

The Federated Church of East Arlington



March 2021

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

email: ksclark58@yahoo.com

Cell 733-2162

Parsonage phone: 375-2427

“Teach us to number our days so that we may truly live and achieve wisdom.”

Psalm 90:12

This is the month when we mark one year since all of our lives were turned upside down. We have just marked the 500,000th American death from COVID this past week. Many of us are counting the days or weeks until we receive our first or second COVID vaccine. We have sometimes found that the sameness of isolation and predictability and lack of travel and contact has clouded our days, forcing us to conduct a delicate balance between anxiety and numbness.

During this 40-day-plus-Sundays season that we call Lent we are beckoned to preparation. The word *Lent* comes from an Old English word that means “spring season.” The days are getting longer and warmer and we know that, at least according to the calendar, we are entering into the time of melting snow, greening grass, budding trees, and hibernations ending. We are confident that this will happen and with that confidence comes hope.

So, too, is our future as the Federated Church of East Arlington filled with hope. The members of Church Council and I have begun considering what our days will look like as we emerge from this pandemic in the months to come. None of us has a crystal ball to predict when that will be or even what it will look like. While we wait with anxious anticipation for that time, I would encourage us all to consider what wisdom we have gleaned over this past year from this quarantine time that we will be able to apply to being church. How will our worship look different? What aspects of connection that we leaned into over this past year will need to continue and what will we let go? What ministries will we need to create or bolster or abandon? Have we learned new ways to better utilize our buildings and property? How best will we

serve God and neighbor?

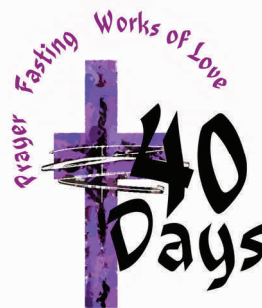
As we journey together through Lent toward the joy of the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter, may we continue to strive for wisdom as we look ahead and yet not take for granted a single one of our days. Let us then offer these words in prayer:

Gracious Lord, thank you for the gift of life. Thank you for the days you have given me. Thank you for the chance to live with purpose each day, to serve you in every facet of my life.

O Lord, I do need you to teach me to number my days. I can so easily live my life as if it will go on forever. In a sense it will, of course. But I don't want to waste one moment of my life in this age. I want to experience all that life has to offer and to offer all that I am to you.

So teach me, Lord, to number my days, so that I might grow in wisdom, so that I might live each day in the best possible way. To you be all the glory! Amen. (www.theologyofwork.org)

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

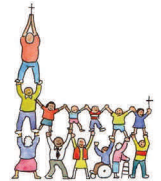
Report of the Financial Secretary, Sandra Grover

2021 Congregational Giving Budgeted: \$ 60,000.00
 Congregational Giving Received 1/1-2/26 \$ 6,345.00



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!

It seems like February zoomed by us or was the snow still coming down? Today was the first day I did not have to clean the car off. Pretty soon it will be daylight saving time and St Patrick's day.

The Church Council is still working away. Tammy still communicates with the Sunday School children. I know she sends them some projects or kits to work on. Wouldn't it be fun to take picture of them and sit them in pews of the church (just like they do at ball games)?

The Parish Relation Panel is working on the surveys and will also work with Pastor Kathy.

The biggest project that I see going forward is opening the Church up and having the service online and in the Church. Pastor Kathy has been talking to other Churches and comparing what they are doing or going to do. It seems like we need Audio and Video equipment and possibly a tech person.

I hope that a lot of you have gotten your 1st vaccine and others are in line to get theirs. I know we all will feel safer when people get their vaccines. I have heard that the site areas for the vaccine are running smoothly. Yeah!

Stay Safe

Peace be with you
 Sue Congdon

March 14, 2021



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

March Birthdays

- I – Carolyn Lavallee
26 Jasper Lane
Arlington, VT 05250
- 11 – Michelanne Sylvester
3008 Vt. Route 7A
Arlington, VT 05250
- 18 – Lauriane Cornwell
475 Old Depot Road
Shaftsbury, VT 05262
- 29 – Nathalie Caler
96 Carbonti Circle
Arlington, VT 05250



Children and Youth

18—Kiera

**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.

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

Lectionary Readings for March

- March 7:** Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19
I Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
- March 14:** Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3,17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
- March 21:** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
- March 28:** Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47



In the White Mailbox

March Newsletter

The March/April UPPER ROOM devotional, "Where the World Meets to Pray"

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.

Many thanks to those who have made prayer shawls and
lap robes to be given out.

There is plenty of yarn in Bailey Hall if anyone needs
more to continue knitting and crocheting.



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.

Dear Members of this church:

I want to thank all of you for your support during this sad time in my life. Your telephone calls offering help, your cards showing also your sympathy for my loss of Ward.

In 2001 my college asked for some information about myself as my 50th reunion was to occur. One of the statements I made was "I've had 20 years of retirement living in beautiful southwestern Vermont and interacting in one of the most supportive communities anyone could find". You folks are a big part of this. I've now lived here 40 years and it's the same.

THANK YOU.

Janet Wilson



Christian Education

In February we delivered a Lent Activity Book to each child in Sunday School.

The end of this month we will be delivering a Easter Bag to each Sunday School child.

Please, remember you are always in our thoughts even though we can not be together.

Children's Sunday School



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

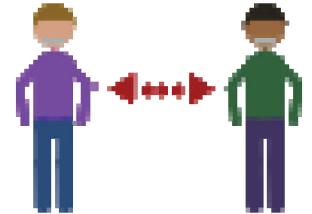
Need extra support during the Pandemic?

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?

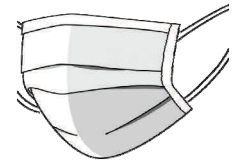
COVID Support VT is a statewide program offering free and confidential emotional support and connections to resources for anyone needing help. They offer a wide range of supports on their [website](#).

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!



March 2021 dates to remember

All worship and meetings are via Zoom

Friday 3/5	9:00 am	Lent study
Sunday 3/7	10:00 am	Worship-Communion
Friday 3/12	9:00 am	Lent study
Sunday 3/14	10:00 am	Worship
Friday 3/19	9:00 am	Lent study
Sunday 3/21	10:00 am	Worship
Friday 3/26	9:00 am	Lent study
Sunday 3/28	10:00 am	Worship-Palm Sunday
Beginning of Holy 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 Bible Study

Love Is The Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times by Bishop Michael Curry

Fridays at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom

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

or

Dial on your phone 1-646-876- 9923

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

Yellow Barn Farm Gardens

Spring is coming and so are Gardens at the Yellow Barn Farm!! (on Rte. 313 just past the Battenkill River bridge).

The Victory Garden and the Raised Bed Demo Gardens, a project spear-headed by UVM Extension Master Gardeners, will be planted as they were last year, with the produce going to the summer lunch program and the Arlington Food Shelf. Any extra sets and seeds you may have this spring will be welcome. Volunteers will be needed again this year for planting, weeding, watering and harvesting!

In addition to continuing last year's successful program, we will be launching a Community Garden Plot project. We would love feedback from interested community members.

Information that would be helpful to us in planning:

- 1) If you have interest in participating, would you want one large communal garden with shared work and shared produce or your own plot?
- 2) If your own plot.... what size and shape?

We are in the final planning stages, working with the various groups that have a stake in the properties. Your responses will help to determine our next steps, including establishing plot sizes and fees.

Once the details are finalized, we will provide updated information. For those interested in individual garden plots, they will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Please email: gardensatyellowbarnfarm@gmail.com indicating your interest in volunteering and/or gardening at the Yellow Barn and sharing your feedback. Sent from my iPad



Federated Church Scholarships Available to Local High School Graduates and Those Continuing Their Education

The Federated Church of East Arlington will once again be offering "Bentley Family Scholarships." The Bentley Scholarship Fund was established by the Trust of June A. Bentley who taught both music and business in Arlington schools and who believed in developing the potential that each of us has within us. Anyone who lives in Arlington, Sandgate or Sunderland, or who went to Arlington Memorial High School, and will be attending college or graduate school in the Fall of 2021 is welcome to apply. Scholarship applications (different for college and graduate school) can be found on the Federated Church's website, www.federatedchurchofeastarlington.com/scholarship-info. Scholarship applications are due to the church office (102 Ice Pond Rd, Arlington, VT 05250) by April 15th, 2021, at which time they will be reviewed by the scholarship panel. The scholarship panel will contact potential recipients to schedule virtual interviews if deemed necessary. Scholarships funds will be awarded after transcripts depicting a successful semester have been submitted to the church office. Any and all who meet the requirements should apply!

