

The Federated Church of East Arlington



February 2020

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

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Cell 733-2162

Parsonage phone: 375-2427

In spite of us being smack-dab in the middle of winter with more snow, ice and cold in store, we turn toward the season that takes us on a journey beyond weather toward a destination that is familiar and yet different every time we arrive. We will enter into a time and space that writer Paula C. Hawkins calls *The Awkward Season*. The season of Lent will begin on Wednesday, February 26 when many of us will receive ashes in the form of a cross to mark the jumping off point for the 40-day journey to the Resurrection at Easter. One reason we might consider this *The Awkward Season* could be the fact that it starts in the middle of the week which tends to throw folks for a loop since we are so accustomed to church traditions beginning on Sundays. And about Sundays – they are not a part of Lent because every Sunday is to be a day of celebrating the Resurrection so they are in Lent but not of Lent.

There is no one way to do Lent. For some, there will be fasting or abstaining while others will add a discipline like daily Bible or other devotional reading. Still others will seek out opportunities for service to others or devoting a portion of ones resources to those in need. The good thing about Lent, which in English comes from the word “spring” and which Barbara Brown Taylor describes as “a springtime of the soul,” is that there is no right or wrong way to observe it.

The invitation to explore the desert places as well as those brimming with life is extended for this unique time on the church calendar. To end the season of Epiphany and prepare for Lent we will hold a Dinner Church around the theme of Fat Tuesday & Mardi Gras on **Tuesday, February 25 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Bailey Hall**. It will be a free meal of pancakes, sausage, king

cake and other goodies. We will open the season of Lent on **Ash Wednesday, February 26** in two ways. Our service and voluntary reception of ashes here at the Federated Church of East Arlington will take place at **12:00 noon**. Once again, after a few years’ hiatus, we will also be distributing **Ashes to Go** with the Rev. Mary White in front of St. James’ Episcopal Church on 2/26. Drive or walk up for ashes and a blessing at any of the following times: **7:30 – 9:00 a.m., 12 noon – 1:00 p.m., 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

If you are looking for written reflections and prayers that you can bring home and use throughout Lent, there will copies of the Lent 2020 Devotional from the U.C.C. titled, *Deliver Us* available on the Do Something table in Bailey Hall. We are also partnering with our friends at St. James for a Lenten Book Study. The title of the book is *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. This book is also on the Adventures in Reading list for 2019-20. We will meet on Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. at Chauncey’s over breakfast or coffee (you don’t have to eat there) from February 28 – April 3. If you would like me to order a copy of the book for you, please sign the sheet in Bailey Hall or let me know by phone or email no later than February 16.

As we begin this journey into *The Awkward Season* may we carry the words of Sister Joan Chittister with us: “Lent is about becoming, doing, and changing, whatever it is that is blocking the fullness of life in us right now.” May we travel together in the confident knowledge of God’s abiding presence.

Peace and blessings,
Kathy



The Federated Church of East Arlington

Report of the Financial Secretary, Sandra Grover

2020 Congregational Giving Budgeted:	\$ 60,000.00
Congregational Giving Received 1/1-1/28	\$ 2,834.00
Building Use 1/1-1/28	\$ 585.00
Fundraising 1/1-1/28	\$

Thank You!



Church attendance

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>
1/5	34	0
1/12	22	2
1/19	28	5
1/26	17	3

Federated Church Council

It is a start to a New Year. The Federated Church of East Arlington had the Annual meeting on Sunday and all went well with some great soup and deserts added to the meeting. All of the agenda passed with some great questions and a couple of follow-ups in the next couple weeks.

We will be repairing the Parsonage in the cellar, new windows, new porch and drainage issues that are outside that are eroding the foundation. We also will be repairing the CE office steps that are in great need of fixing. This was all approved by the Congregation that was in the budget.

Won't you volunteer one day a month for one of the duties that is on the "to do list" in Bailey Hall? There is much sharing to go around for all.

Here's to a great 2020 New Year

Peace be with you

Sincerely

Sue Congdon

Council Chair



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.	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 March 2020 issue of the newsletter by

February 20th

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!



February Birthdays

- 10 – Olavi Wirkki
- 15 – Sue Wirkki
 Maria Cornwell
- 21 – Martha Cornwell
- 22 – Carol Thompson
- 26 – Andrew McKeever
- 26 – Michael Welther

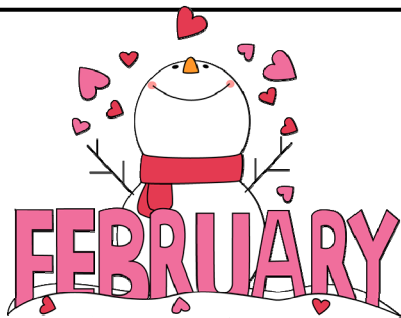


February Anniversaries



Fellowship/Coffee Hour

Many thanks to all who contribute Goodies for Fellowship/Coffee time, and to all who help clean up.



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.

- February 2:** Second Congregational Church of Bennington
- February 9:** United Church of Benson
- February 16:** Brandon Congregational Church
- February 23:** Federated Church of Castleton

February Helping Hands

- Lay Reader:** Alyson Grzyb
 - Council Member:** Alyson Grzyb
 - February 2:**
Usher: Alyson Gezyb
Communion Servers:
Greeter: Michelanne Sylvester
 - February 9:**
Usher:
Greeter: Karen Underhill
 - February 16:**
Usher:
Greeter: Ginny Wilkins
 - February 23:**
Usher:
Greeter: Linda McDevitt
Altar:
Coffee, Conversation, Fellowship following worship. Join Us
- Sign-up Sheets** for opportunities to serve God and our Church family are in Bailey Hall.: Altar, Usher, Sunshine, Communion servers, flowers, Sunday School, readers, etc. Thank you.



Altar Flowers

- February 2:** Diane and Jeff McConnell
- February 9:** Karen Underhill
- February 16:**
- February 23:** Brian Allen

Lectionary Readings for February

- February 2:** Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12
- February 9** Isaiah 58:1-9a(9b-12); Psalm 112:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20
- February 16** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37
- February 23** Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Saturday, February 15, 2020

11:30am Bailey Hall

Bring your lunch,

coffee, and tea provided

Bring your knitting, crocheting or handiwork

Questions?

Speak with Raebeth Hitchcock

375-9294

We pray that God will continue to bless this ministry, its participants and the shawl recipients.



Offering Envelopes

Contribution Statements

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

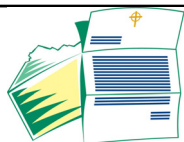
Please let me know how you would like your contribution statement for 2019 delivered to you:

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



*Annual
Giving
Statements*

Adventures in Reading

I wanted to find more time to read for reading contributes to my understanding of new and old.

I'm happy when I read of love and needs and many deeds.

Our current list has suggested much of this.

Continue to select from our current list.

AIR History:

This reading program began prior to 1933. The leader was a librarian and it continued to be librarians taking over through the years until 1975. This program of reading in statewide Congregational churches was revived in 1993. From that time until 2014, churches throughout the state of Vermont participated in reading their choice of books from a list put together as a state program, each church participating with a coordinator. It was in 1995 that I became East Arlington's church coordinator when Nellie Hayden no longer could do it for health reasons. Those 10 persons who joined me in the Reading Adventure were June Bentley, Jeanne Brumaghim, Marie Davies, Vi Day, Jeri Doores, Nellie Hayden, Barbara Hill, Eleanor Owen, Sue Snow, and Barbara Weakley. It has been a fun and rewarding opportunity for all through the years, including our present members who number 16. Marie Davies and I can still be counted among the members.

For February (Black History month) these are the special days: Groundhog Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Valentine's Day, President's Day (Washington's Birthday) and Ash Wednesday.

Janet Wilson
Coordinator

Have a great month of February!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We have had 2 Sunday School Lessons since the beginning of the New Year with last weeks highest attendance so far at 5 this year.

We had our first dinner church of the new year on January 23. We are all ready planning our 2nd Dinner Church of the new year on February 25th to celebrate Fat Tuesday with a delicious Pancake dinner.

Teachers and helpers are needed. Please see the sign-up sheet in Bailey Hall.

Thank you so much, Tammy Lang-Christian Education

Children's Sunday School



February 25, 2020



February 26, 2020

"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."



Online Giving

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
Altar Sunshine Flowers
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.



Sign up sheet is on "Do Something" in Bailey Hall.

Arlington Area Food Shelf

2020

Our goal: 2,020



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

Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation

From the Center for Action and Contemplation

Summary: An Evolving Faith

The Work of Healing
Tuesday, December 31, 2019

Up to now, top-down religion has pretty much spoiled the show. We need trained experts, scholars, leaders, and teachers, but the truths of Christianity must be made much more accessible, available, localized, and pastoral. Most people do not need to have encyclopedic knowledge of theology or Scripture. To begin with, why not flatten out the huge and unbiblical distinction between clergy and laity? [1]

While Christian churches do much good, we have one huge pastoral problem that is making Christianity largely ineffective—and largely decorative. Solid orthodox theology is sorely needed (and yes, I am obsessed with it), yet we clearly need good and compassionate pastoral and healing practices *ten times more!*

It seems to me that we must begin to validate Paul's original teaching on "many gifts and many ministries" (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). Together, these diverse gifts "make a unity in the work of service" (Ephesians 4:12-13, Jerusalem Bible). Individual communities may do this well, but on the whole we need Christian people who are trained in, validated for, and encouraged to make home and hospital visits; do hospice work and jail ministry; support immigrants and refugees; help with soup kitchens or food pantries; counsel couples before, during, and after marriage; share child development resources with families; offer ministries of emotional, sexual, and relational healing; help with financial counseling; build low-cost housing; take care of the elderly; run thrift centers—all of which put Christian people in immediate touch with other people and for which no ordination is needed. Ordination would probably even get in the way.

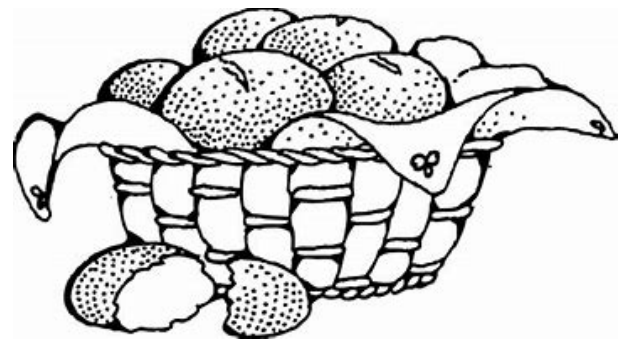
Remember,
healing was most of the work Jesus did. This fact is almost too obvious.

My vision of any future church is much flatter and much more inclusive. Either we see Christ in everyone, or we hardly see Christ in anyone. Frankly, my hope for Christianity is that it becomes less "churchy," less patriarchal, and more concerned with living its *mission statement* than with endlessly reciting our heavenly vision and philosophy statement—the Nicene Creed—every Sunday. There seem to be very few actionable items in most Christians' lives beyond attending worship services, which largely creates a closed and self-validating system.

Simply put, any notion of a future church must be a fully practical church that is concerned about *getting the job of love done—and done better and better*. Centuries emphasizing art and architecture, music, liturgy, and prescribed roles have their place, but their overemphasis has made us a very top-heavy and decorative church that is constantly concerned with its own in-house salvation.



Dinner Church - Free to All
Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner
Tuesday February 25th from 5:30-7:00pm
Federated Church of East Arlington
102 Ice Pond Rd.
Arlington, Vermont



Doors open at 5pm
5:30-6pm Dinner
6-7pm Mini Worship with Activity to follow



PRAY FOR PUERTO RICO

New Report on the earthquakes in Puerto Rico (contact moorejudy22@yahoo.com)

Here is a small report received Jan. 20th , from Lydia Rosaly, our on the ground coordinator, who lives in Ponce, one of the towns hit by the recent earthquakes:

"The aftershocks are continuing - around 3 or 4 a day registering 4.0. There are still thousands of people sleeping outside their houses and thousands of refugees in camps. It is all so sad and frightening. But people in the north (where the quake did not hit and where our volunteers stay and work) are good. They are living their normal lives.

There is a reporter from CBS, David Begnaud, who is doing an amazing job covering everything that is happening. He has all his interviews on his facebook page.

In terms of Our UCC Mission work, everything is back to regular schedule. This week volunteers are finishing some work in a church in San Juan and then will move to working roofs in Ceiba, Las Piedras, and Humacao.

As far as traveling near the quake area, volunteers are definitely not coming to the south unless they want to do it themselves. We do not want them to take the risk."

As you may know, there are several stages when dealing with the aftermath of a disaster. For example, with Hurricane Maria, we are in the recovery stage since there are systems in place for volunteers to come and help (including housing). The earthquake disaster is in emergency response stage. To help with the quakes, go to UCC Disaster Response and respond to our appeal of raising \$250,000. 00.

https://www.ucc.org/earthquake_recovery_puerto_rico

Please continue to spread the word and pray.

Judy Moore
UCC Partner in Service

Holy God,
Source of light and life,
Our hearts are once again grieving
As we witness the many tragedies around us.

We pray today for our siblings in Puerto Rico
Who have awakened to the challenges of these earthquakes.
We pray for their strength and resilience.
We pray for those who experienced loss
And ask their peace and comfort.

Help us to be a source of your presence and love
with all in this moment.
We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



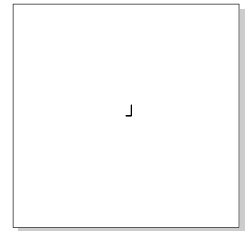
Our Mission Team will match and add to your giving for this cause. Checks to the Federated Church; Puerto Rico in memo.



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.



February 2020 Newsletter

Don't miss these February events:

Saturday, 2/1	10:00am-Vitality Event, Springfield
Monday, 2/3	12:30pm-AAUW meeting
Sunday, 2,9,16,23	10:00am—Services of Worship
Sunday, 2/2	10:00am—Worship with Communion
Sunday, 2/2,9,16,23	11:00am-Fellowship/Coffee Time
Sunday, 2/9,16	3:00pm-Brownies/*3:00pm-Cadets
Saturday, 2/15	11:30am—Prayer Shawl Ministry
Sunday, 2/16	7:30-9:30am—Grange Breakfast
Tuesday, 2/25	5:30pm—Fat Tuesday Dinner Church
Wednesday, 2/26	12:00pm-Ash Wednesday Service
Friday, 2/28	9:00am-Book Study at Chauncey's

GRANGE BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 16, 2020

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.

