

The Federated Church of East Arlington



December 2021

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

email: ksclark58@yahoo.com

Cell 733-2162

Parsonage phone: 375-2427

*He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release.
He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. He did not wait
till hearts were pure. In joy he came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
He came, and his Light would not go out.
He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!
-“First Coming” in The Ordering of Love: The New and Collected Poems
of Madeleine L’Engle*

We know the question will come soon enough or we’ll be the one doing the asking. “Are you ready for Christmas?” Usually someone throws out the question about a week beforehand. Typically, my response is something like, “Well, the shopping’s mostly done...I’m still baking...I need to do some gift-wrapping... I’ve almost finished my Christmas cards.” Then there’s the pastor part of my life and my response would be a week out that there is still the pageant to get through...the Christmas Eve bulletin, prayers and sermon to write...make sure the readers and candles and now equipment for recording/Zooming the service are all in place...and then if there are any emergencies or funerals, regroup and start all over again.

Madeleine L’Engle’s poem reminds us that there is no perfect time for Jesus’ arrival. He didn’t send out a “save the date” card or have an advance team showing up to make sure everyone was dressed to the nines and minding their manners. Jesus, came, ready-or-not, into a world filled with suffering and heartache, poverty and loss, war and cruelty. Because Jesus came bearing a message of love and acceptance just as we are, we get to know that part of God that gets us. God understands that we won’t ever have completed our life’s to-do list and it doesn’t matter. We will not be the shiniest and most noble and self-aware people in this lifetime and none of it matters.

So, during this Advent and Christmas season when our heads are throbbing from carrying too many unfulfilled plans or worries about doing Christmas right, let us all hold onto the only part of it all that truly matters. It’s the part of the story where a baby arrives in the usual way to very ordinary parents just so we would know that God is Love. “He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!”

Peace and blessings,
Kathy

REJOICE!



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 1/1-11/30/21 \$ 54,465.50



Church attendance

	Adults	Children
10/31	24	2
11/7	22	1
11/14	20	3
11/21	24	2
11/28	16	1
And many on Zoom or telephone.		

Church is who we are, Not where we go!



Our Church Council

Chair, Susan Congdon	Treasurer, Alyson Grzyb	Ex Officio, Pastor Kathy Clark	Clerk, Sandra Grover
Building & Grounds	Olavi Wirkki	1. Alyson Grzyb	2. Jeff McConnell
Christian Education	Tammy Lang	1. Scott Lang	2.
Finance	Brian Allen	1. Olavi Wirkki	2.
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



**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.

- December 5:** First Congregational Church of Wallingford
- December 12:** United Church of West Rutland
- December 19:** Second Congregational Church, Bennington
- December 26:** United Church of Benson

Lectionary Readings for December

- December 5:** Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
- December 12:** Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
- December 19:** Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)
- December 26:** I Samuel 2:18-20,26; Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

December Anniversaries

- 21—Brian Allen & Steven Horsch
117 Hale Road
Arlington, VT 05250
- 29 – Harriet & Mike Welther
2815 Sunderland Hill Rd
Arlington, VT 05250



December Helping Hands

- Lay Reader:** Michelanne Sylvester
- Council Member:** Tammy Lang
- December 5:**
Greeter: Phyllis Warren
Altar Flowers: Phyllis Warren
Refreshment time:
- December 12:**
Greeter: Diane McConnell
Altar Flowers: Diane and Jeff McConnell
Refreshments:
- December 19:** Christmas Pageant
Greeter:
Altar Flowers:
Refreshments:
- December 24**
Greeter:
Altar Flowers:
Refreshments:
- December 26:**
Greeter:
Flowers:
Refreshments:

Children and Youth Birthdays

- 8, 2015 Quinn Caples
- 9, 2016 Chandler Barrios
- 9, 2017 Jack-Douglas Wood

In the White Mailbox

Church Directory 2021
December Newsletter
The November/December UPPER ROOM devotional,
“Where the World Meets to Pray”



The Federated Church of East Arlington



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

We will gather together on Saturday, **December 18th** **at 11:30 a.m.** Bring your lunch.

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, lap robes, hats and mittens 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

Sundays 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

A Prayer About the True Gift of Christmas

The gifts I'd leave beneath your tree,
Aren't those that you can touch or see,
No toys meant just for pointless play,
But gifts to bless you every day.
The gift of friendship warm and true,
Is one that I would leave for you.
Good health and happiness and cheer
To keep you smiling through the year.
The gift of peace that comes from God,
With prayer to guide each path you trod.
And when your heart has lost its song
The gift of hope to cheer you on.
These are the gifts I'd leave for you.

—Kay Hoffman

Have a wonderful Christmas! We'll plan to get together in January.

Phyllis Warren
Coordinator



Christmas Carols



Do you love Christmas Carols? Consider joining our 3-week study when each Friday from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. we will check out the history and culture and background of some of our favorite songs of the season via Zoom. Please let Pastor Kathy know if you'd like the link to join in on December 3, 10 and 17. Join us for one, two or all three.



December 2021 Dates to Remember

* Dunlap Hall

12/2	12:00pm	Senior Meals
12/3	9:00am	Christmas Carols study via Zoom, contact Kathy to join
12/4	11:00am	Fran Wilkins funeral at Hanson-Walbridge
12/5	10:00am	Worship/Communion in person and Zoom
	2:00-4:00pm	Advent Workshop
12/7	12:00pm	Senior Meals
12/9	12:00pm	Senior Meals
12/10	9:00am	Christmas Carols study via Zoom, contact Kathy to join
12/11	9:00am	Greening of the church
12/12	10:00am	Worship in person and Zoom
		Return Red Stockings and gifts
	10:00am	Pageant rehearsal
	12:00pm	* Cadettes/Senior Girl Scouts in Dunlap Hall
	12:00pm	Junior Girl Scouts in Bailey Hall
12/14	12:00pm	Senior Meals
12/16	12:00pm	Senior Meals
12/17	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Carols study via Zoom, contact Kathy to join
12/18	11:30 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry
12/19	10:00am	Worship in person and Zoom
		Christmas Pageant , Jesus' birthday party
12/21	12:00pm	Senior Meals
12/23	12:00pm	Senior Meals
12/24	5:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service
12/26	10:00am	Worship in person and Zoom-Ali Zaiac
12/28	12:00pm	Senior Meals

Annual Reports

**are due by January 1st at
the latest**

If you have reports or information to be included in the 2021 Annual Report, please be sure I have it by January first, as I will be away January 24-31.

Thank you, Sandy

ANNUAL
REPORT



Arlington Area Food Shelf 2021

The Arlington Food Shelf
P.O. Box 723
Arlington, VT 05250

105 pounds of food added.

Please donate non-perishable food.
Place in box in church entry or
in the box in the garage (small door).

Christian Education

December 5th from 2-4pm in Bailey Hall—**Advent Workshop**
We are looking for people to teach a craft materials will be supplied

December 12th—Sunday School—Pageant rehearsal

December 3, 10, 17

Christmas Carols Study and discussion

Friday mornings, 9:00am via Zoom

Contact Kathy for information

Girl Scouts

December 12

Juniors at 12 noon in Bailey Hall

Cadettes and Seniors at 12 noon in Dunlap Hall



DECEMBER



Bennington County Open Arms

Bennington County Open Arms (BCOA) is an informal group of volunteers preparing since this summer to serve as co-sponsors for refugee families in south-western Vermont. We are waiting to be assigned a family by a ECDC (<http://www.ecdcus.org>), the refugee resettlement agency contracted by the U.S. Department of State for southern Vermont, through its newly opened office in Brattleboro. With a lot of grace, BCOA has secured an affordable (!) 2-bedroom apartment in Bennington and some home furnishings, initial commitments of funding from individuals and a faith group, and a growing roster of volunteers. If anyone is interested in hosting a family in one's home on a temporary basis with a commitment of at least 5 months or until the refugees can find permanent housing, we would love to hear from you.

We are currently focused on fundraising and expanding the volunteer network to make sure a refugee family is welcomed, and safely and comfortably settled in our corner of Vermont. Help small and large will be welcomed, from moving furniture, driving to appointments, tutoring in English language, providing meals, helping set up financial and utility accounts, completing official forms, taking the family shopping, and inviting them on outings to get to know the area. Financial contributions are very welcome, to cover expenses beyond whatever government support they may receive.

BCOA meets bi-weekly on Zoom and/or in-person, adhering to CDC COVID protocols. For more information or the Zoom links, please email BCOpenArms@gmail.com.

POINSETTIAS

Please bring your poinsettias, any color or style, on Sunday, December 19th when you come to worship or on Monday - Thursday, Dec. 20 - 22 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

If you would prefer to donate \$15 per poinsettia we will purchase a poinsettia for you.

You can take your poinsettias with you following the Christmas Eve Service or they can be taken to our home-bound friends.

Also let Sandy, at the office, know if the poinsettias are in memory of or in honor of someone.

375-2548 or federatedchurch05250@gmail.com



Red Stocking Christmas Project

Red stockings will be available in Bailey Hall. Pick up a Red Stocking, sign on the list, buy the gift, wrap it, attach the red stocking and return it by December 12th.

Contact Sue Wirkki or Barb Benjamin if you have questions.



Directory Corrections

Diehl, Charlene (Patti's sister) &
Mark: zip code is 48334



Contribution Statements

Please let me know how you would like your contribution statements for 2021 delivered to you:

postal mail email picked up at the office

You can contact me anytime to get an update of your giving.

Sandy Grover, Financial Secretary
sandragrover@gmail.com or 802-375-4982

Interfaith

Council of the Northshire



Holiday Auction

benefiting

THE EMERGENCY NEEDS FUND

helping our neighbors
with critical unmet needs

November 29 at 6 PM - December 9 at 6 PM

Visit www.32auctions.com/Interfaith2021
to see our exciting offerings... go back daily for new
listings... and bid, bid, bid!
For you and for those in need, it's a win-win!



2021 Advent and Christmas at the Federated Church of East Arlington

Sunday Service of Worship

All are invited to join in worship each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. beginning with the lighting of the Advent wreath in person or via Zoom. Those attending are encouraged to bring new warm men's & women's gloves for the Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless through 12/12. A time of fellowship and refreshment follows every service in Bailey Hall.

Advent Workshop

Welcome the Christmas season with this annual beloved event of free craft and gift making for all ages on Sunday, December 5 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Bailey Hall. Hot cocoa and cookies will be served.

Greening of the Church

On Saturday, December 11 at 9:00 a.m. many hands will prepare the church for Christmas with Nativity scenes, wreaths, and the Christmas tree. All are welcome and refreshments will be served.

Christmas Pageant and Jesus' Birthday Party

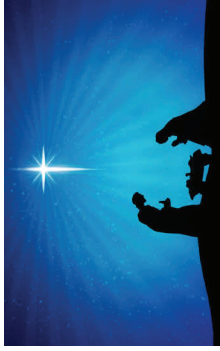
Come and hear the story of Christmas with new eyes and ears on Sunday, December 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the Church sanctuary. There will be plenty of opportunity to sing carols and this special Sunday service will end with birthday cake for Jesus in Bailey Hall. Phone the church office if you have a child who wants to participate in the pageant. The rehearsal will take place during the 10 a.m. Service of Worship on 12/12.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

On Friday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. the Federated Church of East Arlington invites one and all to the Christmas Eve celebration with beautiful music, the sharing of the Christmas story and lots of favorite carols for singing amid candlelight.


*****Please note that masks are to be worn for all events and services by those over the age of 2 years old.**

For additional information phone the Church Office at 802-375-2548, check out the Church website or connect to Zoom worship at www.federatedchurchofeastarlington.org or see our Facebook page.



December 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Return Red Stocking gifts on or before 12/12						
	*Dunlap Hall		1	2 12n-Senior Meals	3 9a-Christmas Carols Study	4 11a-Fran Wilkins Funeral at Hanson-Walbridge Chapel
5 2nd Sunday of Advent 10a-Worship/Communion 11a-Fellowship time 2-4a-Advent Wrkshop	6	7 12n-Senior Meals	8	9 12n-Senior Meals	10 9a-Christmas Carols Study	11 9a-Greening of the church
12 3rd Sunday of Advent 10a-Worship/SS Pageant rehearsal 11a-Fellowship time 12p-G.S. Juniors *12p-G.S. Cadettes/Srs	13	14 12n-Senior Meals	15	16 12n-Senior Meals	17 9a-Christmas Carols Study	18 11:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
19 4th Sunday of Advent 10a-Christmas Pageant 11a-Fellowship time 11:00a-Council	20	21 12n-Senior Meals	22 Poinsettias due	23 12n-Senior Meals	24 5pm-Christmas Eve Service of Worship	25 
10a-Worship-Ali Zaiac 11a-Fellowship time	27	28 12n-Senior Meals	29	30 12n-Senior Meals	31	