

# The Federated Church of East Arlington



October 2022

## Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

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*On the Equinox we trade  
one hemisphere for another,  
north and south, spring and fall.  
In this moment all is both light and dark,  
hope and despair, good and evil.  
This world, and all of life,  
is an equinox,  
grace lurking in every shadow,  
blessing in every fall,  
healing in every wound.  
Judgment is confounded.  
The cross prefigures every resurrection.  
Day or night, fear not.  
Go ahead, into the light or the dark.  
The Beloved is there,  
ready for you.*

Steve Garnaas-Holmes' reminder of what happens when we change seasons indicates that in the midst of change, God's presence continues unceasingly. In our lifetimes, the world has changed more rapidly than in any other century in history. Consider that many of us were born before or in the early days of television. Space travel began and continues to take humans and telescopes and cameras to previously unknown parts of the universe. A high percentage of the population carries a computer in their pockets that has the ability to display huge swaths of information with a touch of the finger as well as communicate with people half a world away. And still there is the darkness of pervasive illness and poverty and war and huge divisions between us for all manner of identity.

Progress looks different based on who gets to tell the story. So many of us yearn for a less complicated life and yet we still want the conveniences we've grown accustomed to and we want them in an instant. No wonder the reassurance that God survives regardless of how we respond to the world or how we treat each other can seem too good to be true. The balance of light and dark that arrived at a specific moment this past week reinforces the notion that we can find a place where hope can exist in the midst of despair. Maybe that is one of the powers of church. We can be a beacon of the possible in a world that is often hard and painful. We can welcome those who need the hope we have. *The Beloved is there, ready for you...and you, and you, and you.* That is the Good News we get to share.

Peace and blessings,

*Kathy*



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 1/1/22-8/29/22	\$ 40,982.00
Building use 1/1/22-9/28/22	\$ 2,000.00
Fundraising 1/1/22-9/28/22	\$ 1,234.61
Capital Campaign as of 9/28	\$ 11,975.00



*Thank you!*

**Church attendance**

	Adults	Children
9/4	27	3
9/11 Rally Day	20	5
9/18	24	0
9/25	26	0

And many on Zoom and phone

What a beautiful morning sky we have had this month. We are now back in the church sanctuary, but it was a wonderful summer under the tent. The church has been cleaned professionally and thanks to Sue Wirkki for cleaning the hymnals and bibles. Rally Day was September 11th and went very well with a picnic to follow.

Sunday School will be on October 9th as we look forward to many children. Thanks to Tammy and Scott Lang for being our Sunday School teachers.

The Search Committee has been meeting and will be meeting with our members, friends and interested persons from the community. If you have questions, please feel free to contact one of the committee members—Brian Allen, Karen Underhill, Christy Wood, Karen Tibbetts or Donna Stone.

Brian has sent out a letter for the capital campaign. Donations are coming in, please consider sending in a gift. Just a reminder that we are still having Zoom and phone church. Welcome to those tuning in. Thanks to Brandon, our video technician.

Our church family continues to help the community in various ways.

Sue Congdon  
Church Council Chair

**Our Church Council**

Chair, Susan Congdon	Treasurer, Olavi Wirkki	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. Alyson Grzyb	2. Scott lang
Worship & Ministry		1. Phyllis Warren	2. Linda McDevitt
Missions	Sandy Grover	1. Wendy Bahan	2. Gail Rice

**October Birthdays**

- 11 – David Moore  
283 Old Mill Road  
East Arlington, VT 05252
- 16 – Nancy Schoerke  
212 Middle Road  
Shaftsbury, VT 05262
- 22 – Bernice Gaudette  
6 Tel Road  
Bennington, VT 05201



**September Anniversaries**

- 16 – Tammy and Scott Lang  
25 Glebe Lot Road  
Arlington, VT 05250
- 16 - Sandy & Bonnie Barnes  
1999 Vt. Route 7A  
Arlington, VT 05250



**Children & Youth**

- 9, 2012 Celia Cary
- 30 Mara Rosenthal



**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.

- Oct. 2:** Federated Church of Castleton
- Oct. 9:** Congregational Union Church of South Wallingford
- Oct. 16:** Union Church of Proctor
- Oct. 23:** United Church of Dorset and East Rupert
- Oct. 30:** Federated Church of East Arlington

**Lectionary Readings for October**

- Oct. 2:** Lamentations 1:1-16; Psalm 137  
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10
- Oct. 9:** Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12  
2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:112-19
- Oct. 16:** Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 1129:97-104  
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8
- Oct. 23:** Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14
- Oct. 30:** Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 117:137-144  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

**In the White Mailbox and on**

**“Do Something” table in Bailey Hall**

September Newsletter

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

**CHILDREN'S  
Sunday School**

**Christian Education**

Rally Sunday and the church picnic was wonderful.  
October Sunday school is October 9th

**October Helping Hands Needed**

We need helpers to assist with our services.  
Greeters/usher – 1 per service  
Readers – 1 per month, or share with someone  
Altar flowers – each Sunday  
Refreshment time – thanks to all who bring goodies to share and help clean up.

**Girl Scouts-Juniors**

October 9 and 23 from 12-1pm in Bailey Hall



**Worship With Us in person and on Zoom****10:00 a.m.**

Masks optional

**Also:** via Zoom using this link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.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.

[federatedchurchofeastarlington.org](http://federatedchurchofeastarlington.org)

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

**Adventures In Reading**

Fall has arrived and along with it cooler weather. Our autumn meeting will be on October 17 at noon at Bailey Hall. We will enjoy soup and bread along with a book discussion. Be ready to share

I hope you're enjoying reading books from the Adventures in Reading book list.

*Phyllis*

**October 17th**  
**12:00 noon**  
**Bailey Hall**

**KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.**

We will gather together on Saturday,  
 October 15th at 11:30 a.m.

Bring your lunch; coffee and tea 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, mittens, scarves to be given out.

There is plenty of yarn in Bailey Hall if anyone needs  
 more to continue knitting and crocheting.

Raebeth Hitchcock  
 375-9294

**Lake Paran Cooking Classes****FREE**

Budget Friendly Healthy Cooking Classes

**Come Cook With Us!**

Learn skills from Canning, Processing Fresh  
 Produce & Cooking for the Holidays on a  
 Budget

**When: September 29th (Thursday)****October 20th (Thursday)****November 17th (Thursday)****5:30—7:00 pm****Where: Lake Paran**

269 Houghton Street

North Bennington, Vermont 05257

**To Register: Email:**

[Lakeparanvista@gmail.com](mailto:Lakeparanvista@gmail.com)

**Call:** (302) 463-6907 or (518) 322-2650

**Tour de S.W.A.**

“The Tour de S.W.A.” (Southwest Association of U.C.C. churches) was created as a bike-a-thon for two key purposes. First, to raise money for “The Hope Fund” which will help finance new churches and assist struggling ones. Second, the tour will visit all the church buildings in our Southwest Association and enhance our interconnectedness.

The tour is divided into three legs. The first is Sunday, October 16th. The second will be next spring and the third leg will be next fall. Riders are asked to raise a minimum pledge of \$25 for The Hope Fund from friends and church members. Bikers of all levels are encouraged to participate and ride any section of the route or all of it. Any kind of bike is welcomed including electric bikes. There will be a support van accompanying each leg and each church will offer hospitality as the cyclists stop at their building. The first leg will start at The Benson Congregational Church at 8:00 (breakfast will be provided) and end at The Dorset Church for refreshments and a closing worship service where each rider will be celebrated and receive a Tour de S.W.A. t-shirt. (See brochure for registration and pledge sign-ups).

**Tour de S.W.A. Leg #1**

<u>Church</u>	<u>Mile</u>	<u>Arrive</u>	<u>Depart</u>	<u>Stop</u>
Benson	0	7:00	8:00	Breakfast
Fair Haven	13.2	9:00	9:20	Rest stop
Castleton	19.2	9:50	10:10	Rest stop
Poultney	27.4	10:55	11:10	Rest stop
Pawlet	42.5	12:30	2:00	Lunch
Rupert	53.1			
(For those wishing to take an added ride over Rupert Mountain and be vanned back to Dorset)				
Dorset	61.6	4:00		Dinner/Worship/Meeting



The brochure with sponsor form is in Bailey Hall and in the white mailbox.

**Arlington Area Food Shelf 2022**

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

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



2022 Church Directory  
 Is available in Bailey Hall and  
 The white mailbox



**Hi Y'all! Welcome to the *Shiny Side Up* – infectious inspiration  
that will lift you up, make you smile,  
and leave you stronger**

Here's my question today: Think about the last time you went shopping. When you got to the checkout counter, how many of the items in your cart did you actually need? Not all of them, I bet.

I, too, am guilty of buying items that aren't exactly necessary. The last time I was at our cabin in Wisconsin, I visited a local butcher whose shop is known for its beautiful meat and creative flavorings. Intending only to purchase hamburger meat for our cookout, I was waylaid by a sign near the checkout counter that for me was like Odysseus' sirens calling from the rocks (of the freezer section): "Mac and Cheese Hotdogs! A gooey favorite stuffed inside a premium wiener. Pasta and cheddar may ooze out while grilling."

Four words rang in my head: Can't. Live. Without. It.

Were these outrageous hotdogs absolutely necessary for my health and wellbeing? Yes.

Okay, no. But clearly, the line between what I truly needed and what I simply wanted had become blurred.

Honestly, what do we really need beyond food, water, clothing, and shelter? And please understand that by food, water, clothing, and shelter, I don't mean truffles, Perrier, Prada and a McMansion. You can also live well with Ruffles, Pepsi, Payless and a motorhome.

Some of you may argue, "I've worked hard. I deserve more than just the necessities for survival, because as Luke 10:7 says, "The laborer deserves his wages."

As my grandfather used to say, "true "nuf." but that mentality can also become a vicious cycle. We reward ourselves with things beyond what we actually need to the point that we can no longer tell the difference between necessities and luxuries. Soon we lose track of what is enough, which causes us to overwork, overload, and overstress. And then we find ourselves in direct conflict with another Bible verse, one of The Ten Commandments: "Remember the Sabbath Day, and keep it holy" (Exodus 10:8). We can't truly rest if we are constantly worried that we don't have enough.

One way to break that cycle is to acknowledge what we have. Periodically, I like to pause and go through a list of five categories to remind myself of my blessings: health, means, love, beauty, and calling.

Health includes physical health and safety. Asking questions such as "Did I wake up this morning?" can help us focus on our most basic blessings with laser precision.

Means is the ability to provide for yourself. Can I afford to buy groceries (including a ridiculous luxury like mac and cheese hotdogs)? Can I pay my rent? Acknowledging the blessing of having the means to pay for what you need transforms the mundane task of writing checks into a sacred ritual.

Love is the blessing of family, friendships, and community. Do I have people around me who love me, honor me, and treat me with respect? Acknowledging love is also about reminding ourselves of the unconditional spiritual love that we all receive. As God says to us in Isaiah 43:1, "I have called you by name; you are mine."

Beauty is anything that feeds the soul. Maybe you have a garden, or perhaps you have a Harley Davidson that you love. I have both in Wisconsin, but neither in New York City, so I give thanks for the wee plants in my apartment window and the tiny plastic model of a Harley Davidson Sportster on my desk.

Your calling is the reason you get up in the morning—a connection to something bigger than yourself. It could be your job or caring for your family or a loved one. Even if you are retired from your job and living alone, you still have a purpose. Your calling may be greeting the lonely person at the grocery store who is ignored by everyone else. Or it may be showing kindness to a telemarketer (unlike the rest of America). You matter, and for that, you should give thanks.

Will I give up my mac and cheese hotdogs? Maybe. Maybe not. What I will do is celebrate what they represent: the health that enables me to stand at the

Weber and grill them, the means to buy them, the love of the family members who eat them, the beauty of the tiny pieces of pasta and cheese that ooze out, and the simple purpose of feeding body and soul. Most of all, I will try, before I even take a bite, to raise up a prayer of thanks and acknowledge that it is enough.

-Susan Sparks

Preacher, Lawyer, Standup Comedian



# October 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10a-Worship/ Communion in person and on Zoom person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time	3 4p-Search Committee	4 12n-Senior Meals	5 3-4:30p-Serenity Singers	6 12n-Senior Meals	7	8
9 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom and Sunday School 11a-Fellowship time 12p-Junior Girl Scouts	10	11 12n-Senior Meals	12 3-4:30p-Serenity Singers	13 12n-Senior Meals	14	15 11:30a-Prayer Shawl Ministry
16 7a-Tour de S.W.A. Benson 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom with Rev. Holly Ross 11a-Fellowship time 12:30-5p-B H in use	17 12n-Adventures In Reading gath- ering, soup & bread lunch	18 12n-Senior Meals	19 3-4:30p-Serenity Singers	20 12n-Senior Meals	21	22
23 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time 12p-Junior Girl Scouts	24	25 12n-Senior Meals	26 3-4:30p-Serenity Singers	27 12n-Senior Meals	28	29 30 10a-Worship in per- son and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time

