

The Federated Church of East Arlington



December 2019

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

email: ksclark58@yahoo.com

Cell 733-2162

Parsonage phone: 375-2427

The ordinary so extraordinary

He came, quietly impossible,
One of a young girl's, womb,
A love as amazingly marvelous
As his bursting from the tomb.

This child was fully human,
This child was wholly God.
The hands of All Love fashioned him
Of mortal flesh and bone and blood,

The ordinary so extraordinary
The stars shook in the sky
As the Lord of all the universe
Was born to live, to love, to die.

He came, quietly impossible:
Nothing will ever be the same:
Jesus, the Light of every heart -
The God we know by Name.

Madeleine L'Engle,

Miracle on 10th Street

Amid the beauty that is Advent and the chaos that can be the run up to Christmas, there is plenty of both the ordinary and the extraordinary. The ordinary is found in the fact that we still get up, follow our morning routines and begin the living of each day be it with a hot shower and a bowl of oatmeal or a hurried brushing of the teeth and giant cup of coffee. There are still bills to pay, groceries to purchase, laundry to wash, and classes to go to or teach. The chores around the house are still there and extra time has to be built in just to warm up the car as winter moves back in.

And then there is the extraordinary. Of course, that includes the wonder of children we know and love as well as the devotion to telling the familiar story of Jesus' coming into the world in a slightly

different way against the backdrop of hymns that get everyone singing in our Christmas pageant set for December 15 during Worship. The extraordinary is the power of the Arlington Community Christmas Choir that arose out of Patti Cody's love of music and singing and her knowledge that together the voices we have to offer can bring notes of beauty and the words of beloved carols out to places that many call home. Our latent generosity tends to be on full display with concern for those who may struggle to do the ordinary and who we don't want to be left out of the experience of the extraordinary. That's what will motivate us to pick up a Red Stocking or two and return the wrapped gifts so that local children will be let in on the miracle. It will be behind adding a food item daily as part of the Reverse Advent Calendar opportunity so that fewer of our neighbors will be hungry. One way we can best honor the extraordinary birth of a single baby two millennia ago is to support local babies in foster care with ordinary items like diapers and wipes, bottles and sippy cups. (*Look for the details of these opportunities for transformation of the ordinary into the extraordinary throughout this newsletter and in the weekly bulletins*)

May this season of Advent and the celebration of the birth of the Christ child find you landing gently in the ordinary and fill your days with awe at the extraordinary in our midst. "*What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.*" - John 1:3-4

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 1/1-11/25	\$41,887.25
Building Use 1/1-10/25	\$ 3,590.15
Fundraising 1/1-10/25	\$ 842.20

Thank You!



Church attendance

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>
11/3	36	2
11/ 10	40	9
11/17	35	4
11/24	28	4

Federated Church Council

**Annual Reports
Are due to the office
By
January 1st**

If you have reports or information to be included in the Annual Report for 2018, please be sure the office has it by January 1st.

Thank you, Sandy



Our Church Council

Chair	Susan Congdon		
Treasurer	Alyson Grzyb		
Clerk	Sandy Grover		
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 January 2020 issue of the newsletter by

December 20th

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!

DECEMBER



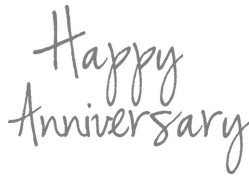
December Birthdays

- 2 – Tammy Lang
- 6—Brian Allen
- 8 – Martha Butterfield
- 12 – Raebeth Hitchcock
- 20 – Kay Kwasniewski
- 21 – Phillip Underhill
- 22 – Heather Grover
- 23 – Scott Lang
- 27 – Vicki Hill
- 29 – Ariel Grover



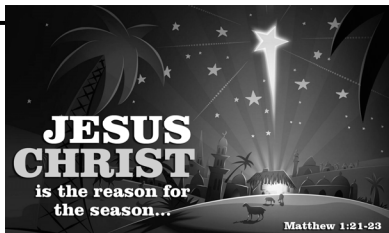
December Anniversaries

- 9 – Janet & Ward Wilson
- 21—Brian Allen & Steven Horsch
- 29 – Harriet & Mike Welther
- 30 – Carol & John Thompson



Fellowship/Coffee Hour

- December 1:**
- December 8:**
- December 15:**
- December 22:**
- December 29:**



**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.

- December 1:** Congregational Church of North Bennington
- December 8:** Pawlet Community Church
- December 15:** Peru Congregational Church
- December 22:** Pittsford Congregational Church
- December 29:** Grace Congregational Church Rutland

December Helping Hands

Lay Reader: Karen Underhill

Council Member: Sue Congdon

December 1:

Usher: Alyson Grzyb

Communion Servers: Sue Wirkki, Gail Rice,

Sunday School: Tammy Lang, Karen Underhill, Patti Cody

Greeter: Michelanne Sylvester

December 8:

Usher: Diane McConnell

Sunday School: Tammy Lang, Karen Underhill, Patti Cody

Greeter: Karen Underhill

December 15: Christmas Pageant

Usher: Diane McConnell

Greeter: Ginny Wilkins

December 22

Usher:

Greeter: Linda McDevitt

December 24:

Usher:

Greeter:

December 29:

Usher:

Greeter: Linda McDevitt

Altar:

Sunshine: Linda McDevitt

Altar Flowers

December 1: Brian Allen

December 8:

December 15: Diane & Jeff McConnell

December 22: Karen Underhill

December 29:

Lectionary Readings for December

December 1: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

December 8 Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7,18-19
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 15 Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalms 146:5-10
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 22 Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

December 29 Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

POINSETTIAS

Please bring your poinsettias, any color or style, on Sunday, December 15th when you come to worship or on Monday - Thursday, Dec. 16 - 20 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

If you would prefer to donate \$15 per poinsettia we will purchase a poinsettia for you.

You can take your poinsettias with you following the Christmas Eve Service or they can be taken to our home-bound friends.

Also let Sandy, at the office, know if the poinsettias are in memory of or in honor of someone.

375-2548 or federatedchurch05250@gmail.com



Offering Envelopes

Contribution Statements

Offering envelopes for 2020 will be available in Bailey Hall in late December. Please take a box and write your name on the numbered list.

Please let me know how you would like your contribution statement for 2019 delivered to you:

email, Bailey Hall, mailed or pick up at the office.

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

Sandy Grover, Federated Church of East Arlington
Financial Secretary,

sandragrover@gmail.com, 375-4982



NO

Prayer Shawl Gathering in December.

See you in January





Advent and Christmas at the Federated Church of East Arlington

Sunday Service of Worship

All are invited to join in worship each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. beginning with the lighting of the Advent wreath. Those attending are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items each Sunday in Advent as the congregation works to meet the One Ton Challenge for 2019 in support of the Arlington Food Shelf. The children will be busy preparing for the December 15 Pageant and new children are always welcome. A time of fellowship and refreshment follows every service in Bailey Hall.

Greening of the Church

On Saturday, December 7 at 9:00 a.m. many hands will prepare the church for Christmas with Nativity scenes, wreaths and the Christmas tree. All are welcome and refreshments will be served.

Advent Workshop

Welcome the Christmas season with this annual beloved event of free craft and gift making for all ages on Sunday, December 8 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Bailey Hall. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served.

Christmas Pageant and Jesus' Birthday Party

Come and hear the story of Christmas with new eyes and ears on Sunday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the Church sanctuary. There will be plenty of opportunity to sing carols and this special Sunday service will end with birthday cake for Jesus in Bailey Hall. Phone the church office if you have a child who wants to participate in the pageant.

Christmas Caroling

If you enjoy caroling and want to help spread some holiday cheer, come and be a part of the Arlington Community Christmas Choir. Caroling at Brookdale Fillmore Pond and the Vermont Veterans Home happens starting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 21 and then on Sunday, December 22 starting at 1:00 p.m. there will be caroling at Equinox Terrace and Bromley Manor. All ages and singing abilities welcome. Rehearsals will take place at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, December 1 at the church and on Tuesday, December 3 at 3:00 p.m. in the Art Room at AMHS. There will also be caroling at the Arlington Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

On Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. the Federated Church of East Arlington invites one and all to the Christmas Eve celebration with beautiful music, the sharing of the Christmas story and lots of favorite carols for singing amid candlelight.

For additional information phone the Church Office at 802-375-2548, check out the Church website at www.federatedchurchofeastarlington.org or see our Facebook page.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

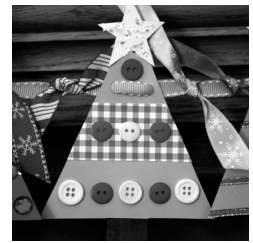
This month our Sunday School attendance averaged around 4 students. We have been learning about many things:

God's rules and how we should follow them faithfully
 what happens when you break a rule
 Adam and Eve
 Noah's Ark

We are getting ready for a busy few weeks practicing for our Annual Christmas Pageant, which will be on Sunday, December 15th at 10:00am. We hope to see everyone there.

Sunday, December 8th will be our Annual Advent Workshop from 2:00 to 4:00pm. This is a fun afternoon for children of all ages making many holiday crafts and enjoying the refreshments.

Tammy Lang-Christian Education



THE DORSET PLAYERS IS PRESENTING A CHRISTMAS CAROL as their annual holiday show. In keeping with the spirit of the story The Players' are collecting food to be given to the Community Food Cupboard in Manchester. We hope you will come to the show and bring an item to share with your fellow neighbors. There is a hamper inside the cafe for the donations. Each show begins with live holiday music played in the cafe and ends with an after show reception there as well. Performances are the first two weekends in December. Friday and Saturday performances (December 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th) are at 7:30 and Sunday shows (December 8th and 15th) are at 2:00. We hope to see you at the show and wish you all the very best during this holiday season and in the New Year.



ADVENT BOOK STUDY

For **3 Friday mornings** we will join with our friends from St. James Episcopal Church (and any friends you want to invite) for a book study. We will use the study book Light of the World by Amy-Jill Levine.

Please sign up if you would like us to order a book for you. We will meet in Bailey Hall on **December 6, 13 & 20 at 10:00am.**

POINSETTIAS

Please bring your poinsettias, any color or style, on Sunday, December 16th when you come to worship or on Monday - Thursday, Dec. 17 - 20 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

If you would prefer to donate \$15 per poinsettia we will purchase a poinsettia for you.

You can take your poinsettias with you following the Christmas Eve Service or they can be taken to our home-bound friends.

Also let Sandy, at the office, know if the poinsettias are in memory of or in honor of someone.

375-2548 or federatedchurch05250@gmail.com

ADVENTURES IN READING

I came across one of Ida Washington's letters to me. It's good for each of us to review.

Janet

Vermont Women's Fellowship

Adventures in Reading

May 30, 2012

Dear Janet,

Thank you for all those reports and their suggestions. I see that you have some new readers. That is good, but sometimes new (and even old) readers need to be reminded of the rules. So, in a form you can pass on to your readers, here are some things they should know:

To be a qualified reader, you must

1) Read one book from each of the four groups between July of this year and July of next. I AM ASKING YOU TO PROVIDE YOUR REPORT TO ME BY 5/8/13.

- * 2) The book can come from any of these sources: a) this year's list, b) any past list, c) an author on a present or past list who has a book not on a list but in the right category, d) re-reading a book on a present or past list, e) complete recorded books, whether you are handicapped or not.

To suggest a book for next year's list

- 1) Pick a book that you have read and liked so well you want to share it with your neighbors. It can be a New book or an old one on any topic. It doesn't matter whether the critics like it or not. The important Thing is that you think it is worth reading.
- 2) Tell enough about the book to convince the Selection Committee to choose it. We usually have about Twice as many suggestions as we have room for, so most of our work is eliminating suggested books. It is easy to dispose of books that just give a title and author, or just tell us that it is a good book.

The kind of list this is – and is not

- 1) It is a list for readers of different tastes and different levels of reading ability. Reading is for everybody. Books written for children and young people sometimes contain a lot of adult wisdom.
- 2) The list is not primarily religious or limited to clean language or situations. The problem of living is not always clean and proper, and we can't expect books about to be. We do try to warn sensitive Readers when a book contains really strong stuff, though.
- 3) The Selection Committee tries to include books from varying points of view on social, political, and Religious questions by qualified authors. We try to maintain a balance, especially on controversial Topics, not reflecting our own views but the questions of the times.

Happy reading and best wishes,

Ida

*PLEASE KEEP IT SIMPLE. READ ONE OF THE BOOKS IN EACH GROUP ON THE NEW LIST..., if you do otherwise, please provide me with the details as to why the book can be accepted. Thank you.

Janet

Arlington Food Shelf
PO Box 723
Arlington, Vermont 05250
"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Nov 26, 2019

Members of The East Arlington Federated Church
East Arlington, Vermont 05250

An Open Letter to the Congregation:

Recently here at the Arlington Food Shelf, we learned that the folks at the East Arlington Federated Church were disappointed because you believed that somehow you failed to reach the self-imposed goal of donating a ton of food to the Arlington Food Shelf.

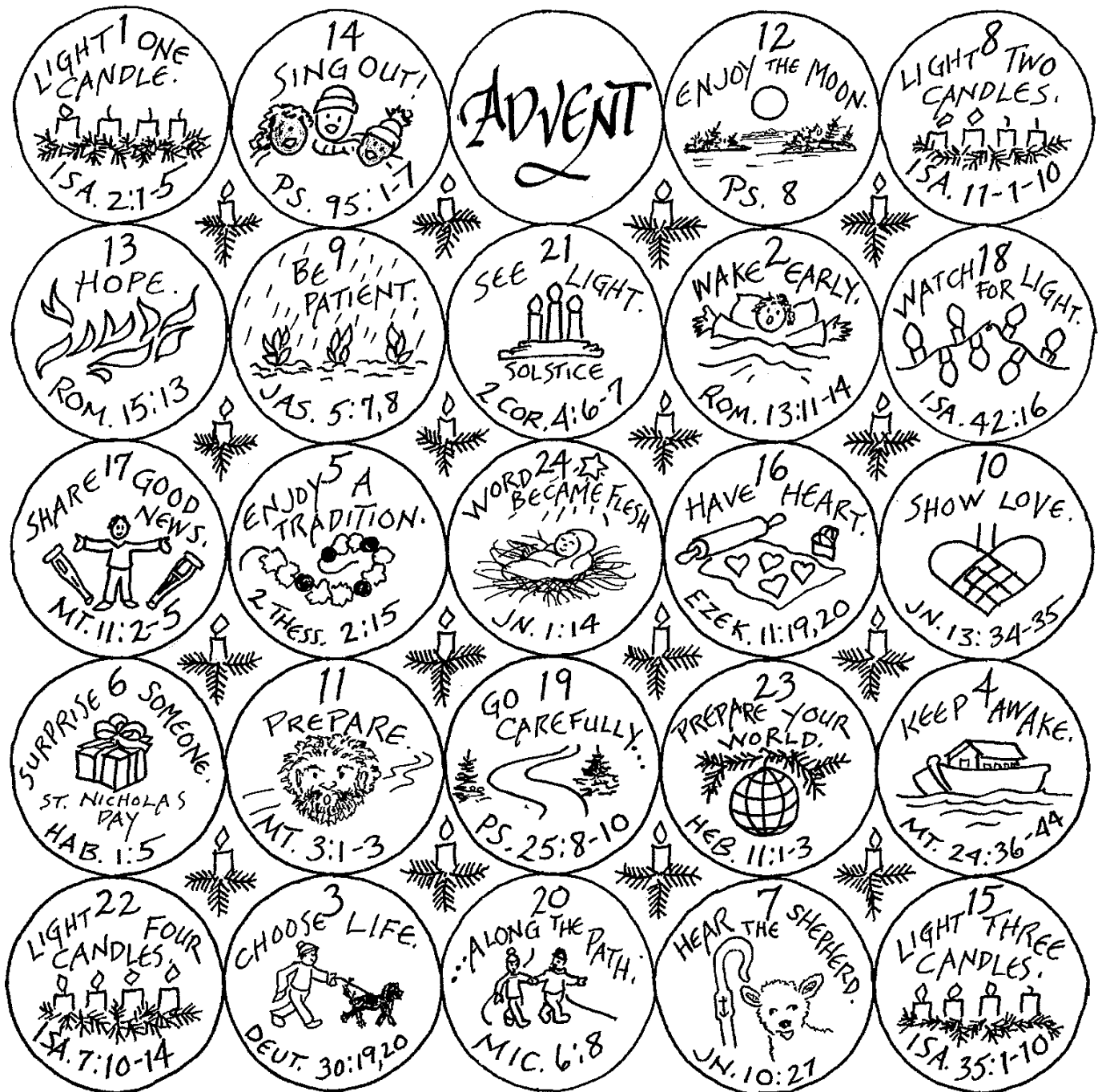
Pounds and dollars do not tell the whole story. Did we fall short of our goal? Perhaps, but what the congregation may have failed to realize is that the Food Shelf has thrived because of the help of many of the Church's members. Do donations help? Of course, but people lending a hand is just as important.

Risking leaving someone out, I would like to provide a few examples: Dotty Koscinski connected us with the Hanaford store in Bennington. Hanaford, in turn, provided us with over 100 boxes of food, each containing 6 meals, which have been distributed throughout the year. Karen Underhill and Kathy Hayden have volunteered on numerous occasions to assist whenever needed and Phil Underhill, Jack and Betty Gunther serve on the Board of Directors.

So you see, from the Food Shelf's point of view, the Church exceeded its goal! Keep doing what you're doing! Not just for the Food Shelf, but for others. Feel good about it, because quite frankly, your participation is the engine that drives the Food Shelf. Our success in eliminating hunger in the area can only be achieved with your help.

For the Volunteers of the Food Shelf,

Jack Gunther
President
Arlington Food Shelf, Inc.



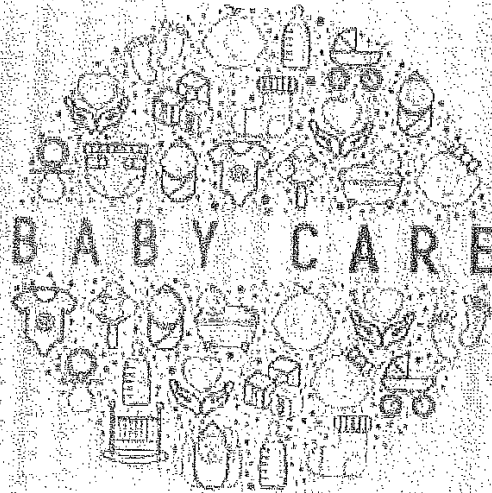
BY ADVENT'S LIGHT WE STRAIN TO SEE A NEW AND BETTER WAY AND THEN ISAIAH'S VOICE PROCLAIMS THE COMING PROMISED DAY: THIS WORLD IN WHICH THE SWORD AND SPEAR, THE RIFLE AND THE GUN HOLD SWAY AS IDOLS OF OUR FEARS WILL ONE DAY BE UNDONE, WHEN ALL THE WEAPONS OF OUR HATES WILL SURELY BE RECAST AS TOOLS TO PLOW AND PLANT THE SOIL WHERE PEACE WILL REIGN AT LAST. A DISTANT DREAM, YET WE WILL DARE BY ADVENT'S LIGHT TO FORGE WITH CHRIST, NEW HANDS AND HEARTS WITH WHICH TO STUDY WAR NO MORE.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE BRING THE BOX TO THE
FEDERATED CHURCH TO BE DONATED TO THE
ARLINGTON AREA FOOD SHELF

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

BABY CARE DRIVE



Please help support your local foster children, especially several babies who are in foster care at this time. Donations will be accepted until December 22nd, when Kathy Hayden will take the items to Bennington. Contact Mallory McGurn or Wendy Nolan (442-8138 option 3 with questions.

Items needed:

- Diapers size 3,4,5
- Wipes
- Diaper bags
- Bottles
- Bottle Brushes
- Pacifiers
- Baby Tylenol
- Sippy Cups
- Diaper Rash Cream
- Teething toys

"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: 783 pounds



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

WEBSITE NEWS

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

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.

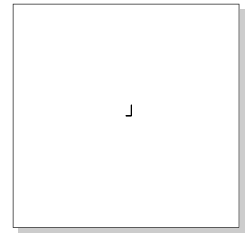
Thank you, Sandy



The Federated Church of East Arlington

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.



December 2019

Don't miss these December events:

Service of Worship, 10:00 a.m. beginning with lighting of the Advent wreath each Sunday in December.

- Dec. 6 10:00am—Advent Book Study
- Dec. 7 9:00 am- Greening of the Church
- Dec. 8 10:00 am- Bring Red Stocking gifts
 2:00-4:00 pm- Advent Workshop
- Dec. 13 10:00am—Advent Book Study
- Dec. 15 10:00 am- Christmas Pageant
 11:00 am- Jesus' Birthday Party
 10:00am—Advent Book Study
- Dec. 24 5:00 pm- Christmas Eve Candlelight
 Service

GRANGE BREAKFAST

Sunday, December 15, 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.

