I look ahead to the General Conference of United Methodist Church and another presidential election, I wonder, might we prepare by deepening our curiosity and compassion, softening our hearts, supercharging our listening, and widening our welcome?

In January, I'm excited about our next worship series, "In a New Light." We'll hear familiar stories of Jesus beginning his ministry. We'll celebrate his baptism, and watch as he invites working fishermen to try something new. Alongside these familiar and favorite stories, we'll also examine the "clobber passages." These are scriptural texts that have been used to harm and condemn LGBTQ+ children of God. We'll try to see if together, we can read these texts in a new way, a more helpful, loving, and life-giving way.

In the season of Epiphany we give thanks for the many ways God is revealed in the person, and ministry of Jesus. I pray our study of familiar and troubling texts will also reveal something about God, ourselves, and our church. How do we hold our favorite scriptures alongside those that trouble us and hear the voice of God, clearly and consistently? What do we believe about scripture? What do we believe about Jesus? What do we believe about human sexuality?

During the week, we'll dig a little deeper. On Wednesdays at 11 am, I'll again be a Phantom Farm to take your questions, comments and ponderings. Wednesday evenings, we'll gather on Zoom at 7pm, and Adama Brown will lead us on a deeper dive in the texts too often used to justify harm and exclusion of LGBT folk. And if none of these times work you, please know you can set up time to walk and talk, or sit together to explore whatever's on your heart and mind. Together, let's challenge our assumptions, and invite the spirit to lead us as we learn together.

As we move into a new year together, may 2024 be filled with love and light. May we see in ways we have never seen before God's love active and changing our world. May there be peace, deep peace, in every heart, home, church, community and nation.

Peace,

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

Pastor Heather

Coming This Month in Worship – In a New Light

Our Epiphany series will explore the stories of Jesus beginning his ministry and widening the circle. We'll also read scriptures too often used to harm lgbtq+ children of God. Can we read these harmful texts in a new way, and hear God's love consistently?

January 7—Epiphany Sunday

A new star, a new king, a new way home

Matthew 2: 1-12

Communion will be served.

January 14 — Human Relations Day

A New Identity

Mark 1: 4-11

Leviticus 18: 1-23, 20: 13

January 21

A New Teacher

John 1: 43-51

Genesis 19: 1-29

January 28

A New Purpose

Mark 1: 14-20

Romans 1: 7-27

February 4

A New Teaching

Mark 1: 21-28

1 Corinthians: 6: 9-20, 1 Timothy 1: 1-11

Small Group Study

In a New Light

-Dr. Adama Brown

Our January Study goes deeper in our exploration of "Clobber Passages," or scripture texts used to harm and condemn lgbt+ children of God. Bring your questions and an open heart and mind.

7pm Wednesday Night Study —

Join us on Zoom January 10, 17, 24, 31

Continuing the conversation: At Phantom Farms

Meet Pastor Heather, Wednesdays at 11am for conversation and connections over coffee. No agenda. If you have questions about Sunday's sermon, "clobber passages," United Methodist doctrine, or the Reconciling Process, come and chat. Or not. We can also catch up on anything going on in your life or our community.

Phantom Farms

2920 Diamond Hill Rd, Cumberland, RI 02864



As part of our commitment to justice, our church is selling Fair Trade Coffee and Tea, partnering with Equal Exchange.

We are currently selling:

Organic Coffee — \$10/bag

French Roast Ground & Whole Bean

Breakfast Blend Ground

Decaf

Chocolate Bars — \$3/each

Milk Caramel Crunch with Sea Salt

Organic Tea — \$4/box

Chai

Irish Breakfast

Make checks payable to AMUMC, Memo: Fair Trade

Check the coat room to see what we have available today! If you have special requests, questions or suggestions, please contact Pastor Heather or George Jutras, office.amumc@gmail.com.

Coffee sales benefit our church and small coffee growers, and help build justice in the world.

Join us as we learn and grow together as disciples

Are you interested in joining our church? Some new members will be joining on January 14 and you can join them. Stick around after worship on January 7 for a brief conversation with Pastor Heather to learn more.

Are you interested in confirmation? January 14, after worship, parents and youth join pastor Heather for a brief meeting to learn more about the confirmation process: what is it, how long will it take, when will it happen, etc.

CLIMATE CARE - SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS / HEAT PUMP COMMITTEE

Once again - thank you to everyone who responded to our online survey or provided input at listening sessions during coffee hour. The committee met in December and voted to recommend that the church proceed with energy conservation measures (lighting and insulation) as well as the installation of solar photovoltaic panels on Cargill Hall. Both of these measures were largely supported by the congregation, have a reasonable payback and will decrease the church's annual operating expenses. Heat pumps for the Sanctuary and Cargill Hall also had support from the congregation. Given the capital and increased operating expenses needed for any heat pump installations, the committee decided to focus on the other two measures for now and consider heat pumps at a later date. The committee will now be working to obtain quotes on the solar photovoltaic system and then gaining approval from the Trustees and the Church Council. Please feel free to reach out any time with ideas, questions, concerns or feedback (adl21412@gmail.com or 401-225-9530).

A message from the Reconciliation Team.....



Arnold Mills United Methodist Church is starting off 2024 entering the Reconciliation process after a vote by the Church Council! What in the world does this mean? A Reconciling Church publicly acknowledges the inclusion of ALL people focusing on the LGBTQ+ population. Simply put, a Reconciling Church has an affirming logo on their church sign and website ensuring that EVERY human who would like to walk through its doors is welcomed with open arms. One could argue that we already are a welcoming church and while I do not disagree with this, one must enter our church to find this out. Twenty years ago, my wife Kerri and I were "church shopping," as we were planning on starting a family and wanted to find a safe place to worship and

develop a deeper relationship with God. We walked into quite a few churches before finding AMUMC. The anticipation of introducing ourselves upon entering each church as a couple was enough to make us turn the car around. We did not know how people would react, IF they would want us to worship with them and baptize our children in their congregation. The experience was so daunting that we almost gave up on our goal. I am so grateful that we did enter Arnold Mills UMC as we were immediately welcomed by Reverend Roger and a parishioner Mary Beth McIntire. It was a moment that we will never forget and one that concluded our search. Reverend Roger was the first person to hold each of our children when they were born, and we still exchange Christmas cards with Mary Beth! Over the years, our family of four has become active members at AMUMC and have consistently felt the love around us! It is true, we ARE a welcoming church but....what if we didn't enter 20 years back? What if our search ended after not feeling welcomed at another church? IF we publicly affirm that Arnold Mills United Methodist Church welcomes and loves all, others can find us without the wonder! Now, wouldn't that just be AMAZING? Please stay tuned for more information over the coming months as to what this process entails.

Stacey Johnson

Missions Committee Church Report January 2024

Meals in the Park

On December 31st we served our guests American Chop Suey and vegetable soup for lunch and homemade desserts. We served over 160 meals. Our next meal is February 18th. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer on this afternoon. Also please consider making some home-made desserts for this meal. Thank you. Karen Oswain 401-749-3609

Habitat for Humanity

The new duplex project is to erect **two** residences for military veteran families at **57 & 59 Oakland School Street in Burrillville, RI**. The second duplex foundation requires a final installation and in the next few weeks volunteer groups hopefully can be assigned the various construction tasks. **We will notify AMUMC volunteers when we can return to the work site as we have done previously.**

The Adopt-A-Family Gifts

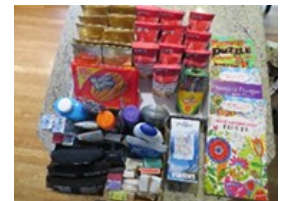
The Adopt-A-Family Christmas gifts were delivered to their families for Christmas sharing. Thank you AMUMC members again for your generous donations to those families during the holiday season.

Happy Basket Donations

The annual holiday gift giving was a wonderful success again for the HAPPY Basket Program. **We raised \$1,028 for the volunteers to purchase Christmas gifts for Cumberland children** and we donated over **120 pounds of boxed and canned goods** in the for distribution to those needy families. **Our collective generosity confirms our reputation as the “Amazing” Arnold Mills United Methodist Church.**

The Autumn Villa Personal Care Donations

In early December we collected for the fourth year, personal care items for the residents of the Autumn Villa Assisted Living facility on Diamond Hill Road in Cumberland. Cindy Mauch delivered the donated items to the staff for distribution to the residents.



Ongoing Service Activities:

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

The volunteers at Franklin Farm have completed the 2023 harvest season! The trails and fields are still available for visitors to wander around and enjoy the beautiful open space. Any questions, contact Pam and Chip Thurlow: thurlowcp@gmail.com; 401-333-1235.

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

The twice monthly clothing donations continue from the Cintas Warehouse in Woonsocket to the St. James Church clothing closet. The delivery schedule is posted in the coat room. Those items can be placed in the hallway at our church and they will be delivered to St. James Church by our volunteers.

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 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 accepts donations of persons care and household items (sheets, towels, quilts, curtains, etc.) for families to relocate into independent living when they leave the shelter. In addition, AMUMC volunteers have been donating day old baked goods from area supermarkets – currently Dave's Marketplace – for over 15 years to the shelter.

Chip Thurlow, Chairperson, AMUMC Missions and Social Concerns Committee

Trustee Report

The Trustee Committee met on December 14th at 6:00 PM.

- The portfolio value has increased this year, despite necessary withdrawals.
- Major repairs to the church and parsonage heating and electrical systems will be funded from the portfolio in the future.
- The RISE audit and the congregational energy use survey were reviewed by Dave Larson. The Sustainability Project is continuing to make progress.
- The church pews and wood floors will be given a fresh coat of paint by a kind, industrious member. Thank you, Ross Hancock!
- The Safety and Security Plans were presented by Pastor Heather and Tom Cabana. Plans were reviewed, approved, and will be sent on to the Church Council for approval.
- The Cub Scout Pinewood Derby will be held in Cargill Hall on January 19th and 20th.
- Thanks to Tom Cabana, Scott Murphy, and George Gettinger, the new Handicapped Parking signs have been installed.
- Artwork which was donated by kind neighbors to the Holiday Fair Treasures Room is now hanging in "Pamela's Niche", a new consignment shop on North Washington Street in North Attleboro. Please stop by this fine shop!



- On December 18th, the wind and rain storm brought a bit of excitement to Pastor Heather and her family as one of the towering pines near the parsonage split in half, crashing close enough to the house to tear off the electrical conduit and bring down the electrical lines. Thankfully, by Wednesday, Eastland Electric was there to repair and of necessity, replace the electrical panel. So the system is now updated and what is left of that enormous pine is scheduled to be removed.

- "That's All Folks!" Relax, smile, and hopefully enjoy the holiday week...

Finance Committee Update

Thank you for your generosity during 2023. We met our budgeted goal for donations during the year! We also had an amazing 2023 Holiday Fair this year, with revenue of \$9,152, and a record year for Happy Basket donations of \$1,010. We also continued to make a difference with donations to Mission Shares, UMCOR and other Special Sunday funds that connect us with the church worldwide.

Church operating expenses continue to outpace donation income. Costs for heat, electricity, building maintenance and property insurance continue to rise. This is an ongoing challenge. We are fortunate to have a church portfolio which is available to help us supplement our cash flow when needed.

Detailed financial reports are produced monthly and are available to anyone who may be interested in learning more about church finances. Please contact the church treasurer Cindy Mauch at amumc.treasurer@gmail.com if you would like to receive monthly reports. As we enter 2024, if you are an online donor through Vanco, you may need to update your online account if you are changing your giving amount. Also, 2024 donation envelopes are now available in the Coat Room.

Thank you to our dedicated Finance Committee members Keith Johnson, Elton Odom, Laura Thompson, Karen Oswain, Sammy Burgos, Cindy Mauch, and Pastor Heather Bailes Baker, and Pauline Belisle for ongoing office support.

AMUMC Photos

Sunday December 17 Worship Service



Thursday December 21 Blue Christmas Service



Sunday December 24 Christmas Eve Service



Arnold Mills Cemetery Trivia

Karl Ikerman

When graves were dug by hand the winter months were a big problem with frozen ground. When you drive on Abbot Run or Elder Ballou roads you will see big mounds of earth with cast iron doors. Some look like jail cell doors. Caskets were stored in these crypts until the spring thaw.



Tips for January 2024

John Wesley began a New Year tradition of leading people in [renewing their covenant](#) with God. At the very beginning, God gave us a garden to tend and till. Now is the time to renew your commitment to be good stewards of our earth. **Choose one new thing you can do** throughout the year to care for creation.

Junk mail invades our lives to the tune of 41 pounds per person per year. Eighty to 100 million trees lose their lives each year to print junk mail, and much of it ends up in landfills. **Stop junk mail.** Here are [three ways](#).

In a world that needs kindness and delight, [Positively Green Cards](#) delivers both, responsibly. These greeting cards are made from recycled material, printed with soy ink, and manufactured using green power. The company also donates 10% of their profits to organizations that care for the environment. **Make someone—and earth—happy!**

Corporate and governmental practices that despoil the land or water affect people of color to a far greater degree than richer and whiter communities. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood against racism, including environmental racism. **Honor King's legacy by working for justice**, especially on behalf of people of color and indigenous tribes.

We're charging into a new political year, yet the [1774 voting advice of John Wesley](#) is still relevant. The stakes are high for creation and for justice. Listen closely to the candidates' pitches and find out more about their record of action. **Support those who work for good for all.** Encourage friends and family to engage also. Then vote.

Could you be a "reducetarian"? You may know the high costs meat, eggs, and dairy inflict on the planet, the animals, and water, but going vegetarian or vegan is not for you or your family. There is, as John Wesley would say, a "Third Way." **Reducing the amount of animal products in your diet** by just 10% makes a difference, and if just 25% of Americans did so, the impact would be enormously helpful. Find out more [here](#).

Hot food or drink in single-use cups and take-out containers made of what is often called "Styrofoam" leach toxins (Styrene and Benzene—both suspected carcinogens and known neurotoxins). Some ultimately will be absorbed into our bloodstream and tissues. Keep that in mind. **Demand and use alternatives** (glass, ceramic, aluminum, even multiple-use plastic ware). Speak up for your health and the health of the environment.

Go thrifty; save the earth! When you **purchase clothing from a thrift or second-hand store**, your choice uses fewer resources, generates fewer emissions and less waste, gives other people work, extends the life of the garment, and keeps textiles out of the landfill.

Cook pasta in its sauce and [about ½ cup of water or broth](#). This small change is projected to save some six billion gallons of water a year that would otherwise be thrown out. Your community may be spared, but our neighbors across the country and around the world are dealing with drought. Conserving water is a baseline action of caring for all.

You already know Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. You may even have added Refuse, Repair, and Rot (compost) to the list. Here's one more: Remember! First, **remember who you are and Whose you are!** When you focus on God's call to you to care for creation and justice, it's easier to remember to do the other R's.

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

January 7: Epiphany Sunday

January 14: Human Relations Day

Sunday School Registration

To register go to the Children & Youth page under Education on the church website (amumc.org). You will find a form you can print and fill in and an online form if you prefer registering online. Use either one to register.

Bible Verse: On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. (Matthew 2:11)

Main Idea: God sent Jesus into the world to bring peace to all people and all nations. Today Christians from around the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.

Objectives: The children will:

* hear and experience the story of the magi visiting the Christ child;

* experience Christmas customs from around the world;

* study the stars and connect to the magi as astrologers of their time;

Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

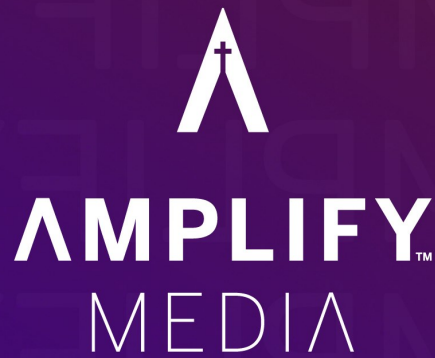
14 - 7 = ___ Father	10 + 15 = ___ in
10 + 9 = ___ heavenly	10 - 5 = ___ God
9 + 9 = ___ the	6 - 3 = ___ to
12 + 12 = ___ blessing	12 - 6 = ___ and
2 - 1 = ___ Praise	6 + 6 = ___ Christ
7 + 7 = ___ has	18 - 9 = ___ our
11 + 11 = ___ every	22 - 11 = ___ Jesus
13 + 13 = ___ Christ	1 + 1 = ___ be
8 + 8 = ___ us	7 + 6 = ___ who
10 + 10 = ___ realms	2 + 2 = ___ the
8 + 9 = ___ in	10 + 5 = ___ blessed
5 + 5 = ___ Lord	4 + 4 = ___ of
10 + 11 = ___ with	10 + 13 = ___ spiritual

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV

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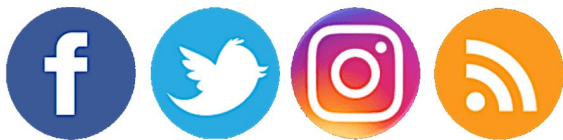
<https://my.amplifymedia.com/arnoldmillsumccumberlandri>

Access Code: DTLSGY

SPRC News

Our committee includes Stacey Johnson, Lee Ann Cotta, Cindy Mauch, Sue Therien, and Olivia Carney.
(Updated 6/6/23)

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



Arnold Mills UMC's Social Media

Find us on social media!

We are on Facebook and on Instagram.

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

Twitter at https://twitter.com/ArnoldMills_UMC

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

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

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests are sent out each week to every address on our email list. We understand that not everyone who asks for prayer in worship during "Sharing Our Joys and Concerns" wishes to have that information shared on the email blast. If you would like to have a prayer request included in the weekly email, please use the "Prayer Request" form on the table in the back of the sanctuary, call the office at 401-333-5203, or email office.amumc@gmail.com. Prayer requests will remain on the prayer list for one month. If you would like a prayer request to remain longer, just let us know.

AMUMC Upcoming Events

January

Mon Jan 1: New Years Day

Sun Jan 7: Epiphany Sunday

Wed Jan 10 - 6:30 PM: Habitat Committee Meeting

Thu Jan 11- 6:30 PM: Trustees Meeting

Sun Jan 14: Human Relations Day

Mon Jan 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Thu Jan 18 - 7:30 PM: Cemetery Committee Meeting

Fri Jan 19 - 5:00 PM: Pinewood Derby Setup

Sat Jan 20 - 8:00 AM: Pinewood Derby Race

Remember, Sunday Worship Time is now
10:00 AM!

The Church Calendar is available at
amumc.org under Church News.



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Cumberland, RI 02864
Phone: 401-333-5203
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 service will be available during the service for those who do not attend the service in person. After each service the video will be archived for viewing anytime.

Check out our webpage at www.amumc.org