

# The Federated Church of East Arlington



August 2019

## Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

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Cell 733-2162

Parsonage phone: 375-2427

*"To play catch on an evening, to smell the river,  
to hear the train pass.*

*These little towns were once the bold ramparts  
meant to shelter just such peace."*

*- Marilynne Robinson, Gilead*

Full disclosure, Arlington is the smallest town I have ever lived in - by a long shot. It took a bit of time to get used to the idea that folks often knew my name and position before I could learn theirs. On our daughter's first day of 9<sup>th</sup> grade (the same as my first day in this position) at AMHS, when she got home from school and I asked her how it went she said, "Everybody knew my name and it was only the first day. All the teachers, even the ones I don't have, all kept saying, 'Hi, Selene.'" That familiarity and sense of looking out for each other is a big part of the reason why our Summer Lunch Program has so much volunteer and financial support. It's why the pride of this little place was so palpably evident when both the girls' and boys' soccer teams won state titles in November. It is at the core of why the Arlington Renewal Project was just able to secure a \$400,000 grant to help rehab homes so that folks who work here can also live here.

This small town support is also at the heart of why we were able to complete our campaign to paint the steeple in just three months. In raising \$25,343, starting with the lovely English Tea that Karen Underhill and the Youth Group made happen to stunning success, we've been the beneficiaries of small town goodness. An amazing measure of support (thanks to appeals made by Brian Allen) that we've received from our neighbors is the fact that 56% of the more than \$25,000 raised came from folks outside our church. Let that sink in. People who would not call this "their church" nevertheless want us to succeed and were financially willing to be a part of this effort.

Toward the end of the first chapter of John's Gospel, when Jesus was in the business of finding new disciples and convinced Philip to follow him, Philip then worked at convincing Nathanael to join that effort, touting Jesus' credentials as the one that all of the Prophets had pointed to as well as being from Nazareth. It was then that Nathanael asked, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" because frankly Nazareth was considered a small Podunk town. Philip's response was, "Come and see."

When a seminary classmate came to take pictures this week of the Summer Lunch Program packing at Fisher Elementary and the Senior Meals Program in Bailey Hall for a potential book on ways churches can help build a strong sense of community in their town, I was reminded once again of how powerful and life-changing we can be as church. It is nowhere more evident than when we look outward and recognize that for some folks who may never step foot in our building on Sunday morning, church will be the interaction with and impact on the wider community and world. When we are able to point to church as a vibrant and contributing partner with our brothers and sisters near and far through our on-going mission of loving God and neighbor, we have the chance to not just utter words but lived examples, too. Let us offer the invitation warmly, "Come and see."

Peace and blessings,  
Kathy

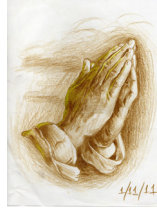


# The Federated Church of East Arlington

## Report of the Financial Secretary, Sandra Grover

2019 Congregational Giving Budgeted:	\$ 60,000.00
Congregational Giving Received 1/1-7/30	\$ 28,891.00
Building Use 1/1-7/30	\$ 2,906.65
Fundraising 1/1-7/30	\$ 245.50
Steeple Fund 1/1-7/30	\$ 25,343.00

**Thank You!**



## Church attendance

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>
7/7	31	0
7/14	29	1
7/21	23	0
7/2	29	0

We are very blessed that the community is so supportive of our church. The steeple fund is fully funded with much thanks to all who donated. The painters should be starting in the next week or two.

Take note when you go by the Church that the gardens are getting cleaned out and some new plants put in thanks to the help of Misty. The hand rail into Bailey Hall is also being replaced. The Church is a work in progress which will last a long time.

Watch the weekly update for all the great happenings; Farmer's Market, Elisabeth VanTrapp, Church dinners, Bible Study at Chauncey's to name just a few.

Peace be with you  
Sue Congdon

## Our Church Council

Chair	Susan Congdon		
Treasurer	Alyson Grzyb		
Clerk			
Ex Officio	Pastor Kathy Clark		
Building & Grounds	Olavi Wirkki	1. Alyson Grzyb	2. Jeff McConnell
Education	Tammy Lang	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

Please submit your articles for  
the September 2019 issue of  
the  
newsletter by  
**August 20th**  
Thank you for your  
anticipated cooperation!

**August birthdays**

- 4 – Wendy Bahan
- 4 – Linda McDevitt
- 8 – Kelly Lang
- 9 – Janet Umlauf
- 28 – Dania LaVallee
- 30 – Laura Rosenthal
- 31 – Gail Rice



**August anniversaries**

- 4 – Al and Janet Clayton
- 6 – Andy & Nancy Schoerke
- 27 – Don & Janet Umlaur



**August Helping Hands**

**Lay Reader:** Gail Rice

**Council Member:** Alyson Grzyb

**August 4:**

Usher:

Communion Servers: Diane McConnell and Phyllis Warren

Greeter: Michelanne Sylvester

**August 11:**

Usher: Janet and Ward Wilson

Greeter: Karen Underhill

**August 18:**

Usher: Diane McConnell

Greeter: Ginny Wilkins

**August 25:**

Usher:

Greeter: Linda McDevitt

Altar:

Sunshine:

**Fellowship/Coffee Hour**

**August 4:**

**August 11:**

**August 18:** Janet and Ward Wilson

**August 25:** Margaret Brown

**Altar Flowers**

**August 4:**

**August 11:**

**August 18:** Diane and Jeff McConnell

**August 25:**

**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.

**August 4:** Pittsford Congregational Church

**August 11:** Grace Congregational Church, Rutland

**August 18:** Congregational Church of Rupert

**August 25:** Shrewsbury Community Church

**Lectionary Readings for August**

**August 4:** Hosea 11:1-11; Psalms 107:1-9, 43  
Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

**August 11:** Isaiah 1:1,10-20; Psalms 50:1-8,22-23  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

**August 18:** Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalms 80:1-2,8-19  
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

**August 25:** Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalms 71:1-6  
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

## NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Since 2004, Neighbor to Neighbor has been providing no-cost, volunteer services to elderly and house-bound residents of several Northshire communities. Our dedicated volunteers are the heart of our organization, and by becoming one, you join a family of people who give their time and energy to make the lives of our elderly neighbors more meaningful.

Neighbor to Neighbor  
PO Box 226  
Manchester Center, VT 05255  
367-7787  
<https://neighbortoneighborvt.org>

### WAYS TO HELP

- provide transportation to appointments
- running errands with or for care recipients
- making friendly visits
- light housework and yard work
- phone calls to check in and provide reassurance
- help with monthly social events
- fundraising
- office help

### MISSION STATEMENT

To assist our neighbors to live independently by providing no-cost, volunteer services that help to nurture relationships.

### TOWN WE SERVE

We help people in the Northshire region and typically drive care recipients as far north as Rutland and as far south as Bennington. We try to have volunteers who live in each of the towns we serve and are looking especially for people in the Arlington/Sunderland/Shafsbury region.

Some volunteers love working with a single care recipient; others prefer to help whoever needs it. If you have a few hours a week or a few hours a month, we need you! Your volunteer schedule is always flexible. You decide when and where you want to pitch in.

We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Our funding comes from private donations, business and corporate sources, town funding, grants from foundations, and fundraising events such as our annual pie auction!

- Arlington
- Bondville
- Danby
- Dorset
- Manchester
- Pawlet
- Rupert

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Elisabeth von Trapp** will be coming back to the Federated Church of East Arlington in September! Mark your calendars for **Sunday September 29th at 4:00** where we will meet in the sanctuary to be wowed by her enchanting voice. Suggested donation of \$10 per person. Elisabeth will also be selling her CDs after the performance.



**Guiding Eyes for the Blind**

“Guiding Eyes for the Blind” puppies with their program volunteers will give a presentation on Monday, **August 5, 2019 at the Battenkill Grange #487 Pavilion at 6:00 p.m.** The puppies are between 12 to 18 months old and the volunteers will talk about how to interact helpfully with the pups while they are experiencing the sights and sounds of our community. “Guiding Eyes for the Blind” works to enrich the lives of the blind and visually impaired by providing them with superbly bred and expertly trained guide dogs. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a free Stewart’s ice cream sundae.



Upcoming Worship Services

- August 4 Jane LoBrutto will preach
- August 11 “Borders—Who’s In and Who’s Out”
- August 18 “Communication and Language: Them or Us”
- August 25 “Practices, Rituals and Customs
- September 1 “Unpacking. Now What?”



**ADVENTURES IN READING**

Yes, we've come to the end of our reading year with these folks participating:

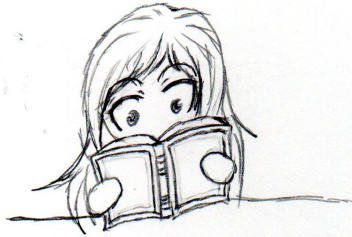
Martha Butterfield, Kathy Clark, Marie Davies, Sharon Davis, Lynn Friberg, Sandra Grover, Joanne Hardy, Raebeth Hitchcock, Liz Luca, Gail Rice, Nancy Schoerke, Kathie VanBenschoten, Phyllis Warren, Virginia Wilkins, Susan Wirkki and yours truly.

Now we look forward to our luncheon on Thursday, August 8th at Chauncey's Restaurant and then start our new year of reading. With an additional reading member—Ruth Olsson.

Thank you to all of the above for a good year.

*Janet S. Wilson*  
Coordinator

**ON YOUR MARK  
GET SET  
READ!**



**SUMMER LUNCH SNACKS:** There is a box in Bailey Hall to collect individually wrapped healthy snacks for the Summer Lunch Program for children. Each week through August 20th each child gets a bag of food; the snacks are a nice treat for them.



Fisher School has camps in the summer. One of the adult teachers said she noticed a few children brought more food (for their lunch) after the Tuesday Summer Lunch Program distribution.



**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Saturday, August 17, 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

375-9294



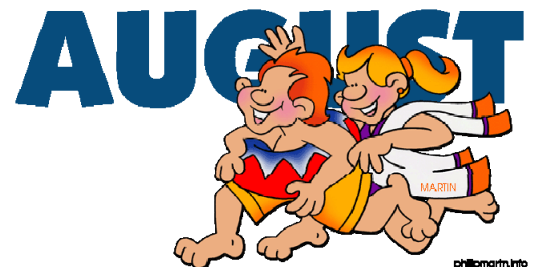
**Summer Bible Study**

Fridays at 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. at Chauncey's

July 12 - August 23 (no Bible Study on August 9)

Bring your favorite Bible and join in the conversation about the passages that form the basis for this summer's sermon series, **"Travelers have tales to tell."**

No prior experience or knowledge is needed, only curiosity.





***SpeakSooner***<sup>®</sup> **Community Forum *Re-defining Quality of Life: Living Fully With Illness, Disability and Aging*, Saturday, September 7 from 6 to 8 PM at Arlington Memorial High School, Arlington, VT**

On Saturday, September 7 from 6– 8 pm the Bennington, VT-based Center for Communication in Medicine (CCM) will offer a *SpeakSooner*<sup>®</sup> community education forum, *Re-defining Quality of Life: Living Fully With Illness, Disability and Aging* at the MACK Performing Arts Center at Arlington Memorial High School in Arlington, VT. The program is free and open to the public.

The forum will explore the complicated issues surrounding quality of life concerns when facing the effects of illness, disabilities and aging. Panelists for the program include: patient Jim Baker, caregiver Kim Baker, family practice physician Dr. Michael Welther and Rev. Kathleen Clark. CCM founder Dr. Bernard Bandman will moderate the program. Attendees will receive a complimentary copy of the *Difficult Conversations Toolkit* and have the opportunity to ask questions of panelists. Refreshments will be served.

Healthcare decisions and quality of life considerations are making an impact across all sectors of society. For the past 20 years, CCM has developed hands-on tools and educational programs that help to promote open and honest communication between patients, family caregivers and healthcare professionals, resulting in better informed decisions about care, greater patient satisfaction and reduced healthcare costs.

To reserve a place please call CCM at 802-442-5800 or reserve online at <http://speaksoonerarlington.rsvpify.com>

Arlington Memorial High School's MACK Performing Arts Center is located at 529 E Arlington Rd, Arlington, VT 05250.

To learn more about CCM's *SpeakSooner*<sup>®</sup> programs and communication tools visit [speaksooner.org](http://speaksooner.org)





**Sign up any week right at the market (ages 5-11)! Special activities happen each Friday in August!**

## **Arlington Village Farmers Market**

**Every Friday 4-7 pm**

**June 21—September 6**

**At the Arlington Inn, junction**

**Of Route 7A and Route 313**



The Federated Church has a table on the following dates:

August 9

August 23

September 6

Quilt Raffle to benefit Missions

\$1 each/ 6/\$5

Baked goods

Collecting items for hygiene kits for children at the U.S.—Mexico border

**Please sign up to help.**

We have a lot of empty slots in the first half and the last half of the market still! Please sign up if you can help. Set up and breakdown or general help only takes about 30-45 minutes and then you can go shop or have fun! The only slots where you need to stay the entire time period is the greeter/info slot (3:30-5:30 or 5:30-7:30) or helping with the POP Club for kids. Thanks so much for your help! Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f4fadaa2da3f49-vunteers>

The best time to help set up is actually from 3:00-3:45. I apologize the form was set for 3:30-5:30, but we didn't really know what to expect our needs to be. The best time to show up to help break down is from 6:45-7:15. Set up involves moving tables, setting out trash cans, setting out road hazard cones and a crosswalk sign, setting up about 20 chairs for the band, and walking the property for tripping hazards like large sticks, dog droppings, or chipped walkways/hoses, etc.

We also need someone to pick up signs this week still. I have a map for you if you need to know where they are, and they get returned to the barn behind the inn where the chairs and tables are also kept.

If you can't help this week, you can help by liking and sharing our posts on facebook. I just put up a slideshow of photos from the last few weeks. Please share it to spread the word. Like our market? Please leave a review or recommendation, too. Thanks again!

Your Market Manager,  
Jessica Roberts

**Local Flavors, Familiar Faces**

Find us on FB: [www.facebook.com/Market05250](http://www.facebook.com/Market05250)



"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."



Contact Sandy Grover: sandragrover@gmail.com; 375-4982; church office 375-2548 or church email federatedchurch05250@gmail.com

**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.

**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: 364 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

## For the Children

The news from America's southern border has me thinking about children and God, how the little ones among us often see God most clearly. In the Gospels, Jesus reminds his followers that children know the truth of things when others do not: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

A couple summers ago, I was at Foundry United Methodist in Washington, D.C. As is standard practice in many Protestant churches, the pastor called the little ones forward for the children's sermon. About a dozen preschoolers gathered on the chancel steps.

The pastor invited the children to look for things. She asked, "Where is the candle? Do you see the candle?" The children looked around. One sharp-eyed boy said, "There it is." And the pastor replied, "Would you get it?" The boy retrieved the candle and handed it to her. "Where is the white bowl?" she then asked the child to retrieve the bowl. And the same happened. "Where are the silver and gold beads?" Repeat.

Finally she asked, "Where is God?"

The children looked about. Up, down, all around. A few bewildered stares, some shrugged shoulders. Then, a small blonde boy in a plaid shirt, about three years old, said, "I know!" The pastor said, "You do?" The little boy looked excited insisting, "Yes, yes!" Then the pastor said, "Where?" And the little boy replied, "I'll go get God!"

He jumped up from the chancel stairs and ran down the center aisle. His father, obviously a bit worried about the open doors at the back of the sanctuary, leaped out of his pew to fetch his son.

Before he got very far, however, the little boy had returned. He was holding the hand of a kind-looking woman in her seventies, literally pulling her down the aisle. "Here!" he cried, "Here's God! She's here!" The pastor looked puzzled: "Miss Jean?" And the boy pointed, "There she is! God! God!"

She was his Sunday school teacher.

(continued on page 11)

(continued from page 10)

Some in the congregation laughed, others wiped tears from their cheeks. But we all were amazed by what had happened.

The story, of course, is a beautiful reminder of the power of teachers – and the importance of faith community in forming spiritual imagination and nurturing openness to God. In recent weeks, however, I have thought about it in relation to the children at the border. Where do they see God right now? Do they see God? Or, has the horror of their situation cut off the possibility of seeing deeply into the “kingdom of heaven” as children naturally do? Have we turned their imagination toward fear instead of love?

Children in caring community flourish. Even children in less-than-ideal circumstances can succeed. But what of children taken from their parents? With inadequate food, water, and medical care – and whose fledgling moral universe is shaped by policies of purposeful cruelty?

The border is a humanitarian crisis. And it is a deeply spiritual crisis as well. I am confident enough in the God of love to trust that God is present for those babies in some way – because the One who is Compassion shows up for the least of these, for the suffering, for the lost. But I really wonder: Where is God for us? For those of us who let these policies continue? For those of us who have forgotten the fundamental biblical call to treat strangers and “aliens” as the native born? To let the little children come to the arms of welcoming love?

I know that many of you are as horrified and angry as I am regarding all of this. I urge you not to give in to despair. Do not give up. Do not look away. And look for God. Grab her by the hand, and drag her into the center of community, pointing to the reality of that loving presence. Witness and work on behalf of the children. Even when the news is overwhelming, stay focused on a few important things – like the children.

This article appeared in *The Cottage*, a newsletter from Diana Butler Bass. You can sign up to receive *The Cottage* at [www.dianabutlerbass.com](http://www.dianabutlerbass.com). Republished with permission.

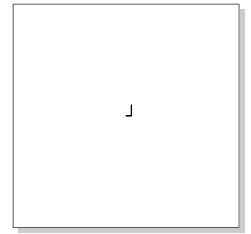




## **The Federated Church of East Arlington**

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Arlington, Vermont 05250  
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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.



## **August 2019 Newsletter**

### **AUGUST DATES TO REMEMBER**

Worship, 10am	8/4, 11, 18, 25
Communion	8/4 during worship
Fellowship/Coffee, 11am	8/4, 11, 18, 25
Bible Study, 9:30am	8/2, 16, 23 at Chauncey's
Farmers Market, 4-7pm	8/2, 9, 16, 23, 30
FCEA at Farmers Market	8/9, 8/23
Prayer Shawl, 11:30am	8/17
Senior Meals, 12 noon	8/6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29
Bone Builders, 11am	8/5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28
PFLAG, 4-6pm Dorset	8/11
Guiding Eyes puppies, 6pm	8/5 at Grange Pavilion, West Arlington, bring lawn chair
AIR luncheon 12:30pm	8/8 at Chauncey's