



September 2021

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

email: ksclark58@yahoo.com

Cell 733-2162

Parsonage phone: 375-2427

"Here is the church. Here is the steeple."

Open the doors and see all the people."

As we prepare to open the doors of our buildings once again on Sunday, September 12 for worship, meetings, and community use, there is anticipation in the air. It has been one and a half dramatic and emotion- laden years since we last sat in the pews for worship and hosted the Mac & Cheese Extravaganza and Dessert Auction on Sunday, March 8, 2020.

We will celebrate what we are calling "Open Door Sunday" on September 12th with music and prayer and storytelling. We will also be presenting 3 of our children with their Bibles as we missed the past 2 Celebration Sundays in person. The Service will be followed immediately afterwards with a Cookout outside. The church will provide the hot dogs, rolls, paperware and condiments. Everyone is invited to bring a dessert or side dish to share and a lawn chair so that the celebrating can continue around good food, lively conversation, and laughter.

We are now in the process of cleaning and preparing for our return inside while we are mindful that the Delta variant has increased the numbers of those testing positive for COVID-19 throughout Vermont. When we go back inside, we will request the following:

- Everyone 2 years old and older wears a mask inside our facilities. If you forget one, we will have extras at the entrances. The only exceptions will be for the choir when they sing in the choir area, those who are speaking at either of the two podiums through a microphone, and when we are sitting down at a table in Bailey Hall eating.
- COVID vaccinations are encouraged for everyone.
- Please stay home anytime you feel sick.

We also know that joining in Worship via Zoom was how so many of us have stayed connected since March 2020. We will be continuing to use Zoom live for every service once we are back in the church sanctuary. You won't see your fellow Zoomers on your screen, but you will see and hear the entire service in real time. Recorded versions will appear later in the week on GNAT-TV.

What a joy it will be to offer our praise and thanksgiving to God once again in this building full of so many beloved memories! We hope you can join us in person or live via Zoom for **Open Door Sunday** on **September 12 beginning at 10:00 a.m.**



Peace and blessings, Kathy



Page 2

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 1/1-8/29/21 \$ 31,137.50 Williamstown Church—Altar Bible/curriculum 810.00





Church attendance

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

About 15-30 in person!



Church is who we are, Not where we go!

Finally, a beautiful day! The sun is shining, and the humidity is down!! Hopefully this Sunday will also be just as beautiful.

We are working on going back into the church building. This week I went into Bailey Hall and set up 2 air purifiers to circulate the air and take out allergen, Within 1/2 hour the air was so much cleaner. This is the first time I finally walked around the church and Bailey Hall looking at all the work we need to do before we can open. I was not aware of how much work this is going to take. Since I have tried to find someone to clean the buildings professionally and have not had much success, I guess we will have to put our elbow grease to the test! We will be reaching out to the church family to help in any way they can.

Our Council did not meet this month due to people not available. We will meet Sunday, August 29th to discuss going back into the building for worship.

Aren't we blessed to have this as or big debate as the world is in so much turmoil?

Peace be with you,

Sue Congdon

Our Church Council

Treasurer, Alyson Grzyb Ex Officio, Pastor Kathy Clark Clerk, Sandra Grover Chair, Susan Congdon

Building & Grounds Olavi Wirkki 1. Alyson Grzyb 2. Jeff McConnell

Christian Education 1. Scott Lang Tammy Lang

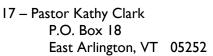
Finance Brian Allen 1. Herb Taylor 2. Olavi Wirkki Worship & Ministry Ginny Wilkins 1. Linda McDevitt 2. Phyllis Warren Missions Sandy Grover

1. Wendy Bahan 2. Gail Rice

September 2021

September Birthdays

4 – Sandy Grover 3402 VT Route 7A Arlington, VT 052502





27 – Kaitlyn Daniels 6 Tel Road Bennington, VT 05201

27 Patti Cody348 Green Mountain RoadManchester Center, VT 05255

29 – Sherrill (Sue) Snow P.O. Box 85 East Arlington, VT 05252

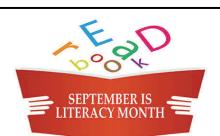
30 – Jeff McConnell 77 Hagelberg Hill Arlington, VT 05250

September Anniversaries

I – Diane and Jeff McConnell 77 Hagelberg Hill Arlington, VT 05250

24 – Kathy & John Frost 16 Kempton Place, Apt. 6 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866





In the White Mailbox

September Newsletter

The September/October UPPER ROOM devotional, "Where the World Meets to Pray"

Children and Youth Birthdays

2—Savannah Cross 15—William Cross

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.

September 5: United Church of Dorset & East Rupert
 September 12: Federated Church of East Arlington
 September 19: First Congregational Church-Fair Haven
 September 26: First Congregational Church-Hubbardton

Lectionary Readings for September

September 5: Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23; Psalm 125 James 2:1-10,(11-13),14-17; Mark 7:24-37

September 12: Proverbs 2:20-33; Psalm 19 James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

<u>September 19:</u> Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm I James 3:13-4:3, 7,8; Mark 9:30-37

September 26: Esther 7:1-6,9-10,9:20-22; Psalm 124 lames 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50



9/5

9/12

9/19

9/26

(Sandy will make the coffee)



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

We will gather together on Saturday, <u>September 18th</u>
at 11:30 a.m.
Bring your lunch.

We will sort out the bags of yarn and totes.

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

Open Door Sunday, September 12th in the Sanctuary in person—wear a mask, 10:00 a.m.

Also: 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

Part 4 of the History of our Adventures in Reading

In her own modest way, Janet tells how she became coordinator of the Adventures in Reading Group.

"Around the mid 1990's Nellie Hayden was unwell and was hospitalized. Before going to the hospital she asked Janet Simpson if she would take over as coordinator of the reading group. Janet said she would, and so she did from 1995 to 2020. She liked doing it and looks back on good days with it."

Those of us who have been members of the group over the years appreciate all that Janet has done as chairwoman of Adventures in Reading. Behind the scenes, Janet lovingly put in hours of labor into coordinating the program. She collected everyone's lists, counted the number of books each person read, validated that each one had completed the qualifications, and not only reported to us how many books each person read, but also how many people had read each book. Meanwhile she poured over book reviews to choose books to supplement the list of book suggestions for the next year. Being an efficient person, Janet hand wrote her lists, (often several times) typed them, then handed them over to be published. Several times each year Janet hosted the book club meetings at her home, provided refreshments, inspirational readings, and chaired the sharing of books read. We members have reaped the benefits of the years of her service. Janet has been an inspiration to all of us.

> Phyllis Warren Coordinator



Full Plates Vt to replace Farm to Families food box program

The USDA has announced the launch of **Full Plates VT**. Full Plates VT will distribute food boxes at drivethru style distributions throughout all fourteen counties in Vermont. The program is currently scheduled to run from June – September, 2021.

To keep wait times to a minimum, reservations will be required for the distributions. Registration will go live on May 24th and new dates will be added to the registration website every two weeks. To register and see the dates and locations, please visit vtfoodbank.org/gethelp or call 833-670-2254 for assistance.

Faith After Doubt

At the 2021 UMC New England Annual Conference, Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar recommended that we read Brian McLaren's latest book, Faith after Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What To Do About It. There will be 4 live book discussions with McLaren this fall on Mondays Sept. 13, 20, 27, and Oct 4 at 8:00 p.m. Reserve those dates, read the book, and plan to participate! This series is open to everyone, laity and clergy, and pastors and church members are encouraged to participate together. The deadline to register is Thursday, Sept. 9, but space is limited!

"Pastor Kathy will be participating and would welcome the opportunity to have you join in. Sessions will also be recorded if you have to miss any."

<u>VERMONT CONFERENCE, UCC BYLAWS</u> <u>CHANGE</u>

At the last Board of Director's meeting of the Vermont Conference, UCC, they approved the final draft of the proposed new VTC UCC Constitution and Bylaws.

A copy of the proposed bylaws will be available in Bailey Hall on Open Door Sunday, September 12th.

WINDOW DRESSERS

Drafty windows? Heat leaking out of your house? An inexpensive insulating window insert, built by community volunteers through Window Dressers, can help button up your house, save you money, save energy and reduce your carbon footprint.

This GNAT segment explains: https://windowdressers-on-vermont-public-access-news/

Here is the contact information to sign up your windows and to volunteer (no skills needed - training provided!) for the "barn build" style community build workshop, organized jointly by the town Energy Committees of Arlington, Sunderland, Dorset and Manchester:

COVID-19 Memorial

To honor Vermonters lost to COVID-19 and to process our grief, Vermont Interfaith Action is hosting a memorial service on the Vermont Statehouse Lawn in Montpelier at **4 p.m.**, **Sunday**, **Sept. 19**. Please save the date now. The heart of the event will be a ceremonial reading of the names so that each individual who has died of COVID-19 is recognized. In addition, various clergy will offer brief interfaith prayers and readings. Governor Phil Scott and Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levine have also been invited to participate. For more information, contact Debbie at debbie@viavt.org or 802-651-8889.

BONE BUILDERS

Green Mountain RSVP is seeking a volunteer Bone Builder Leader to help re-start the Federated Church of East Arlington (Bailey Hall) class. Prior to COVID-19, this class met twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11am. Training will be provided. To visit a current class, please visit our website www.rsvpvt.org to view the current class schedule.

If you are interested in this opportunity or if you have any questions, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Lenora Volkmer at 447-1546 or lvolkmer@svcoa.net.

	September 2021 Dates to Remember		
9/3	9:00am	Bible study via Zoom, contact Kathy to join	
9/5	10:00am	Worship/Communion via Zoom and in- person outside—bring a lawn chair	
9/10	9:00am 4:00-7:00pm	Bible study via Zoom, contact Kathy to join Farmers Market at Arlington Rec. Park	
9/12	10:00am	OPEN DOOR SUNDAY Worship in the sanctuary and via Zoom	
9/17 9/18	9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Bible Study, via Zoom contact Kathy to join Prayer Shawl Ministry	
9/19	10:00am 11:15am	Worship in the sanctuary and via Zoom Church Council meeting	
9/24	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study via Zoom, contact Kathy to join	
9/26	10:00am	Worship in the sanctuary and via Zoom	

FOR THE SERVICES YOU PROVIDED TO THE CITIZENS OF ARLINGTON, SUNDERLAND AND SANDGATE, VERMONT DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC OF 2020-21 OUR THANKS, GRATITUDE, AND DEEP APPRECIATION AUGUST 28, 2021

The Federated Church received this recognition at the Arlington, Sunderland, Sandgate Community picnic. Thanks to all our church family for supporting our efforts during the pandemic.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please let Sandy at the office know by 9/15 if you have any changes or additions to the church directory.

A new directory will be printed soon.

Church office: 375-2548

Email: federaedchurch05250@gmail.com

Sandy: 375-4982

Email: sandragrover@gmail.com

Arlington Area Food Shelf 2021

Our goal: 2,000 pounds
40 pounds added = 1025 pounds
The Arlington Food Shelf
P.O. Box 723
Arlington, VT 05250

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 #



Our Arlington Farmers Market Table At the Arlington Recreation Park

Once again we will have a table at the Arlington Farmers Market every other Friday from **4:00 to 7:00 p.m.** The dates we will be there are:

September 10

We will have a Bake Sale each time with all items pre-wrapped. Please <u>do not</u> price your items as we are going to ask for voluntary donations. The baked goods can be dropped off at the table itself or brought to the Church Office on Friday mornings.

We also need volunteers to help set-up, take-down and staff our table on our Fridays at the Farmers Market. If you can help out, please be in touch with Kathy or Sandy in the office and let us know your preferred dates and times.

The shifts we need to fill are as follows:

Table Volunteer 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Table Volunteer 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.



September 10

3:30-5:30 ______ 5:30-7:00

Many thanks to all our table volunteers!

Many thanks to all who bake!

Donations

6/18	Federated Church Arlington Food Shelf	\$92.00 2.00
7/2	Federated Church Arlington Food Shelf	76.00 42.00
7/30	Federated Church Arlington Food Shelf	72.00 5.00
8/13	Federated Church Arlington Food Shelf	29.00 0
8/27	Federated Church Arlington Food Shelf	87.00 6.00
9/10	Federated Church Arlington Food Shelf	Than

Be Aware!

There are many different scams currently circulating whether via email, text message, or phone call.

Here are some of the best tricks (courtesy of Yahoo.com) to make sure you are not scammed!

Hang up immediately if you hear a recording when you answer the phone.

Avoid picking up calls from unknown numbers, even if they appear to be local. (This can be applied to emails, as well. Make sure you check the return address to make sure matches the contact information you have even if it appears the sender is a pal, family member, coworker, etc.)

Reporting spam text messages can help cut down on another major technological annoyance.





SEPTEMBER MISSION PROJECT Haiti and Afghanistan Relief Donations

What can we do? \underline{Pray} and:

- Financial donations will be directed toward the relief efforts of both the UCC and UMC which are on the ground in Haiti.
- ♦ We are keeping abreast of the opportunity to support Afghan refugees who will be resettled here in Vermont and will seek out ways to support them.

Checks should be made out to the Federated Church with <u>"Haiti"</u> in the memo and our mission team will match the amount.

How blessed we are for the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus!

UMC

United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Committee on Relief's response to the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that rocked <u>Haiti</u> on August 14 is underway. The quake, which particularly damaged the southern and western regions of the island, has left more than 2,200 dead and 12,000 injured.

Several hospitals have been damaged or destroyed. Those still open are completely overwhelmed, lacking sufficient personnel and medical supplies. UMCOR has already awarded grants to provide urgently needed medical supplies.

"UMCOR has a long history of working with partners in Haiti to alleviate suffering and advance hope and healing. Our response will continue with grants to partners in the region providing humanitarian relief. As we know from past tragedies, recovery will have its challenges and will take time, and UMCOR is prepared to assist the long-term recovery as it has done in the past," said Roland Fernandes, general secretary of Global Ministries and UMCOR.

UCC

United Church of Christ

The island of <u>Haiti</u> suffered major damages and loss of life," said the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, associate general minister, Wider Church Ministries and Operations. "We are issuing an appeal through the Global H.O.P.E. team to assist with short-term and long-term recovery needs." A massive 7.2 earthquake has killed more than 1,500 people to-date. Search and rescue efforts are expected to be hampered by Tropical Depression Grace, which came ashore on Monday, August 16

The funds raised will support immediate relief efforts assisting survivors as well as to have resources for long-term rebuild opportunities," said Joshua Baird, team leader of Global H.O.P.E. Baird was in touch with the partner networks and said that the ACT Alliance reports that more than 60-percent of the people of Haiti have been impacted by the disaster. Both the ACT Alliance and Church World Service have spoken about "significant infrastructure challenges," with road closures due to civil unrest compounded by earthquake damage.

"We hold our partners and Haitian siblings in our thoughts and prayers through this time of suffering."



August 15, 2021

RE: Pastoral Survey and Self Evaluation

Dear Congregation,

Last spring, the Pastor Parish Relations Panel (PPRP) embarked in an effort to have you, the congregation, evaluate Pastor Kathy and to have Pastor Kathy do a Pastor Self-Evaluation.

The evaluation, aka survey, was mailed to the congregation in the fall of 2020. Twenty-four parishioners responded and enclosed is a copy of the survey with how many parishioners responded to each question and a copy of Pastor Kathy's Self-Evaluation.

As you will see, your feedback was generally positive. Also, considering the pandemic, the shutting of our sanctuary and having remote (Zoom) church, Pastor Kathy rated very high in holding us together during this most difficult time.

The PPRP met with Pastor Kathy on June 2, 2021 to discuss the survey and her self-evaluation. The results have now been given to the Church Council who will use this information in their strategic planning.

Blessings and thank you for participating,

The Pastor Parish Relations Panel:

Brian Allen, Karen Tibbetts and Susan Wirkki

Pastor Survey Talley March, 2021 Pastor Kathy Clark

Professional Understanding

- A. The pastor is adequately skilled and motivated to serve the congregation 15
- B. She thoroughly understands what it means to be a good pastor. 7
- C. Our pastor has an exceptional grasp of all phases of pastoral ministry. 9

Rating Quality of Work

- A. Meets minimum requirements. 4
- B. Very few complaints, consistently good. 8
- C. Exceptionally effective. 11. 1

How Versatile is the Pastor

- A. Inflexible and likes to do things the same way. 1
- B. Satisfactory in her ability to change or adjust. 7
- C. Highly flexible. 12

Attitude and Cooperation

- A. The pastor sometimes cooperates reluctantly and can be argumentative. 2
- B. The pastor gets along with others and has a good attitude. 12
- C. I adore the pastor and look forward to working with her. 7

Is the Pastor Consistently reliable?

Yes 23 No 0

Does the Pastor Keep Consistent Office Hours?

Yes 20 No 0

Does the Pastor Work Well with Volunteers?

Yes 21 No 1

(continued from page 9)

Sunday Services

- A. I'd like to see more thematic unity. 3
- B. The entire service flows well. 9
- C. The entire service is fully interwoven around one theme and it's obvious care was taken to relate hymns, scripture, and sermon to each other. 13

Pastor Survey Talley March, 2021 Pastor Kathy Clark Sermon Preparation and Delivery

- A. The sermon is usually mediocre, at best, but does relate to the themes of the scripture for the service. 6
- B. The sermon is usually well prepared and of interest. 6
- C. The sermon is very well thought out, is theologically solid, and provides a clear challenge. 13
- D. The sermon is almost always a home run. 4

Coming to Church

- A. I don't attend Sunday services because I can't or don't have the time. 2
- B. I come out of habit. 1
- C. I come predominantly for the comradeship. 1
- D. I come for fellowship and spiritual inspiration. 19

Spiritual Inspiration

- A. The pastor does not inspire or inform me in my quest to be a good Christian. 2
- B. Sunday service generally has good nuggets for spiritual growth but it's hit and miss. 9
- C. I almost always leave inspired. 13

Pastoral Care

- A. The pastor does some care work but doesn't seem enthusiastic. 0
- B. The pastor is faithful in visiting the sick, shut-ins, and the hospitalized. 14
- C. The pastor has great abilities in caring for for individuals in the congregation. 15

Programs

- A. Aside from Sunday services, our programs are weak. 0
- B. We have a range of programs (Bible Study, Christian education, events for children) that seem appropriate for our church, though the pastor's enthusiasm and initiative seem modest. 7
- C. The pastor shows lots of initiative in developing and leading these programs. 19

Community

- A. The pastor grudgingly gets involved in the greater community.1
- B. The pastor makes a good effort to involve herself in the community. 7
- C. The pastor is a proven, respected, high visibility leader in the community. 18

Continued Service of the Pastor

- A. It's time for a change 1
- B. I think she's ok. 6
- C. I'd love to see our current pastor continue her work at the church. 17

September 2021

2021 Pastor Self-Evaluation

Over the last couple of years, what do you feel you have done especially well at the Federated Church?

In this past year it would be adapting (and continuing to adapt) to how to be church in this time of COVID with worship, pastoral care, education, outreach, and relations with partners and the community.

Adjusting to being 3/4 time after 10+ years of being full-time

Expanding our network of partners

Engaging folks both within the congregation and outside of our congregation in the mission and ministry of our work as church.

Reacting in a timely manner to emerging needs (Backpack program grant, increasing Summer Lunch Program by 50%, getting our presence at the Farmers Market up and running, the COVID Kits grant, Everyone Eats)

Increasing Internet and social media presence as well as heightening our visibility and an awareness of what we do and who we are.

During the same time period, what were your most significant challenges?

Adapting to a ministry that is distanced from people. It has been hard, for example, not to be able to visit folks in hospitals and nursing homes and to have to rely on phone and Internet connections which, as wonderful as they are, can be poor substitutes for seeing folks face to face.

Witnessing and sometimes feeling powerless to respond to increasing needs.

Getting up to speed on new and changing technologies – sharp learning curve that can be challenging to keep up with.

How did you respond to these challenges?

Visiting 5 households every week to bring all of the materials that we usually email folks and maintaining a connection with them as 4 of the 5 can't be with us on Zoom. Creating a system early on that connected 8 "Angels" who regularly check-in with a half dozen or so folks regularly and then pass on to me folks who need extra attention.

So much has happened as a nation and so many folks have felt isolated, angry, disillusioned and I have worked at being supportive and will continue to do so.

Empowering those with more technological expertise as well as those willing to have active roles in worship and other needs.

What do you feel works well at the Federated Church?

Our role as community center of sorts and effective responder and partner with a host of organizations in serving the needs of the wider community.

The sense of caring and compassion that parishioners offer each other and the wider community.

A strong ability to respond to emerging needs.

An appreciation and respect for different perspectives on faith and tradition.

Creating a welcoming and inclusionary setting to practice and live our Christian faith.

What do you think are the biggest challenges facing the church in the coming year?

How we will reopen our facilities.

How to keep those who won't or can't be with us in person engaged and how to re-engage those who have drifted away.

Creating a dynamic and responsive Christian Education program with both children and youth/teens.

(continued form page 11)

Adapting to a technologically changing world when it comes to communication in all its forms. Building back some of the special events and services of worship that we loved while also looking ahead to new possibilities.

Working with an increasingly aging congregation to meet their needs and expectations while being able to encourage and strengthen the gifts and talents that it takes to continue to be church.

What do you consider your core strengths as a pastor?

The ability to relate to, integrate and nurture a wide variety of perspectives when it comes to matters of faith and belief.

A love for God and the people of this church.

Administration (although not my favorite part of the work)

Easily accessible

An interest in continuing to learn and grow.

A wide network of individuals and organizations that can be tapped and with whom we can partner.

Respond quickly to emerging needs.

How can the congregation help you grow as a spiritual leader?

Continue to support my participation in my monthly meetings with my spiritual director and my clergy group as well as continuing education opportunities and related expenses.

Pray for me.

Periodic check-ins on the part of the Parish Pastor Relations Panel

What are your top priorities for the coming year or two?

Respond effectively to the new post-pandemic reality with energy, imagination and devotion to the mission and ministry of this church.

Work with the congregation to plan strategically for the next 5-10 years.

Continue to learn and grow within my faith and in my ministry

Rev. Kathy Clark

3/3/21