

# The Federated Church of East Arlington



January 2019

## Inside This Issue

### Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

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*Magi from the East came to Jerusalem, asking,  
 "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?  
 For we observed his star at its rising,  
 and have come to pay him homage."  
 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened.  
 —Matthew 2.1-3*

Herod is afraid.  
 This is the root of his strutting, his meanness,  
 his cruelty to children, the poor and wayfarers,  
 his disdain of anyone who doesn't adore him.  
 He is afraid. This is the well of his bluster,  
 the spring of his violence and hatred.  
 In his fear he will insult his critics,  
 threaten his neighbors and assault the weak.  
 In desperate fear he will strain for every illusion  
 of his grandeur, his excellence, his power.  
 He is most afraid of light,  
 so he will sow darkness and veil the truth.  
 He is most afraid of love,  
 so he will grow a calloused heart,  
 and tremble at true gentleness.  
 He is most afraid of grace,  
 so he will send his army to slaughter.  
 But he has already lost. This is why he is afraid.  
 He is no match for love and light and grace.  
 His evil has already failed.  
 His victims are already resurrected.  
 We are not afraid.  
 (<https://www.unfoldinglight.net/reflections?month=January-2018>)

We all have our fears. It could be guns or needles. It might be losing a job or a loved one. It is when we let our fears take root and water them with righteous indignation, seeking out only those who we believe think like us that they tend to grow and take over the landscape of our lives. When we make decisions based on fear, we quickly discover that we become less of who we are at our core. When operating from a place of fear, our mode of presenting ourselves to the world becomes enshrouded with defensiveness. We become porcupines who view anyone approaching us with an alternative viewpoint as a possible enemy. This siege mentality has certainly been given room to grow and flourish this past year here in the U.S. How will 2019 be different for us?

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Please submit your articles for  
 the February 2019 issue of the  
 newsletter by

**January 20th**

Thank you for your  
 anticipated cooperation!

# The Federated Church of East Arlington

## Report of the Financial Secretary, Sandra Grover

2018 Congregational Giving Budgeted:	\$65,000.00
Congregational Giving Received 1/1-11/30	\$45,000.39
Building Use 1/1-12/31	\$ 4,052.50
Fundraising	\$ 284.45

**Thank You!**



## Church attendance

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>
12/2		
12/9		
12/16		
12/23		
12/30		

## YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

I hope all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Your Church Council has been working hard on a budget for 2019. We have had one meeting with the congregation and the council has decided, from the comments, to offer 3 different budgets. We are scheduling another preview of the budget on January 13<sup>th</sup> after the worship service.



The annual meeting will be January 20<sup>th</sup> with a lunch of soup and bread followed by the meeting. It is important that all who can, be there to vote. If you can't be there and want to vote you can contact the office or me.



My home phone number is 802-442-9574

Sincerely

Sue Congdon, Council Chair

## Our Church Council

Chair	Susan Congdon		
Treasurer	Alyson Grzyb		
Clerk	Tammy Lang		
Ex Officio	Pastor Kathy Clark		
Building & Grounds	Charlie Jenks	1. Olavi Wirkki	2.
Education	Anne Marie Webber	1. Bernice Gaudette	2. Fred Kerner
Finance	Brian Allen	1. Herb Taylor	2. Raebeth Hitchcock
Worship & Ministry	Fred Kerner	1. Linda McDevitt	2. Phyllis Warren
Missions & Outreach	Sandy Grover	1. Wendy Bahan	2. Jen Rosenthal

**January birthdays**

- 2 – Harriet Welther
- 5 – Jeanne Brumaghim
- 11 – Karen Tibbetts
- 14 – Emily Lampron
- 15 – Richard Maddaloni
- 16 – Janet Clayton
- 18 – Kaylee Bushee
- 26 – Alyson Grzyb
- 28 – Evelyn Pierce
- 29 – Laura Farrington



**January anniversaries**

- 6 – Michelanne and Bill Sylvester

**January Helping Hands**

**Lay Reader:** Olavi Wirkki

**Council Member:**

**January 6:**

- Usher:
- Communion Servers: Phyllis Warren
- Greeter: Michelanne Sylvester
- Sunday School Teacher:
- Sunday School Helper:

**January 13:**

- Usher: Ginny Wilkins
- Greeter: Karen Underhill
- Sunday School Teacher:
- Sunday School Helper:

**January 20:**

- Usher:
- Greeter: Ginny Wilkins
- Sunday School Teacher:
- Sunday School Helper:

**January 27:**

- Usher:
- Greeter: Linda McDevitt
- Altar Panel: Marie Davies and Linda McDevitt

**Fellowship/Coffee Hour**

**January 6:**

**January 13:**

**January 20:** Soup and Bread Lunch—The Council

**January 27:** Ginny Wilkins and Diane McConnell

**Altar Flowers**

**January 6:** Brian Allen

**January 13:**

**January 20:** Brian Allen

**January 27:**



**Southwest Association, UCC  
Prays for their Churches**

Each week one of the churches in the Southwest Association, UCC, will be prayed for by the other churches in the association.

- January 6:** United Church of Dorset and East Rupert
- January 13:** The Federated Church of East Arlington
- January 20:** First Congregational Church of Fair Haven
- January 27:** First Congregational Church of Hubbardton

**Lectionary Readings for January**

**January 6:** Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

**January 13:** Isaian 43:1-7; Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**January 20:** Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

**January 27:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Luke 4:14-21

## Missions and Outreach

The Mission and Outreach team continues to be available to consider requests that come into the church.

Our December mission project was to provide items for the Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless: Thank you for donating:

11 bath towels	15 hand towels
7 toilet paper	4 laundry detergent
5 kitchen trash bags	10 wash clothes
2 paper towels	

And many items of toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, lotion, shampoo, tissues, etc.

Thanks to all who contributed.

We are thankful to be of assistance when our neighbors are in need and thankful for you, our church family.

Sandra Grover  
Wendy Bahan  
Jen Rosenthal



## Offering Envelopes/ Contribution Statements

Offering envelopes for 2019 are available in Bailey. Please take a box and write your name on the numbered list.

Please let me know how you would like your contribution statement for 2018 delivered to you: email, Bailey Hall, office or mailed.

You can contact me any time to get an update of your giving.

Sandy Grover,

Financial Secretary

sandragrover@gmail.com, 375-4982



## De-greening the church

Saturday, January 12th  
9:00 a.m.

Thank you in advance.  
Coffee, donuts, snacks  
will be provided.

## Advent Candlelighters

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Lighters</u>	<u>Visitors to lighters</u>
12/ 2	Jeff and Diane McConnell	Lillian Wood	Kathy Clark
12/09	Raebeth Hitchcock & Marie Davies	Fred Kerner	Gail Rice & Sandy Grover
12/16	The Clark Family	Ben & Jeanne Brumaghim	Sue Wirkki
12/23	Gail Rice & Alyson Grzyb	Al & Janet Clayton	Karen Underhill
12/24	Tammy, Scott & Kelly Lang		



### ADVENTURES IN READING

On December 1st there were 8 of us (Lynn Friberg, Phyllis Warren, Raebeth Hitchcock, Marie Davies, Ginny Wilkins, Sandy Grover, Kathy Clark, Janet Wilson) reporting on books each had read plus answering inquiries from others present about books they may plan to read.

It was an educational and fun time.

Books inquired about include:

- Group 1 "Have a Little Faith" - Mitch Albom
  - "The Chronicles of Narnia—C.S. Lewis
  - Group 11 "Active Hope" - Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone
  - Group 111 "Reading with Patrick" - Michelle Kuo
  - Group IV "I've Got My Eyes on You" - Mary Higgins Clark
- Note: 3 have read this and each said "couldn't put it down"
- "The Litigators" - John Grisham
  - "Summer Hours at the Roberts Library" - Sue Halpern
  - "Nineteen Minutes" - Jody Picoult
  - "The Chilbury Ladies' Choir" - Jennifer Ryan



Hope this helps what you select to read.

May the coming New Year  
Be good to you  
For all of you are very dear  
And thanks for all you do.



*Janet*  
Janet Wilson  
Coordinator

### GRANGE BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 20, 2019

7:30—9:30 a.m.

The Federated Church of East Arlington  
Bailey Hall



Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs,  
sausage gravy, biscuits, home fries, juice,  
coffee, tea.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Saturday, January 19, 2019

11:30 a.m. Bailey Hall

Bring your lunch.

Coffee and Tea provided

Bring your knitting, crocheting or handiwork.

Questions?

Speak with Rae-

beth Hitchcock



**Annual Reports  
Are due to the office  
ASAP**

If you have reports or information to be included in the Annual Report for 2018, please be sure the office has them as soon as possible.

Thank you, Sandy



**Martin Luther King Day Service**

Monday, January 21st  
The Federated Church of East Arlington  
7:00 p.m.

We are pleased to host this special service.

**There is a sign-up sheet in Bailey Hall for refreshments for this service.**



**Bring your own cup or mug**

There is a tray on the pass through counter in the kitchen.

You are welcome to bring your own coffee cup or mug to use each Sunday at Fellowship/Coffee time and it will be placed on the tray after being washed.



**FUNDRAISING**

The Arlington Winter Farmers Market was an opportunity for us to raise money for our general fund.

Many thanks to **ALL** who helped:  
making baked goods, soup, snacks, etc.  
Setting up, taking down  
Stay at the table to sell

**BECAUSE OF ALL YOU DID WE RAISED  
\$430.50**  
for our fundraising line item on the budget.



**Arlington Area Food Shelf**

**WE DID IT**

**2704 POUNDS OF FOOD!**

**Thanks to all who contributed.**

**God is Good, All the Time!**

There are many poinsettias in the sanctuary to be picked up.

Please help yourselves to as many as you would like



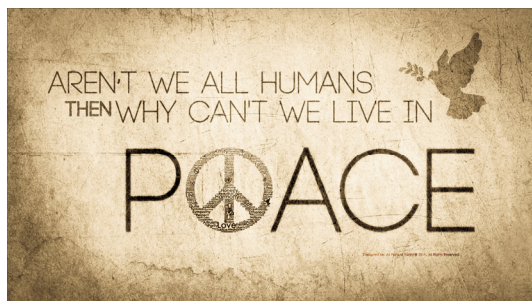
(continued from page 1)

The new year here at church begins with the end of the Christmas season on Epiphany, Sunday, January 6th. The word *Epiphany* refers to the revelation of God who is embodied by Jesus as revealed to the three magi who come to visit him, most likely months or years after his birth, bearing gifts fit for a king. The love that this young child embodies is deemed a threat, the perfect set up for the scared Herod who rather than facing his fear returns it by trying to eliminate all those who could pose a threat to his vise-like grip on power.

While it is tempting to let our fear turn sinister as a form of self-protection, perhaps with this new year we might take a different tact. The loving way may seem hard and totally unrealistic but as we approach what would have been the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this month we might embrace his words, "Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." (We will have the honor of hosting the Martin Luther King Day Service put on by the Inter-faith Council of the Northshire here in our sanctuary on **Monday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m.** Hopefully, many of you will be able to join us)

In her newest book, *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope*, Anne Lamott grudgingly acknowledges the hard to accept instruction of her pastor in the midst of our increasingly divided culture, "Just don't let them get you to hate them." Hate has a way of incapacitating us and making it hard to let the part of us that is kind and generous and loving shine through. I am writing this a few days before Christmas and so I am immersed in thoughts of Luke's Gospel account of the birth of Jesus realizing that the words that were meant to be a response to the terrified shepherds on that night long ago are also meant to stay with us in the midst of the fear and hate that surrounds us: "*Fear not: For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy.*" May love, birthed in deep and abiding joy, be the better path for this new year that has broken forth among us.

Peace and blessings,  
Kathy



A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" That's easy, Daddy..."the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for

Basic  
Information  
Before  
Leaving  
Earth

Creator God, the year turns, and we find ourselves uncertain which way to look...

Back, at the blessings you have bestowed upon us –

friends and family,

wonderful summer weather,

beautiful music and theatre,

times for fun and laughter,

new things learned and old habits put away,

the gift of your presence,

celebrations of life and love.

We give thanks for all that has been.

Or perhaps we look back in another direction, at all we have lost –

friends we have said goodbye to,

opportunities missed,

illness or pain that stole our joy,

news that hit too close to home,

worries about livelihoods and about children and about church and about the world.

We pray for healing of our brokenness,

for the comfort of your care to smooth the rough places

and for your light to shine through the cracks.

Or should we look forward, God?

Behold, you are doing a new thing...

we anticipate with wonder that the best is yet to be.

As the old year gives way to the new,

we long for the peace and justice of your kingdom.

We pray that children of every place may grow up with enough food and water and love,

that violence may at last come to an end,

that our leaders might seek the good of all,

that this might be the year when light outshines shadows.

Give us courage to trust you,

to put our hand in yours and walk forward into the unknown with hope.

As we stand at the gate of the year,

looking backward and forward,

remind us also to look inward and outward,

to seek your kingdom first of all.

Remind us that we can see your image in every face,

that you have made us your family, together,

that this world belongs to you and we are its caretakers,

and that there is a still more excellent way – the way of love, faith, and hope.

May this be the year, O God, that all people see your glory together.

We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

- Rev. Teri Peterson, St. John's Church of Scotland, Gourock



"We, the members of the Federated Church of East Arlington, declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming and Reconciling congregation. With God's help, we include all persons in our fellowship, embracing and celebrating differences of gender identity, marital status, age, mental and physical ability, and sexual orientation, as well as racial, ethnic and socio-economic background. We welcome into our community everyone who seeks to share in the work and worship of the church of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

Consider automating your regular donations with our new **electronic giving** program.

The Federated Church of East Arlington relies on the financial support of the congregation and donations – electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Visit the church office for more information or go to our webpage at

[www.federatedchurchofeastarlington.org](http://www.federatedchurchofeastarlington.org)

or scan the qr code.

Thank you!

**CLIPBOARDS NEED NAMES**

- Choir                  Ushers                  Communion Servers
- Fellowship/Coffee Hour          Altar
- Sunshine          Flowers          Nursery Assistants
- Sunday School Teachers and Helpers
- Special times of need: dinners, etc.

We are a family, we love each other,  
we need each other,  
we are loved by God.



**Arlington Area Food Shelf**

**2018**

2,704 pounds collected.

**We Got over a ton!**



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

**WEBSITE NEWS**

[federatedchurchofeastarlington.org](http://federatedchurchofeastarlington.org)

If you would like to add anything (pictures, articles) to the website or have suggestions, contact

Sue Wirkki, 375-9471 [sue@wirkki.org](mailto:sue@wirkki.org)

Like the Federated Church of East Arlington on Facebook.



**FROM THE OFFICE**

If you know of a prayer request to add or change in the bulletin, please let the office know by Thursday.

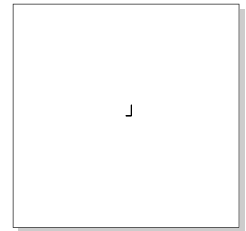
Thank you, Sandy



## The Federated Church of East Arlington

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Visit us on Facebook

The mission of The Federated Church of East Arlington is to welcome all, follow Jesus Christ together, and live God's Word with compassionate service.



## January 2019 Newsletter

### **WARNING**

#### **2018 ANNUAL MEETING**

To discuss the business of the church

Acceptance of Reports

Vote on proposed 2019 budget with  
potential significant cuts

Vote on nominations

Other business

In Bailey Hall immediately following worship  
over a soup and bread lunch.

Please plan to attend. We need everyone's input.

### **SAVE THESE JANUARY DATES**

- Jan. 6 10:00 a.m. Worship-Epiphany
- Jan. 12 9:00 a.m. De-green church
- Jan. 13 11:00 a.m. Budget meeting
- Jan. 19 11:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl
- Jan. 20 7:30-9:30 a.m. Grange  
Breakfast
- Jan. 20 11:00 a.m. Annual Meeting  
following soup and bread lunch
- Jan. 21 7:00 p.m. Martin Luther King,  
Jr. Service at FCEA

