

The Federated Church of East Arlington



December 2022

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

email: ksclark58@yahoo.com

Cell 733-2162

Parsonage phone: 375-2427

Hush!

Hush!

Wait.

What's the rush?

Why do we try to outguess God?

He will come when he comes

But nobody knows

Jesus said:

I don't know when.

Even the angels in Heaven don't know.

Only God.

Hush!

Wait.

It will be in God's time, not ours.

It will be for love

Not human chronologies.

What's a millennium?

A few years off anyhow

And on a calendar

not used by much of the world.

Hush!

Wait.

He will come for love

Never forget love

Hush!

Wait.

Listen.

Love.

Madeleine L'Engle

Miracle on 10th Street and Other Christmas Writings

Remembering how impatient my brothers and sisters and I were for Christmas to come; I now wish I could have reassured my younger self that there would come a time in life when the turning of the pages on the calendar were going way too fast. Anticipation is such a gift but also has us sometimes forgetting the beauty of this single day. No matter how organized and in control of our lives we imagine we are, none of us can control the passing of time. Well, with the possible exception of the folks at The International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service which will discontinue the practice of adding what's known as a "leap second" in 2035.

Advent is the perfect time to slow down and master the task of waiting – I know I could use some practice at actively waiting. Especially for and with love. To actively wait is to know we have work to do while we wait. And like so much we are oblivious to; we won't miss this. In the meantime, we celebrate this season of "Angels Among Us" with candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. We will hang greens, decorate trees, add light to combat the darkness, all while treasuring memories of holidays past and creating new traditions.

I hope you will join us for some of the events that are so identified with this church and her people during the coming weeks. *Advent Workshop* will be when we once again throw open Bailey Hall and invite our neighbors of all ages to engage in crafting and memory making on **Sunday, December 4 at 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Our buildings will be transformed inside and out on **Saturday, December 10 at 9:00 a.m.** during the *Greening of the Church*. Once again, we will tell the beloved story of Jesus' birth with our multi-age *Christmas Pageant and Jesus' Birthday Party* on **Sunday, December 18 at 10:00 a.m.** during Worship. Then amid candlelight and beloved music we will usher in Christmas with the *Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols* on **Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m.** On *Christmas Day*, this year on **Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.**, we will hold a Worship Service which will be a bit different from other Sundays. Following that Service, feel free to bring a treat to share during Coffee Hour.

Throughout this season that so quickly can get away from us, may you find moments to reflect on the love that the birth of Jesus, human and divine, ushers in. Blessings on your Advent and Christmas!

Peace and grace,
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 1/1/22-11/28/22	\$ 44,608.00
Building use 1/1/22-11/28/22	\$ 2,275.00
Fundraising 1/1/22-11/28/22	\$ 1,234.61
Capital Campaign as of 11/28	\$ 16,525.00
UCC Hurricanes 2022 Fund as of 11/28	\$ 1,350.00



Thank
you!

**Church attendance**

	Adults	Children
10/30	24	2
11/6	26	0
11/13	31	7
11/20	32	2
11/27	30	3

And many on Zoom and phone

Church COUNCIL

I have returned from a trip to Virginia to see my extended family. It is always great to share Thanksgiving with family.

Now it is time to get ready for the Advent workshop this Sunday, Dec. 4th, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

It is just the beginning of all our sharing of the Christmas season. I know that children are excited, and it is a joy to share with everyone. All the red stockings have been taken from the Christmas tree in Bailey Hall and the wrapped gifts will be returned on December 11th to support Arlington's Christmas Project. Be sure to attach the red stocking to each package.

The greening of the church will be on Saturday, December 10th at 9:00 a.m. I'm looking forward to helping this year for the first time.

The children's Christmas pageant is December 18th. Let's all attend to support our wonderful children. What a joy to be so busy, sharing with the community,

Sue Congdon
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



ARLINGTON AREA CHRISTMAS PROJECT (RED STOCKING):

Please return the wrapped gifts on or before December 11th or bring to the church office or Bailey Hall.

Also can write a check to the Arlington Area Christmas Project.

If you have questions or to donate, call Nathalie Caler at 375-6135.

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Christian Education

Some dates to remember:

Sunday December 4th from 2-4pm Advent Workshop

Sunday December 11th-Sunday School Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday December 18th-Christmas Pageant

POINSETTIAS

Please bring your poinsettias, any color or style, on Sunday, December 18th when you come to worship or on Monday - Thursday, Dec. 19 - 22 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

If you would prefer to donate \$15 per poinsettia we will purchase a poinsettia for you.

You can take your poinsettias with you following the Christmas Eve Service or they can be taken to our home-bound friends.

Also let Sandy, at the office, know if the poinsettias are in memory of or in honor of someone. 375-2548 or federatedchurch05250@gmail.com



Junior Meetings Sunday December 11th and Sunday December 18th- from Noon-1pm in Bailey Hall

"CHRISTMAS MAIL," BY TED KOOSER

Cards in each mailbox,
angel, manger, star and lamb,
as the rural carrier,
driving the snowy roads,
hears from her bundles
the plaintive bleating of sheep,
the shuffle of sandals,
the clopping of camels.
At stop after stop,
she opens the little tin door
and places deep in the shadows " C
the shepherds and wise men,
the donkeys lank and weary,
the cow who chews and muses.
And from her Styrofoam cup,
white as a star and perched
on the dashboard, leading her
ever into the distance,
there is a hint of hazelnut,
and then a touch of myrrh.

December Birthdays

- 2 – Tammy Lang
25 Glebe Lot Road
Arlington, VT 05250
- 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
38 Country View Lane
Arlington, VT 05250
- 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

**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 Barrios
- 9, 2017 Jack-Douglas Wood

**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.

- Dec. 4:** Pawlet Community Church
- Dec. 11:** Pittsford Congregational Church
- Dec. 18:** Grace Congregational Church of Rutland
- Dec. 25:** Congregational Church of Rupert

Lectionary Readings for December

- Dec. 4:** Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
- Dec. 11:** Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
- Dec. 18:** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25
- Dec. 25:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12); John 1:1-14

December 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.



Merry Christmas



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

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

Contribution Statements

Please let me know how you would like your 2022 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

Annual Reports

Please have your annual reports to me at the office by Sunday, January 1st.

Thank you,
 Sandy Grover



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

No Prayer Shawl Meeting in December.

See you all next year—January 21st.

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

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 the box in the garage (small door).

634 pounds donated



Mission Team Report

November giving

Your mission team matched your giving to the UCC Hurricane 22 Relief Fund making a total of \$1,350. Thank you.

We bought the balance of pickles and olives needed by the Food Shelf; bought underwear, socks, sweat-pants as requested by the Fisher School nurse.

We advised people where to get food for Thanksgiving (Arlington Food Shelf).

Sandy Grover at sandragrover@gmail.com

Wendy Bahan at sjcwl@yahoo.com

Gail Rice at tiggyrice11@gmail.com

Adventures In Reading

With the holidays approaching, here are some gift suggestions from book lovers as we are. These can be given in your name or in honor of someone else.

1. Choose a gift tag from the Wish Tree at the Martha Canfield Library to purchase a book for the library.
2. Donate to the Janet Wilson Book Fund at the Martha Canfield Library.
3. Donate used books for Martha's Used Books.
4. Participate in a book program at your local library.
5. Choose a Book Angel from the Northshire Bookstore to buy a book for a child.
6. Add a book to the Red Stocking gift.
7. Give a book or gift card to a friend or family member.
8. Add to your book recommendations for the 2023-24 A.I.R. book list.
9. Treat yourself to a new book.



Schedule January 23 for the next Adventures in Reading Book Club meeting.

Wishing you and yours a very special Christmas season.

Phyllis

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

NEUMC

Bishop Johnson will lead the New England United Methodist Conference beginning January 1, 2023. She has a connection to Vermont as her college roommate lives in Vermont, she attended a College of Bishops' learning event and she is a fan of Ben & Jerry's ice cream.

Bishop Johnson served 20 years at Christ UMC of the deaf in Baltimore and represents the Council of Bishops on the denomination's Committee on Disability Ministries. After 10 years as an active bishop, she retired in 2021. She and her spouse, Rev. Mary Johnson have two sons and 2 grandchildren.

Although she will serve for only 18 months she is clear about her role: "I want to prepare this Conference for the next bishop in 2024, so that it can move forward in some even healthier ways and healed ways" she said.

Bishop Johnson loves to preach and lead Bible studies, sees importance of prayer, is passionate about youth, children and young adults, and is passionate about collaborative work with laity.

She said she knows the work is not easy, but she remains confident about our success.

"Church is not a walk in the park, it's a war zone sometimes. We are waging war against the powers and principalities that want to take us down, want to divide us, want to look at us as irrelevant. We have the power of the Holy Spirit to turn this world upside down, I believe that with all my heart" said Bishop Johnson.

To read more go to communicate@neumc.org

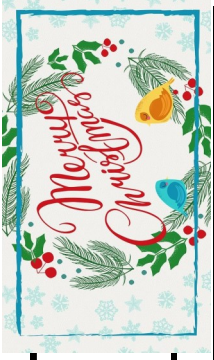
DORSET CHURCH TO CELEBRATE WORLD AIDS DAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 AT 2:00 PM

In celebration of World AIDS Day, our local P.F.L.A.G. (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) group will be having a special presentation about the National AIDS Memorial Quilt on Sunday afternoon, December 11th

At 2:00 PM at the Dorset Church in the Upper Room Chapel. Our speaker will be Bill Aupperlee who will accompany his history with a Power-point presentation of the quilt itself. Q & A will follow with refreshments. All are welcome, presentation is free. The church is located at 143 Church St. (off Route 30) in Dorset. Questions, call 802-867-2260.



December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 12n-Senior Meals	2 9a- Book study "The Angels of Christmas"	3
4 10a-Worship/Communion in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time 2-4p-ADVENT WORKSHOP	5	6 12n-Senior Meals	7 2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	8 12n-Senior Meals	9 9a- Book study "The Angels of Christmas"	10 9a-Greening of the church
11 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom and Sunday School (pageant re- hearsal) 11a-Fellowship time 12p-Junior Girl Scouts	12	13 12n-Senior Meals	14 2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	15 12n-Senior Meals	16 9a- Book study "The Angels of Christmas"	17 <u>NO</u> Prayer Shawl
18 10a-Service—Christmas Pageant-in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time 11:15a-Church council 12p-Junior Girl Scouts	19	20 12n-Senior Meals	21 2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	22 12n-Senior Meals	23	24
25 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time	26	27 12n-Senior Meals	28 2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	29 12n-Senior Meals	30	31