



# The Federated Church of East Arlington



May 2020

## Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

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Most mornings for the past month and a half, I wake up with two images from two very different sources. The first comes from the opening of Psalm 13 when the ancient writer, crying out in a voice that I imagine being accompanied by a raised and shaking fist, utters “How long, O Lord?” The second image comes from the movie, *Groundhog Day* when Bill Murray’s television weatherman Phil Connors keeps waking up to live the same day over and over again. At first, Phil decides if there aren’t going to be any consequences for his actions he will go through that same day with wild and selfish abandon. It is only when he leans into kindness and generosity that he is able to break the cycle and move on to February 3 and a future he couldn’t have imagined.

As we find ourselves here in the U.S. in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic for a second month, through the questions that we keep hearing of “When will this end?” and “When will things get back to “normal?,” it’s becoming increasingly clear that we will not ever return to life as we knew it 2 months ago. The hard part comes from not knowing. We humans don’t always do so well with mystery. While we can appreciate and rely on some mysteries being solved like a vaccine for this virus, there are so many parts of life that we will probably never understand. What we know and feel and count on as people of faith is the God who is hearing our cries for answers, who is working through and with the dedicated medical workers and so many others risking their own health for the lives of others, and who is with us in the midst of the love we show for others by staying home, wearing masks, and washing our hands.

Because we haven’t met in person since March 8, it can be easy to forget how much love and caring is happening in each other’s worlds. Birthdays, anniversaries and the everyday joys of spring weather and phone calls and mail may have gone unshared and yet they all speak to a hope that has a power to sustain and strengthen us. In case you haven’t heard it lately, please know you are noticed, and your adapting and lovingkindness is recognized. Thank you for taking care of your “one wild and precious life,” as poet Mary Oliver wrote.

In the meantime, if the morning is a reminder that this day is more of the same, perhaps right before you close your eyes to rest, you will hold gratitude gently wrapped by these words from the Rev. Todd Jenkins titled, “Hope.”

*I go to sleep at night,  
or at least close my eyes  
and try to mute  
the incessant commentary,  
not really knowing  
if this big blue sphere  
will spin ‘round again,  
or if that flaming ball  
burned out eons ago  
and today  
was the last flicker  
of its warmth and light  
that we’ll ever see;  
but that’s never  
been the thing  
that kept the deep  
or REM cycles  
from arriving.  
Why, I wonder,  
is this so?*

*the best answer  
I have found  
is hope;  
not in myself  
or science  
or some other  
person or group;  
but hope in something –  
some being -  
much greater  
and grander than I;  
a being  
I can best describe  
as mystery;  
not as secret or puzzle  
to be deciphered  
or solved by intelligence  
or tenacity or luck;*

*but as gift and giver  
whose care and love  
are beyond fathoms,  
are beyond fathoms,  
whose plans are trustworthy’  
to the marrow.  
This is hope,  
and in its expanse,  
I breathe,  
I sleep.  
Good night.  
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 1/1-4/30	\$ 15,116.35
Building Use 1/1- 4/30	\$ 991.35
Fundraising 1/2-4/30	\$ 250.00

**Thank You!**



## Church attendance

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

## Federated Church Council

Hello everyone I hope you are all well and staying safe. April has been very fickle as the sun would shine but still very chilly. I am looking forward to May as we may be able to spread our wings and truly enjoy the outdoors. The birds are chirping, they also know it is coming.

There are so many changes to our everyday life. The Church is now on Zoom for church service. It is absolutely wonderful to see all the faces and then some that sit quietly. We are also doing our Church Council on Zoom and it seems to move along very well. We may do Zoom more because of social distancing which may be easier for church council.

It looks like the summer lunch program will start earlier as the need is very large. We are also in contact with the School to help them with lunches. The Sunday school gave out bags of projects to do for our students that came from our CE office that Tammy had found in our clean up in the CE office.

The parsonage is done with foundation and porch as of now but at this time we are going to hold off on the repairs to window frames and the doors.

I will look forward to having Church dinners but we may be doing them differently. We will have to see what the new guide lines will be in the future.

The Church is in contact with our members and guests with the help from some of our volunteers. It may be phone or Zoom. If you need to talk to us please call the office 802-375-2548. Sandy also sends out a weekly e-mail and we do a monthly newsletter. The Church website and Facebook are also active. The mailing address is

102 Ice Pond Rd, Arlington, VT 05250.

If you have any question feel free to reach out to me at 802-442-9574

Peace and prayers for all

Sue Congdon

Church 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

**May Birthdays**

- 4- Mary Edwards
- 9 –Kathy Hayden-Maddaloni
- 12 – Karen Underhill
- 17 – Landry King
- 19 – Kathy Frost
- 21 – Sharon Davis
- 25 – Rick Daniels



**May Anniversaries**

- 12 – Vic & Michele Lampron



**Finance Team**

We're in week six of the unprecedented shutdown of the country to combat Covid-19. The Federated Church building is closed but the work of the church continues. We're seeing each other every Sunday at 10 at Zoom Church - Zoom's easy to use, and you can wear your slippers. This is heartening.

Our plate offerings are down by about half. Some members have sent checks but the donations we always get on Palm Sunday and Easter didn't happen.

When you get your stimulus money, please consider giving a portion of it to the church. Kathy, Sandy, and lots of volunteers are still involved in Bible study, the food bank, distributing senior meals, shut in outreach, helping the newly unemployed, and preparing for the summer lunch program.

My own giving to the church is taken from my checking account automatically every month. This is easy to set up. Sandy can help. If you have a bill paying service, adding the church is easy, too. I still do that the old-fashioned way.

The Federated Church is part of the Arlington Renewal and is integral to the new hotline set up for people in need in Arlington, Sunderland, and Sandgate. As usual, we're at the center of caring and helping but we need money to do it.

Brian Allen  
Finance Team



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

**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.

- May 3:** Peru Congregational Church
- May 10:** Pittsford Congregational Church
- May 17:** Grace Congregational Church (Rutland)
- May 24:** Congregational Church of Rupert
- May 31:** Shrewsbury Community Church

**Lectionary Readings for May**

- May 3:** Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23  
I Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
- May 10:** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- May 17:** Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20  
I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- May 24:** Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
- May 31:** Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
I Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23



**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: <http://zom.us/j/111530596> for May 3rd. Or join by phone at 1-646-876-9923 and you will be asked for the Meeting ID and you should enter 111 539 596 followed by the # sign. (These numbers might change for the rest of May-watch for an email).

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

I'm sure many of you took advantage of contacting the Martha Canfield Library and being rewarded with good books to read during our mandatory at-home periods.

For myself, I will recommend 4 of the books the librarian selected well for my request each time of 2 mysteries and a novel.

My thanks to those who have served so well to enrich our hours at home.

**Reminder:** Your report for 2019-2020 is due to me by May 15th.

Thanks,

Janet Wilson, Coordinator



## Christian Education

There are no Sunday School Classes or Girl Scout meetings at this time.

Stay strong and wash your hands.

*We all miss  
each other and  
the children.*

Children's Sunday School



Adult Bible 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 #

## **Improv on Psalm 84** (with just a touch of 100 and 122) A Lament for Worship in the Temple ...

How lovely is your sanctuary,  
our sanctuary, O God.

My soul longs for the pews or chairs  
for the clear windows to the world around or glass in sparkling color that tells the sweet old stories.

My heart and my voice crack with tears  
because I miss the music of a choir,  
even an imperfect organist,  
and, yes, even my own tune-in-a-bucket voice singing concealed by a crowd -- for I am not going to open my mouth and  
embarrass myself on Zoom making a joyful noise to the living God.

Even the smallest children find  
a second and holy home,  
even babies brought in arms for baptism, pets brought to Blessing the Animals, guests who sit in the back pew because  
maybe, just maybe, they want a wedding here someday, guests who sit at the homeless meal -- which is every bit as much  
a nest at your altar.

Happy are those who worship in your home, and don't want to see the inside of mine.

Happy are those who meet to plan mission in the basements of a blessed place, easily able to see who wants to talk be-  
cause hearts show in the eyes.

And happy are those who share  
a common room  
of prayer shawls and conversation  
rather than crafting tenderness  
with crochet hooks  
while binge-watching television.

And they go from strength to strength  
who drink coffee and eat cake  
at coffee hour,  
or just drink lots and lots and lots of coffee at AA, NA, GamAnon meetings.

God, hear my whining prayer;  
give ear, O God of the wilderness  
who at least gave a design  
for a beautiful traveling tent.

Accept my sadness,  
missing the place of memories and love.

For I know that worship online,  
and meetings, too

are precious in your sight,

and I would rather be a distance-keeper in the virtual house of God, than re-open too soon and risk the health of even one of God's  
children.

I know that God bestows a blessing  
on livestream and facetime  
honor on Youtube and Zoom.  
No good thing does God withhold  
from those who worship digitally.

But, God of the temple in our hearts,  
we trust you with our lament,  
our discontent, our loss ... and our longing

to be glad when we hear them say --  
Let us go to the house of God!

Thanks to Rev. Sandy Boyce of Pilgrim Uniting Church, Adelaide, South Australia who invited me to write a lament for a parishioner who was partici-  
pating in virtual worship but deeply missing the church building with its memories and companionship ... as well as feeling odd having the whole con-  
gregation viewing their home. I think a lot of us feel this way and so it seemed like turning Psalm 84's celebration inside out was calling to me.

Maren Tirabassi, Gifts in Open Hands.

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

**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](http://www.2020census.gov)



**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



*thank you!*

