

The Federated Church of East Arlington



February 2021

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

email: ksclark58@yahoo.com

Cell 733-2162

Parsonage phone: 375-2427

*"But to be what I am, to live what I was meant to live, to want to sound like no one else, to yield the blossoms dictated to my heart: this is what I want - and this surely cannot be arrogance." (Letters on Life)
— Rainer Maria Rilke*

So much of life is discovering who and what we are. Children are experts on becoming who they are. With each new milestone and experience you can see their personality and temperament developing right before our adult eyes. They surprise themselves with new words, are in awe when they take their first steps, and can hardly contain their joy when they learn how to color or ride a bike. Every day is an opportunity to unearth some new idea or skill and then they are on to the next adventure - reading or dancing or sledding. They are so in the moment.

We adults spend much of our time yearning for life as it once was or hoping that our tomorrows will be better than today. It doesn't help that after almost a year we are still having to mask and distance and anxiously await our COVID-19 vaccines and the return to some form of life where hugs and in-person worship are safe again. Perhaps, through the isolation this pandemic has forced upon us, we have each had a little more time for introspection. This has been a time when we hopefully have zeroed in on what we value most and maybe even have determined which relationships and experiences we will put at the top of our priority list in the coming months.

Amid all of this comes Lent. On Wednesday, February 17 we will usher in the most sacred of seasons on the Christian calendar but boy, it kind of feels like we've been doing Lent since last March, doesn't it? Waiting, preparing, praying with added fervency, heightened concern for others and a deep need to lean into God's wisdom when the world seems to be more than we can handle has made this year feel like, to quote a clergy colleague, "the Lentiest Lent." This Ash Wednesday at 12:00 noon, we will hold our service via Zoom and ahead of

that we will provide bags of Lenten materials and a small amount of ashes to be used on the forehead or the back of the hand.

Throughout this Lent, our 10:00 a.m. Sunday Services of Worship via Zoom will focus on the theme of "The Call to 'I AM'" based on Jesus' I AM statements from the Gospel of John. We will explore the identity of Jesus and how that shapes our reality and our lives as his disciples.

Sunday, February 21 I AM the Bread of Life (John 6:35-40)

Sunday, February 28 I AM the Light of the World (John 8:12-20)

Sunday, March 7 I AM the Door (John 10:1-10)

Sunday, March 14 I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-18)

Sunday, March 21 I AM the Resurrection (John 11:17-27)

We will then welcome Palm Sunday on March 28 and Easter on April 4.

As we move toward Lent and once again consider the life, ministry, death, and ultimate resurrection of Jesus, may you find moments for prayer and peace in each day. May you dwell securely in the knowledge that you are a beloved child of God.

Peace and blessings,

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

2021 Congregational Giving Budgeted:	\$ 60,000.00
Congregational Giving Received 1/1-2/28	\$ 3,215.00
Fundraising 1/1-2/28	
\$	0.00

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!

The Church Council has been working diligently to keep you up to date on all matters of the Church. We had a Zoom budget meeting on January 17th for the Congregation to discuss the budget. Alyson did a great job of showing our projected budget. This has been exceptionally hard as no one is sure when we can go back in person to Church. Pastor Kathy is looking at professional options to record the service in the church once we have worship in the building in person.

On January 24th we had our annual meeting right after worship service. This was my first attempt of directing on Zoom as head of Church Council. Now I understand how much looking at notes and then watching for all the people on Zoom to comment and vote is a back-and-forth issue. Congratulations to Pastor Kathy for doing this each week. We had the meeting in half an hour. Thanks to the congregation that stayed on Zoom to vote.

Rev. Jill Colley Robinson, District Superintendent of The Green Mountain District of the Methodist Church joined us for our annual meeting.

Special thanks to Raebeth as she steps off the Finance committee and Olavi has agreed to take her place.

Peace be with you,

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. Olavi Wirkki
Worship & Ministry	Ginny Wilkins	1. Linda McDevitt	2. Phyllis Warren
Missions	Sandy Grover	1. Wendy Bahan	2. Gail Rice

February Birthdays

- 10 –Olavi Wirkki
37 Country View Lane
Arlington, VT 05250
- 15 – Sue Wirkki
37 Country View Lane
Arlington, VT 05250
- 22 – Carol Thompson
6002 Vt. Route 7A
Arlington, VT 05250
- 26 – Michael Welther
2815 Sunderland Hill Road
Arlington, VT 05250



**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.

- Feb. 7:** Pittsford Congregational Church
- Feb. 14:** Grace Congregational Church (Rutland)
- Feb. 21:** Congregational Church of Rupert
- Feb. 28:** Shrewsbury Community Church

In the White Mailbox

February Newsletter

The January/February UPPER ROOM devotional,
“Where the World Meets to Pray”

2020 Church Directory

Lectionary Readings for February

- Feb. 7:** Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
- Feb. 14:** 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:1-6; Mark 9:2-9
- Feb. 21:** Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
- Feb. 28:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38



The Arlington Community Church provides **free meals** to anyone in our community. Meals have to be ordered by Saturdays at noon and picked up on Sundays 5:00-6:00 p.m. at 62 Covered Bridge Road, West Arlington. To see the menu and make reservations go to Arlington Vt. Community Church on internet or Facebook; call Linda Snyder 912-665-0950 or lindasnyderlrc@gmail.com.

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

**Contribution
Statements**

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

email, mailed, pick up at the office or white mailbox

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

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.zom.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

Adventures in Reading held their first virtual book discussion on January 21st. Eight members participated and shared books they have been reading. We should have a rich list of books recommended for next year's list.

We plan to meet again in April and hope that more members will be able to join. If the weather is good we might have the meeting in person outside.

Phyllis Warren and Janet Wilson
Co-ordinators

Poem-no title, no author

I like to read books.

I love how they can take me away
from any state of mind
and let me live in a bubble,
where the words flash by
and pictures invade my mind.

I love how I become the characters
yet at the same time I'm watching from above.
I love how every little word stays with me
and how emotions can be felt by something as little
yet as big as words.

I love how I can feel the book in my hand,
and how the paper feels between my fingers
as I turn the page.

And finally

I love how different it feels
because these days reading books
is becoming a thing to do,
to take me away from the world's problems
and that makes the moment feel somewhat
special in itself.

Christian Education

We are working to put together a kit for Lent.
Please stay safe and you are always in our
thoughts and prayers!!

Children's Sunday School



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

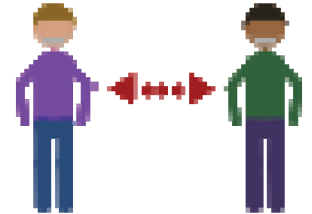
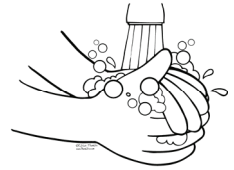
Need extra support during the Pandemic?

During these difficult times, could you use some emotional support and a listening ear? Are you looking for connections to community resources during the pandemic?

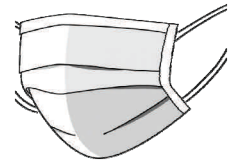
COVID Support VT is a statewide program offering free and confidential emotional support and connections to resources for anyone needing help. They offer a wide range of supports on their [website](#).

If you or someone you know could use some support coping with the pandemic, reach out to COVID Support VT. Call 2-1-1 to reach a Support Counselor. You can also access their [self-care resources flyer](#), [daily stress management plan](#) and their online [Weekly Wellness Groups](#).

Wash your hands!



Wear a face mask!



Ash Wednesday Service via Zoom

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 17 with Ash Wednesday.

Ashes will soon be available to be picked up or delivered to your home and then all are invited to join in a midday Ash Wednesday Service at 12:00 noon on 2/17 via Zoom.

The link for the service will be sent out the preceding week.

Consider automating your regular donations with our [electronic giving](#) program.

The Federated Church of East Arlington relies on the financial support of the congregation and donations – electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Visit the church office for more information or go to our webpage (click on contact) at www.federatedchurchofeastarlington.org

Thank you!

Lenten study

For Lent the book, *Love Is The Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* by Bishop Michael Curry will be the focus of the Friday orings at 9:00 a.m. discussion beginning on February 19. If you would like a copy of this book ordered for you at a cost of \$17.00 please be in touch with Kathy by January 31.

Bible Study

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 #

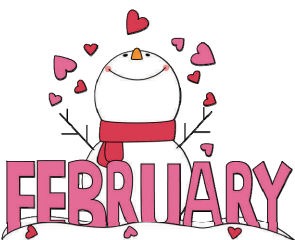
**Arlington Area Food Shelf
2021**

Our goal: 2,000 pounds
Received to date: 503 pounds

The Arlington Food Shelf

P.O. Box 723

Arlington, VT 05250



COVID-19 Community Support Kits

for those living in Arlington, Sandgate, and Sunderland who are 65 and older or disabled

Drive-thru Pick-up 2/7

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Dunlap Hall located at 66 Ice Pond Road in East Arlington

Call (802) 375-2548 with any questions.

Community Support Kits include over \$25 worth of products that are intended to keep the most vulnerable populations healthy and safe during the pandemic. One kit per household with supplementary items available for additional household members.

Kits Include:

- personal protective equipment
- items for warmth
- cleaning supplies
- personal hygiene items

Any person who meets the age or disability requirement and resides in one of the three towns only is invited to participate. Pick-up by family or neighbors for those who are housebound is permissible. Please bring proof of age and address.

Bags made possible by
COVID-19 Relief Funding
through



Grant partners



The Federated Church
of East Arlington

