

The Federated Church of East Arlington



November 2020

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

email: ksclark58@yahoo.com

Cell 733-2162

Parsonage phone: 375-2427

Yesterday a friend sent me a survey on-line from her 8-year old nephew as they were learning about polling in on-line school. The first question was "Which do you like better Halloween or Thanksgiving?" When I was 8, I would have definitely said Halloween. Now Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. Mostly this is because it involves family and food and there's no elaborate planning (except about which sweet potato casserole to make and bring). It's a holiday that can be done for very low cost and I still have sweet memories of my Dad and I helping deliver Thanksgiving meals when I was in my late 20s and early 30s along with hundreds of other volunteers through the Equinox Thanksgiving program that went out to thousands of homeless and homebound folks throughout the Capital District over in New York. After making our fairly early deliveries we would stop at a diner for a late breakfast and then head back to my parents' home where plenty of chaos and huge servings of love were on the menu for late afternoon along with turkey and the same fixings every year.

This year Thanksgiving may look different for many of us. For a quarter of a million Americans someone will be missing from this year's table because of their death from COVID-19. Travel over the river and through the woods may not happen. Precautions and decisions about who to risk eating with will be calculated with care. Traditional parades and football games may be cancelled or devoid of crowds. And yet, through it all, there will be the giving of thanks. For many the gratitude will be for the health of those they love. For others it will be for the dedication and care of medical professionals and first responders and those who have kept our grocery stores stocked and have kept teaching our children, in spite of the obstacles.

Throughout scripture there are nearly 200 mentions of gratitude or giving thanks and this year we could each probably come up with at least that many people or groups to offer our thanks. On Sunday, November 22nd we will have our annual Candlelight Service of Thanksgiving during Worship but done from our homes when we will give thanks for the lives of those who have died this past year and those we still

mourn. Another opportunity to join in a virtual Service of Thanksgiving will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24th, when the Interfaith Council of the Northshire will gather on-line for shared prayers, music and reflections on gratitude.

Of course, we need not wait until the 26th to raise our prayers of Thanksgiving. Each day offers us plenty of opportunity to give thanks. This past week as I took my early morning walk, this vision, below, lay before me of Ice Pond. As I pulled my iPhone from my pocket to capture this moment, a wave of thanksgiving enveloped me. Those opportunities for spontaneous prayer are meant to be seized with awe. Such a glimpse of God is a treasure. As the mystic Meister Eckhardt pointed out, "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough."

In whatever way you will observe Thanksgiving during this most unusual of years, may you make space for God who will gladly be at the table, regardless of the menu. Blessings to you and yours for a filling Thanksgiving.

Peace and grace,

Kathy



The Federated Church of East Arlington

Website: federatedchurchofeastarlington.org

Facebook: Federated Church of East Arlington

Email: federatedchurch05250@gmail.com

YouTube: Federated Church of East Arlington, Vt

Church office: 802-375-2548

Report of the Financial Secretary, Sandra Grover

2020 Congregational Giving Budgeted:	\$ 60,000.00
Congregational Giving Received 1/1-10/28	\$ 39,951.45
Building Use 1/1- 10/28	\$ 991.35
Fundraising 1/1-10/28	\$ 934.72

Thank You!



Church attendance

Many via Zoom on computers, phones and tablets and on tv.



Church is who we are, Not where we go!

We are now meeting on Zoom for the rest to the year. It is a continual follow thru to keep on top of all that is going on with no personal contact. SMILE you are on candid camera! If anyone has any questions or needs, please call the office or give me a call at home 802-442-9574.

Ginny Wilkins is stepping off the council as Worship and Ministry chair. We send her our best as she worked so hard for the Church in many ways and always with a smile. If anyone would like to join the council for Worship and Ministry, please give me a call. If I don't hear from anyone I will be calling.

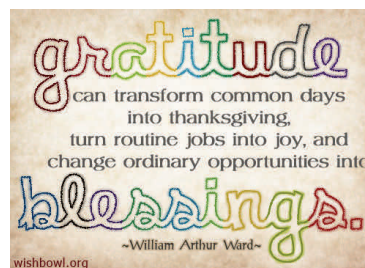
I would like to say a big thankyou to Mary and Patti for the music that we have every Sunday. We know it sounds better in person than on Zoom. The Church has ordered a special mic to improve the quality of sound and it will be recorded.

Tammy Lang and Pastor Kathy are working to get out a bag of goodies for each student for Advent and working on what to do for Christmas. Karen Underhill has stepped down from the youth group as they have become young adults. Thanks Karen.

Can you believe that we are talking and getting ready for Annual Meeting in late January 2021! It will be on Zoom so send in your questions if any. Alyson will have a power point and a budget. We will also be looking forward to seeing about our priorities in the next few years. I know it will look different then what it is now.

Peace to all and have a great Halloween

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
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

November Birthdays

16 – Cheryl Hess
 PO Box 88
 East Arlington, VT 05252

18 – Ezra Barrios
 827 South Road
 Sunderland, VT 05252



November Anniversaries

16 – John & Cheryl Hess
 PO Box 88
 East Arlington, VT 05252



**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.

- Nov. 1:** United Church of West Rutland
- Nov. 8:** Second Congregational Church of Bennington
- Nov. 15:** United Church of Benson
- Nov. 22:**
- Nov. 29:**

Lectionary Readings for November

- Nov. 1:** Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
 I Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12
- Nov. 8:** Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7
 I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
- Nov. 15:** Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123
 I Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
- Nov. 22:** Ezekiel 34:11-16; Psalm 100
 Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46
- Nov. 29:** Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 I Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37



In the White Mailbox

THE November/December UPPER ROOM devotional, "Where the World Meets to Pray"

2020 Church DIRECTORY

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL "Draw Near" will be available November 15th—Advent begins November 29th.

Bible Study

Beginning on Friday, November 6th there will be a Bible Study exploring the **Letter of James**. The study will happen via Zoom on Fridays at 9 a.m. Our friends from St. James will be participating with us. If you wish to participate, have any Bible handy starting 11/6. No prior knowledge is needed and all are welcome to attend.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91377329294>

or

Dial on your phone 1-646-876- 9923

Meeting ID: 913 7732 9294 followed by the #

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



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!

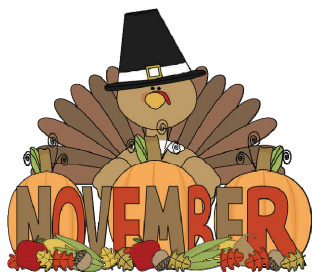
We pray that God will continue to bless this ministry, it's participants and the shawl recipients.



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 1074, 1084 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

Check out <https://gmlc.overdrive.com> for ebooks and audio books. You will need your library card number that begins with PVSNA. If you can't find your card, call the library for your membership number.

Be sure to keep track of books you will recommend for next year's list.

We look forward to hearing about books you have read.

Phyllis Warren and Janet Wilson
Co-ordinators



Christian Education

We will be doing Advent Workshop on Zoom Sunday December 6th from 2-3 pm

Children's Sunday School



We all miss each other and the children.

Stay strong, wash your hands., wear a mask.

Girl Scouts

Brownie Troop will be meeting at the Fire station this winter. Thank you so much for letting us have our 2 October meetings on the church lawn. We appreciate it very much!



Exploring the Relationship between Falls Risk and Nutrition Status in Community-Dwelling Older Adults

Now recruiting people who are **over the age of 60**
and **live year round in Vermont.**

What is it?

This study is an investigation of fall risk and nutrition status in older adults living in Vermont.

You are eligible if you...

...are age 60 or older

...plan to be living in Vermont for the next year

What's required?

Complete questionnaires: one over the next couple of weeks and again in 6 months (max 30 minutes to complete, 15-20 minute average)

What are the benefits?

Contribute to our understanding of the relationship between fall risk and nutrition status in older Vermonters

Eligibility for random drawing for \$25 gift card (10 winners)

For questions or more information, contact us:

By phone: **802-635-1331**

By email: **emily.tarleton@northernvermont.edu**

Or by visiting the study website:

<https://www.northernvermont.edu/falls-risk-and-nutrition>

AVOID THE HOLIDAY CROWDS!

AT THE DORSET CHURCH ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th,

8:30 AM – 1 PM

THE FALL FOOD SALE WILL SELL FROM TENT #1.

Get your Thanksgiving goodies and freeze them!



**THE MINI-ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR FEATURING FAIR TRADE SERRV, INT'L PRODUCTS
WILL BE IN TENT #2.**

**Shop scarves, jewelry, kitchen items, chocolate, Christmas decorations, Dotty's hand towels and
more!**

TWO SALES - ONE STOP!

Silent Prayer Vigil and Witness in Response to Racism

Every Sunday in front of St. James Episcopal Church on Route 7A, Arlington **from 1:00—1:30 p.m.**

Please bring a sign to hold focused on peace and change based on our deep faith.

For safety, attendees will be spaced 10 feet apart (family groups may stand together).

Please wear a mask.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Thanks to all who donated to CWS for kits and blankets. \$225 was collected, Missions added \$500 for a total of \$725.00. This will provide many kits and blankets to be used for disaster relief. We continue to be God’s hands and feet.

HOLIDAY ON-LINE AUCTION!

To benefit Emergency Needs in our community Sponsored by The Interfaith Council of the Northshire

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are holding our Annual Auction for our Emergency Needs Fund on-line this year due to our current circumstances, and we need your help.

Please consider donating an item or a service to help support those in our community who are struggling to meet their basic needs. Perhaps you could purchase an item or gift certificate from a local business to help keep them afloat and donate it to the auction, or re-gift an unused item, a hand made scarf, or an hour of service mowing a lawn, shoveling snow or baking food.

Please contact the Dorset Church office at 802-867-2260 with your donation information. Items are needed *now*.

Thank you.

We cannot be successful without you!

Arlington Area Food Shelf

2020

Our goal: 2,020 pounds

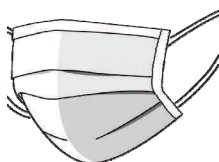
Received to date: 405 pounds



AUCTION.

Wash your hands!

Wear a face mask!



Love prayer

A prayer as I put on my mask:
 Creator,
 as I prepare to go into the world,
 help me to see the sacrament
 in the wearing of this cloth –
 let it be "an outward sign
 of an inward grace" –
 a tangible and visible way of living
 love for my neighbors,
 as I love myself.

Christ,
 since my lips will be covered,
 uncover my heart,
 that people would see my smile
 in the crinkles around my eyes.
 Since my voice may be muffled,
 help me to speak clearly,
 not only with my words,
 but with my actions.

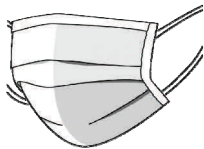
Holy Spirit,
 As the elastic touches my ears,
 remind me to listen carefully –
 and full of care –
 to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth be
 shield and banner,
 and each breath that it holds,
 be filled with your love.

In your Name and
 in that love,
 I pray.

Amen

– Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Moderator
 of the United Church of Canada



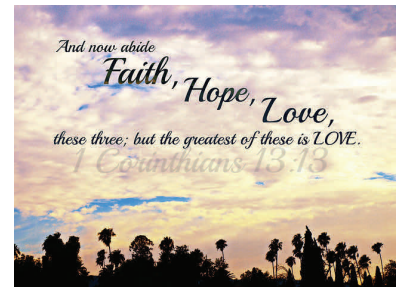
Dear Ones -

So much has happened over the past 7 months since COVID-19 arrived and made itself known here in the U.S. We have gone from a virtual lockdown to the easing of restrictions but through it all we seen just how much we all need to live into the great commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. The definition of neighbor has shifted for many of us. It is the stranger who knocks on our door, the staff at our children's school, the cashier at the supermarket as well as all of our network of family and friends. It is also all those we consider our church family.

We have not been together in our beloved 170+ year old church building together since March 8 when we worshipped together in the morning and then hosted the annual Mac & Cheese Extravaganza & Dessert Auction with Happy Days Playschool that evening. Since then we have all learned the critical importance of mask-wearing and hand-washing and social distancing. And still we are church - with Sunday worship via Zoom and a few outdoor services, as partners in the Summer Lunch Program and the Backpack program in the spring, as a hub for Meals on Wheels, as a place for neighbors to get fresh produce, as a disseminator of information and referrals and financial assistance and food for the Arlington Food Shelf and as support for each other in myriad ways. I encourage you to regularly visit our website and our Facebook page for updates. We have come to value more deeply the ties that bind us that go beyond a building and we have tapped into God's endless supply of love and mercy.

Our office continues to be open weekday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and we are continuing to seek out ways to love and support God's beloved community. Please be in touch by phone or email or text when you have concerns or needs or know someone who could use some support. Also, be sure to share the joys that are happening in your life and the lives of those you love. We have no way of knowing when it will be safe for us to gather in person but please do not let that stop you from offering the prayers that I know have the power to strengthen us and living out your love of neighbor with simple acts of kindness. May God continue to be your compass and your hope.

Peace and blessings,
 Rev. Kathy Clark



Every Day

I voted today,
and so did you,
multiple times;

with our thoughtlessness
and our thoughts,

with our silence
and our words,

with our commissions
and our omissions,

with our turning away
and our stepping up;

with our intransigence
and our understanding;

with the tone
of our voices
and the expressions
of our eyes.

Some days and times we vote
for fear and shrinking;
other times we're able
to vote for love and compassion.

As we continually mark
the ballots of our lives,
I pray we'll all learn
to do less of it
with ignorance and certitude,
and more of it
wisdom and humility.

Matthew 25:40 (MSG)
Then the King will say,
'I'm telling the solemn truth;
Whenever you did one
of these things to someone
overlooked or ignored,
that was me—you did it to me.'

Jesus isn't running
for office, but he's
on the ballot of our lives,
every day,
through every person
we encounter.

2020 Todd Jenkins

RED STOCKING Christmas Project – Pick a red stocking from the office (or can make arrangements), sign on the list, buy the gift, wrap it, attach the red stocking, and return it by December 9th. They will be available on Nov. 25th.

The office is open daily (except Tuesday) from 9am—noon. If you would like to pick up at other times, call the office (375-2548) and a red stocking will be put in the white mailbox for you.

Contact Sue Wirkki or Barb Benjamin if you have questions.



MISSION PROJECT

Help save The Wilson House, birthplace of AA founder Bill Wilson, in East Dorset, VT from potential closure!

The Wilson House is a deeply spiritual destination for people in recovery from all over the world through its various retreats and seminars. Due to covid-19 restrictions revenue from these events has significantly decreased. We can help support this local organization with monetary donations.

If you would like to make a donation through the church please make out a check to the Federated Church of East Arlington and write Wilson House on the memo line. For more information about The Wilson House you can visit

www.wilsonhouse.org.



Advent Book Study

As we enter into the sacred time of preparation we call Advent, you are invited to be a part of a 3-week Book Study to help you make the journey. This new book we will use comes from the Rev. Susan Sparks, Senior Pastor of Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York City. Rev. Sparks is also a stand-up comedian and a lawyer. The title of the book is *Miracle on 31st Street*.

If you would like to have a copy of the book and/or join in the Book Study which will meet on Fridays December 4, 11 and 18 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom, please be in touch with Pastor Kathy. The cost of the book is \$13.00. If you would like a copy of the book ordered, please let Kathy know by November 13.