

The Federated Church of East Arlington



May 2019

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy email: ksclark58@yahoo.com Cell 733-2162 Parsonage phone: 375-2427

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, selfcontrol; against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

We could use a big dose of kindness right about now, couldn't we? The mean-spiritedness of so many is on full display on our airwaves and our screens. Without a thought for how words will land or the load that others are carrying, it feels like a tremendous unloading of dump trucks full of unhappiness that has morphed into anger and bitterness and is being poured over us. Every so often the light of kindness will show through, especially during times of crisis like a natural disaster or a mass shooting. It seems, though, that if we could create a culture of kindness we may not be rushing in during devastation but rather already standing there shoulder to shoulder.

An image that appeared on-line this week that speaks of the power of kindness shows a couple sitting on a crowded bus and beside them is a young mother and baby. The description of the picture written by the photographer said: "A Taoist (me) gives up his seat so a Hasidic couple could sit together. They scoot over so a Muslim mother could sit and nurse her baby, on Easter Sunday." The writer goes on to point out "This is my America: people letting people be people." Kindness is the way we demonstrate our humanity to each other. Treating others with gentleness and respect in spite of differences is how we lift up rather than tear down.

To be known as a kind church filled with kind people is an identity that can open doors, especially these days when there can be a rush to judgment about church. So often church and church people are lumped together with whatever dishonest or destructive behavior is the latest story covered in the news. To lead with kindness can be an antidote to the hate-filled language that is dividing us. As we move toward creating a world of kindness, travel with these words from the poet Naomi Shihab Nye titled "Kindness:

> Before you know what kindness really is you must lose things, feel the future dissolve in a moment like salt in a weakened broth. What you held in your hand,

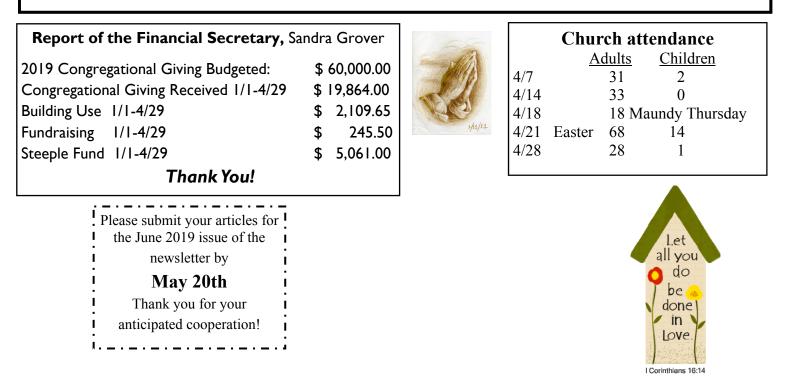
what you counted and carefully saved,
all this must go so you know
how desolate the landscape can be
between the regions of kindness.
How you ride and ride
thinking the bus will never stop,
the passengers eating maize and chicken
will stare out the window forever.

Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho lies dead by the side of the road. You must see how this could be you, how he too was someone who journeyed through the night with plans and the simple breath that kept him alive. Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside, you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing. You must wake up with sorrow. You must speak to it till your voice catches the thread of all sorrows and you see the size of the cloth. Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore, only kindness that ties your shoes and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread, only kindness that raises its head from the crowd of the world to say It is I you have been looking for, and then goes with you everywhere like a shadow or a friend.

> Peace and blessings, Kathy

Page 2

The Federated Church of East Arlington



Your Church Council

It was a busy Easter for all and hope that everyone enjoyed it.

We are starting our Capital Campaign for the Church Steeple. Letters will be in the mail soon.

Pastor Kathy will be on sabbatical May 20th thru June 11th. We will have some wonderful speakers including Karen Underhill. Celebration Sunday will be May 19th for the Sunday school and Teachers.

There was a work party to clean up Bailey Hall and including cleaning bathrooms and taking down the wall paper. A special thanks to Ginny who cleaned all three bathrooms with scrub brush and determination. They are sparkling even before the painting is done. We are also having the hood and stove in kitchen cleaned - much needed.

Much is getting accomplished with the help of many hands thanks to all.

If anyone has questions please feel to call me at 802-442-9574

Peace be with you

Sue Congdon Council Chair

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.	
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	

May 2019

May birthdays

- 8 Vic Lampron
- 9 Kathy Hayden-Maddaloni
- 12 Karen Underhill
- 14 Lynn Friberg
- 17 Landry King
- 19 Kathy Frost
- 21 Sharon Davis
- 25 Rick Daniels
- 27 Nicholas Ritchie

May Anniversaries

12 – Vic & Michele Lampron

Fellowship/Coffee Hour

- <u>May 5:</u> Janet and Ward Wilson <u>May 12:</u> <u>May 19:</u>
- <u>May 26</u>:

Altar Flowers

- May 5: Brian Allen
- May 12: Brian Allen
- <u>May 19:</u>
- <u>May 26</u>:

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.

- May 5: Federated Church of Castleton
- May 12: Congregational Union Church of South Wallingford
- May 19: Union Church of Proctor
- May 26: United Church of Dorset and East Rupert



Lectionary Readings for May

<u>May 5:</u>	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30 Revelations 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
<u>May 12:</u>	Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23 Revelations 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
<u>May 19:</u>	Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148 Revelations 21:1-6; John 13:31-35
<u>May 26</u> :	Acts 16:9-185; Psalm 67 Revelations 21:10,22:5; John 14:23-29

May Helping Hands
Lay Reader: Karen Underhill
Council Member: Sue Congdon
May 5:
Usher: Ginny Wilkins
Communion Servers: Karen Underhill, Ginny Wilkins,
Greeter: Michelanne Sylvester
Sunday School Teacher: Helper:
May 12:
Usher:
Greeter: Karen Underhill
Sunday School Teacher: Helper:
May 19:

Usher: Diane McConnell

Greeter: Ginny Wilkins Sunday School Teacher:

Usher: Alyson Grzyb Greeter: Linda McDevitt

Altar: Raebeth Hitchcock Sunshine: Raebeth Hitchcock

<u>May 26</u>

Helper:





FAITH AND NATURE CAMP



Held at a lovely rural farm setting with nearby woods and water. Curriculum consists of outdoor skills, environmental stewardship, and fun.

Sponsored by Southwest Association of the VT UCC

Committee on Spirituality and Education

When: Monday thru Friday, June 24-28 from 9-3 each day

Pick-up and drop-off from your church will be earlier and later than this time

Where: 30 Orchard Rd in Middletown Springs, VT

Who: Children 7-14 years old

Fee: \$75 per child

Scholarships are available – Please contact Jane LoBrutto dorsetchurch@gmail.com

Faith and Nature Camp includes activities that:

Help children value and appreciate the sanctity of our natural resources. Integrate the creative process in nature as spiritual.

Teach ways to conserve our precious & limited natural resources in our daily lives. Ultimately nature and humanity are locked in a unity that nurtures a more whole some & healthy life: body and soul.

Activities Will Include:

Crafts Worship Music Outdoor games, activities, and projects

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR APPLICATION AND DETAILS

CAMP REGISTRATI ON

If you have any questions and to register, please contact Jane LoBrutto at the Dorset Church 802-867-2260 or <u>dorsetchurch@gmail.com</u>. Applications and checks made out to **Southwest Association**, may be mailed to:

FAITH AND NATURE CAMP c/o Dorset Church

PO Box 263

Dorset, VT 05251

Child's Name:		
Age: DOB:		
Parent/Guardian's Name:		
Mailing Address:		
Home Phone:		
Work Phone:		
E-Mail:		
Emergency Contact:		
Phone Number:		
Affiliated Church:		

Any allergies or special needs that we should be aware of:

There will be a more detailed camper packet that will be sent out when it gets closer to camp.

Children will need to bring a bag lunch daily

ADVENTURES IN READING

Spring is so welcome. It's such a beautiful season prompting us to again enjoy summer.

As printed previously, members' 2018-2019 reports are requested to be in my hands by May 15th.

We thank Nancy Schoerke who has again agreed to type and print our 2019-2020 lists of recommended reading plus report pages.

A request—for those in our congregation who also read books—it would be helpful if you could recommend books you have enjoyed for placement on our list of books to read during the coming year. I would be happy to accept book titles, book author and a brief statement about the book, for this purpose.

In advance—THANK YOU.





Happy Mothers' Day

Remember our Veterans

Welcome back to members from winter vacations





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



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Saturday, May 18, 2019 11:30 a.m. Bailey Hall Bring your lunch, Coffee and Tea provided Bring your knitting, crocheting or handiwork. Questions? Speak with Raebeth Hitchcock





April 29, 2019

Board of Directors

David Nichols President Ellen Leeds Vice President Robert Lemonik Treasurer Keld Alstrup Secretary

John Cilio Rev. Kathy Clark Sandi Hedman Bill Hoyt John Jacobi Ellen Leeds David Low Curt Merrow Mark Onorato Chris Ponessi Allan Sullivan Linda Joy Sullivan Carla Vigue

Emeritus Harry Chandler Monica Knorr

Staff

Executive Director Susan Sommer

Office Administrator Anne Pearce

Bookkeeper Sue Wilborn

ReSale Store Manager Sue Congdon

Construction Manager Tony D'Onofrio

PO Box 1159 Manchester, VT 05254 802-367-1000 bchabitatoffice@gmail.com

RE: Habitat Home Repair and Ramp Program

Dear Friends of the Faith Community -

In addition to our homeownership – new construction program, Bennington County Habitat for Humanity also has a Home Repair Program here in Bennington County.

We do minor home repairs and build ramps for income-qualified people who want to remain safely in their homes. Our minor home repairs have included replacing exterior decks and staining a house. We will consider minor interior repairs, as well, depending on the project.





Recently, we built ramps with three

homeowners, two of whom could not come home from their health care facilities until they had a ramp, and one of whom could not get out of his house without a ramp.

Included with this letter is our **Home Repair Flyer with Income Guidelines**. Please let us know if you would like us to print more flyers for you in color or if you want us to email you the PDF of the Flyer for your own use.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work with people in need of home repairs. Please let us know if there is someone in your community who needs our help.

Contact me anytime if you have questions about this program.

In Partnership, Susan Sommer **Executive** Director



Does Your Home Need Minor Repairs?

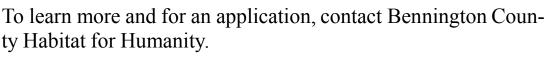
Our home repair program focuses on interior and

exterior minor repairs that

make a home safer, healthier, and more accessible. For example, among other minor repairs, we build ramps so folks can get home and stay home safely.

Applicants must:

- Have lived in Bennington County for at least one full year prior to application date.
- Own their own home.
 - Be able to repay the cost of materials either upon completion or with an interest free loan.
 - Earn no more than 80% of the median income for Bennington County.



802-367-1000, bchabitatoffice@gmail.com, P.O. Box 1159, Manchester, VT 05254





My mother was my first theology teacher Now it's my turn to hold the memory of faith for her. By Craig Barnes

It was my mother's 90th birthday party, held in one of those restaurants called something like "The Abbey." The res-taurant moved into an old church building after the congregation moved out or died out. My mother spent her entire adult life as a church lady, so I couldn't figure out if my brother and I had found the perfect setting for her party or the worst one. My mother, like the church building, is not what she used to be.

Since her last stroke, dementia frequently overwhelms her, leaving her unsure of the people and the world around her. But often something trivial will break through the clouds, and she'll cling to it by talking about it over and over. I recently spent more than an hour listening to her remind me that February is a very short month. Sometimes she doesn't know my brother and me, though more often she just gets us mixed up.

Other family and friends joined us at the restaurant. Mom was happy to be there, I think, but it bothered her that she -wasn't clear about her responsibilities. It was painful to watch this genteel southern woman, who was once the pastor's wife and who always had exactly the right gracious response, struggle as she tried to be the hostess for her own birthday party.

At one point she stood behind her walker and offered a well-rehearsed one-minute speech. "I love you and pray for you," she said several times. And then she offered some bad theology about how God keeps a record of when we say we'll pray for someone but do not. "We're supposed to do what we say we'll do," she said.

I understood her struggle to say something appropriate and to recover her cherished self-image as a leader of a church Bible study. But she broke my heart when I heard her trying to teach us about divine record keeping. That's not something she used to say.

Like Timothy in the New Testament, my brother and I learned a great faith on the lap of our mother. I have no idea when exactly I realized I was a Christian, because she taught me that our faith in a God of grace was just as true as the sky above me. She was my first theology teacher, teaching me about a merciful savior who forgets our sins. That was then.

My father was a fundamentalist pastor. He was charismatic but also troubled and dangerously volatile. Mom's life with him was hard and loveless. Somewhere along the way she decided it was her calling to protect her boys from him. So she didn't just teach us faith; she also sacrificed her life for what she believed she was called to do. In her day a pastor's wife couldn't run away with her children. By the time we were almost grown, she was nearly de-

Ever since, my brother and I have been trying to give her absolution and even support for her decision to leave. It's been a tough sell. After she left us she turned toward the judgment side of our faith and settled in there.

We keep trying to help her see that even her desperation pointed us back to the enormity of her gift of a great faith. Our father left shortly after she did, and we two boys took on the world on our own. But we always knew that when we passed through the deep waters God would be with us. Mom taught us that. The faith held us when she no longer could.

These days the meaning of the faith appears to be slipping away from her. When she "goes into Bible teacher mode," as my brother and I say, she doesn't make a lot of sense. Her inspiration from Jesus, her guilt, and even her cardiologist's advice get intermingled as the gospel. The only message that breaks through is her broken heart.

So now it's our turn to hold the grace for her. That's the way a family of faith works. And it's why we have church.

Our faith has never been about her faith or my faith. If in the end faith was about what "I believe," then it would be up to me to end life with a peak of inspiration and theological insight. But what if we peak sooner than our years endure? What if at the end we are not as much as we used to be? What if we need someone else to hold our memories of grace before our years of failure run out?

Over the years, as a pastor, I've lost track of how many times I have taken communion to people with some form of dementia. What does it mean to "do this in remembrance of me" when someone has run out of remembrances? It means the memory of Christ can never be contained by the mental capacities of any of its members. Sometimes the community of faith holds the memories of saving grace for us.

It's not that different when a congregation vows in a worship service to hold the faith for an infant that was just baptized. Then we are waiting for the child to grow into belief. At the other end of life, we're receiving the faith back from those whose memories are too worn out to hold their belief. The great faith belongs to the church, and we're always holding it for someone.

The Federated Church of East Arlington

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless April 21 at 5:21 PM





Happy Easter! BCCH would like to thank the Federated Church of East Arlington for sponsoring a night of shelter, food, and services to the 45 men, women, and children currently staying in our shelters on this Easter night. Their congregation has been supporting the work that we do for years. We couldn't do what we do for those who are experiencing homelessness throughout our community without the help from friends like FCEA. Their unwavering support continues to make a major impact in the lives of those we serve. THANK YOU Rev. Kathy Clark and members of your generous congregation!

For more information on the BCCH Adopt-A-Night program, visit www.bcchvt.org







AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY, POST 69



PARADE AND CONTEST OPEN TO THE PUBLIC MAY 27, 2019 11:00 a.m.

Build a float:



1st Place Prize \$300.00 2nd Place Prize \$200.00 3rd Place Prize \$100.00

Decorate your bicycle



 1^{st} , 2^{nd} , 3^{rd} and 4^{th} place winners will receive a \$25.00 gift card

Centenniel Celebration of the American Legion

For more information, please call: Call: 802-733-1970, or 802-375-6157 (please leave a message),

May 2019

Page II

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS) Blanket Program

Our congregation is actively involved with the Church World Service Blanket Program. For several years we have been helping to keep our neighbors warm by providing blankets to families here in the United States and around the world. For \$10 you can give a blanket that can provide warmth and shelter, comfort and privacy, and healing and hope wherever God's people may need care. May 12th, Mother's Day, is our Blanket Sunday. Checks to FCEA with CWS blankets in the memo.

"They are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity." 2 Corinthians 8:2

CWS KITS I CWS BLANKETS

The CWS Kit and Blanket Programs are two of the many ways Church World Service shares in a hope-filled tomorrow. Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of children and families the world over. Here are some of the places Church World Service has provided kits & blankets through your support of this program.



TOTAL KITS AND BLANKETS DISTRIBUTED GLOBALLY: 174,041



The Federated Church of East Arlington



Volunteer Training

May 11 2019

9PM-12PM

966 Main Street, Bennington

Register @ www.BCCHVT.org

READY TO VOLUNTEER?

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

MAY 11 2019 9AM-12PM 966 Main Street

Join Our Team!

Make a Difference www.bcchvt.org to register

We are currently seeking volunteers at the 966 Main Street Shelter to provide shelter support. Most importantly volunteers help foster an atmosphere of empowerment, acceptance and hope. For more info visit www.bcchvt.org or email Chris@bcchvt.org

Our Contact Information

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless PO Box 4736 Bennington, VT 05201 8024402487

Unsubscribe | Manage email preferences

Missions and Outreach

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

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

Worship and Ministry

The Worship and Ministry Team would like to thank all those who assist in the ministry of our wonderful church family during worship. Please continue to volunteer to serve God in this way.

We are open to suggestions to enhance our worship time.

Ginny Wilkins Phyllis Warren Linda McDevitt

MANY HANDS MAKE EASY WORK

HIGH TEA

The person who first said "Many hands make easy work" (Proverbs?) certainly knew what he/she was talking about! It was never truer than on April 13th at 4 o'clock in Bailey Hall. "The function?" you ask? 'HIGH TEA" is the answer. The event was for the purpose of inviting community members to come to a free-will tea and all monies to go toward the repairs and painting of the Federated Church steeple.

Hosts and hostesses invited friends, family and community persons, and were responsible fot setting their own tables. The rest was up to generous gifts of scones, bagels, cookies, muffins, sandwiches and cakes made by many in our wonderful congregation. The amount of goodies was astounding, the table settings amazing and the afternoon considered a success!

There must be many "thank you's" given, for this was a large undertaking for a first time event. The first thank you must go to **Diane McConnell**, who made the lovely baskets which held the tea bags and were given as prizes. Diane was also responsible for the beautiful flower arrangement auctioned at the tea. As if all that weren't enough, Diane worked tirelessly in the kitchen throughout the tea, assisting with filling the plates and supervising the Youth Group! There are no words to express my appreciation to Diane.

Speaking of the Youth Group, the High Tea would not have been possible without their help, cooperation, and hard work! Because four of our ore senior youths were returning from a school trip to Spain, we were working with a crew of six young people who set up tables, prepared food, set up water station, filled platters, served, poured, and then helped to clean up! They are awesome, wonderful people and we are so proud of them! They are **Savannah Cross; Kiera Bushee; Hunter Hill-McDermott; Mason Hill-McDermott; Logan Younce and Nathan Younce.**

Thank you to all who volunteered to host a table. It required a lot of planning, toting and followup calls—not easy, and greatly appreciated. Those who volunteered are as follows: **Patti Cody; Phyllis Warren; Raebeth Hitchcock; Sandy Grover and Gail Rice; Youth Group Moms; Maryann Carlson; Brian Allen, Steven Horsch and Pat Clancy.** You each should feel very proud for you have made a difference and we loved your tables and your hats!

Although the High Tea was a free-will event, we are delighted to report that over \$1,400 was donated for the repairs and painting of the steeple! We are so very grateful to all who participated by hosting, attending, serving and donating.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! (Our steeple thanks you, too!)

Karen Underhill







"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."





1

The Federated Church of East Arlington

102 Ice Pond 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.

May 2019 Newsletter



BIBLE STUDY Join us for Bible study on Friday mornings:

(May 3, 10, and 17)

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place:

Chauncey's Restaurant

Route 7A

Arlington

