

# The Federated Church of East Arlington

federatedchurchofeastarlington.com



December 2025

From the desk of the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus!

The season of Advent is upon us. It is a season of awareness, a time of watchfulness, a time for us to prepare ourselves for Christ's arrival. Traditionally, Advent is a time of fasting, of quiet reflection as the darkening days stir up an inner longing for light.

The Federated Church had many highlights in November. It took a lot of us working together to host the chicken and biscuit dinner and it was well worth it. There was a lot of joy and fellowship and great food. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the meals and serve the food and to all who helped setup and clean Bailey Hall. Special thanks to Karen for being the point person for this event. It was a blessing.

On November 9, Rob Ellis began as musical director of the Federated Church and we are incredibly thankful that he is with us to lead us and the choir in song during worship. Thank you to the search committee for their work and to Patti for playing music during the interim.

The Kirkin' O' the Tartans service on November 16 was a special opportunity to honor and bless our ancestries during worship. The bagpipes sounded great in the sanctuary and it was lovely to see so many fabrics representing our many families. Thanks to the worship committee for their work to make this service happen.

In other news, Bible studies on the book of Isaiah continued throughout the month. We will conclude the study of Isaiah in December and take a short break before resuming in January. We hosted a fun country gospel jam and sing-along on November 19. Our next one is on December 17 and will include some songs of the season. Singers and musicians (including kazoo players) are welcome.

December will be an eventful month at the church. Check the calendar for dates for the upcoming Greening of the Church, Advent Workshop, Christmas Pageant, Blue Christmas service and Christmas Eve service.

As it gets colder, let's remember to look out for our neighbors and check in on those who may be in need. Let us also be alert and aware, both on the roads, no matter their condition, and in our lives. Christ calls us to be ready at all times, to have our eyes on God and our hearts and ears attuned to the Spirit. Take time in your day for prayer and quiet reflection to pray for those in need and for ourselves that we may be prepared to welcome Christ into the world.

May Christ bless and keep you now and always.

Andris

*"O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples." 1 Chronicles 16:8*

Email: federatedchurch05250@gmail.com

Church office: 802-375-2548

Website: federatedchurchofeastarlington.com

Website: federatedchurchofeastarlington.com

YouTube: Federated Church of East Arlington, Vt

Facebook: Federated Church of East Arlington

### Report of the Financial Secretary, Sandra Grover

2025 Congregational Giving Budgeted:	\$ 70,000.00
Congregational Giving 1/1/25-11/28/25	\$ 52,293.49
Building use 1/1/25-11/28/25	\$ 4,254.00
Parsonage Rental	\$ 19,700.00
Fundraising 1/1/25-11/28/25	\$ 5,091.01



### Church attendance

	Adults	Children	Youth	Online
11/2	34	10	1	6
11/9	33	9	1	5
11/16	41	11	1	4
11/23	44	8	0	
11/30				



The Church Council had a number of items on the November agenda. We discussed offering breakfast on Sunday morning, perhaps once each quarter. Thank you, Alyson, for volunteering to put this together. We also discussed having potluck lunch after church on a regular basis, perhaps on Communion Sundays. We have changed our insurance provider, resulting in considerable savings for us. Thank you, Ed, for your work on this.

We will form an ad hoc committee for next year which, for now, we will call the Activities Group. Our hope is that this group will collect ideas from the congregation and community for fundraisers, social events, learning opportunities, and other events we could host in Dunlap Hall. They would coordinate with other town organizations to create a calendar so we could minimize scheduling conflicts. If you're interested in joining this group, or want to know more about it, please let me know.

Please remember that all members are welcome to attend council meetings and contribute to discussions. We allow time at the beginning of each meeting for members to ask questions or bring up concerns. Our normal meeting time is after the 10:00 service on the third Sunday of each month.

Our next meeting will be December 21.

Blessings of the Christmas season to all.

Marilyn Warner

Council Chair



### Church Council

Moderator	Marilyn Warner
Treasurer	Adam Annunziata
Clerk	Sandy Grover
Ex Officio-	Andris Berry
Building and Grounds	Edward Coy
Christian Education	Tammy Lang
Finance	Olavi Wirkki
Worship & Ministry	Karen Coy
Missions & Outreach	Sandy Grover

### Team Members

1. Alyson Grzyb	2. Dennis Warner
1. Casey Annunziata	2. Christy Wood
1. Alyson Grzyb	2. Scott Lang
1. Phyllis Warren	2. Dianne McConnell
1. Gail Rice	2. Ann Smith

**December Birthdays**

- 2 – Tammy Lang  
25 Glebe Lot Road  
Arlington, VT 05250
- 5 – Donna Stone  
234 Simeon Dean Road  
Shaftsbury, VT 05262
- 6—Brian Allen  
117 Hale Road  
Arlington, VT 05250
- 8 – Martha Butterfield  
2936 Ozark Road  
Chattanooga TN 37415
- 9 – Ann Smith  
177 Crow Hill Road  
Arlington, VT 05250
- 12 – Raebeth Hitchcock  
300 Village Lane  
Bennington, VT 05201
- 20 – Kay Kwasniewski  
133 Lawrence St. Apt. 61E  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
- 23 – Scott Lang  
25 Glebe Lot Road  
Arlington, VT 05250
- 27 – Vicki Hill  
333 East Arlington Rd  
Arlington, VT 05250
- 28 – Marilyn Warner  
367 Berwal Road  
Arlington, VT 05250



**December Anniversaries**

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



**Children & Youth**

- 8, 2015 Quinn Caples
- 9, 2016 Chandler
- 9, 2017 JD



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

**Lectionary Readings for December**

- December 7:** Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
- December 14:** Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10  
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
- December 21:** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25
- December 28:** Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

**Sunday Volunteer Opportunities**

- We need helpers to assist with our services.
- Greeter – 1 per service
- Usher – 1 per service to assist the greeter
- Readers – 1 per month, or share with someone
- Altar flowers – each Sunday, except during Lent
- Communion prep – 1 or 2 once per month
- Refreshment time – set up, clean up, goodies

**Arlington Area Food Shelf 2025**

The Arlington Food Shelf  
P.O. Box 723  
Arlington, VT 05250  
Please donate non-perishable food.





Memory Verse: "A Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

Week 1 & 2 - Pageant Practice

Week 3 - Pageant

Week 4 - No Class

**F.I.R.E.**

F.I.R.E. is the regional youth group for FCEA Federated, St. James, St. Peter's, FCC Manchester, Zion Episcopal and Dorset Churches.

It is coordinated by Pastor Bill, Father Jeremy and Pastor Andris.

All youth are invited and welcome!



# Family Advent Workshop

Sunday December 7th

From 2 to 4 PM

Federated Church  
102 Ice Pond Road  
Arlington, VT. 05250

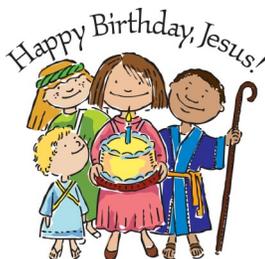
Bring the family  
and  
make holiday crafts.

**Refreshments provided**



December 21st

10:00am



## Worship With US

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86243626013?pwd=z0OIhUN6Q4Qa0zSadxwVLD4k6PooNB.1>

Meeting ID: 862 4362 6013

Passcode: 932568

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,85851005502#,,,,\*481587# US  
(Washington DC)

+13052241968,,85851005502#,,,,\*481587# US

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.

Watch for an email from Andris with the Sunday bulletin and link to join.

### Greening of the Church

9:00am

With enough volunteers we will make and hang the round window wreath!!

Bows on wreaths

Hang wreaths inside and outside

Display creches, lights, etc.



Country gospel jam sessions at the Federated Church of East Arlington!

Wednesday, December 17th  
7:00pm

### Arlington Area Christmas Project (Red Stockings)

Red stockings will be on the tree in Bailey Hall on November 30th. Take one, sign the list, buy and wrap the gift, attach the red stocking to the gift and return to church by

December 14th

If you have questions, contact Barb Benjamin at 802-379-7679.



### Adventures In Reading

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, who is the greatest story ever told.

As we open books this Christmas, help us to open our hearts to the wonder of Your love, like the shepherds gazing at the star.

Fill us with the peace of Your presence and the hope of the Nativity, and may we find joy in every page as we celebrate the greatest gift of all. Amen



### ANNUAL REPORTS

Please have your end of year reports and information for the annual report to the office no later than January 12th.

THANK YOU!



### Blue Christmas Service

December 21, 2025 at 6pm at the Federated Church

The holiday season is hard for those whose hearts are hurting. Blue Christmas is a gentle service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration.

**Greetings from the PPRP**

The pastoral relations committee supports and maintains an open relationship between the pastor and members of the congregation. It helps the pastor and members of the church share ideas, hopes, dreams and interpretations of our mission. It lets the pastor know what people in the church are thinking.

The Chicken and Biscuits Dinner that was held on November 8, 2025 at Bailey Hall was a huge success. It was very well attended. The PPRP under the leadership of Karen Underhill, worked together to organize this fundraiser. It was a great meal and a time for our community members to have friendly conversations! The monetary meal donations were very much appreciated. This dinner event is one way that the PPRP chose to enhance the effectiveness of our mission to welcome all, follow Jesus Christ together, and live God's Word with compassionate service.

Our next PPRP meeting is on December 8, 2025. We will meet in Pastor Andris's Office at a time to be determined soon.

Peace and blessings,  
 Donna Stone,  
 Federated Church of East Arlington  
 PPRP Contact Person

**Missions and Outreach**

The Chicken and Biscuit dinner held on November 8th was very successful. Thanks to Klaren Underhill for being the point person and to all who participated: advertising, shopping, baking, cooking, set up, serving, cleanup. Many people attended and enjoyed the meal and the fellowship.

\$1,384 was raised for our ministry and mission.

Alyson Grzyb will be the point person for a breakfast in January. Watch of more information.

Sandy Grover, Ann Smith, Gail Rice



**DECEMBER REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR**  
 Each day add the item into a box. On Christmas Eve, donate the box to your local food bank

Day 1 Applesauce	Day 2 Canned Beans	Day 3 Canned Chicken	Day 4 Canned Tuna	Day 5 Canned SPAM	Day 6 Canned Veggies	Day 7 Cooking Oils
Day 8 Crackers	Day 9 Dried Herbs & Spices	Day 10 Canned Fruit	Day 11 Granola Bars	Day 12 Instant Potatoes	Day 13 Nuts	Day 14 Pasta
Day 15 Peanut Butter	Day 16 Rice	Day 17 Powdered Milk	Day 18 Canned Soup	Day 19 Cereal	Day 20 Oatmeal	Day 21 Pasta Sauce
Day 22 Bottled Water	Day 23 Tea & Coffee	Day 24 Baby Formula				

**Christ**  
 \*time\*  
 8:00/10p-  
 11:00am

# December 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FCEA worship services are live on Zoom each Sunday (unless notified otherwise)	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10a-Worship, Communion, Sunday School, nursery 11a-Fellowship time 2-4p- <u>Advent Workshop</u>	8 10a-Bone Builders	9 12n-Senior Meals	10 10a-Bone Builders 2:30p-Serenity Singers	11 12n-Senior Meals 2p-Bible study	12 Wreaths arrive	13 9a-Greening of Church
14 <u>Return Red Stocking gifts</u> 10a-Worship, Sunday School, nursery 11a-Fellowship time	15 10a-Bone Builders	16 12n-Senior Meals	17 10a-Bone Builders 7p-Country Gospel Jam	18 12n-Senior Meals 2p-Bible study	19 Poinsettia list due at the office	20
21 10a-Worship, <u>PAGEANT</u> 11a-Fellowship time & potluck lunch 11:20a-Church Council 6p- <u>Blue Christmas_FCEA</u>	22 10a-Bone Builders	23 12n-Senior Meals	24 5p-Christmas <u>Eve Service of Carols &amp; Candles</u>	25 	26	27
28 10a- Worship, Sunday School, nursery 11a-Fellowship time	29 10a-Bone Builders	30 12n-Senior Meals	31 HAPPY NEW YEAR			



December 2025

Christmas Calendar 2025  
The Federated Church  
Of East Arlington



Advent Begins  
Sunday, November 30

Greening of the Church  
Saturday, December 6, 9am

Advent Workshop  
Sunday, December 7, 2-4pm

Music Night Jam and Sing-along  
Wednesday, December 17, 7pm

Christmas Pageant  
Sunday, December 21, 10am

Blue Christmas Service  
Sunday, December 21, 6pm

Christmas Eve Service  
Wednesday, December 24, 5pm

