



The Federated Church of East Arlington



March 2026

From the desk of the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus! It is good to be back. Thanks to Phyllis Skidmore, Doug Kitchen and Julie Demaree for preaching and leading worship while I was away. And thanks to you all for welcoming them.

The season of Lent is here. In our worship service, Lent began with the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness after fasting for forty days. The desert can be a harsh and unforgiving place. Every plant and animal that lives in the desert has its own special way of surviving the heat and lack of water. Vermont in the winter is a far cry from the desert of Palestine but, in a way, it is our own kind of desert. We look out at the snow-covered mountains, the leafless trees and frozen streams, and we see a landscape that appears barren and fruitless. Every living thing in the wild, from the tallest of trees to the smallest of creatures has its own special way to survive these cold "desert" months.

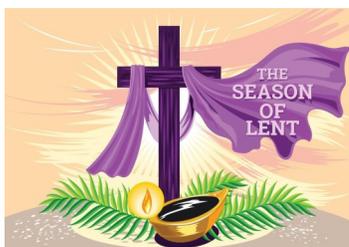
Most of us humans are fortunate to have the comforts of modern living to physically help us through the winter. But ours is not only a physical journey. We must also survive desert times when we feel hunger and thirst that are not of the body, but of the soul. Desert times are ones of loneliness, grief, depression and confusion. During these times, we can turn to God in prayer, we can turn to scripture and we can seek out our community. But sometimes, we still feel like we are alone in a wilderness of the heart. I wonder if these testing times are really opportunities for us to demonstrate trust that God is working in our lives, even and especially when we can't see or feel God's presence. It is good to remember that the frozen fields and mountains may appear barren, but it is only for a time and the seeds of life are always there waiting to come back to life again. So there is always within us the promise of new life too.

I am looking forward to our country gospel jam and sing-alongs on the third Wednesday of each month, beginning on March 18 at 7pm in Bailey Hall. We will also be resuming Bible studies on Thursdays at 2pm on March 12. We'll be hosting a Mac and Cheese dinner for Arlington Area Childcare on Saturday, March 14 and looking for volunteers to help.

Thanks to you all for sharing the light of Christ with one another and with the world.

Peace and blessings be with you,

Andris



Email: federatedchurch05250@gmail.com
 Church office: 802-375-2548

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 1/1/26-2/28/26	\$ 19,487.78
Building use 1/1/26-2/28/25	\$ 575.00
Parsonage Rental 1/1/26-2/28/26	\$ 3,600.00



Church attendance

	Adults	Children	Youth	Zoom
2/1	34	6	0	9
2/8	27	7	1	7
2/15	34	3	0	7
2/22	26	1	0	5



At the Church Council’s February meeting, we discussed the possibility of a pageant during Holy Week. Watch for more information on this, as Holy Week always comes up quickly. Our buildings & grounds are in good shape, with no major expenses or projects in the immediate future. With the merger of Berkshire Bank with Beacon Bank, the finance committee will investigate Beacon Bank’s performance and fee structure.

Future events include an Easter Egg hunt on April 4 sponsored by Christian Education, and a Mac-n-Cheese Dinner and Desert Auction to benefit Arlington Area Child Care. The Activity Group plans include an afternoon tea in May, also chicken and biscuit dinner in the fall. Please let us know if you have an idea for an event.

We will purchase a half-page ad in the Arlington Memorial High School 2026 yearbook.

Our next council meeting will be after church on March 15. 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.

Marilyn Warner
 Council Chair



Church Council

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

Team Members

1. Alyson Grzyb	2. Dennis Warner
1. Christy Wood	2. Jenna/Doug Tait
1. Alyson Grzyb	2. Edward Coy
1. Phyllis Warren	2. Diane McConnell
1. Gail Rice	2. Ann Smith

March Birthdays

- 1 - Carolyn Brown
26 Jasper Lane
Arlington, VT 05250
- 18 - Lauriane Cornwell
475 Old Depot Road
Shaftsbury, VT 05262
- 29 - Nathalie Caler
96 Carbondt Circle
Arlington, VT 05250



Children & Youth

3/9 Aden Berry



**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 1:** Pawlet Community Church
- March 8:** Pittsford Congregational Church
- March 15:** Grace Congregational Church, Rutland
- March 22:** Congregational Church of Rupert
- March 29:** Shrewsbury Community Church

Lectionary Readings for March

- March 1:** Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
- March 8:** Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
- March 15:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
- March 22:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
- March 29:** Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

**CHILDREN'S
Sunday School**

Children's Ministry

March - Forgiveness

Memory Verse: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.: - Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

Scholarship Team

Federated Church of East Arlington College Scholarships Available

If you are a high school senior heading off to college or a current college student that still has another year or two of school and live in the Arlington, Sandgate, Sunderland area, please apply for a scholarship through the Federated Church! Please visit our website [Scholarship info - The Federated Church of East Arlington](#) and apply by April 15th.

January Helping Hands Needed

- We need helpers to assist with our services.
- Greeter - 1 per service **||** **C**
- Usher - 1 per service
- Readers - 1 per month, or share with someone
- Altar flowers - each Sunday
- Refreshment time - set up, clean up, goodies
- Altar - 1 or 2 per week - once a month to set up for Communion, polish cross, candleholders if needed, check candles.

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.

Arlington Area Food Shelf 2026

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

Please donate non-perishable food. Place in the box in the church entry or in Bailey Hall.

Contribution Statements

Please let me know how you would like your 2025 contribution statements 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

Greetings from the PPRP

Members of the Federated Church of East Arlington's **Pastor Parish Relations Panel** are Pastor Andris Bertry, Donna Stone, Ann Smith, Karen Underhill, Bernice Gaudette and Gail Rice. The Pastor Parish Relations Panel is our church committee that seeks support and maintains an open and healthy relationship between our Pastor and members of our Congregation. We meet four times a year. We begin our meetings with an opening prayer. We maintain confidentiality, build strong relationships, and engage with the church council and congregation. You will read the PPRP updates in the Federated Church of East Arlington's monthly Newsletter.

We **will meet on March 2, 2026 at 1:30PM** to discuss Church-wide Programs, Community Outreach, Church Safety and so much more. Let us know if you have any ideas for these topics or have new topics for discussion. We thank Pastor Andris for his inspiring sermons, positive leadership and his faithful guidance.

PPRP Updates

- **We will have a Pot Luck Lunch** one Sunday a month. Church members may bring food items to share. Our first **Pot Luck Lunch** was on **January 4, 2026**. The food we shared was delicious! Our Church families enjoyed lunch and conversation time. This **Pot Luck Lunch** once a month after Church will continue!
- We are reaching out to area Rescue Squad, Police Department and Fire Departments for a Church Safety plan to present in the Spring of 2026.

Here are the next two PPRP Meeting Dates. Feel free to join us! We meet in Pastor Andris's Office. The June meeting time will be determined as we get closer to the meeting date.

March 2, 2026 - 1:30PM

June 8, 2026

Peace and Blessings

Donna Stone

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend and member Marie Davies. Thanks for the many prayers and thoughts.



March 2026

Easter Plants

Given by:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Or donation to:

Bennington County Habitat for Humanity

(Checks to be made out to The Federated Church
in the memo)

Given by:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

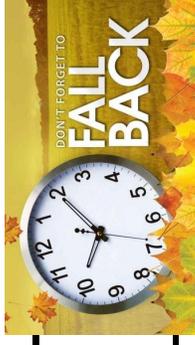
HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday	Sunday, March 29	10:00am
Maundy Thursday	Thursday, 4/2	watch for details
Good Friday	Friday, 4/3	Sanctuary open 9:00am-3:00pm
Egg hunt	Saturday, 4/4	9:00am sharp
Sunrise Service	Sunday, 4/5	6:30am
Continental breakfast	Sunday, 4/5	7:00am
Easter Service	Sunday 4/5	10:00am





March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8-9:30a-Community breakfast 10a-Worship, Communion, Sunday School 11a-Fellowship time	2 10a-Bone Builders	3 12n-Senior Meals	4 10a-Bone Builders 2:30p-Serenity Singers	5 12n-Senior Meals	6	7
8 10a-Worship, Sunday School 11a-Fellowship time	9 10a-Bone Builders	10 12n-Senior Meals	11 10a-Bone Builders	12 12n-Senior Meals 2p-Bible Study	13	14 5p-Mac & Cheese Extravaganza 6p-Dessert Auction Free will offering to benefit AACI
15 10a-Worship, Sunday School 11a-Fellowship time 11:15a-Church Council	16 10a-Bone Builders	17 12n-Senior Meals	18 10a-Bone Builders 7p-Music Jam 2:30p-Serenity Singers	19 12n-Senior Meals 2p-Bible Study	20	21
22 10a-Worship, Sunday School 11a-Fellowship time	23 10a-Bone Builders 1p-AIR meeting and snacks	24 12n-Senior Meals	25 10a-Bone Builders 2:30p-Serenity Singers	26 12n-Senior Meals 2p-Bible Study	27	28
29 Palm/Passion Sunday 10a-Worship, Sunday School 11a-Fellowship time	30 10a-Bone Builders	31 12n-Senior Meals	 <h2>HOLY WEEK</h2>			