

The Federated Church of East Arlington



December 2020

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

email: ksclark58@yahoo.com

Cell 733-2162

Parsonage phone: 375-2427

“The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before...What is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. And you begin to grasp what it was you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock, watching God’s back fade in the distance. So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon.”

- Jan L. Richardson

Perhaps one of the great lessons we’ve learned the hard way during the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic has been that slowing down, often because there were fewer places to go and people to see as we socially distance and quarantine, provides us with more time for reflection and hopefully more time to witness the sacredness of everyday life. When our lives are filled to overflowing with this event or that appointment it is possible to forget to behold or be in awe.

What were some of your awe-filled moments this past week? What few seconds stopped you in your tracks or made you want to run and share it with someone? One of mine came on one of my chilly morning walks this week. As I crossed over East Arlington Road onto Warm Brook Road, I arrived at the stop sign just as one of the school buses was pulling up to the corner. There were three young, masked faces pressed against their separated windows looking out at the early morning sunshine. Suddenly I realized how much the isolation of this virus unites us. I also somehow was filled with the thought that someday these children would be explaining what life was like during a global pandemic to their grandchildren. It stopped me from moving my feet as I wanted to hold onto that image for a few seconds longer. The bus then made the turn toward Fisher Elementary and I continued my walk home.

The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival.” This season is one of anticipation and at no other time in recent history have so many been waiting in anticipation – for a vaccine, for a cure, for a return to life with this virus in the rear-view mirror. We anticipate the story we know so well. The nativity in Bethlehem will be re-enacted with ornaments on our trees and scenes set up with the familiar

cast of characters, lovingly unwrapped and put in their places to help us tell the story – again. What also can happen, no matter how many Advents we’ve lived through, is we can once again hope that not only will Christmas with all the trimmings arrive, but we will be changed deep within ourselves.

Perhaps the anticipation, the slowing down, the waiting will signal something life changing. Maybe after all that has been endured and all of the care offered during these past almost nine months could lend even greater meaning to this season of anticipation. The 20th century theologian, teacher and pastor Howard Thurman captured this season of active waiting so beautifully and in such a timeless way as to give us hope during these hard days with these words: *“To walk in the light while darkness invades, envelops, and surrounds is to wait on the Lord. This is to know the renewal of strength. This is to walk and faint not.”* (from *The Mood of Christmas*, 144)

As we walk together through this season, apart but united in faith, may the hope, peace, joy, and love that we lift up and aspire to be our strength. Let us make room for awe.

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 1/1-11/30	\$ 44,231.45
Building Use 1/1- 11/30	\$ 991.35
Fundraising 1/1-11/30	\$ 934.72

Thank You!



Church attendance

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



Church is who we are, Not where we go!

I hope that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. It is just a very different day for most, but I wish you all to be safe and well. There is much for the council to do this time of year.

There are Advent materials for all of us to use that have been sent or brought to you for this season. This is just a small normal that helps us thru this time. Watch all the notices sent out on email Wednesday and Friday from Kathy or Sandy what is happening each week.

Christmas Eve Worship will be on Zoom for this year, with all the uncertainty of COVID-19 it is best to have all our parishioners safe. We will “bring” you into the Church virtually to create our Christmas for all. We will have wonderful Ministry and music and a touch of Christmas inside and out.

The council has tried to cut back on all expenses for Church, Bailey Hall, Dunlap Hall and Parsonage/Office. This includes turning down heat, electric is also low, and we will not plow the whole parking lot this winter.

Thanks to Alyson for working on the budget which is difficult this year not knowing if the Church will open or not.

I would like to warn for Church Annual Meeting on January 24th, 2021 via Zoom.

If you or you know someone that is in need of any help thru this time, please contact the office so that the Church can help. If you have any questions for the Council, please feel free to call me at home 802-442-9574.

God Bless you all and stay safe

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
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

December Birthdays

- 2 – Tammy Lang
25 Glebe Lot Road
Arlington, VT 05250
- 6—Brian Allen
117 Hale Road
Arlington, VT 05250
- 8 – Martha Butterfield
2936 Ozark Road
Chattanooga TN 37415
- 12 – Raebeth Hitchcock
38 Country View Lane
Arlington, VT 05250
- 20 – Kay Kwasniewski
133 Lawrence St. Apt. 61E
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
- 21 – Phillip Underhill
983 Berwal Road
Arlington, VT 05250
- 23 – Scott Lang
25 Glebe Lot Road
Arlington, VT 05250
- 27 – Vicki Hill
333 East Arlington Rd
Arlington, VT 05250



December Anniversaries

- 9 – Janet & Ward Wilson
P.O. Box 479
Arlington, VT 05250
- 21—Brian Allen & Steven Horsch
117 Hale Road
Arlington, VT 05250
- 29 – Harriet & Mike Welther
2815 Sunderland Hill Rd
Arlington, VT 05250
- 30 – Carol & John Thompson
6002 Vt. Route 313W
Arlington, VT 05250

Happy Anniversary

**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.

- Dec. 6:** Congregational Union Church of Wallingford
- Dec. 13:** United Church of Proctor
- Dec. 20:** United Church of Dorset and East Rupert
- Dec. 27:** Federated Church of East Arlington

Lectionary Readings for December

- Dec. 6:** Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter:3:8-15; Mark 1:1-8
- Dec. 13:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
- Dec. 20:** 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26
Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38
- Dec. 27:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40



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

In the White Mailbox

December Newsletter

THE November/December UPPER ROOM devo-
tional, "Where the World Meets to Pray"

2020 Church Directory



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

DECEMBER



Adventures in Reading

Somehow November got past us and we're now heading into the end on 2020. With Coronavirus cases on the rise and the need for our staying safe and social distancing, here's a quote for Adventures in Reading.

"Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are."

- Mason Cooley

May God bless and keep you and the blessings of this season be with you.

Phyllis Warren and Janet Wilson
Co-ordinators



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.



Christian Education

This month we will be doing our Advent Workshop on Zoom Sunday December 6th from 2-3pm.

We will be giving out a special gift to our Sunday School Children.

Have a Merry Christmas!!

Children's Sunday School

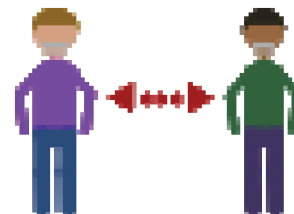
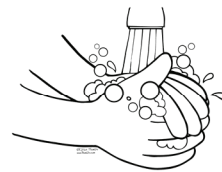


Stay strong, wash your hands., wear a mask.

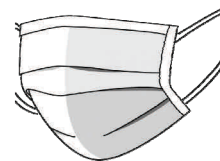
Christmas 2020



Wash your hands!



Wear a face mask!



Old email phishing scam going around again

Please be vigilant about any email that appears to be from your clergy person or our conference minister or staff, asking you to take some kind of unusual action (purchasing gift cards and replying with the serial numbers, clicking a link or downloading an attachment you didn't request, wiring money to a specified account, or simply replying quickly).

A number of congregations across our conference and the country have been hit with an email scam. It involves making a fake Gmail (or yahoo, etc.) account in the minister's name and then sending a request for gift cards allegedly from that minister to the congregation's directory. The emails seem harmless; they have the local pastor's name and an email address that looks legitimate, but upon further inspection, the email address is actually from a provider different than the one the church typically uses.

In some instances, the sender's name may look correct but is missing a single letter. Or otherwise closely resembles the real email address; for example, joe@churchstaff.org becomes joechurchstaff@gmail.com.

In some cases, the message asks for Google Play or iTunes gift cards and in other cases, it asks the recipient to contact them immediately.

DOs and DON'Ts:

DO double-check your emails carefully.

DON'T ever respond to an email asking you for money.

DO verify in person or by phone any request involving money or personal information.

DON'T reply.

DON'T click on any links within the message.

DO report the message as spam to your email provider after forwarding it to the Federal Trade Commission at spam@uce.gov - be sure to cc the church being impersonated.

These scams attack the trust and faith you place in certain respected people. Be safe out there in cyberspace.

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.



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.

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

or

Dial on your phone 1-646-876- 9923

Meeting ID: 913 7732 9294 followed by the #

Arlington Area Food Shelf

2020

Our goal: 2,020 pounds
Received to date: 405 pounds

The Arlington Food Shelf

P.O. Box 723
Arlington, VT 05250



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.



Annual Reports

Are due to the office

By

January 1st

If you have reports or information to be included in the 2020 Annual Report, please be sure the office has it by January 1st.

Thank you, Sandy

Interfaith
Council of the Northshire



INTERFAITH OF THE NORTHSHIRE HOLIDAY AUCTION

Benefiting
INTERFAITH EMERGENCY NEEDS FUND

November 30 – December 10

Please visit <https://www.32auctions.com/interfaith2020>

to support our community with assistance at this difficult time in the Pandemic. We have already had requests for assistance with rent, electricity and heat, and ***we need your help!***

Holiday shop for great and unique items while supporting your community. ***It's a win-win!***

Take a look at our Chandler 4 Corner pillows, restaurant gift cards, personalized hand-made teddy bears, a fly-fishing package and so much more!

Thank you for your support!

ZOOM SERVICES

December 20—10:00 a.m.

Online Pageant during worship

December 24—5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Service with special music, the Christmas story and favorite carols.

Contribution Statements

Please let me know how you would like your contribution statement for 2020 delivered to you:

email, 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





Advent 2020 Calendar



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 HOPE Make a list of everything that sparks hope in you. If there is a person on your list, send them a note.	30 Make your favorite hot beverage and take time to enjoy it. Maybe video chat with a friend.	1 Select 5 people to send thank you notes to. Thank them for the ways they have touched your life.	2 What's your favorite Christmas treat? Make or buy some and try to safely share with a friend or neighbor.	3 Play or listen to your favorite Christmas music. What happy memories come to mind? Share these with someone.	4 Donate money, food, or other items to a charity of your choosing. Pray for those who are in need.	5 Spend a quiet hour reading or listening to music. Enjoy being still for a bit.
6 PEACE What brings you peace of body, mind, or spirit? Do whatever it is at some point today.	7 Take a few minutes to imagine you are in a peaceful place. What can you see, smell, hear, taste, and touch?	8 Spend a few minutes praying for peace – in your life, in your neighborhood, in the country, and in the world.	9 Who has helped you find peace when you've experienced challenges? Write them a thank you note.	10 Do something kind for someone else. Send a card...drop off a plate of cookies...pay for their coffee....	11 Indulge in something today – a long hot bath, a holiday treat, reading a novel... notice how you feel in the moment	12 Make a Christmas list for the world, things you would give to the world if you could. Pick one to work toward.
13 JOY Who or what brings you joy? Reach out to the people and/or engage in the activity.	14 What activities brought joy to your younger self? Do one of those things if you can. If not, share the memory with someone.	15 Watch your favorite comedy tv show or movie. Do a few minutes of laughter bring joy closer? Find some laughter every day.	16 Reach out to someone who makes you laugh even in tough times. Talk by Zoom or phone. Express your gratitude to them.	17 Remember a previous Christmas season in which you felt joy. Is there any part of that you could bring into today?	18 Watch the sun rise or set or imagine you are in your favorite place watching the sun rise or set. Give thanks for the beauty of Creation.	19 Do something creative – bake, draw, write, sew, paint, play music, etc. Notice how creativity lessens stress and makes room for joy.
20 LOVE Think of all the people you love and have loved. Spend time in prayer thanking God for each of them.	21 Write a note to someone, thanking them for how their love has helped you. Send the letter if you can. Attend the Blue Christmas Service at 7pm if you need community.	22 Spend an hour today doing something you love – anything from baking to reading to watching TV, playing a game, etc.	23 Send or drop off a card or small gift to someone who needs a reminder that they are loved and valued.	24 Take time today to savor your favorite holiday treat and relax for a few minutes. Attend service at 5:30 and/or 11am to celebrate with the Living Table Community.	25 Reach out to family and/or friends today. Don't let pandemic keep you from connecting online. You don't need to be completely alone today unless you want to be.	26 Relax today. Be kind to yourself and those around you. If your holiday was a disappointment, remember Christmas goes to January 6. Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love never end.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Each day add an item to a box. Bring the box to the Arlington Food Shelf or leave in the garage-small door.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| December 1 box of cereal | December 12 cranberry sauce | December 23 can carrots |
| December 2 peanut butter | December 13 canned beans | December 24 can green beans |
| December 3 stuffing mix | December 14 box of crackers | |
| December 4 box potatoes | December 15 package of rice | |
| December 5 macaroni & cheese | December 16 package of oatmeal | |
| December 6 canned fruit | December 17 package of pasta | |
| December 7 canned tomatoes | December 18 spaghetti sauce | |
| December 8 canned tuna | December 19 chicken noodle soup | |
| December 9 dessert mix | December 20 tomato soup | |
| December 10 jar of applesauce | December 21 can corn | |
| December 11 canned sweet potatoes | December 22 can mixed vegetables | |

