



# The Federated Church of East Arlington



September 2022

## Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

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*"The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you." - Frederick Buechner*

The wonderful writer, Presbyterian minister, and theologian Frederick Buechner died two weeks ago at his home in Rupert. He was influential to many of us because of his ability to take ideas, scripture and every day lived experiences and make them sacred in their ordinariness. I often find myself reading his take on concepts as broad as gluttony or as specific as the Messiah. A good chunk of his work was autobiographical, but he also wrote novels. I was fortunate to get to hear him speak and do a reading from one of his books about a dozen years ago at the Northshire Bookstore and he turned out to be just as witty and wise in person as he was on the page. One of his most famous quotes that I heard from multiple professors in seminary was, "Your calling is where your own greatest joy intersects with the needs of the world."

Buechner's influence will continue and raises the question of what draws us to certain writers and speakers more than others. Is it because when we experience their words, we learn something new about the world or ourselves? Are we drawn to those who reinforce our own world view or at the very least give voice to the ideas we have within us that we have trouble putting into words ourselves? Do that person's words get at some deep need within us and hearing them makes us feel less alone in the world?

As we move into the glory and beauty that is autumn in Vermont, may these words of Fred Buechner about imagination stir something within you:



*"EVEN A THOUSAND MILES inland you can smell the sea and hear the mewling of gulls if you give thought to it. You can see in your mind's eye the living faces of people long dead or hear in the mind's ear the United States Marine Band playing "The Stars and Stripes Forever." If you work at it, you can smell the smell of autumn leaves burning or taste a chocolate malted. You don't have to be asleep to dream dreams either. There are those who can come up with dramas laid twenty thousand leagues under the sea or take a little girl through a looking glass. Imagining is perhaps as close as humans get to creating something out of nothing the way God is said to. It is a power that to one degree or another everybody has or can develop, like whistling. Like muscles, it can be strengthened through practice and exercise. Keep at it until you can actually hear your grandfather's voice, for instance, or feel the rush of hot air when you open the 450-degree oven...When Jesus said, "All ye that labor and are heavy laden," he was seeing the rich as well as the poor, the lucky as well as the unlucky, the idle as well as the industrious. He was seeing the bride on her wedding day. He was seeing the old man in front of the TV. He was seeing all of us. The highest work of the imagination is to have eyes like that." (from Whistling in the Dark)*

May you and your imagination grow during this season of changing colors.

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	\$ 38,017.00
Building use 1/1/22-8/29/22	\$ 1,800.00
Fundraising 1/1/22-8/29/22	\$ 1,234.61
Capital Campaign	\$ 7,300.00

*Thank you!*

**Church attendance**

	Adults	Children
7/31	16	0
8/7	11	0
8/14	22	2
8/21	25	2
8/28	22	0

And many on Zoom .

**Pastoral Search Committee Report**

The pastor search committee has met twice so far. As you know, Karen Tibbetts, Karen Underhill, Donna Stone, Christy Wood, and me are serving. At our first meeting, the committee elected me as chair. We also discussed general philosophy and reviewed the handbook on selecting ministers prepared by the United Church of Christ. At our next meeting, we met with the Rev. Paul Sangree from the UCC. Paul will be our liaison.

In the coming weeks, the search committee will be inviting members of the congregation to a focus group. Each focus group will consist of 6-8 people, plus two search committee members for each group.

Discussion topics would be how do we experience God, how do we define our church, who is our church helping, what's our mission, who among the unchurched are we hoping to reach, and whatever issues come up relevant to how we see our future.

The Karens, Donna, and I each agreed to host a focus group. Everyone will be getting an invitation. We'll organize these for September and October. Paul said these would have to happen before January 1 to be on schedule. We'd like to do these in the early fall, however.

We will also interview 3 or 4 community leaders who are not church members on what they think our profile is in the community. We selected Jean Freebern, Don Keelan, Sarah Pickering, and Natalie Caler. These people will be asked to write letters of recommendation on behalf of our church.

These two projects are essential in preparing a profile of the Federated Church and a job description prospective applicants will get. They'll want lots of information on us, as we want to know a great deal about them. In the fall, we need to focus on photography as this is an important part of the profile.

Our next meeting is on September 7. We will have scheduled our community leader meetings and selected our focus group invitees by that time.

To recap, the church council decided early this summer to go through the United Church of Christ rather than the United Methodist Church. I'm a Methodist and support this wholeheartedly. The UCC gives us maximum flexibility in hiring who we want. The UMC will want to try to send us a minister, matching our profile who the Vermont office feels are suitable Methodist ministers. This diminishes our autonomy.

The UCC will facilitate all candidates who are ordained. A minister from any Protestant denomination can apply. Candidates will need eventually to get a denominational ok but no one is going to block us from hiring a candidate we want who wants us.

Brian Allen

**September Birthdays**

- 4 – Sandy Grover  
3402 VT Route 7A  
Arlington, VT 05250
- 17 – Kathy Clark  
P.O. Box 18  
East Arlington, VT 05252
- 22 – Marie Davies  
66 Country View Lane  
Arlington, VT 05250
- 27 – Kaitlyn Daniels  
6 Tel Road  
Bennington, VT 05201
- Patti Cody  
348 Green Mountain Road  
Manchester Center, VT 05255
- 29 – Sherrill (Sue) Snow  
P.O. Box 85  
East Arlington, VT 05252
- 30 – Jeff McConnell  
77 Hagelberg Hill  
Arlington, VT 05250



**September Anniversaries**

- 1 – Diane and Jeff McConnell  
77 Hagelberg Hill  
Arlington, VT 05250
- 24 – Kathy & John Frost  
16 Kempton Place, Apt. 6  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



**In the White Mailbox**

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

**New Church Directory**

Please let Sandy at the church office know by 9/15 if you have any changes or additions to our church directory.,

Church office 802-375-2548  
Email: federatedchurch05250@gmail.com  
Sandy: 802-375-4982  
Email: sandragrover@gmail.com

**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.

- Sept. 4:** United Church of West Rutland
- Sept. 11:** Second Congregational Church, Bennington
- Sept. 18:** United Church of Benson
- Sept. 25:** Brandon Congregational Church

**Lectionary Readings for September**

- Sept. 4:** Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6,13-18  
Philemon: 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33
- Sept. 11:** Jeremiah 4:11-12,22-28; Psalm 14  
I Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10
- Sept. 18:** Jeremiah 8: 18-9; Psalm 71:1-6  
I Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
- Sept. 25:** Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
I Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

**September 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  
Set up for outside services  
Clean up after services-all appreciated  
Refreshment time – thanks to all who bring goodies to share



### Worship With Us

**Sundays outside under the tent in person,  
10:00 a.m.**

Bring a lawn chair. 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.



**KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.**

We will gather together on Saturday,  
September 17th 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

### Adventures In Reading

Hello Readers!

I hope each of you have received or picked up the new Adventures in Reading List. There are extras in the white mailbox outside the church office in case you need one.

I noticed that a number of the books on the list have been checked out at the library. Good news! They are being read! In the case that the new purchases have not yet arrived, you can request them through interlibrary loan. If you read ebooks or listen to audio books, some are available for free through the Green Mountain Library Consortium. Their website is below. You will need to have your library card number. If you, like me, can't find your card, call the library and they can give you the number.

<https://gmlc.overdrive.com>

If you are reading books that are not on the reading list but think they could go on next year's list, I'd suggest you start keeping track of them now.

Author, Title, Short description. It makes life easier when the lists are called for.

If you know someone who would like to join the group, please let me know

I hope you are having a good summer!  
Phyllis

Phyllis Warren  
802-375-6440  
[pswarren050@gmail.com](mailto:pswarren050@gmail.com)





**Christian Education**

We will be having our Rally Sunday on Sunday September 11th at 10am which is the start of our Sunday School year.

We will be having a picnic with fun games, a fun activity, and a blessing of the backpacks.

Please, join us for another fun filled year

**Girl Scouts**

We will be starting our Junior meetings in October.

**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).



**Philemon Prayer**

God our Creator, Jesus our Messiah, Spirit our Advocate,

Inspire us to write to someone —  
 a dear friend, a co-worker —  
 and remind them that we are attentive to you on their behalf.

Inspire us to recognize someone  
 for what we cherish most in them —  
 the aspects of their character that most resemble you.

Inspire us to express our gratitude  
 for the impact someone has had upon our life  
 and the difference they have made for others.

Inspire us to challenge one another,  
 calling upon our best and highest selves  
 for your sake.

Inspire us to send a gift that is close to our heart  
 and thoughtful of someone’s need,  
 setting us all free in the giving.

Inspire us to forgive —  
 to stand in front of another like a shield  
 when there is wrong that needs mending.

Inspire us to place our confidence  
 in you,  
 and your people, and everything that is of you.

Amen.

*By Rev. Jill Colley Robinson, Green Mountain District Superintendent*



**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



Peace starts with a smile.



## Window Dressers

Drafty windows? Heat leaking out of your house? An inexpensive window insert, built by community volunteers through Window Dressers can help button up your house, save you money, save energy and reduce your carbon footprint.

This GNAT segment explains:

<https://windowdressers.org/windowdressers-on-vermont-public-access-news/>

Here is the contract information to sign up your windows and to volunteer (no skills needed—training provided) for the “barn buildf style community build workshop, organized jointly by the town Energy Committees of Arlington, Sunderland, Dorset and Manchester.

In addition to our mission giving:

\* Holy Joe's Café, a coffee house ministry proudly serving U.S. troops. Every dollar that is put in the basket at refreshment time following worship is sent to chaplains who support our military troops.

[Www.Holyjoes.org](http://Www.Holyjoes.org)

\* Another way to help with world hunger: we collect cancelled stamps. These are weighed and sent to an organization to provide money for world hunger.

\* Pop tops that the Arlington Lions club is collecting.

\* Farm stand with fresh fruits and vegetables—take what you can use; leave your abundance for others.

\* We donate food to the Arlington Area Food Shelf

\* Summer lunch program for children

Many thanks to all who help in all these activities and more.

*Thank You!*

## Spirit-Led Action

*Center for Action and Contemplation teacher Brian McLaren shares the power of ongoing discernment, allowing ourselves to be ever drawn by the Holy Spirit into service and action on behalf of others:*

The Spirit leads us downward. To the bottom, to the place of humility, to the position and posture of service . . . that's where the Spirit, like water, flows. . . .

If you listen to the Spirit, here is what will happen to you. You'll be at a party and you'll notice on one side of the room all the beautiful people laughing and having fun together. In a far corner, you'll notice a person who is alone, feeling awkward, not knowing anyone. The Spirit will draw you to the person in need. You may become the bridge that connects the outsider to the insiders—and in that connection, both will be better off. . . .

Here's what will happen to you if you listen to the Spirit. You will realize that someone is angry at you or resentful toward you . . . or worked behind your back to do you harm. Everything in you will want you to write them off or get them back. But the Spirit will draw you toward them in humility. . . .

Here's what will happen if you listen to the Spirit. You will see a person or a group being vilified or scapegoated. Everyone is blaming them, shaming them, gossiping about them, feeling superior to them, venting their anxieties on them. . . . But the Spirit will draw you to differ courageously and graciously. . . . You will risk your reputation in defending the person or people being scapegoated. And in that risk, both you and they will know that God's Spirit is alive and at work in your midst.

If you listen to the Spirit, here's what will happen to you. It will be late. You will be tired. There will be dishes to do or clothes to pick up or trash to empty. *Someone else should have done this*, you will think with anger. You will rehearse in your mind the speech you will give them. And then you will think, *But I guess they're just as tired and overworked as I am. So maybe I can help*. You won't do this as a manipulative ploy but as a simple act of service. . . .

There is a prison near you. A hospital. A park or a bridge or an alley where homeless people sleep. . . .

There's a country in great need or a social problem that few people notice. If you listen to the Spirit, you will be drawn toward an opportunity to serve. At first, the thought will frighten or repel you. But when you let the Spirit guide you, it will be a source of great joy—one of the richest blessings of your life. (from **Center for Action and Contemplation** <[meditations@cac.org](mailto:meditations@cac.org)> August 24, 2022)

Brian D. McLaren, *We Make the Road by Walking: A Year-Long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, and Activation* (New York: Jericho Books, 2014), 231, 232, 233–234.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose,  
but mosquitoes come close!



# September 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 12n-Senior Meals	2	3
4 10a-Worship/ Communion in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time	5	6 12n-Senior Meals	7 Pastoral search panel	8 12n-Senior Meals	9	10
11 RALLY SUNDAY 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time		13 12n-Senior Meals	14 9:30a-2:30p RSVP bone builders train- ing	15 12n-Senior Meals	16	17 11:30a-Prayer Shawl Ministry
18 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time	19	20 12n-Senior Meals	21	22 12n-Senior Meals	23	24
25 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time	26	27 12n-Senior Meals	28	29 12n-Senior Meals	30	