

# The Federated Church of East Arlington



March 2019

## Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

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## Inside This Issue

*“Take nothing for the journey – no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt.” - Luke 9:3*

Having a fairly vivid imagination, it is pretty easy for me to live vicariously through others. Sometimes this is a good thing like when you see someone such as the young Pakistani activist for female education and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai fight back from an assassination attempt on her life to continue to speak out on issues of great importance especially to the world’s young girls. Malala reminds me that when one is on the right side of history, you must use your voice to fight injustice.

And then there are those who I watch in awe and wonder if I will ever learn and act on the lessons they have to share. Marie Kondo, author of *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* and a Netflix series in which she helps folks organize their lives, is one woman I admire from a distance with her gentle and kind way of spreading the message that a whole bunch of us have cluttered homes, work spaces and lives. One of her central themes is that we should only hold onto those things which give us joy and that by eliminating all of the extra “stuff” in our lives we will experience the sense of being free to be more at peace with that which is truly important.

Jesus sent out his disciples to teach and heal and help and encouraged them to travel lightly, recognizing that the most basic thing they carried with them was their faith in God. Lent is about to begin and with it the opportunity to turn toward that which is most important and away from that which weighs us down. We begin our Lenten journey by marking our heads or hands with the remains of last year’s palms, acknowledging that repurposing something is a way of letting go also. Hopefully you will join us at **12:00 noon on Ash Wednesday, March 6 in the church sanctuary as we step into Lent purposefully for a service of prayer, music, scripture and the voluntary reception of ashes.**

For many of us, the 40 days of Lent are a time to seek out ways to add focus and purpose to our lives with and through and beside our living God. Here’s an idea that has been shared widely – get rid of 40 things in 40 days. This means finding an organization – think the Library for books you’ve read or Helping Hand for clothes or shoes in good condition which you haven’t worn this past year – and getting those items to a place where others will use them. To get you started, there will be trash bags you can take for your own de-cluttering in the Narthex and Bailey Hall beginning on Sunday, March 3. Also, don’t feel restricted by the number 40 – you can certainly find more to repurpose.

There will also be a chance to engage with scripture over coffee and conversation on Fridays during Lent. We will gather at **Chauncey’s from March 8 through April 19 at 9:00 a.m.** to explore in more depth the Bible passages that will form the basis for the upcoming Sunday Services of Worship. You do not need any experience with the Bible or Bible Study. Bring whatever Bible you have (if you need one just let me know as we have extras to give away in the office) and you’re welcome to have breakfast or just a cup of something hot and join in the conversation. Come every week or whenever you’re available and invite a friend.

Let us enter together into this sacred season of Lent filled with a sense of the possible and the knowledge that we do not journey alone.

Peace and blessings,

*Kathy*

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

**March, 20th**

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!

# The Federated Church of East Arlington

## Report of the Financial Secretary, Sandra Grover

2019 Congregational Giving Budgeted:	\$ 60,000.00
Congregational Giving Received 1/1-1/31	\$ 2,700.00
Building Use 1/1-1/31	\$ 628.00
Fundraising	\$ 0.00

**Thank You!**



## Church attendance

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>
2/3	31	3
2/10	27	6
2/17	28	8
2/24	28	4

## Your Church Council

I would like to thank the Congregation for their participation in the Annual meeting. This was a truly big step for the congregation and the council. After 2 votes the congregation voted to go to a 75% budget going forward. This will take effect as of March 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. I thank all the church council for all the hard work they did.

Welcome to new members of council;

Olavi Wirkki, Jeff McConnell, Ginny Wilkins, Gail Rice

The congregation also voted to kick off a Capital Campaign fund raising to pay for the painting of the church steeple. Our much appreciated thanks to Brian Allen for chairing the fund raising. Also a request was made to make sure the Owls are put back on the steeple once painted.

There are lots of activities going on in the Church. Be sure to check out Sandy's e-mail notes each week of what is going on at church and how you can help.

God Bless

Sue Congdon

Church Council

## Our Church Council

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

**March birthdays**

- 1 – Caroline Lavallee
- 2 – Bek Davis
- 5 – Felicity Harwood
- 10 – Guli Hendrickson
- 11 – Michelanne Sylvester
- 18 – Lauriane Cornwell
- 18 – Kiera Bushee
- 29 – Nathalie Caler



**March anniversaries**

- 6 – Ben & Jeanne Brumaghim



**Fellowship/Coffee Hour**

**March 3:**

**March 10:**

**March 17:** Tammy and Scott Lang

**March 24:**

**March 31:**

**Altar Flowers**

**March 3:** Karen and Phil Underhill

**March 10:** Lenten altar display by

**March 17:** Dianne McConnell

**March 24:**

**March 31:** No flowers on altar during Lent

**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.

- March 3:** Pittsford Congregational Church
- March 10:** Grace Congregational Church, Rutland
- March 17:** Congregational Church of Rupert
- March 24:** Shrewsbury Community Church
- March 31:** First Congregational Church of Wallingford

**March Helping Hands**

**Lay Reader:** Phyllis Warren

**Council Member:** Ginny Wilkins

**March 3:**

- Usher: Raebeth Hitchcock
- Communion Servers: Diane McConnell,
- Greeter: Michelanne Sylvester
- Sunday School Teacher: Helper

**March 10:**

- Usher: Janet and Ward Wilson
- Greeter: Karen Underhill
- Sunday School Teacher: Karen U. Helper: Bernice G.

**March 17:**

- Usher: Alyson Grzyb
- Greeter: Ginny Wilkins
- Sunday School Teacher: Karen U. Helper: Bernice G.

**March 24**

- Usher: Sandy Grover
- Greeter: Linda McDevitt
- Sunday School Teacher: Helper:

**March 31:**

- Usher:
- Greeter: Ginny Wilkins
- Sunday School Teacher: Tammy Lang Helper: Scott Lang
- Altar:
- Sunshine:
- Altar display by Dianne McConnell



**Lectionary Readings for March**

- March 3:** Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 ; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)
- March 10:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13
- March 17:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
- March 24:** Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13, 42-50; Luke 13:1-9
- March 31:** Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

## A message from Bishop Devadhar: General Conference 2019

February 26, 2019

Bishop Devadhar *God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with tumult. - Psalm 46:1-3*

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We have just concluded the special session of the General Conference in St Louis. During this gathering of the global church, we worshiped and prayed together and spent time in Christian conferencing, but much remains unresolved and unknown.

Though the actions of the General Conference are still subject to review by the Judicial Council, we return with a *Book of Discipline* that moves us further from full inclusion. This is disheartening at best and despairing at worst.

While our call as United Methodists is to do good, do no harm, and stay in love with God ... I suspect we have fallen far shorter on the first two than the last. I ask that we spend time in prayerful confession of the ways our church has caused deep pain to beloved children of God, particularly LGBTQIA+ and their allies. No matter what plan you supported for the way forward, remember that when one part of the body suffers, so do we all - and so now we are all in need of healing.

My prayers continue for our church and for each of you in this covenantal community, for all LGBTQIA+ children of God and their allies, as well as for those who are listening to our words and watching our actions.

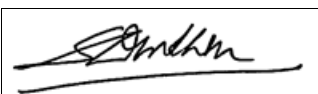
I continue to pray for a day when we can live together in the unified Spirit in a fully inclusive church. I celebrate the beauty and rich variety of gifts that God has created, and I have faith that God will create, in and through us, a beautiful incarnation of the Body of Christ for the transformation of the whole world.

As you gather with your congregations this Sunday, I pray you will build up one another in love, caring for each other's needs, and praying for God's spirit to inspire you to witness to Christ's love in your communities.

In the next two weeks, your superintendents, in coordination with our delegation to this special session of General Conference, have scheduled opportunities for you to gather for support, prayer, and "[Courageous Conversations](#)" with one another as we process the actions - and inactions - of the general church and seek a faithful response. I hope and pray these will be opportunities for us to do good and begin to heal while we stay in love with God and each other.

May our faithful God hold us in strength as we witness to the powerful love of Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit, for such a time as this.

In Christ's Love,



### Missions and Outreach

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

\$47.06 was deposited for Holy Joe's Café.

We are thankful for you, our church family, who make it possible for us to be of assistance when our neighbors are in need.

Sandra Grover  
Wendy Bahan  
Gail Rice



### 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



It's time to put in 2019 scholarship applications! Do you know someone in the Arlington, Sandgate, Sunderland area who is graduating high school this year and going off to college? Do you know a current college or graduate student in the area? Tell them to visit the Federated Church website to get their scholarship application today!

Applications are due by April 15th.

<https://www.federatedchurchofeastarlington.com/scholarship-info/>



### HIGH TEA!

When was the last time you shared high tea with a friend or neighbor? Well, put on last year's Easter bonnet and consider sponsoring a table for six or eight of your favorite people - and enjoy HIGH TEA with new and favorite friends.

Date: April 13, 2019

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: The Federated Church of East Arlington

\*Free will offering to fund the painting of the church steeple

If you wish to participate or sponsor a table, please contact Karen Underhill at 375-0267 or call the church office at 375-2548.



## ADVENTURES IN READING

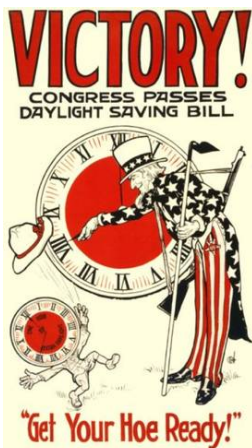
It seems to me the month of March has come upon us quickly. March was named for the Roman god of war, Mars. March celebrates Saint Patrick's Day and Daylight Savings begins. According to the Farmer's Almanac it was Germany that officially adopted the system in 1915 as a fuel saving measure, followed in 1916 by the British and in 1918 the USA Congress passed the Standard Time Act. In 1920 Congress repealed the law due to opposition from dairy farmers. Then, during World War 11, Daylight Saving Time was started again to save fuel and has continued ever since.

On my calendar March is the month each year that I check what I've read from our list:

- 1) do I have at least one book read in each of the categories?
- 2) do I have suggested books for next year's lists?
- 3) do I have the insert to fill out the information?

This year I am asking you to have your completed reading report for the 2018-2019 year by May 15th. Give it to me or mail it. I plan to be in Vermont this Spring.

*Janet S. Wilson*  
Coordinator



### GRANGE BREAKFAST

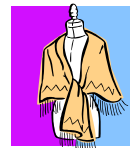
Sunday, March 17, 2019

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, March 16, 2019

11:30 a.m. Bailey Hall

Bring a dish to share for our

***12 year anniversary celebration.***

Coffee and Tea provided

Bring your knitting, crocheting or handiwork.

Questions?

Speak with Raebeth Hitchcock



### P B & J SLAM

Donate jars of PEANUT BUTTER and JELLY  
To SLAM out hunger in Bennington County!

Help us collect the most jars by March 31st.

Donations will directly benefit  
The Kitchen Cupboard  
HIS Pantry  
BROC  
Arlington Food Shelf  
Manchester Community Cupboard



BCCH (Bennington Coalition for the Homeless)  
"Working Together, Making a Difference"

"Adopt a Night" initiative. \$235 to adopt a night provides a night of warm shelter, food, and supportive services to up to 52 men, women and children. We FCEA would like to adopt Easter night. To donate towards the \$235, put your check in the collection plate, give check or cash to Financial Secretary, Sandy Grover or send to the church office. Thank you.

### 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.



Online Giving

Our church offers electronic giving, which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. If you are writing checks and preparing envelopes each week, you will especially appreciate electronic giving. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church. Just let our financial secretary, Sandy Grover 375-4982, know you are interested or contact her at the church office, 375-2548.



night  UT

community space for the  
lgbtq+ community

Saturday, March 16  
5-8p.m.\*

\*or until the fun has ended!

**Board Games, Cards,  
Puzzles, Trivia  
Pizza & Snacks  
Childcare Provided**

Second Congregational Church  
 115 Hillside St, Bennington  
An Open & Affirming Congregation

?s: markblank@myfairpoint.net

**co-sponsored by  
The Gamers Grotto**

# Mac and Cheese Extravaganza and Dessert Auction

at the Federated Church of East Arlington  
Ice Pond Road, East Arlington, VT

**Sunday, March 24th**

4:30 auction, 5:30 dinner



**Free will offering**  
to benefit the programming of

**Happy Days Playschool & Federated Church of East Arlington**



For more information contact Happy Days Playschool  
at 375-6039 or [happydayscarol10@comcast.net](mailto:happydayscarol10@comcast.net) or the  
Federated Church office at 375-2548





**“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**

**2019**

Total to date: 117 pounds



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.

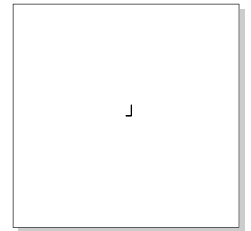
Thank you, Sandy



## The Federated Church of East Arlington

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Arlington, Vermont 05250  
802-375-2548  
federatedchurch05250@gmail.com  
www.federatedchurchofeastarlington.org  
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.



## March 2019 Newsletter

### SAVE THESE MARCH DATES

- 3/2 10:15 a.m.—Adventures in Reading at Janet Wilson's home
- 3/3 10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion
- 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 3/6 12 p.m.—Ash Wednesday Service
- 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29 9:00 a.m.—Bible Study, Chauncey's
- 3/10 Daylight Savings time begins
- 3/16 11:30 a.m.- Prayer Shawl Ministry 12th anniversary potluck lunch
- 3/17 7:30-9:30 a.m.-Grange Breakfast
- 3/24 4:30—Happy Days Dessert Auction  
5:30—Happy Days Mac & Cheese Dinner
- 3/31 10:00 a.m.—Receive One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

