

THE HILLTOPPER



MUSTARD SEED FAITH A CHURCH MOVING FORWARD

Arlington Street United Methodist Church

63 Arlington St, Nashua NH 03060 ♦ 603-882-4663 ♦ www.asumc.org



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I approach my six-month mark as Pastor at Arlington Street United Methodist Church, I find myself reflecting on the journey we have been walking together. When I first arrived, I carried both hope and honest uncertainty. I didn't know how you would feel about having a Certified Lay Minister rather than an ordained elder. I didn't know how you might respond to this being my first appointment. I didn't know how you might receive an openly gay pastor, in an interracial marriage with a man 16 years my junior. I didn't know how you might react to my sometimes "robust" personality, full of energy, ideas, and passion.

But from the very beginning, you met me with warmth, grace, and open hearts. You didn't just accept me. You welcomed me...and Joel. You listened with kindness, shared your lives with honesty, and extended hospitality in ways that deeply touched my heart.

Week after week, I have witnessed your faith in action. It shines in the way you care for one another, the way you show up for worship and ministry, and the way you choose hope even in uncertain seasons. You have allowed me to lead, to learn, and to grow alongside you. You have shared your stories, your prayers, your laughter, and your concerns in ways that have made this congregation feel like a true spiritual family.

Of course, we also know that the road ahead carries real challenges. We are a small but mighty congregation, facing financial realities that many churches are experiencing across the country. These are not signs of failure. They are signs of the times in which we are called to do ministry. Together, we must make faithful and wise decisions about the future, including the parsonage and the ongoing care

of our beautiful, historic building that has been a place of worship, comfort, and community for generations.

Brick by brick, this church has held baptisms and funerals, laughter and tears, prayers whispered, and songs lifted high. It has stood as a symbol of God's presence in this neighborhood. Caring for it requires more than financial resources. It requires shared commitment, collective vision, and a faith that is willing to trust that God still has a purpose for this place and for us.

I am reminded here of Jesus' words in Matthew 17:20: *"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."* A mustard seed is small enough to rest on the tip of a finger, yet Jesus used it to remind us of the power of even the smallest faith when it is placed in God's hands. We may feel small at times, but small does not mean powerless. God can take a mustard seed of faith and move mountains.

Even as we face challenges, God is also placing new opportunities in front of us. One of these is the growing partnership between Arlington Street United Methodist Church and Main Street United Methodist Church. Pastor Kelly has expressed a clear desire to collaborate more closely with us, not only through programs and ministries but through shared purpose and relationship. This partnership is not just about sharing resources or filling calendars. It is about two congregations walking together, encouraging one another, and discovering new ways to be the Church in this city.

If I could offer one heartfelt invitation, it would be this: bring your whole heart to the table. Bring your gifts, your time, your faith, your willingness to serve, and your openness to how God may work through us and through our partnership with Main Street United Methodist Church. When we come together in prayer, purpose, and cooperation, we create space for God to do something greater than either congregation could do alone. When we allow God to be at the center, there is always more possibility than we can see.

And before I close, I want to speak plainly from my heart. I am deeply committed to this congregation. This is not just a stop on my pastoral journey. This is my assignment, my call in this season, and a community that I love. Every time I step into the sanctuary, every time I stand behind the pulpit, I bring my whole self. I bring my faith, my prayers, my passion, and my unwavering belief that God is not done with us yet. I promise to continue giving you everything I have. I will preach with conviction, lead with compassion, and trust with you that God can use even a small church to do extraordinary things.

So, as we stand together at this point in our journey, with almost five months behind us and a future filled with both challenge and hope ahead, let us lift our heads and our hearts. We may be few in number, but God has always worked through faithful people who were willing to say, "Here I am, Lord. Use me."

I see in you a spark that can shine brightly in this community. I see hands that serve with love, voices that speak with kindness, and hearts that trust in God's promises. I see a church that chooses faith over fear and hope over despair.

God has not brought us this far to leave us here. God is not finished with Arlington Street United Methodist Church. The best chapters of our story are still being written. Together, with prayer, courage, and open hands, we will walk into the future that God is preparing for us.

Let us lean in. Let us show up. Let us love boldly. Let us be a church that reflects Christ's light so brightly that this city cannot help but notice us!

Because when a congregation, even a small one, holds on to mustard seed faith, nothing is impossible. God can move mountains. God can open doors. God can breathe new life into places where others see only limitations.

We are stronger than we realize, more loved than we know, and more equipped than we sometimes believe. And I am grateful beyond measure to be on this journey with you.

In hope, in faith, and with all my heart,



There are moments in time when heaven touches earth, when the ordinary breaks open, and something holy spills into the world. Over two thousand years ago, on a quiet hillside in Bethlehem, that very thing happened.

A sky once silent was filled with song. Angels appeared to shepherds; simple, weary people who thought the night would be like any other. But that night, heaven broke open. Light pierced the darkness. Hope was born. And love took on flesh and walked among us.

This Christmas Eve, we will gather in that same spirit of wonder and awe, to remember and celebrate *The Night Heaven Broke Open*. Through candlelight, music, scripture, and reflection, we'll retell the greatest story ever told; the story of God stepping into our world, not in majesty or power, but in humility and grace.

Come as you are, whether your heart is light and full of joy, or heavy and in need of peace. Come if you are searching for meaning, or simply longing to be reminded that you are loved. In the glow of candlelight, surrounded by the sound of familiar carols, may you feel heaven breaking open once again; right here, right now, within your heart.

Bring your family, bring a friend, or come alone and find family here. There is room for you in this celebration! Together, we'll watch the flicker of candles grow into a radiant glow, symbolizing the light that no darkness can overcome.

Come and see. Come and worship. Come and remember *The Night Heaven Broke Open*.



As the nights grow colder and the days shorter, we're reminded that the simplest gifts often bring the greatest comfort. A warm pair of socks. A soft hat. A sturdy pair of gloves. For someone facing the chill of a New England winter, these aren't just small items, they're acts of love, reminders that they are not forgotten.

This season, Arlington Street United Methodist Church is partnering with the United Way of Greater Nashua to help provide warmth for our neighbors in need. We're collecting new socks, gloves, scarves, mittens, and winter hats for both adults and children. This will continue through the winter.

Your donations will be distributed throughout our community to shelters, outreach programs, and families struggling to stay warm this winter. Each item you give carries not only warmth but hope; a tangible sign of God's care made real through your generosity.

Collection bins will be available in the church narthex and fellowship hall through Sunday, December 22. You may also bring items during office hours or Sunday worship.

Together, let's wrap our community in compassion and show that the love of Christ is alive and moving among us.

"If you have two coats, give one to someone who has none." — Luke 3:11



The Finance Committee is grateful for the support our church family has shown throughout this year. Your commitment, generosity, and steady presence have made a tremendous difference. The good news is that, thanks to the cost-savings measures we implemented last year, we have met all of our financial obligations related to operating expenses. This is an important accomplishment, and it reflects the careful stewardship and dedication of our entire congregation. We still have work to do with the Conference, particularly in meeting our property insurance and mission shares commitments, but we are moving in a positive direction.

Consecration Sunday will be on November 23 this year. On this special Sunday, Estimate of Giving forms will be turned in by handing them to an usher, placing them with the offerings, and having them lifted in prayer (consecrated). This sacred moment is an opportunity for all of us to dedicate our intentions for the coming year and to place our trust in God's ongoing provision. These forms will be available in the church bulletin, online, and mailed through the Hilltopper so that everyone has a chance to participate.

This is a crucial time of year for the Finance Committee. While we do engage in fundraising through events such as the Holly Town Fair and yard sale, the majority of our financial resources come through the generosity of our church family. Your giving directly supports our worship, ministries, mission outreach, and the ongoing care of our church building. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps sustain the life and work of our congregation.

We are pleased to have Pastor Jerry leading our congregation on Sunday mornings. He is energetic, dedicated to promoting and growing the church, and committed to reaching those who cannot attend in person through multiple avenues of social media. His enthusiasm and vision have brought renewed energy to our services and outreach efforts, and we encourage parishioners who have not been attending to come and meet him. You will be warmly welcomed.

The Committee understands the pressure and stress caused by rising costs for groceries, rent, insurance, and gasoline. Many families are facing difficult decisions, and we are mindful of the financial strain this creates. We ask that you support the church and its mission to the extent you are able. If you can increase your estimate of giving without creating a financial burden for yourself, it would be a blessing for the church. If you are completing an Estimate of Giving form for the first time, please know that the Committee will be faithful stewards of your donations, using them wisely and responsibly.

Sincerely,

Maurice Cloutier

Finance Chair

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." — 2 Corinthians 9:6–8 (NIV)

As a church family, we give not out of obligation, but out of gratitude for all God has already done for us. Scripture teaches that generosity is measured not by the size of the gift, but by the spirit in which it is offered. When we give from the heart, God multiplies the impact, blessing both the giver and the ministry. Through our shared faithfulness, God equips us to continue every good work He has called us to do.



Hello Friends,

As we enter this sacred season of generosity, we are reminded once again that small acts of kindness can transform someone's entire holiday. Angels have long been symbols of warmth, love, and hope. This year, *you* can be an angel to a family in our community who is struggling to provide that same warmth and love to their children.

Beginning November 16, our Salvation Army Angel Tree will be displayed in the narthex. Each tag on the tree represents a real child whose family could use our support. When you choose a tag, you are choosing to lift the spirits of a family who may be facing financial hardship, unexpected challenges, or a difficult season of life.

Your generosity truly matters. It brings dignity, allows parents to feel included in their children's joy, and reminds families that they are not alone.

For each tag you select, please provide:

- **Two toys for each child**
- **Two outfits for each child**
- **Stocking stuffers to brighten their Christmas morning**
- **A grocery gift card to help the family share a holiday meal together**

Please do not wrap the gifts. Instead, include a roll of wrapping paper so that parents can enjoy the meaningful experience of wrapping the gifts themselves. This simple act helps restore a sense of celebration, pride, and ownership for the family.

All gifts for the Adopt-A-Family project should be placed under the tree no later than Sunday, November 30.

We are grateful for every act of giving, so if you need a little more time, please just let Lorna know.

Right on the heels of our Adopt-A-Family effort, we will begin supporting families connected to Dr. Crisp Elementary School. Because needs at the school often arise quickly and unexpectedly, we begin this project slightly later. Family tags for Dr. Crisp will be available on the tree starting November 20.

For this ministry:

- Gifts should be unwrapped
- Items may be placed by the tree in the narthex
- Gift bags may be donated separately and are always appreciated
- All gifts are due no later than Sunday, December 13

Again, if you need some extra time, simply let Lorna know. Communication helps us ensure every family receives what they need before Christmas.

In addition to meeting immediate needs, your participation in these ministries plants seeds of hope that last far beyond Christmas morning. A simple toy, a warm outfit, or a shared meal can help rebuild a family's sense of stability and remind them that the community cares. Many parents have shared in past years that these gifts brought not only joy, but also a renewed sense of dignity during a difficult season. Your kindness becomes part of their story. It's a reminder that compassion is alive and well, and that grace often arrives through ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Your generosity is a blessing. Each gift, outfit, stocking stuffer, and grocery card is more than a holiday item, it is a message of hope. You are reminding families that God sees them, that the folks at Arlington Street United Methodist Church loves them, and that our community surrounds them with compassion.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ during this season of giving. Your kindness shines brighter than any Christmas light.

In Christ,

Lorna Stickney

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." — Matthew 25:35–40 (NIV)



As the calendar turns and we step into a brand-new year, many of us feel the familiar pull to make resolutions. We promise ourselves we will exercise more, spend less, eat better, declutter the house, or finally master that hobby we've been putting off. These are good goals, but all too often, resolutions fade by February (sometimes even mid-January) because they don't touch the deeper places of our lives. They improve our habits, but not always our hearts.

This year, what if we aimed for resolutions that are not just *productive*, but *meaningful*? What if we chose commitments that help us grow in faith, strengthen our relationships, and shape who we are becoming?

Before we make a single list or set a single goal, it may be helpful to pause and ask a simple but powerful question: *What do I want God to grow in me this year?* Not "What do I want to accomplish?" or "What do I want to fix?" but "Who am I becoming?" When our resolutions flow from that deeper place, from our identity as God's beloved and our desire to live with purpose, they take on new life. They become less about striving and more about aligning. Less about pressure and more about transformation. And that is where truly meaningful change begins.

Meaningful resolutions don't have to be dramatic or complicated. They simply need to be rooted in purpose. Below are a few thoughtful places to begin:

A meaningful resolution can also begin with gratitude. Taking time each day to notice God's goodness, to name the blessings we often overlook, and to acknowledge the people who shape our lives can shift our entire perspective. Gratitude softens our hearts, deepens our awareness of God's presence, and reminds us that even in seasons of uncertainty, grace is still unfolding around us. When we root our year in thankfulness, everything else grows from a place of abundance rather than scarcity.

Resolve to Be Present

We live in a world full of noise, hurry, and distraction. A meaningful resolution might be as simple as deciding to be fully present; to give our loved ones our attention, to slow down enough to listen, and to notice the quiet blessings of everyday life. Being present is one of the greatest gifts we can offer.

Resolve to Practice Grace

Grace can transform relationships, communities, and even our own spirits. Choosing to respond with kindness, patience, and empathy—especially when it’s difficult—is a powerful resolution. It reflects the heart of Christ and gives others a glimpse of God’s love.

Resolve to Deepen Your Faith

Set aside a few minutes each day or each week to pray, read scripture, or reflect. You don’t need hours of silence or complex journals. Consistency builds connection, and connection builds strength. A deeper walk with God naturally overflows into every area of life.

Resolve to Serve

Service is one of the clearest ways we live out our faith. Whether it’s volunteering at church, checking in on a neighbor, writing a card to someone who’s struggling, or helping a local ministry; small acts of service create big movements of hope.

Resolve to Let Go

Sometimes the most meaningful resolution is releasing what weighs us down. Maybe it’s resentment, fear, perfectionism, or something from the past that no longer serves us. Letting go creates room for healing, joy, and new beginnings.

A Resolution That Lasts

The most lasting resolutions are the ones that shape our hearts, deepen our compassion, and draw us closer to God and one another. As we enter this New Year, may we choose goals that help us become more grounded, more generous, more faithful, and more ourselves.

And perhaps the most meaningful resolution of all is simply this: Step into the New Year with hope, trusting that God is already there, preparing the way.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” — Romans 12:1–2 (NIV)



At Arlington Street United Methodist Church, we believe that faith is meant to be lived out in practical, loving action. It is not enough to worship within our walls; we are called to step out into the world and embody Christ's compassion, care, and justice. Two of the most meaningful ways our congregation does this is through our partnership with Catie's Closet and the Nashua Soup Kitchen, two local organizations changing lives every single day.

Catie's Closet provides clothing and toiletries to children and teens who are experiencing homelessness or facing financial hardship. What makes the organization so special is the dignity it offers. Instead of handing out random items, Catie's Closet creates school-based "stores" where students can choose what they need in a welcoming, boutique-like environment. Clean clothes, hygiene products, and personal essentials may seem like small things, but for a child navigating instability, these items can be life-changing.

Our church has joyfully supported Catie's Closet through donation drives, collecting toiletries, new socks, leggings, hoodies, winter coats, and more. Each contribution, whether big or small, helps a child feel confident, comfortable, and ready to learn. It is a simple act with profound ripple effects: attendance improves, self-esteem rises, and hope is restored. When we give to Catie's Closet, we are helping children feel seen, valued, and cared for.

The Nashua Soup Kitchen has long been a pillar of support for vulnerable individuals and families in our city. With daily meals, a well-stocked food pantry, job and housing resources, and community outreach programs, they ensure that no neighbor is left hungry or unsupported. Their mission extends beyond food. They offer dignity, stability, and a compassionate presence for those facing hardship.

Our congregation's involvement includes food collections, volunteering, supporting their seasonal drives, and strengthening community awareness of the needs right here in Nashua. Whether we are sorting canned goods, preparing meal bags, or donating essential items, our efforts help fill plates, warm hearts, and remind our neighbors that they are not alone.

These partnerships reflect who we strive to be as a church: a community that shows up where love is needed most. When we support Catie's Closet and the Nashua Soup Kitchen, we are living the Gospel, ensuring that children have clothes that help them flourish, and that families have meals to carry them through hard days.

In a world where many people feel overlooked or forgotten, these ministries help restore a sense of worth and belonging. When a child steps into a Catie's Closet space and finds clothes that fit, or when a family receives a warm meal at the Nashua Soup Kitchen, they experience more than material support. They encounter compassion. They encounter hope. They encounter the love of Christ made real through human hands and hearts working together. These moments of connection may seem small, but they can shift someone's entire outlook, reminding them that they matter, that their community cares, and that brighter days are possible.

Christ calls us to serve the vulnerable, to lift up the hurting, and to offer ourselves in generosity and compassion. Through these ministries, ASUMC is doing exactly that.

Thank you to everyone who donates, volunteers, spreads the word, and prays for these organizations. Your kindness matters. It makes a difference. It is a living testimony of who we are as followers of Christ.

As we continue serving our community, we invite you to remain engaged, whether by donating items, offering your time, or simply lifting these ministries in prayer. Together, we are helping build a city where every person has what they need to thrive.

If your heart is stirred by the mission of Catie's Closet and the Nashua Soup Kitchen, we encourage you to take the next step. Your participation, in any form, strengthens our community.

Bring toiletries, clothing, pantry staples, or other essential items to support children and families in need. Offer your time at a distribution drive, help sort donations, or serve meals to our neighbors. Tell others about these ministries and the hope they bring to our city. Lift up the individuals and families impacted by hardship, and all who serve them with compassion.

Will you join us in this mission of love? Together, we can expand our reach, deepen our impact, and continue living out Christ's call to serve. Your hands, your gifts, and your prayers truly make a difference. Let's keep building a community where every person is valued, supported, and given the chance to flourish.



Every year as Lent approaches, many of us start thinking about what we should “give up.” Chocolate, caffeine, social media, dessert, shopping. All of these are common choices, and for many people, they can be helpful reminders of the season. But Lent is not simply about deprivation. It is about preparation. It is about making space. It is about drawing closer to God by removing what distracts, distorts, or diminishes the life we are called to live.

The heart of Lent is transformation. It is an intentional return to God’s presence, God’s purpose, and God’s priorities. So this year, instead of choosing something that is merely difficult to part with for 40 days, what if we chose something meaningful? Something that actually shifts our spirit, strengthens our character, or opens space for God to move?

Meaningful Lenten practices don’t always involve giving up a physical object. Sometimes they require us to release something that clutters the heart more than any possession ever could. Below are a few thoughtful, spiritually grounded ideas to consider for this Lenten journey:

Give Up Hurry

We live in a culture that glorifies busyness, urgency, and constant motion. What would it look like to slow your pace? To walk instead of rush? To breathe before reacting? Giving up hurry creates room for reflection, compassion, and presence, all of which draw us closer to God.

Give Up Comparison

Few things steal joy faster than comparing ourselves to others, their achievements, their families, their finances, their gifts. Lent invites us to release the need to measure our lives against someone else’s and embrace gratitude for who God uniquely created us to be.

Give Up Negative Self-Talk

So many of us speak to ourselves in ways we would never speak to another person. What if this Lent, you challenged harsh inner narratives? What if you replaced them with words of truth, kindness, and grace? Giving up self-criticism opens the door to healing and wholeness.

Give Up Grudges

Forgiveness is one of the most powerful acts of faith, and one of the hardest. Giving up a grudge doesn't mean forgetting the hurt; it means choosing not to let the hurt define you. Releasing resentment frees you to move forward with peace and dignity.

Give Up Excess Noise

Not just literal noise, but the noise of constant media, screens, and distractions. Create intentional quiet, even 10 minutes a day, to sit with God. In the stillness, we often hear what we could not hear in the noise.

Give Up the Need to Control

For many of us, surrender is the hardest spiritual discipline. But Lent is a season that reminds us, gently, yet firmly, that God is God, and we are not. When we loosen our grip on outcomes, we make space for trust, humility, and faith to grow.

A Lenten Fast That Changes Us

Whatever you choose to lay down this season, choose something that frees you rather than frustrates you... something that leads to deeper faith rather than fleeting discomfort... something that invites transformation rather than simply testing willpower.

Lent is not about proving our discipline; it is about preparing our hearts. It is not about giving up something small; it is about giving God greater room to work.

As we move toward Easter, may your Lenten practice, whatever it may be, draw you closer to Christ, clarify what truly matters, and open your life to renewal, hope, and resurrection.

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.” – Psalm 51:1-12 (NIV)



Celebrating New Life: Our Annual Easter Plant Sale

Each spring, as the earth begins to wake from winter and signs of new life appear all around us, our church joins in the celebration through a beloved tradition: our annual Easter plant sale. These beautiful flowers do more than brighten our sanctuary. They symbolize the hope, renewal, and resurrection that lie at the heart of the Easter season.

For many years, members of Arlington Street United Methodist Church have purchased Easter lilies, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths in honor or in memory of loved ones. These plants fill our worship space with color and fragrance on Easter Sunday, creating a joyful and sacred atmosphere for one of the most meaningful days of our faith. After worship, individuals take their plants home, share them with family, or deliver them to friends and neighbors as a gesture of care.

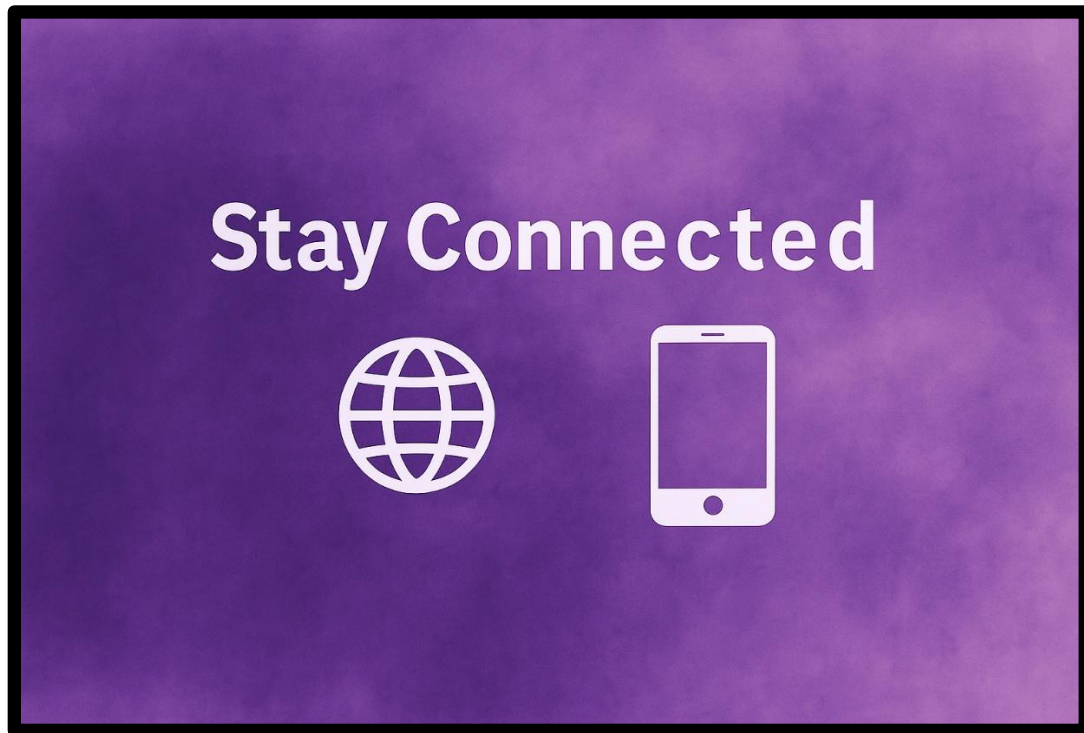
The Easter plant sale is more than a fundraiser or tradition. It is a ministry. Each plant represents a prayer, a remembrance, or a celebration. Many families use this moment to honor someone who has shaped their faith, touched their heart, or walked alongside them through life. Others choose to bless someone in need of encouragement by gifting them a plant after the service. In this way, the beauty of Easter extends far beyond our sanctuary.

All proceeds from the plant sale support the ministries of ASUMC. Your purchase helps sustain our church's work throughout the year, from worship and community outreach to pastoral care and mission efforts. Every bloom helps our congregation continue growing in love and service.

Order forms will be available in the bulletin, online, and in the narthex. You may choose to dedicate a plant in honor or memory of someone special, or simply purchase one to beautify our Easter celebration. Orders must be submitted by the deadline to ensure availability.

Thank you to everyone who participates year after year and to those joining us for the first time. Your support brings beauty to our Easter worship and continues the long-standing tradition of filling God's house with signs of new life.

As we journey toward Easter, may each flower remind us of the miracle of resurrection, and the promise that life emerges from darkness, hope rises from despair, and God's love always has the final word.



Stay Connected With Arlington Street UMC!

Be sure to visit our church website at www.asumc.org to explore everything happening in the life of our congregation. You'll find worship schedules, ministry updates, upcoming events, sermon videos, Morsels of Ministry, and resources to help you stay engaged throughout the week. It's the best place to stay informed, inspired, and connected.

We also invite you to join us on [Facebook](#). Just search "Arlington St UMC Nashua NH." By liking, following, sharing, and commenting on our posts, you help spread encouragement, extend our reach, and strengthen our online community. Every interaction helps others discover our church's mission, message, and ministries.

If you would like to receive all church communications, including our weekly Mid-Week and Saturday Mailchimp emails, please send us your email address. You can be added to our mailing list by contacting asumc.adm@gmail.com. Staying connected through email ensures you never miss important updates, announcements, or opportunities to participate in the life of the church.

Visit our website. Follow us on Facebook. Share your email with us. Help us share the love of Jesus Christ in simple, meaningful ways every day!



Gracious and Loving God,

As we step into the year 2026, we pause to give You thanks for Your steady presence through every joy, every challenge, and every unexpected turn of the past year. You have walked beside us in seasons of growth and in seasons of grief, in moments of celebration and moments of uncertainty. For every prayer answered and every blessing unseen, we offer You our gratitude.

Lord, bless this new year with fresh beginnings and renewed purpose. Plant in us the courage to dream boldly and faithfully, trusting that You are already preparing the way ahead. Give us the humility to follow Your leading even when the path is unfamiliar, and fill us with the grace to love one another deeply, generously, and without hesitation.

Strengthen our ministries so that they reflect Your compassion. Energize our worship so that it lifts hearts and honors Your name. Guide our hands, our voices, and our actions as we reach out to our neighbors with kindness, understanding, and hope. Make our church a place where all feel welcome, valued, and loved.

We pray for wisdom to discern Your will in every decision we make. Grant us the openness to embrace change when it leads us closer to Your vision, and the faith to trust that Your Spirit is at work even when we cannot yet see the outcome. Where we are weary, bring renewal. Where we feel divided, sow unity and peace. Where we are uncertain, shine Your guiding light.

May 2026 be a year where our church grows not only in numbers but in spirit, unity, generosity, and joy. Help us to be a community that reflects the heart of Christ in every conversation, every act of service, and every worship gathering. Let our lives be a testimony to Your hope.

We place this new year fully in Your hands, confident that You will lead us forward with love, strength, and unshakeable grace.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



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