



The Federated Church of East Arlington



February 2022

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

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Many of you may be reading this on or around Groundhog Day, when we Americans and Canadians look for weather forecasting from a groundhog named Phil in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to determine whether spring will come early or whether a lot more winter weather is in store. This year will be the 136th time it will be celebrated with local dignitaries and the media making the most of it.

For me, the best part of this annual ritual is the movie it inspired. The comedy *Groundhog Day* is goofy, romantic and occasionally somewhat profound. In the movie, weatherman Phil, played by Bill Murray, starts out narcissistic, cynical, and bitter. As he grows into a better version of himself slowly while repeating the same day over and over, he ultimately realizes that it is in caring about others that we become our best selves. One of the questions he poses is “Well, what if there is no tomorrow?” How would or should or could our life be different?

Recently, I received a small booklet from the United Church of Christ Stillspeaking Writers’ Group titled, *What if? A Pocket Portion of Post-Pandemic Ponderments*. The title may be jumping the gun a bit, but it is filled with questions to consider, alone or together as church, that get at what we’ve experienced as we approach the two-year mark of the pandemic. You will hear me throw out many of these questions in the coming months but just to get us started at thinking about what we will do with what has happened, here are a few for us to consider:

- What if the time you spent worshipping in your bathrobes and sweats widened your former standards about how you show up to church?
- What if you remembered doing Communion at home, and approached all your meals as holy, as “little communions” maybe?
- What if you continued to imagine new things, do hard stuff, and create new kinds of community unburdened by physical barriers or geography?
- What if God is transforming your pandemic pains into something new: faithful creativity, radical flexibility, hospitable fearlessness?
- What if no line existed between sacred and secular?

So many days for so many of us may have felt the same, that we’re reliving the same worries and isolation over and over again since March 2020. Hopefully, this shared experience will bring us to a place where appreciation and hospitality and gratitude will take root. What if we remembered that God is not done with us? May we continue to be filled with important questions and the determination to explore the possible answers. May you be blessed in the asking.

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

2022 Congregational Giving Budgeted: \$ 60,000.00
 Congregational Giving 1/1/22-1/31/22 \$ 790.00



Church attendance

	Adults	Children
1/2	5	0
1/9	6	0
1/16	12	3
1/23	16	2
1/31	10	0

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	Secretary, 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. Scott lang
Worship & Ministry		1. Linda McDevitt	2. Phyllis Warren
Missions	Sandy Grover	1. Wendy Bahan	2. Gail Rice

VALENTINES

**We have a pretty red box for all the valentines
 to put our valentines in.**

**These will be brought to the nursing homes in our area
 to brighten others lives and share the love.**

**Thanks to David Moore for the idea and for all who give
 Valentines, including the school children.**



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
- 26 – Michael Welther
2815 Sunderland Hill Road
Arlington, VT 05250



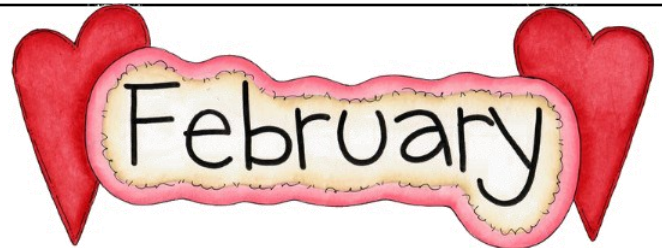
**Southwest Association, UCC
Prays for their Churches**

Each week one of the churches in the Southwest Association, UCC, will be prayed for by the other churches in the association.

- Feb. 6:** Federated Church of East Arlington
- Feb. 13:** First Congregational Church of Fair Haven
- Feb. 20:** First Congregational Church of Hubbardton
- Feb. 27:** First Congregational Church of Manchester

Lectionary Readings for February

- Feb. 6:** Isaiah 6:1-8(9-13); Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
- Feb. 13:** Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 1:12-20; Luke 6: 17-26
- Feb. 20** Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38
- Feb. 27:** Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)



February Helping Hands Needed

- Greeters
 - Altar Flowers
 - Refreshment/Coffee time
- There are sign-up sheets on the table in Bailey Hall
- Thank you to all who volunteer.

In the White Mailbox

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

CHOIR

Anyone interested in joining the choir, please see Mary.



VNA & HOSPICE

Of the Southwest Region

We provide the training... You Bring the Heart!

We provide the training... Maybe you’ve had a personal experience with hospice and want to give back. Perhaps you are a student looking to complete community service hours or maybe you simply have a heart for caring. Hospice volunteers are special. They provide invaluable support and in-home care to patients and their families. No matter what your reason for choosing to help us, we’re eager to find a volunteer opportunity that fits with your interests, availability and talents. Join us for our next training in-person on Friday, March 25th from 8am - 4pm. Preregistration required. Proof of full COVID vaccination and masks during training will also be required. For more information, please call Mary at 802.442.0540 or email mary.pleasant@vnahrs.org

The Federated Church of East Arlington

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
at Sunday worship

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

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

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2022 are available in Bailey Hall.

Please take a box and write your name on the numbered list.

Thank you.

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

Lent Book Study

Together we will use the book *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler & Jessica Richie to navigate our path through the season of Lent. If you would like a copy of the book ordered for you (cost is \$15), please sign up on the Do Something Table or email Pastor Kathy by February 11. Additionally, you will be provided with a companion booklet to go with it. Each Friday of Lent, beginning on March 4 we will explore the previous week's themes together via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. If you would just like the book and not the group, no problem.

The book has been described this way:

"Written gently and with humor, *Good Enough*, is permission for all those who need to hear that there are some things you can fix - and some things you can't. And it's okay that life isn't always better. In these gorgeously written reflections, Bowler and Richie offer fresh imagination for how truth, beauty, and meaning can be discovered amid the chaos of life. Their words celebrate kindness, honesty, and interdependence in a culture that rewards ruthless individualism and blind optimism. Ultimately, in these pages we can rest in the encouragement to strive for what is possible today - while recognizing that though we are finite, the life in front of us can be beautiful."

Christian Education

Children's Sunday School



Sunday School, February 13th, 10:00 a.m.

Girl Scouts

Girl Scout meetings for February:

Juniors-Bailey Hall, February 13th and 27th at noon

Cadettes and Seniors Meeting Dunlap Hall, February 13 and 27th at noon

Arlington Area Food Shelf 2022

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

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

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 or go to the GNAT-TV website to view them anytime after Tuesday of each week.

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.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

We gather together on Saturday, February 19th at 11:30 a.m. Bring your own lunch, coffee and tea is provided.

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.

Yarn is available for anyone needs more to continue knitting and crocheting.



Questions:
 Raebeth Hitchcock
 375-9294

Bible Study (and, no, you do not need to know anything about it to participate)

Our Bible Study via Zoom happens on Fridays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. when we explore the Gospel of Luke. We will meet each week for as long as it takes to work our way through this Gospel. Feel free to join us any week you can. Here's the link that will be used each Friday morning:

Topic: Gospel of Luke study
 Time: Fridays at 9:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91377329294>



February 2022



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
*Dunlap Hall						
6 10a-Worship/ Communion 11a-Fellowship time	7	8 12n-Senior Meals	9	10 12n-Senior Meals	11 9a-Bible Study-Luke On Zoom	12
13 10a-Worship & Sunday School 11a-Fellowship time 12p-G.S. Juniors *12p-G.S. Cadettes/Seniors	14	15 12n-Senior Meals	16	17 12n-Senior Meals	18 9a-Bible Study-Luke On Zoom	19 11:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
20 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship time	21	22 12n-Senior Meals	23	24 12n-Senior Meals	25 9a-Bible Study-Luke On Zoom	26
27 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship time 12p-G.S. Juniors *12p-G.S. Cadettes/Seniors	28	29 12n-Senior Meals	30	12n-Senior Meals	9a-Bible Study-Luke On Zoom	