

CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF ARDMORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6-7

Dear Ardmore Family,

Seminary did not prepare me at all for what we have experienced over the past year. At Duke we studied things like How to Interpret the Scriptures, Doing Theology in a way that draws people nearer to God, Church History which helps us learn lessons for our past and guide our future, and Pastoral Care. What I am certain we did not have nor is there a class entitled: How to Lead in a Pandemic. You know what though? I think we have done quite well in spite of it all. I am thankful, as I hope you are, for such a wonderful church home and family at Ardmore!

The year 2020 has been a year to remember. Or perhaps one we would like to forget. Dealing with COVID-19 since March has forced us to live our lives differently in so many ways. It has also challenged us to find new ways to worship together, to stay in contact with each other virtually as well as through phone calls and visits all the while keeping six feet away from each other. Thankfully, our ministries have continued on during this time and we have been blessed to be able to provide worship and social interaction with your church via new and innovative platforms such as live-streaming, ZOOM, Dial-My-Calls and physical distancing.

Normally, about this time of the year, we would be planning for the annual “ask” for pledges for the next year so we can prepare the new budget. For 2021, we are expecting a relatively flat budget. I have been working with Milton Kern, our Chair of the Finance Committee, and we hope to provide the safest and simplest stewardship campaign we can. This year, our

pledge campaign will be functioning differently as we continue to adapt to the changes we have experienced over the last number of months.

There will be no official pledge campaign for 2021. Rather, we are asking you to allow us to use the same pledge that you made in 2020 for 2021.

Unfortunately, but as you could probably suspect, giving has declined slightly during this year of COVID-19. To those of you who are able, we ask you to consider an increase to your pledge as we work with the complexities and uncertainties of coming back together for classes, events and worship as we did before. We also must continue caring for our facilities and taking good care of our incredible staff. Finally, the important missional needs are greater now than ever and we must be able to provide even more resources to our outreach partners. Of course, with the impact of COVID-19 we fully understand that some of you may have to reduce your pledge.

This year, in order to be better stewards and not to increase the covid-19 risk, we will be reaching out



to most by email, while some will receive mailed stewardship letters. We are asking for electronic responses from those who receive emails, and phone calls are also available.

If you would like to adjust your current pledge, please contact Suzanne Lynch our Church Business Administrator at businessmgr@ardmoreumc.org or 336-723-3695 x1001. Otherwise, we will keep it the same for 2021 as it was in 2020. If you have never made a pledge to the church and would like to do so, please visit our Give tab on the website or just contact me or Suzanne. As you have heard time and time again, we are in this together.

Grace and peace in Christ,

Matt



Ardmore United Methodist Church

Sunday, November 22

Christ the King Sunday, 10:00 and 11:15 am

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Service, 12:00 pm

Sunday, November 29

First Sunday in Advent, 10:00 and 11:15 am

Wednesday, December 2

Hanging of the Greens, 6:30 pm

Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday in Advent, 10:00 and 11:15 am

Sunday, December 13

Third Sunday in Advent, 10:00 and 11:15 am

Sunday, December 20

Fourth Sunday in Advent, 10:00 and 11:15 am

Monday, December 21

Blue Christmas, 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve Lovefeast Service, 5:00 pm

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day Service, 12:00 pm

Sunday, December 27

Lessons and Carols, 10:00 and 11:15 am

Sunday, January 3

Epiphany, 10:00 and 11:15 am

Holiday Livestreaming

We are excited to offer our holiday worship schedule, and we welcome you to join in each week and throughout the holiday season.

Livestream Sundays
10:00 am traditional
11:15 am contemporary

Watch from home!

Log on to our livestream:

[www.youtube.com/
ardmoreunitedmethodistchurch](http://www.youtube.com/ardmoreunitedmethodistchurch)

Everyone is welcome.

Advent Wreath Drive-Thru

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It's November and Advent is almost here! For Advent this year, we are providing DIY Advent wreaths for any and all ages to make at home! The last day to sign up is Friday, November 13. We will ask for a \$5 donation when you pick-up your wreath kit on November 22 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. If you would like to be added to the list for a wreath kit, we encourage you to fill out this form today: [Google Doc](#).

Wednesday Evening Book Study

Everything Happens for a Reason: and Other Lies I Loved by Kate Bowler

We started a new Wednesday night book study on September 23, and we are having great discussion! As we continue to meet on Zoom, we have found that Zoom provides a better platform for discussion and small group sharing. The discussion is based on broad questions and sharing, so if you missed reading a chapter or two, we still welcome you to join us!

Watch your emails or Facebook for the weekly link to Zoom and come visit the forum! You may also email Meredith Menius at Meredith@ardmoreumc.org for the Zoom link.

If you're interested in hearing more from Kate Bowler herself, you can click here for her Ted Talk:

https://www.ted.com/talks/kate_bowler_everything_happens_for_a_reason_and_other_lies_i_ve_loved?language=en,

If you like podcasts, follow her on her podcast, "Everything Happens" on Apple Podcasts.



Connecting Each Other

November is here, and so is some cooler weather! I'm so thankful to have cooler mornings and evenings, even though it means shorter days have come. As we enter into the holiday season, I have been reflecting on what family means to me. Most years, I would have been able to visit my family members more than I have now. Not only have I not been able to see my family members in a normal capacity this year, but I have also not been able to see some of my friends that live out of state. Whether that was to visit my friends in New Jersey for a conference in May, or visiting my friend in Denver for vacation this summer, or even visiting my friend in Dallas for her ordination in October, which ended up being performed over Zoom, I've missed them all terribly. All of these friends, these chosen-family members, are people who I wish I could visit more easily and more regularly than I have been able to.

As we move into a different kind of holiday season this year, we will be providing more services in order to meet people where they are.

One service in particular is a Thanksgiving Service at 12:00 pm on Thanksgiving Day. For people who can't be with their family members or chosen family members or even your church family, this year because of risk of COVID-19, we want to provide a space for people to get together, to worship together, and to feel connected in a unique way. If you're like me, this is a great gift for me to have.

So, we invite you into this service with us on Thanksgiving Day at 12:00 pm. Be on the lookout for more opportunities to worship with us throughout the holiday season.

Know that you are not alone, and your church family is thinking of you and praying for you during this different kind of season this year.

Peace,

Meredith



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettia sales are underway! Each 8" plant is \$15.00. These beautiful flowers will grace the Sanctuary throughout the season of Advent. **ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

Name _____ Phone _____

CIRCLE ONE

IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR _____

IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR _____

IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR _____

IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR _____

Quantity Ordered _____ x \$15.00 = Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to AUMC and note Poinsettia on memo line. Please drop off at the church office using the drop box at the back door or mail to the church, attention Deb. Poinsettias will be available for pick-up via drive-thru on Monday, December 21 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm under the breezeway in the church parking lot.

There is a Season...

“To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth
thee.”

Every year on November 1st, the Church celebrates All Saints Day. The purpose of All Saints Day is to remember all the saints that have gone before us and remind us that we are a part of a “Great Cloud of Witnesses.” Typically, local congregations mark the day by remembering the saints of their own congregations; members who have left this earthly life and have passed on to the heavenly realm. At Ardmore UMC, we will be honoring the saints of our congregation who have passed on in the previous year by reading their names, lighting a candle, and tolling a bell.

In the midst of a global pandemic, there is a lot to mourn and grieve; families who have lost a loved one may not have had an opportunity to express their loss through traditional funerals or memorial services, others are mourning over the 200,000+ lives that have been lost in our nation because of COVID-19, and some are lamenting the heightened racial disparities in our nation and the unjust deaths of our colored brothers and sisters. No matter the reason, All Saints Day gives us an opportunity to reflect and mourn these losses.

In addition, All Saints Day reminds us of our own mortality and the fragility of human life. Each

year, we experience the beauty of the seasons in creation. Similarly, our very lives experience seasons: birth, childhood, youth, adulthood, elderly, and death. We are reminded in Genesis that God breathes the breath of life into dust and creates humanity. From dust we are created, and to dust we will eventually turn. Many of us may be uncomfortable with the inevitable nature of death, however death is never the final season. As spring brings rebirth and new life out of winter, likewise out of death comes a resurrection.

I am often reminded about the seasonal nature of our lives in creation and music. There are many hymns that reference death and resurrection, however I am always drawn to the 17th century Hymn, “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”, by Scotsman Walter Chalmers Smith. Although the crux of this hymn focuses on the almighty and immortal nature of God, it does reference that all of God’s creation, including humanity, faces seasons of growth and decay. However, even in the midst of all this change, God remains constant and God’s love for all of us stays with us no matter what season we find ourselves in.

This All Saints Day, let us remember the saints of our lives, past and present. Let us also be reminded that the same God who worked through them is working through us now. May we embrace each different season of our lives, not knowing exactly where we go, but being assured that we rest in the almighty, unchanging hands of God, whose love has no bounds.

Senior Moments

What beautiful weather we are having! The leaves are changing colors and the air is crisp... perfect weather for being outside, or sitting on a porch. I've heard that it's a good time to take a daytrip to the mountains to see the beautiful trees.

We haven't been able to have Young at Heart since last February and we have missed being together. In October we gathered in the parking lot for a mini Young at Heart activity, a time of fellowship and music with Pastor Joe. He played his guitar as we listened and sang along with him. We wore our masks, kept at least 6' apart, and we brought our own lawn chairs and snacks, to be safe. We missed having a meal together but we enjoyed seeing each other and the music.

Our Ardmore seniors are remarkable. They have made the best of a bad pandemic situation. Many have participated in livestream worship services and morning prayer time on Facebook and even learned to zoom. Unfortunately, some don't have access to this technology so they are watching services with others at their retirement centers or watching other services at home on their TV's. Our seniors are keeping up

with the times and I'm so proud of them.

November is a special month because of Thanksgiving. Sometimes I think that it doesn't get enough attention, coming between Halloween and Christmas. Thanksgiving Day may be different this year because of the pandemic. I hope that we all take time to be thankful for our many blessings every day, not just on Thanksgiving Day. I read a quote by Reuben P. Job that fits the time that we are experiencing now.

"Today as you see the face of another, a bit of the sky, or a flourishing plant, remember the Creator God who upholds all that is and give thanks for daily evidence of that presence in our distracted world."

Happy Thanksgiving!

Mary Jo

maryjo@ardmoreumc.org

336-723-5566



It's a Boy!

Congratulations to the Corum family on the birth of Colton Willis Corum. Colton is the grandson of John and Carol Corum. The proud parents are Christina and Daniel Corum and twin sisters, Charlie and Carson.

Ardmore UMW

Greetings to and from the Ardmore United Methodist Women!

Sisters, we have another virtual event this month. The annual District Leader Development Event will take place on November 14. Here are details:

In our efforts to care for the safety and well being of all of our members, we have planned a virtual All District Leader Development Day for Local Unit Officers, Circle Chairs, Other Leaders, and all interested UMW members, on November 14, 2020, at 10:00am.

Visit the Leader Development page of our website to get complete information about Leader Development plans for ALL EIGHT districts.

Using Zoom Meeting, we will have a brief gathering time with all eight districts together, and then divide into breakout Zoom Meeting rooms by District with your District officers leading your training. Handouts by District should be available on our website by November 9th.

Registration is required for these free Zoom meetings, and registration is now OPEN.

Whether or not you are an officer, this is a worthwhile event, and you can attend from the comfort of your own home!

Don't forget to contact Liz Lamphear if you want her to order a beautiful 2021 UMW Prayer Calendar for you:

If you would like to have a 2021 calendar of your own, you may want to include your order in the AUMW group order. That way you will pay less in shipping and handling than if you order directly from UMW/mission resources. To order through our unit just contact Liz Lamphear (336-813-0377) and ask her to add your name to her calendar order list. Then you will need to give Liz \$16 cash OR send her a check for \$16 (\$14 plus \$2 s/h) made payable to Liz. She will make a group order in about two weeks.

Now I need to remind you of opportunities to contribute financially to the work of United Methodist Women. With the end of the year approaching, Patty Pate, unit treasurer, is preparing to consolidate our circle pledges and forward those funds to our District treasurer and then on to Conference treasurer. If you need to verify your personal pledge amount, get in touch with your circle treasurer. Then you may send any amounts you may still want to donate to that circle treasurer or to Patty.

There is also a special Love Offering for 2020: a donation in honor of any woman member of clergy, past or present.

Conference Love Offering: We invite you to give generously to our 2020 Conference Love Offering - A Gift to Undesignated Mission Giving - A Gift to Mission Honoring & affirming Clergywomen, past, present and future. Your Mission Giving continues the work of United Methodist Women, making a difference, every day, in the lives of women, children and youth around the world. Thank you for your support of Mission Giving! Every single dollar makes a difference!

You may give to the Conference Love Offering on our secure PayPal donation page, where you can make your gift by credit/debit card.

Finally, Mary Jo Brewer is still collecting gift cards to donate to Bethlehem Center to purchase books for the young children in their care.

Thank you all for your support, your love, and your prayers throughout this challenging year.

Till December then...

Blessings!

Nancy Norton
President AUMW



Ardmore

United Methodist Women

Faith • Hope • Love in action

Mission Engagement

Ardmore UMC has been and continues to give annual support to the vast outreach of the OPEN ARMS COMMUNITY. After years of service as the UMCOR missionary to Open Arms, Vickie Sigmond retired in person but forever in heart for the individuals and families spiritually embraced, educated and rehabilitated in Christian love and response. The Rev. Julie Wilson is the newly arriving missionary for the Open Arms Community. We welcome Pastor Wilson to North Carolina, Winston-Salem and specifically to the 427 E. Spague Street location.

<https://www.openarmsumc.org/>

In addition to Ardmore UMC Mission Engagement annual financial support (via your giving to the General Budget of our church) we have embraced the Open Arms Community with individual special Christmas gifts. As Pastor Julie is in the midst of getting to know the individual

and family needs of the vast community being served by the mission. Therefore, we are giving Pastor Julie Wilson the time she needs for more conversation regarding the Angel Tree Project.

As of the distribution date for the November "Connections" the Angel Tree Project plan remains a "work in progress". As and when we have information for sharing regarding the ANGEL TREE project for this year, it will be shared with you via other helpful means our church has for keeping you informed.

May our prayers and appreciated support be ever embracing of The Rev. Julie Wilson as the Open Arms Community become her family as they continue to be ours.

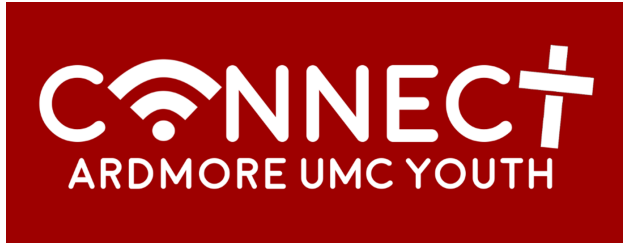
Ardmore Mission Engagement Team



Alternative Gift Cards

The Mission Engagement Committee will once again be offering Alternative Gift Cards to support the ministry of Our Father's Table. For a requested donation is \$5.00 per card, you will receive a Christmas Card acknowledging your donation as a gift in honor of a friend or loved one. Cards will be available November 11 through December 16. To place your order, email Deb Jandes at debannjan@gmail.com or you may call the church office at 336-723-3695 and leave a message in the general mailbox. Please include how many cards you wish to purchase and your name and phone number. Please make checks payable to Ardmore UMC and write Alt. Gift Card on the memo line and mail to the church office. You may also pay for your cards using a debit/credit card by visiting our safe and secure website at ardmoreumc.org and click on the GIVE tab. When placing your order on the GIVE page, please be sure to indicate Alt. Gift Card. ***Cards will be mailed to you this year, so please order early.***

If you have any questions, please contact Deb at 336-723-3695 or admin@ardmoreumc.org.



Congratulations...The Youth of Ardmore UMC achieved their \$1,000 goal to support Crop Walk! Ending hunger one step at a time.

Thank you to our youth and all who supported their efforts!



Connect Kids meets on the first Sunday of every month at 4:30 pm usually via Zoom. All kids are welcome!
Please mark your calendars and watch for information through emails.

Contact Meredith at Meredith@ardmoreumc.org for more information.

The Art of Chrismon Making

The Chrismon making has not ceased for this year but the Ruffy's Chrismon classes are complete for 2020. During this sketchy season of classes at Ruffy's Chrismon Shop in Salisbury, several members of Ardmore UMC have completed many beautiful wire and bead formations of symbols of our faith history and sustaining hope and promise of grace for our ongoing faith journey.

As the average cost per Chrismon (including the cost of the class) +/- \$45 per Chrismon...there is generosity of time and resources woven into each of these gently and sometimes "eye crossing" creations.

We safely distanced at Ruffy's for Chrismon making classes during the months of June, July and August. I still have plenty of kits and they are ready and eager for any of you to transform the wires and selected beads into the significant stories they are eager to share. The kits have been purchased simply eager for hearts and

hands to create them.

The December Connections will include photos and descriptions of the Chrismons that have been crafted this year. We have included larger photos of the individual Chrismons. The attached 2020 catalogue has the Chrismon photos plus their descriptions. AMAZING Effort for creating these symbolic "reminders" of God's ever present AMAZING GRACE!

We are so very grateful for all who made these possible this year along with huge efforts in years 2018 and 2019! The 2020 catalogue is not complete, just up to date. We are ready to grow the catalogue with more of your artistry and craftsmanship.

I have a pelican to complete and precious "Baby Moses" which has been waiting for more focused attention for two years!

Carolyn Coram

For the Love of Woodworking

Leroy Foster has been using his time at home to refurbish one of the acolyte candle lighters.

COVID-19 has motivated many members of the Ardmore UMC congregation to engage in the ministries of the church in numerous ways. Leroy put his love of woodworking to the task of refurbishing one of the acolyte candle lighters. The wooden handle was in great need of being refinished and all of the brass was in sad deteriorating shape. Leroy went to work on it and it is ready for acolyte use with a totally restored look.

Appreciation to Leroy Foster for his time and craftsmanship.



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, Sarah Penry, Sylvia Powell, Jane Reade, Genie Reynolds, Betty Richardson, Carolina Simmons, Bob Stahl, Chris Steele, Harry Steele, Carolyn Stuart, Livia Timmons, Bert and Janice Weeks, Bob and Sue Wilkinson, Evelyn Williams, Donna Bryson Wilt, Jim Wooten

For those who grieve: For the families of Lucy Doud, Bill Knott, Marian Houston and Allen Martin.

For those who serve our country.

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

The Upper Room Daily Devotional

The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guides are currently available from the church office for your daily devotional use. Please leave a message at 336.723.3695 x 1100 and one can be mailed to you. *Devotionals will also be available at Giving Sunday!*

To help offset the expense of the guides, we ask for a donation of \$1 for each devotional.



Scholarship Money

Did you know scholarship money is available through Ardmore United Methodist Women and Ardmore United Methodist Church? These funds are available for any member of our church pursuing college or graduate school.

Applications for the Spring 2021 semester are due December 1, 2020.

For more information and/or an application, please contact Marilyn Parker or the church office.

Please remember that you can always contribute to the Ardmore United Methodist Women Scholarship Fund, either directly or with gifts "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" someone or as a designated beneficiary in your Will.

Remember Our "In Crowd"

Do you know of a church member who would like to receive a copy of the weekly sermons?

If you know of someone that would like to receive the sermon, please contact the church office and we will add them to our mailing list.



NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

11/1	Jay Brown	11/9	Meredith Lindel	11/20	Carolyn Coram
	Seth Parker	11/10	Gavin Lamphear	11/21	Kevin Longbotham
11/2	Christine Reynolds	11/11	Laila Swinson		Edward Foster
	Jonah Unks	11/14	Lynn Dixson	11/22	John Sexton
11/3	Jimmy Walker		Leslie Mullinix	11/23	Savannah Jackson
11/4	Charles Hedrick		Phillip Spainhour	11/28	Shelby Sitison
	Joy Troyer	11/15	Kay Marlow		Nancy Stahl
	David McDonald	11/16	Dianne Hodges	11/29	Lauryn Miller
	Sydney Farabow	11/17	Jim Kennedy	11/30	Bud Goldsmith
11/7	Bobbi Cobb		Samantha Creasy		Emmett Correll
	Frances Taylor	11/19	Synthia Folwell		




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!



Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

Follow what's happening on social media at @ardmoreumc



November Calendar

The church calendar is available on our website at:

<https://ardmoreumc.org/calendar>

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!

Join us Sunday mornings for online worship!

Traditional 10:00 am
 Contemporary 11:15 am



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