

January 2021

CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF ARDMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

New Beginnings... by Rev. Dr. Matt Farabow

I do not know about you all but, more than any other time in my life, I am for a new beginning. I don't mean I want a do-over of 2020 (that would be insane) but I need a new hopeful beginning for the upcoming year. I don't need to tell you, it has been rough for ALL of us. Whether it is with our jobs, school, families, lives and even the church it has been a tough year all around. The isolation, alienation, illness. The hate, bigotry, political chaos. The worry, concern and fear. The natural disasters and man-made ones. This has been the doziest of all dozies this year of 2020.

In my devotional reading I came across the following story which had read so many times in the past. However, this time it got me thinking once again about what we need for the upcoming year as I reflected upon it. In the Gospel of Mark, the second chapter verses 1 through five it says the following:

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Mark 2:1-5 NRSV

A few things stand out to me in this scripture lesson. First, we find out that there is a man who is suffering; paralyzed and unable to function fully in life. Because of his condition he can only flounder, idly laying about, rather than flourish into the life God hoped for him. Amazingly enough he does have some friends, however, that care so much that they are willing to try anything to alleviate his suffering. And, in the lesson Jesus teaches that it is not just what paralyzes people in life but that there is so much more people need to be healed of. But it is sin that keeps us from being all who God hopes for us to be.

So what does that mean to you and me today at Ardmore United Methodist Church?

There is suffering all around us...AND, it isn't just others who are suffering, it is us as well! In addition, we need people around us who are willing to help alleviate suffering in our lives and transform the world. Even more, we need people who are willing to do anything in their power to help out a friend or neighbor...that is where faith comes in as we trust God to work through us. Faith calls us in to do something to change our world. Lastly, sin paralyzes us from accomplishing God's hope for our lives and our world.

This story of healing of the paralytic is a beautiful story of New Beginnings...it is a story where the man who was paralyzed is now healed and living a new life. However, it is also a story of friends and neighbors who show how much they care. In doing so they create a new beginning in their own lives. This is an example as to what lengths people of faith like us should be willing to go to abate suffering in the world. Just as importantly, the story reminds us that there are so many things in our world, in our lives, and even our church that needs healing. You see, we are invited to be a part of God's story, this wonderful story of unconditional love where we cannot measure the lengths, the depth, the width, and the breadth. In participating we can now share even more new beginnings...New Beginnings for our world, our neighbors, our church, and even for our own lives.

One thing that is important about scripture is how we must encounter how it intersects our lives. We miss out on the richness of the Bible if we see it only as stories about some people a long-long time ago. These stories are our story. We must choose to place ourselves in the story because it is what God hopes for us all; that we are part of a greater, amazing wonderful story. Today we all are in need like the paralytic. Today we all are called to new life. Today we all are confronted with the choice to step in and help others. We all are challenged to do anything and everything to bring others to Jesus' healing grace, mercy and love. You see, this story is our story. It is up to us as to whether we participate in it or not. We need each other and the church needs you!

Are you ready for a New Beginning in your life, in our world, and here at Ardmore? I don't need to ask, I am sure you are! If this past nine months has shown us anything it is that we all need a new beginning. That beginning is now, regardless of what is going on in our world, Christ offers us New Beginnings because he offers us new life. And corporately together as Ardmore UMC we will continue to discover there are many New Beginnings, ones which will happen around us and through us as the world is touched and changed through our open hearts, open minds, and open doors as we seek to *connect to God, each other and the world!*

Grace and peace in the Year of New Beginnings!

Rev. Dr. Matt Farabow

A Note from the Outreach Pastor



This really was the most different Advent I have ever experienced. The culminating moment for me was at the Love Feast pre-recording. On a night with many memorable sights and experiences shared together, it just looked so different this year with an empty sanctuary. As we lifted our candles while singing the last verse of Silent Night, it felt oddly darker in the sanctuary with no one in the pews. And yet, as we sang, I started to picture our church, gathered around a device, lifting their candles in their own spaces, all in worship to this light coming into the world. That has been this past year of 2020, a lot of "and yet." Through difficult days, we continued to say, "And yet." We could not meet in person for worship, and yet we continued to gather together virtually.

This past December I was introduced to a recording of Simon and Garfunkel singing Silent Night with the 7 o'clock news playing in the background. It captures for me both the hurt and brokenness of this world and a loving God entering into all those spaces. As it says in John that the Word became flesh and blood and dwelled among us. Eugene Peterson's *The Message* translation says, the Word became flesh and blood and moved into our neighborhood. This has been the most different Advent, and my prayer is that you met the Lord in even deeper ways in the midst of the circumstances. May 2021 be a year where we continue to lift our heads, following this loving God who is with us through it all.

Rev. Joe Hout

**Welcome to January
Livestreaming
Ardmore
United Methodist Church**

*Watch from home! Log on to our
livestream at [www.youtube.com/
ardmoreunitedmethodistchurch](http://www.youtube.com/ardmoreunitedmethodistchurch)*

Sunday, January 3
Epiphany 10:00 am and 11:15 am

Sunday, January 10
10:00 am and 11:15 am

Sunday, January 17
10:00 am and 11:15 am

Sunday, January 24
10:00 am and 11:15 am

AS WE STRIVE TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE DURING THIS PANDEMIC, OUR
WORSHIP SERVICES CONTINUE TO BE LIVESTREAM ONLY.

LIVESTREAM SUNDAYS: 10:00 AM TRADITIONAL , 11:15 AM CONTEMPORARY

For important events and dates, please
view the church calendar at:

<https://ardmoreumc.org/calendar>



Connecting to Each Other

Y'all. It's 2021. I'm not sure whether to throw a party for the celebration for getting through the longest year of my life thus far, or hide under my bed for fear the unknown events of this New Year. Maybe both are appropriate responses at this time... Either way, I'm thankful for your continuous support and grace for all of us as we made our way through 2020 together.

This year, there will be a few new opportunities to connect to each other as we still navigate the pandemic. We will begin a Faith and Justice series that invites us to explore new ways to understand what our faith says about justice in our society today. This series is one that I am very passionate and excited about for all of us to grow and learn together. More information will be sent out later this month. A second addition will be monthly children's emails and broad education emails from me. These emails will be sent out on the first of the month with a broad scope of opportunities, events, and resources for us to stay connected with each other and our community around us. Be on the lookout for those each month.

As I said, I cannot thank you enough for your encouragement and patience as we finished out 2020. While I am not entering into 2021 with unreasonable expectations or forgetting all of the events that created the 2020 we came to know, I am looking forward to entering into this New Year with you as a fresh start to understanding where God is in the midst of all of this.

Peace,

Meredith

Mission Engagement



Photo by Nick Nicholson

Angel Tree

Thank you, Ardmore UMC homes and families, for an extraordinary Angel Tree Gift Project. What an amazing outpouring of love to the Open Arms Community. You made possible 76 gifts from 3 month old child to Soccer Goals for families being served by the Sprague Street UMC "Open Arms" Community Ministry. The COVID-19 plan devised and delivered by Leslie Mullinix was a huge success. Families and individuals we may never meet will feel the loving care of your efforts. "Sign Up Genius" worked through a pandemic and your generous responses made it happen. A rousing "Thank you" from the receivers who received your persevering gifts. To you the love is returned!



Alternative Gift Cards

The Alternative Gift Card opportunity was graciously managed by Mission Engagement Team member, Billie Meeks. As a supportive congregation of the ongoing needs of our Ardmore UMC bi-weekly Food Pantry, you contributed to 103 alternative gift cards. The ongoing needs and community ministry of The Ardmore UMC Food Pantry is exceedingly grateful. You are providing hope in times when crisis is so dreadfully worrisome. Thank you, Ardmore UMC for your gifts of support!

Appreciation from Family Services of Winston-Salem for your Ardmore UMC ongoing support

"Dear Friends, thank you for choosing to support Family Services of Winston-Salem. When life is hard, hope for better days ahead is what pulls us through. The pandemic may be unpredictable, but because of donors like you, our ability to continue to build strong families is a steady and strong as ever. We are here for anyone who needs us. Until a time when we can safely meet face-to-face again, thank you!" Cate McDowell



Appreciation from the Wesley Foundation for your ongoing Ardmore UMC support



"Dear good folks of Ardmore UMC, on behalf of Salem College, Wake Forest University and the Wesley Foundation Board, I want to express my thanks to ya'll for the very generous support ya'll have given to the Wesley Foundation. It is especially heart warming to receive such a gift during this tumultuous year when so many challenges have arisen. Thank ya'll for the much needed gift! The Western NC Conference of the UMC has cut the funding support they have historically given to all the western NC campus ministries. "May the Lord show you His favor and give you His peace." Numbers 6:26.
The Rev. Larry Jones

Mission Engagement



Photo by Walt Unks

Chrismon Making 2021

The Chrismon making effort will continue. We welcome all who would enjoy joining the effort. Hopes are that you viewed the incredible video of the Chrismon creators' efforts during the year 2020. Appreciation is extended to our gifted and generous videographer, Nick Nicholson. If you have not viewed the video, it is worth viewing again and again during these "Twelve Days of Christmas".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofjyIK-uFg>

We welcome all who are interested in learning the techniques and joining in this year's efforts. **Beginners are always welcome.** Please contact Carolyn Coram (sailingcoram@cs.com) with the good news of your interest. You will be contacted and included in our ongoing communication about Chrismon making opportunities during this new year of 2021.

ADVENT WREATHS... Ardmore UMC and Friedland Moravian super helping hands!

May we introduce to you our good Moravian friends from Friedland Moravian Church who blessed us with the wood bases for all the Advent Wreaths that illuminated our journey through Advent. Meet LeaAnn and Charlie Haynes who graciously cut a tree from their own backyard and prepared the wood bases for our personal Advent Wreaths. This was a gracious and tremendously appreciated gift given to households of Ardmore UMC. Giving hearts....giving hands! Ardmore UMC expresses resounding appreciation to LeaAnn and Charlie.



Our Father's Table

The food pantry is in need of cat litter, children's diapers and pull ups, adult diapers, feminine hygiene products, Toboggans, socks, and gloves for both children and adults. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

The Shalom Project

Thank you to the Ardmore Stitches for your phenomenal year long effort in donating for the Shalom Project, clothing distribution and medical clinic. The Ardmore Stitches group donated 20 hat and scarf sets, 38 scarves, 65 adult hats, and 18 childrens hats to the Shalom Project of Winston Salem

The food pantry for the Shalom Project on 639 S Green St, Winston-Salem, NC 27101 is in need of ready to eat foods such as canned pasta, beans and franks, vienna sausages etc. Any donations would be appreciated!



Mission Engagement Team

Please join us in welcoming our new staff member!



JESSICA HOLDER - BUSINESS MANAGER

Jessica moved to Winston-Salem in July 2019 with her husband Creighton, their two daughters Rosie and Lucy, and their sweet rescue dog Dolly (named after Dolly Parton of course). They are originally from Hattiesburg, MS, so they love North Carolina's beautiful weather!

Jessica graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration emphasizing in Accounting. She was an active member of several honors societies through the College of Business, which included Beta Alpha Psi and Beta Gamma Sigma, and she graduated as one of the highest seated members of her class. She was previously business manager at Mr. Sippi Beverages, a water and coffee distributor based in Hattiesburg. Jessica loves the beach, chai tea lattes, leopard print anything, cooking, reading historical fiction novels, and most importantly spending time with her family.



“Senior Moments”

Happy New Year!!! 2020 is finally over and we welcome 2021 with hope for good health and good fellowship again...sometime in the future. We have been through challenging times most of 2020, but we have had some good times for which we are thankful. We have learned new things...we had to. Who had ever heard of zoom before 2020? We are thankful for all the services and activities at Ardmore UMC. Thank you to our staff who put it all together.

Since we can't meet in person or in the parking lot, Young at Heart is on hold for the time being. I hope that we can be together by springtime (remember, I'm an optimist). With the vaccine coming available this year, I have hopes that 2021 will see Young at Heart return with lots of joy and wonderful fellowship...we may not need a program, we'll just enjoy being together again. We will CELEBRATE!!!

Sadly, as we begin 2021 we are missing some of our senior members. 2020 was not only hard because of the pandemic, but because we lost too many Ardmore senior members during the year. We have wonderful memories of them and will definitely miss them. I am reminded of a quote by Marcus Aurelius: "When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive_to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love." Let us be thankful for each new day and make each one a good day...sharing God's love to all.

Love and blessings to all,

Mary Jo

maryjo@ardmoreumc.org/336-723-5566

TRADITIONAL MUSIC MINISTRIES

*But in this world of bitter strife
the dream can often fade;
reality seems dark as night,
we catch but glimpses of the light
Christ sheds on humankind.*

*So dream the dreams and sing the songs,
but never be content;
for thoughts and words don't ease the pain:
unless there's action, all is vain;
faith proves itself in deed.*

After the 12 days of Christmas, the church celebrates Epiphany on January 6th. During Epiphany and the immediate season following, often referred to as ordinary time, we hear stories about the miracles and manifestation of God, or how God makes himself known to us, God's people. Epiphany literally means "a showing of God among us in human flesh". This is what the magi experienced when they visited the newborn king with gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

To further this illustration of manifestation, the symbol of light is frequently used during this season, whether it be the light of the Star that guided the magi to the Christ Child or Christ becoming dazzlingly bright during the Transfiguration. In Epiphany, we are invited to see light in our weary world; acts of love in an increasingly hateful climate. Recognizing that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, we are called to reflect that same light to all those around us so that others may see the manifestation of Christ's love in each one of us.

Every January, we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. King's vision for America was hopeful and optimistic, even when the sin of segregation surrounded him. He knew that only light, not darkness, draws out darkness; love, not hate, draws out hate. With his message of light and love, Dr. King manifested Christ's gospel and shared it with others. This became a catalyst for a monumental civil rights movement.

British Methodist Minister and Hymnwriter Pamela Petit wrote the hymn "I Have A Dream" in 1986 to honor the work of Dr. King. The text of this hymn seems to recall the quote, "No dream comes true until you wake up and go to work." We are called to live in the hope of Dr. King's dream, however the act of dreaming is not enough; only in acting upon dreams can humanity prove its faith.

This past year, the pandemic has shed a light on the evils of this world: racism, discrimination, food insecurity, and income inequality, to name a few. Sometimes, the darkness of the world can seem overwhelming. This Epiphany, may we be reminded that the light of Christ can scatter the gloom of this weary world. We are called to embody the light and love of Christ so we can shine away hatred and bigotry. Reminded of Dr. King's legacy, let us become the hands and feet of Christ so that our hopes and dreams of an equitable world manifest into a reality.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Greetings to and from the Ardmore United Methodist Women!

Let's blame it on Covid Craziiness...I missed my November newsletter deadline. Thanks to Brandi's prompting I feel I am now back on track, and I plan to stay that way!

Even if I had gotten this into the December newsletter, it would have been too late to tell you about our World Thank drive-by event on November 22.

We happily partnered with Meredith Menius. On that Sunday afternoon, she and her helpers were in charge of distributing Advent wreath kits and Love Feast kits. At the same time the AUMW handed out yellow roses and some literature as we collected donations for this year's annual World Thank. We normally observe this special day with a general meeting, fellowship, good food, and a memorial moment for our sisters who've gone ahead during the past year. As we all know, 2020 has hardly been a *normal* year, so we got creative. We collected almost \$450 to help fund the global work of United Methodist Women: "turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world." That is a generous amount even in a *normal* year. Thanks to all who contributed to this fundraiser. Thanks to all who wished us well.

Speaking of partnering, our Ardmore Mission Engagement Team has graciously agreed to include a representative from the AUMW at their meetings. The theory here is that both groups are in the business of *mission engagement*, so it makes sense to put our heads together on a regular basis so as to maximize efforts and minimize overlapping effort. Thank you, Mission Team!

Along with so very many other activities, our annual UMW yard sale fell victim to pandemic shut-down safety measures. We have, however, another fundraiser to announce: **on-line RADA sales**. RADA, as many of you know, means catalog sales of cutlery and many other items for the kitchen. We are now set up with this company to receive a portion of profits from online sales. All it takes is for the purchaser to sign in on the website listed below and indicate with a click that their purchase is to benefit Ardmore United Methodist Women. Questions? Call me at **336-268-7878**. If you need it, I will try to walk you through the process (hoping it won't be "blind leading blind"!) Aaaand...this fundraiser goes on and on and on. Every month we order, AUMW receives a check. Happy shopping and **Thank You!**

Till February then, here's to a much brighter **New Year!**

Love and blessings,

Nancy Norton, Ardmore United Methodist Women President



Congregational Concerns

For those who need healing. Peggy Andrews, Lois Brown, Sylvia Caldwell, Jan Carter, Ruth Carter, Jane Click, Bobbi Cobb, Alice Dalton, Fran Denison, Patrick Edenfield, Betty Frazier, Bethany Goodman, Carolyn Hankins, Peggy Hall, Jim Hamilton, Jr., Nell Hamilton, Joanne Hamlet, Nancy Harvel, Hattie Hauser, Charles Hedrick, Ruby Houlden, Treva Jackson, Virginia Kennedy, Elizabeth Martin, Roy Nifong, Joanna Page, Sylvia Powell, Jane Reade, Genie Reynolds, Betty Richardson, Bob Stahl, Chris Steele, Harry Steele, Carolyn Stuart, Livia Timmons, Bert and Janice Weeks, Bob and Sue Wilkinson, Evelyn Williams, Jim Wooten, Callie Rothrock, Cynthia Hulet

For those who grieve: For the families of Forrest Campbell

For those who serve our country.

For those who come to Our Father's Table Food Pantry/Clothing Closet.

CONNECT

ARDMORE UMC YOUTH

Our Youth have continued to meet each week via Zoom; Mondays for High School and Wednesdays for Middle School. We continue to play games via zoom and study scripture. Pray for our youth and parents as they navigate these times.



CONNECT
kids

Connect Kids is meeting Sunday, January 3rd via zoom 4:30pm - 5:30pm. Please email Meredith Menius at meredith@ardmoreumc.org for the link.



January Calendar

The church calendar is available on our website at:

<https://ardmoreumc.org/calendar>

Office Hours: Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 4:30pm.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/01

Joanne Hamlet
Mary Claire Nicholson
Ashley Snowden

1/02

Barbara Creasy
John Corum
James Yearty
Brenton Faircloth

1/03

Harriet Owen
Matthew Martin

1/04

Jack Kennedy
Carol Lopaz
Jonathan Myers

1/05

Alton Parsons

1/06

J. Keith Gough

1/07

James Lowe
Amanda Farabow

1/09

Carolyn Hankins
Martha Culbreth
Pamela Hucks
Paul Jones
Katherine Sawyer

1/10

Howard Evans
Kristin Dellinger

1/11

Nicholas Bump
Hannah Brawley
Sasha Quintana

1/12

Rhonda Nixon
Ellen Wallis

1/13

John Robbins
Suzanne Johnson
Cal Faircloth
Betheyne Arp

1/15

Mary Scheerer

1/16

Ralph Kennedy
Heather Moir
Fred Jordan

1/19

Bill Christy
Alice Perkins

1/20

Mark Scheerer
Virginia Cushman

1/21

Dwight Haigler
Mary Crawford
AbbyHolgerson

1/22

Liz Lamphear

1/23

Polly Baucom
Micki Triplett
Mallory Pearce

1/24

Leigh Jones

1/25

Gaither Davis
Jeffrey Patten
Chris Steele
Carrena Sherril
Jennifer Chapman
Brandon Sapp
Jordan Farabow

1/26

Blake Creasy

01/27

Robin Anderson

1/28

Genie Reynolds
Carl Slater
David Lamphear

1/29

Margaret Browning

1/30

Pat Seay
Dalton FLynn
Reilly Appert

Join us Sunday mornings for online worship!

Traditional 10:00 am
Contemporary 11:15 am



[Click here to go directly to our YouTube page](#)


ARDMORE United Methodist Church 

zoomity

Sunday Mornings, 9:00 to 9:45

...a time of fellowship, check-in and prayer.

Join us and all of the Unity Groups before the 10:00 worship service on Sunday mornings! Zoom links will be sent out the Saturday before. We hope you join us!

 **amazon**
smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Imagine how much we could earn if everyone in our congregation who shops Amazon would just use smile.amazon.com. Just start your order with a smile and Amazon will automatically donate a portion of your order to the non-profit that you choose. It doesn't cost the buyer anything and the funds come directly from Amazon. Ardmore UMC has registered as a non-profit. *Just log in to your Amazon account, search for Ardmore United Methodist Church and select the Winston Salem NC option.* Then, each time you shop start at smile.amazon.com. Sign into your cart and shop away. You get your product for the same price and Amazon donates money directly to the church!



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