



The Federated Church of East Arlington



January 2023

Meditation, Meanderings and Musings from Pastor Kathy

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We humans love to know what happens at the end of the story. We often are in a hurry to get to the “good part” of whatever event or adventure or length of time we find ourselves in. In that hurried state, it can be easy to miss the quiet yet powerful moments. And when the hard part of the journey arrives, it is tempting to look away or play it down. With the transition into a new year, we have another invitation to pause and look ahead with hope.

What are you hoping for in 2023? What role does hope play in your day-to-day life? If the idea of hope is something you would like to explore further, I invite you to join in reading the book *Hope: A User’s Manual* by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. We will be starting a 6-week study of this book on Friday, January 13 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. Many other folks throughout the Southwest Association of the Vermont Conference, UCC are also reading this book. If you would like me to get you a copy of the book, please let me know by January 4.

As we welcome this new year filled with all sorts of possibilities, I share this prayer from Vinita Hampton Wright:

*God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,
mindful that our steps make an impact
and our words carry power.*

May we walk gently.

May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,

help us enter the New Year reverently,

aware that you have endowed

*every creature and plant, every person and habitat
with beauty and purpose.*

May we regard the world with tenderness.

May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls,

help us enter the New Year joyfully,

willing to laugh and dance and dream,

remembering our many gifts with thanks

and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.

*In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ
bless us now and in the days ahead. Amen.*



May you continue to know and share the ever-present love of God in the coming year.

*Peace and blessings,
Kathy*

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Email: federatedchurch05250@gmail.com

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Church office: 802-375-2548

Report of the Financial Secretary, Sandra Grover

2022 Congregational Giving Budgeted:	\$ 60,000.00
Congregational Giving 1/1/22-12/30/22	\$ 66,310.00
Building use 1/1/22-12/30/22	\$ 2,750.00
Fundraising 1/1/22-12/30/22	\$ 1,234.61
Capital Campaign as of 12/30	\$ 17,675.00



Thank you!

Church attendance

	Adults	Children
12/4	22	2
12/11	35	14
12/18	40	13
12/24	60+	15 +
12/25	11	0

And many on Zoom and by phone



As we go forward, we will have fond memories of the Pageant and all the work that was put into it. Thanks for all the help especially to Tammy and Scott. We have our Search Committee working hard and going thru all the steps for looking for a Pastor. This takes a lot of time and I know that we have a great team.

There will be a meeting to go over the Budget for 2023, on Sunday, January 15th. On January 22, we will have our Annual Meeting after worship. I hope as many people will stay and hear what we are planning for a Budget. We are looking for somebody to take over Worship and Ministry. Please reach out to me or Pastor Kathy.

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

January Birthdays

- 2 - Harriet Welther
2815 Sunderland Hill Road
Arlington, VT 05250
- 18 - Kaylee Bushee
150 Sunderland Hill Road
Arlington, VT 05250
- 22 - Dottie Kosciński
55 Dutch Lane
Arlington, VT 05250
- 26 - Alyson Grzyb
95 Lost Road
Sunderland, VT 05250



January Anniversaries

- 6 - Michelanne and Bill Sylvester
3008 Vt. Route 7A
Arlington, VT 05250



Children & Youth



**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).

711 pounds donated



**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.

- Jan. 1:** Shrewsbury Community Church
- Jan. 8:** First Congregational Church of Wallingford
- Jan. 15:** United Church of West Rutland
- Jan. 22:** Second Congregational Church Bennington
- Jan. 29:** United Church of Benson

Lectionary Readings for January

- Jan. 1** Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23
- Jan. 8:** Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
- Jan. 15:** Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;
I Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
- Jan. 22:** Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9
I Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23
- Jan. 29:** Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15
I Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

January Helping Hands Needed

We need helpers to assist with our services.

Greeter – 1 per service

Readers – 1 per month, or share with someone

Altar flowers – each Sunday

Refreshment time – set up, clean up

Altar – 1 or 2 per week – once a month to set up for Communion, polish cross, candleholders if needed, check candles.

2022 UCC Statistical Profile: A Look at Who we Are & What We Do

The 2022 Statistical Profile is now available here [CARDD Statistics and Reports](#)

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

– Helen Keller

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Christian Education

What a wonderful month we have had, so many children!!

We had 12 children at Pageant Rehearsal and 13 children in the Pageant

We had a fun Advent Workshop with around 30 children on December 4th

In January Sunday school will be January 15th
Happy New Year!!



Junior Meetings Sunday January 15th
and Sunday January 29th-
from Noon-1pm in Bailey Hall

WARNING

January 15, 2023

Congregational meeting to review the 2023 budget

following worship.

Annual Reports will be ready to be picked up by
January 13th (hopefully earlier)

Let Sandy know if you would like an Annual Report delivered or mailed to you.

WARNING

2022 ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2023 following worship

to discuss the business of the church

Acceptance of reports

Vote on proposed 2023 budget

Other business



Pastor Parish Relations Panel

The Pastor Relations Panel (PPRP) is your church committee that seeks to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between the pastor and members of our congregation. One of the main ways we can do this is to hear from you, the congregation. If you have any issues you feel we should be aware of or any comments regarding our pastor or any other church-wide issues, please email or contact one of the listed panel members.

Peace,

Susan Wirkki at susan@wirkki.org

Gail Rice at tiggyrice11@gmail.com

Advent Candlelighters and Readers

- 11/27 Janet Wilson and Karen & Ed Coy
- 12/4 Ginny Wilkins and Sue & Olavi Wirkki
- 12/11 Eleanor Hanrahan and Donna Stone & Ann Smith
- 12/18 Herb & Pat Taylor and The Annunziata Family
- 12/24 The Lang Family



Answers: Augustus, shepherds, Elizabeth; watching, John, barren, angels, David, Jerusalem; Gabriel, five, Joseph, Christ; King, frankincense, Herod, writing, manger; sheep, East, neighbors, star, Egypt

Annual Reports

Please have your annual reports to me at the office by Sunday, **January 8th**. The Annual Report has to be printed and handed out on January 15th.

Thank you,
Sandy Grover



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

Saturday, January 21st, 11:30am

Bring your lunch—coffee and tea provided.

Bring your knitting, crocheting, handiwork and join us.

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

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.

Adventures In Reading

It's that time of year when the weather outside makes us want to hunker down with a warm wrap, a hot drink and a good book. We have a great list of books to choose from!

Weather permitting, January 23 is our next book club meeting at noon at Bailey Hall. If there is a storm or bad roads, we'll reschedule for January 30. Let's make it a potluck. I'll send an email invitation and you can respond with whether you can make it and what you'll bring if you can. Be ready to talk about a book(s) that you have read from the list.

Phyllis



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

A Bible Game from Rosalie Sugrue

The World's Best Known Story

Christmas is the most widely celebrated festival in the world. Billions of people, from all faiths and none, recognize some Christmas symbols relate to a holy story: angels, a bright star, shepherds, three men on camels, and a baby in a manger. Those who know the story can't always find the text they want. I offer some quick tips. Only two Gospels mention the Birth of Christ. Each tells a different story from a different perspective. For Matthew's Gospel think M - Male and Magi: angel visits Joseph, wise men (Magi) visit King Herod. For Luke think L - Ladies and Lowly: angel visits Mary, Mary visits Elizabeth (Liz), Lowly shepherds leave Lambs visit a Lowly stable. The clues to this Bible Challenge are quiz questions. Suggestion: Before checking reference guess which Gospel. If doing this puzzle with a partner or group have one person read the questions, others give the answers.

Which Caesar instigated his world census?	_____ T ____	Lk 2:1
Who said, let us go to Bethlehem?	_____ H _____	Lk 2:15
Who said, Blessed are you among women?	_____ E ____	Lk 1:41-42
What were the shepherds doing in the fields?	W _____	Lk 2:8
What name did Zechariah write?	__ O ____	Lk 1:63
What word was used to describe Elizabeth?	___ R _____	Lk 1:5
Who said, Glory to God in the highest heaven>	_____ L _	
Bethlehem was also called the City of?	_____ D	Lk 2:4
What city did the wise men visit?	_____ S _____	Mt 2:1
Who said, Do not be afraid Mary?	___ B _____	Lk 1:26-30
Elizabeth stayed hidden for how many months?	_____ E	Lk 1:24
Who was described as a 'just' man?	' _____ S _____	Mt 1:19
What title did one genealogy give Jesus?	_____ T	Mt 1:16
The wise men were looking for a new born what?	K _____	Mt 2:1-2
The second gift from the Magi was	_____ N _____	Mt 2:11
Who was King of Judea?	_____ O _	Mt 2:1
What kind of tablet did Zechariah have?	W _____	Lk 1:63
What did Mary use for her baby's bed?	___ N _____	Lk 2:12
What is the only animal in the Bible's Nativity stories?	S _____	Lk 2:8
What direction did the wise men come from?	_____ T	Mt 2:1
Who came to see Elizabeth's baby?	_____ O _____	Lk 1:58
What did the wise men follow?	_____ R	Mt 2:9
What country did the Holy Family go to?	___ Y ____	Mt 2:14

(Answers within this newsletter)



January 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10a-Worship/Communion in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time	2	3 12n-Senior Meals	4 2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	5 12n-Senior Meals	6	7 9a-degreening of the church
8 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time	9	10 12n-Senior Meals	11 2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	12 12n-Senior Meals	13	14 12n-4p-Bailey Hall in use
15 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom & budget review Sunday School 11a-Fellowship time 12p-Junior Girl Scouts	16 7p-MLK Service Dorset Church The Rev. Cannon Walter Brown-ridge	17 12n-Senior Meals	18 2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	19 12n-Senior Meals	20	21 11:30a-Prayer Shawl
22 10a-Worship-in person and on Zoom Annual Meeting 11a-Fellowship time 12p-Junior Girl Scouts	23 12n-Adventures in reading	24 12n-Senior Meals	25 2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	26 12n-Senior Meals	27	28
29 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time 12p-Junior Girl Scouts	30	31 12n-Senior Meals	2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	12n-Senior Meals		