

The Federated Church of East Arlington



January 2020

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

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Parsonage phone: 375-2427

According to Plan

*I just got back
from a visit
to tomorrow.*

*There's good news
and bad news.*

*The bad news:
things won't go according
to your expectations or plans.*

*Some of what you wanted
and planned to do,
you can't.*

*You'll have to do some things
you never imagined;
and most of it will be less glamorous
than you dreamed.*

*The good news:
if you do what needs
to be done for those you love,
or even and especially
for a stranger,
you'll be spending
a day called today,
in a life called your own,
doing something helpful
for someone else;*

*and isn't that more valuable
than having things go
according to plan?*

(Copyright 2019 Todd Jenkins)

We're jumping headfirst into a year that seems so optimistic and hopeful in its name - 2020. This implies the perfection that comes with vision that many of us who've worn glasses or contacts can barely remember. 2020 is used as a way to talk about what we wish we'd known back when it would have been

most useful. To see with perfect vision is, of course, only the purview of God and yet we keep striving for it, don't we? We want to trust the word of everyone we encounter. We feel that if only more people looked at the world the way we do, life for everyone would be better. We are particularly demanding in our expectations with those we love most, with the first in line being the one we see in the mirror.

I am a planner. What I know about myself is that I like to always be aware of what is coming up and make the appropriate arrangements. I am definitely a calendar and to do list kind of person and yet there's a part of me that admires my "go with the flow" and "let's just see what happens" friends and relatives. With so much that feels out of our control, the part of me that plans feels like I have some modicum of say in how I spend my days. Maybe the detail-focused part of my being would be better spent focused on what act of kindness I will offer today. Whose story will I listen to truly hear and understand? What person or group of people need an extra set of hands to help or time to dream with them out loud?

Mystery is so much a part of our legacy as Christians. We're wrapping up the Christmas season which is filled with questions that have answers only in faith. The season of Epiphany is about to begin where light shines in the dark places and we have the opportunity to be light bearers ourselves, in spite of our doubts and expectations. Maybe for this year we could make plans each day that move us outside of ourselves, making room for the God who is in and among all of that planning. Perhaps we could hear and take heart from God's proclamation to the prophet Jeremiah: "I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me." (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

Happy 2020! May your plans leave room for mystery and wonder.

Peace and blessings,

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 1/1-12/31	\$67,274.24
Building Use 1/1-12/31	\$ 3,675.15
Fundraising 1/1-12/31	\$ 842.20

Thank You!



Church attendance

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>
12/1	30	4
12/ 8	30	4
12/15	46	13
12/22	30	3
12/29	28	0

Federated Church Council

The Church pageant was a great success and enjoyed by all. The children did a wonderful job and I could see that they were enjoying it.

The Council is winding down with the steeple repairs and painting. It looks so great and the lights at night really show it off. We also cleaned out the CE space that was full of "stuff" thanks to Ginny, Olavi, Sandy, Tammy and Kathy. It could be used by a small group for meetings. We also are looking at repair work for the parsonage. Some of it has been done and we will ask the congregation to approve the rest at the annual meeting on January 26th after church.

There will be a congregational meeting on January 19th to go over the 2020 Budget. If you cannot attend please feel free to call me with questions or comments.

Peace

Sue Congdon

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 February 2020 issue of the newsletter by

January 20th

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation!



January Birthdays

- 2 – Harriet Welther
- 5 – Jeanne Brumaghim
- 11 – Karen Tibbetts
- 14 – Emily Lampron
- 15 – Richard Maddaloni
- 16 – Janet Clayton
- 18 – Kaylee Bushee
- 26 – Alyson Grzyb
- 29 – Laura Farrington



January Anniversaries

- 6 – Michelanne and Bill Sylvester



January Helping Hands

Lay Reader: Phyllis Warren

Council Member: Alyson Grzyb

January 5:

Usher:

Communion Servers:

Greeter: Michelanne Sylvester

January 12:

Usher:

Greeter: Karen Underhill

January 19:

Usher:

Greeter: Ginny Wilkins

January 26

Usher:

Greeter: Linda McDevitt

Altar: Marie Davies and Linda McDevitt

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.

Fellowship/Coffee Hour

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



Altar Flowers

January 5:

January 12:

January 19:

January 26:

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.

January 5: Congregational Church of Rupert

January 12: Shrewsbury Community Church

January 19: First Congregational Church of Wallingford

January 26: United Church of West Rutland

Lectionary Readings for January

January 5: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 10-18

January 12 Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

January 19 Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalms 40:1-11
I Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 26 Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalms 27:1,4-9
I Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Saturday, January 18, 2020

11:30am Bailey Hall

Bring your lunch,
coffee, and tea provided

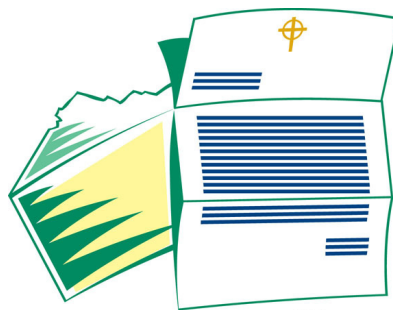
Bring your knitting, crocheting or handiwork

Questions?

Speak with Raebeth Hitchcock

375-9294

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



Annual Giving Statements

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 Reports

Are due to the office

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



Dear Federated Church members,

Thank you so much for all the baby drive donations you provided for the children in Bennington County, The children and foster parents are grateful for your generosity. DCF appreciates all your donations.

Thank you,

Wendy Nolan and Mallory McGurn

Resource Coordinator and Retention Specialist

Department for Children and Families



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

December was a busy, fun month.

We practiced for the pageant on the 1st and 8th

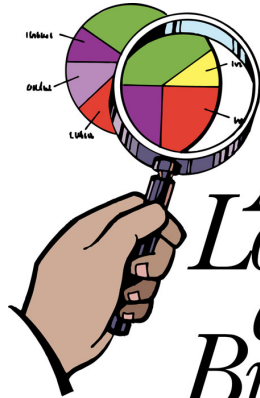
The Pageant was December 15th it was such a wonderful time

Thank you to everyone who helped and played a part in our Christmas Pageant

Also thank you to everyone who came and helped out in every aspect of our Advent Workshop; without your support none of this would be possible Thank you so very much!!

Tammy Lang

Children's Sunday School



A Look at Our Budget

Sunday, January 19, 2020

11:15am

WARNING

January 19, 2020

11:15 a.m.

Congregational Meeting to review the 2020 budget

"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

2019

Total to date: 1,173 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

Adventures In Reading

Present at our December 14th get-together were: Kathy Clark, Nancy Schoerke, Ginny Wilkins, Phyllis Warren, Raebeth Hitchcock, Marie Davies, Sandy Grover, Liz Luca and this writer.

When our discussion was over I felt a joy about what I had learned about listed books for the year and, in some instances, lots of information about the authors' lives. These Adventures In Reading women are so knowledgeable.

Some Suggested Books

- Group II Scribble Sisters: Scratchings
- Group III Kunin, Madeleine May: Coming of Age—My Journey to the Eighties
- Group IV Egan, Jennifer—Manhattan Beach
- Winspear, Jacqueline—The American Agent

Have a great year in 2020!



Janet Wilson
Coordinator



WARNING

2019 ANNUAL MEETING **JANUARY 26, 2020**

To discuss the business of the church in Bailey Hall immediately following worship
Over a soup and bread lunch.

JANUARY 26, 2020, Lunch: 11:00am, Annual Meeting: 11:30am

Acceptance of Reports

Vote on proposed 2020 budget

Vote on nominations

Other business

Please plan to attend. We need everyone's input.

January 26, 2020



Plan to attend!

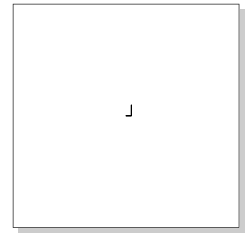
Annual Meeting



The Federated Church of East Arlington

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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.



January 2020 Newsletter

Don't miss these January events:

- Sunday, 1/5, 12, 19, 26 10:00am—Services of Worship
- Sunday, 1/5 10:00am—Worship with Communion
- Sunday, 1/5, 12, 19, 26 11:00am-Fellowship/Coffee Time
- Saturday, 1/11 9:00am—De-greening of the church
- Saturday, 1/18 11:30am—Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Sunday, 1/19 7:30-9:30am—Grange Breakfast
- 11:15am—Congregational budget mtg-
- Sunday, 1/26 11:00am—Soup & bread lunch
- 11:30am—FCEA Annual Meeting



اللهم صل على محمد
God Bless You

GRANGE BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 19, 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.

