

The Federated Church of East Arlington



JUNE 2020

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

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*“Have patience with everything that remains unsolved in your heart.
...Live in the question.” – Rainer Maria Rilke*

From the time we are very young, we humans are full of questions. Almost any parent can attest to spending what seemed like an interminable car ride or protracted bedtime ritual grappling with the question, “Why?” from their toddler. We are curious creatures and ambiguity does not sit well with us. That lifetime trajectory of questioning launched when all the world seemed new and full of possibility would, over time, become filled with the dark nights when the question of why would not suffice. There would also be why not and what if and how come questions as we seek to make meaning of our world.

None of us has the answers that the world is itching to hear. When will this pandemic end? How fast will it take to get a vaccine? What will the world look like when it is under control? What we do know is that we are missing people and places, events and celebrations, which could be summed up as connections. The social distancing, mask-wearing, drive-up purchasing, cancelled social event days that have turned into months are taking their toll on us as well as becoming part of the new normal.

We know Jesus was big on asking questions but not so keen on answering them, at least not directly. In the Gospels he asks 307 questions and is asked 183 questions. Of these 183, he only answers 3 of them (if you’re curious to know the 3 questions and how Jesus answers them I would encourage you to go to Matthew 24:3). Teacher Jesus most likely had reasons to not answer directly. Instead, through parables and turning questions back to the ones asking, he was able to keep his followers invested in the answers that they would often have to discover for themselves. Living into the questions is not an easy fix but such a life becomes richer and more engaged. We care about the answers because we are a part of them.

Some of the answers we are seeking during this Coronavirus time are coming from scientists, physicians and public health officials. What they can’t answer for each of us is what are we missing. Perhaps

we as people of faith and a church community might be able to respond and answer some of those questions. For many of our local families with children who are asking how they will manage to feed their children over the summer when the school breakfast and lunch program and the weekend backpack program have ended, one answer is the Summer Lunch Program. As of today, there will be 93 children served by dozens of volunteers and so many of you who support the program with donations of individually wrapped snack items or money to purchase such items.

While we know it may be a while until we worship together in the church building, the question of when we can worship together in the same place may be one you or someone you know is asking. The Church Council has just approved a plan to worship once a month in June, July, and August outside on the lawn here next to Dunlap Hall. The dates will be June 21, July 19 and August 16 at 10:00 a.m. (with the rain dates being June 28, July 26 and August 23) and we will take the precautions of marking the lawn with circles 6 feet apart to which you will be invited to bring your own lawn chair and wear a mask. There will be pop-up tents (if you have one to lend us please be in touch with me) for those who wish to sit in shade. All of the other Sundays we will continue with our services via Zoom that are then shown on GNAT-TV and our YouTube channel.

What can we each do to make our time apart better? We can continue to look for ways to reach out to others with calls, cards, texts, and emails. Spending time outside now that the beauty of Vermont is in full bloom has the real potential to make us more grateful. Seeking out those things that bring us joy – be it books, music, crafts, a movie, exercise – can make a long day that much richer. None of us knows the outcome of COVID-19 but we know God’s love and grace and mercy will be with us still.

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 1/1-5/25	\$ 18,711.45
Building Use 1/1- 5/25	\$ 991.35
Fundraising 1/2-5/25	\$ 250.00

Thank You!



Church attendance

Many via Zoom on computers, phones and tablets from many states.

Federated Church Council

May has been very long for all the stay at home people. It is a test to see if we remember what day it is. The glory of the trees blooming is God's gift to us and they have been very beautiful this year.

The Church Council met this week outside on the back deck of the Parsonage with social distancing and masks on. It was a great day and we worked on many projects. We talked about Zoom and all the people that were online. Kathy still goes out to some of our parishioners to drop off the service for each week. We also would like to see if we can get better sound for the music. I guess Zoom was not meant for music but sure enjoyed hearing the music. Thank you to Mary, Patti and Harriet. Some of our members are calling to check on other members of the church if they need anything or just talk.

The council has agreed to keep up with Zoom for the time being but for the summer on the 3rd Sunday of June, July and August we will have a service outside on the lawn. There will be social distancing and masks and bring your own chair. If the weather is bad we will do it the next week. At this point in time all our Church dinners will be cancelled. We will be working month to month on steps we can take for the Church.

Kathy is working with the summer lunch program and if you would like to help please call the office. I know they need help.

STAY SAFE

Susan 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
Christian Education	Tammy Lang	1. Scott Lang	2.
Finance	Brian Allen	1. Herb Taylor	2. Raebeth Hitchcock
Worship & Ministry	Ginny Wilkins	1. Linda McDevitt	2. Phyllis Warren
Missions	Sandy Grover	1. Wendy Bahan	2. Gail Rice

June Birthdays

- 3 – Linda McKeever
- 3 - Janet Wilson
- 11 – Landyn Lavallee
- 23 - Pat Taylor
- 24 – Lina Grover
- 25 – Barb Benjamin
- 27 – Matthew Ritchie
- 28 – Don Umlauf



June Anniversaries

- 7 – Alyson & Steve Grzyb
- 10 – Larry & Sharon Davis
- 10 - Phillip & Karen Underhill
- 13 – Kathy & Roger Clark
- 14 – Olavi & Sue Wirkki
- 14 - Betty and Jack Gunther
- 18 – Anna & Brian Bushee
- 19 - Nathalie & Bruce Caler
- 24 – Dan & Jen Rosenthal
- 27 – Rich & Patti Cody
- 27 - Herb & Pat Taylor
- 30 – Marcelo and Stephanie Barrios



**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.

- June 7:** First Congregational Church of Wallingford
- June 14:** United Church of West Rutland
- June 21:** Second Congregational Church of Bennington
- June 28:** United Church of Benson

Lectionary Readings for June

- June 7:** Genesis 1:1-2:4; Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
- June 14:** Genesis 18:1-15,(21:1-7); Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
- June 21:** Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1-11; Mathew 10:24-39
- June 28:** Genesis 22: 1-14; Psalm 13
Matthew 10:40-42



**Arlington Area Food Shelf
2020**

Our goal: 2,020 pounds
Received to date: 166 pounds



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Thank You

As the financial secretary for our Federated Church, I am very thankful to all who continue to send in checks, cash and give online. The ministry and mission goes on even though we are unable to physically meet.

Please contact Kathy or the office if you know if anyone who needs assistance.

Sandy Grover, Financial Secretary



Online Giving

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



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

We will gather together when it is safe but until then...

Keep knitting, crocheting and handiwork!

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

Questions:

Raebeth Hitchcock

375-9294

Worship With Us

Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom
using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89119439251>.

Or join by phone at 1-646-876-9923 and you will be
asked for the Meeting ID and you should enter
891 1943 9251 followed by the # sign.

Our services are on GNAT Sundays at
9:30a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m.
and 5:00 p.m. on channels 16 and 1094.

Also on our Youtube channel: the federated
church of East Arlington.

Watch for an email from Kathy with the
Sunday bulletin and link to join.



Adventures in Reading

GREAT NEWS! About 3 weeks ago Phyllis War-
ren called and told me she would like to help as a coor-
dinator for Adventures In Reading and would like me to
join with her. I considered this for a couple of weeks
and have said yes.

So—the good news is we are ready to have Ad-
ventures In Reading continue for the 2020-2021 reading
year. Phyllis and I would like it if all the great readers
we've had will continue their reading journey with us.

On another note we are very short on books
recommended for the new year's list in Group 1 and
Group 11. If you are currently reading a book that would
fit in these categories. Call me (375-9020).

Thank you

Janet Wilson, Coordinator

P.S. For the future, we will wait to do our various get-
togethers when this rampant infection is generally a
closed matter.



Christian Education

There are no Sunday School Classes or Girl Scout meet-
ings at this time.

Stay strong and wash your hands.

*We all miss
each other and
the children.*

Children's Sunday School



Adult Book study is on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. via
Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91377329294>

or

Dial on your phone
+1 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 913 7732 9294 followed by the #

Peacemakers Pulpit

Matthew records Jesus telling us, “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

These words are helpful to me during this Covid-19 time.

There are many factors making people feel “poor in spirit” today: fear of getting sick, uncertainty about food and jobs, lack of social occasions, cabin fever, and the unclear picture of what our future will be like- all deplete our spirits.

In some ways we are in similar circumstances to Jesus’ first century audience; our world has recently changed to become an unpredictable and a quite scary place, there are clear and growing distinctions between different groups and classes in society making our world more “unfair”, and we seemingly have lost control of our path forward.

So what is this “Kingdom of Heaven” that Matthew tells us to expect?

I look to all the things folks are doing to raise their spirits: walking outside and connecting with the natural world; taking the time to reconnect with extended family, old friends, and even those in our own households; recognizing, perhaps for the first time, how many people’s efforts are required to sustain our own lives. First responders, farmers, grocery and drug store employees, teachers and child care providers, internet providers, mail carriers,the list goes on and on and on.

The dawning of our awareness of these necessary connections; our reaching out towards neighbors, our kindness towards strangers as we move about in our face masks, our appreciation of nature- this is the stuff of Heaven. Truly connecting with others is connecting with Jesus.

To be clear, these are hard times for many, and they will probably get harder. Still, when we count our blessings, we find many things to be rich in spirit about.

Please be care full and careful.

Christopher Ashley

Norwich Congregational Church

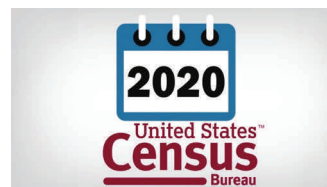


You don't have to clean out your closets.
You don't have to organize the junk drawer.
You don't have to read all those books on your nightstand.
You don't have to start a vegetable garden.
You don't have to stain the deck.
You don't have to paint rocks with your children.
You don't have to try a new recipe for dinner tonight.
You don't have to pretend you're doing better than you are.
Whatever you'll do or leave undone today, God still loves you.
Tomorrow's a new day.
(Rev. Tim Schenck)

Have you responded to the 2020 census request?

It is very important to our communities, schools and state to have an accurate count.

www.2020census.gov



Did you know, you or your family & friends may be eligible for 3SquaresVT? 3SquaresVT is an important federal food program that can help households buy food during this crisis. It can be used to purchase food at most grocery stores, convenience stores, farmers' markets, and co-ops. 3SquaresVT benefits are given to you each month on an EBT (electronic benefits transfer) card, which works like a debit card. Even if you've never been eligible for 3SquaresVT before, please know this program is here for you and your family. If you are:

Unemployed

Experiencing reduced working hours or reduced wages

Experiencing increased care expenses due to school closures or other factors

Reducing your hours or not working to care for your children during school closures

Unable to access resources you typically use to support you or your family due to limited transportation or other limitations

Experiencing a change in your financial situation

3SquaresVT is here for you, your family, and your community. Benefit amounts vary according to household size and expenses, but during the COVID-19 outbreak, anyone who is eligible will automatically receive the MAXIMUM 3SquaresVT benefit after going through the application process. That's \$194 each month for an individual and up to \$921 for a family of 6.

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Maximum Benefit</u>
1	\$194
2	\$355
3	\$509
4	\$646
5	\$768
6	\$921

When will I get my additional benefit?

If you received 3SquaresVT in March, the extra benefit will be available on April 21st by EBT, on April 22nd by direct deposit, or, for certain people, as soon as the check arrives in the mail.

If you received 3SquaresVT in April, the extra benefit will be available on May 16th by EBT, on May 19th by direct deposit, or, for certain people, as soon as the check arrives in the mail.

3SquaresVT is here for individuals, families, older Vermonters, people **who are** working, people who are not working, people with disabilities, and YOU! 3SquaresVT can help you put food on the table, bring more money into our local economy, and ease the strain on our food shelves.

If you are 60 or older, call the Helpline at 1-800-642-5119 for personalized assistance

Farmers to Families Food Box Distribution – Bennington

The Vermont National Guard will be at William H. Morse State Airport in Bennington on Friday, 6/5, from 10AM-2PM distributing non-perishable food boxes, along with produce, chicken, and dairy products provided by the [Abbey Group](#) while supplies last. Anyone is welcome to come pickup food.

We will be distributing Farmers To Families meal kits containing meat, produce, and dairy products.

We will also be distributing non-perishable food from FEMA.

All food will be distributed while supplies last.

How does it work?

Food is available while supplies last. Just pull up in your car, open your trunk, and the appropriate amount of food will be loaded by members of the Guard. Please be sure there is space available in your car for the boxes of food. The National Guard requests that you please not bring your pet to the distribution to ensure their safety while loading meal boxes into vehicles. Please wear a mask when picking up food.

Those who are ill, have been advised to quarantine, or lack transportation can send a friend or relative to pick up meals for them. We are making every effort to streamline the distribution process.

However, depending on turn out at each event, you may have to wait in your car. We suggest you bring water and snacks in the event there is a wait.