

The Federated Church of East Arlington



February 2023

*Lent is a time to take time to let the power
of our faith story take hold of us, a time to let the events get up
and walk around in us,
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,
a time to place our feet in the streets of
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and
listen to his Word,
a time to touch his robe
and feel the healing surge through us,
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...Lent is a time to allow
a fresh new taste of God!
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,
for thoughts come unbidden.
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future
knowing our past.
Give us courage, O God,
to hear your Word
and to read our living into it.
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven
and give us the faith
to take up our lives and walk.
Ann Weems*

Walking is something many of us take for granted until we can't. With an accident or age or illness, walking can become a challenge. We can't remember what it was like not to walk as most of us began sometime between 10 and 14 months of age. Initially, we would take halting steps holding on to the hands of a grown-up or grasping furniture. I've known that my first steps were delayed because of special shoes with a bar between them meant to treat my hip dysplasia but I don't remember any of that. Those around us made a big fuss when we took that first solo step and from then on, for most of us, walking became second nature. Some of us having mastered walking, needed the speed of running to make us happy.

To take up our lives and walk implies that we are not intended to experience this life as an observer. Ours is intended to be a journey through ever-changing scenery. Unlike our ancestors of old, very few of us in the U.S. have stayed in the exact same physical home we were born into. The changes we've experienced over the course of our lifetimes in the 20th and 21st centuries would have boggled the minds of those living all the centuries before that. And yet some things are important enough and life-affirming enough that we continue, like our relatives of the past, to draw strength from them.

Lent is a time to consider the being of God and what that means for the living of our days. The journey through the life and ministry of Christ that happens in the Gospels on his way to Jerusalem is one we will begin again with **Ash Wednesday on February 22**. You're invited to start with ashes themselves offered at the **12:00 noon** Service that day. Another option would be to drive or walk up and receive **Ashes to Go** that I'll be offering with my colleague, the Rev. Jeremy Means-Koss, in front of St. James Episcopal Church on **2/22 from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m.** and again from **4:00 to 5:30 p.m.** The free Lenten Devotional from the U.C.C. titled "Running from Empty" will be available on the Do Something table to give you some markers and rest stops on the way. The Services on the Sundays in Lent will be devoted to the theme, "Lookin' for Love in All the Wrong Places."

You are also invited to join our Lenten Book Study that will meet on **Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m.** via Zoom. Beginning on **February 24** we will consider the book *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence* by Diana Butler Bass. If you would like me to order you a copy (whether you participate in the Zoom sessions or not), please let me know by **Sunday, February 12**. The cost will be \$14.

May your Lenten journey, in whatever form it takes, bring you ever closer to the Divine One.

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

2023 Congregational Giving Budgeted:	\$ 66,000.00
Congregational Giving	\$ 4,872.00
Building use	\$ 275.00
Fundraising	\$ 0.00

Thank you!



Church attendance

	Adults	Children
1/1	17	2
1/8	36	5
1/15	36	11
1/22		
1/29	35	7

And many on Zoom and by phone



Lent

ACTS

Lent is a period of fasting, moderation and self-denial traditionally observed by Catholics, Orthodoxy and some Protestant denominations. It is a forty day period which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Holy Saturday (the Saturday before Easter).

[All Sundays are considered "Feast Days" and therefore are not counted in the forty days of Lent. Every Sunday is like a "Little Easter" and for that reason fasting, moderation and self-denial are not observed on Sundays.]

Church Council

Chair	Sue Congdon
Treasurer	Olavi Wirkki
Clerk	Sandra Grover
Ex Officio-	Pastor Kathy Clark
Building and Grounds	Ed Coy
Education	Tammy Lang
Finance	Brian Allen
Worship & Ministry	David Moore
Missions & Outreach	Sandra Grover

Team Members

1. Alyson Grzyb	2. Jeff McConnell
1. Scott Lang	2.
1. Scott Lang	2. Alyson Grzyb
1. Phyllis Warren	2. Linda McDevitt
1. Gail Rice	2. Ann Smith

February Birthdays

- 10 - Olavi Wirkki
37 Country View Lane
Arlington, VT 05250
- 15 - Sue Wirkki
37 Country View Lane
Arlington, VT 05250
- 22 - Carol Thompson
6002 Vt. Route 7A
Arlington, VT 05250
- 26 - Michael Welther
2815 Sunderland Hill Road
Arlington, VT 05250



**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.

- Feb. 5:** Brandon Congregational Church
- Feb. 12:** Federated Church of Castleton
- Feb. 19:** Congregational Union Church of South Wallingford
- Feb. 26:** Union Church of Proctor

Lectionary Readings for February

- Feb. 5:** Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20
- Feb. 12:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37
- Feb. 19:** Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11;
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
- Feb. 26:** Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

**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).

Donations of Warm Clothes

Bridges to Health of Vermont is seeking warm winter clothing donations for new local families, recently from Equador. These can be used items in good condition or new items for men and women, such as warm coats and jackets. Thank you!

Donations accepted until Feb. 10th. Bring them to Bailey Hall or place them inside the door to the garage.

February 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

Sunday School will be Sunday February 12th



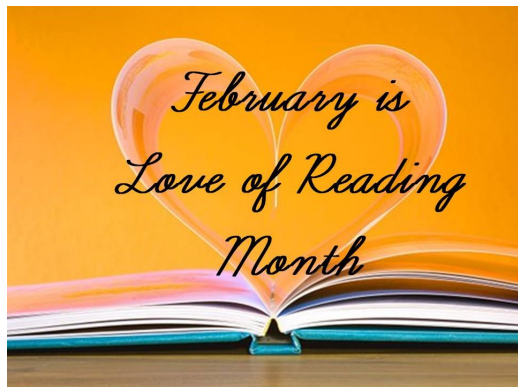
Junior Meeting Sunday February 26th
from Noon-1pm in Bailey Hall

Adventures In Reading

Ten members of the Adventures in Reading group met on January 30th for a potluck lunch and book sharing. We enjoyed delicious food, good company, and good book sharing. The next potluck and book sharing is scheduled for March 27, weather permitting.

Be sure to keep track of the books you have read from the list and those you plan to recommend for next season's list.

February is "Love of Reading Month."



We have been blessed with Panettone bread during coffee/fellowship time.

A quote from the box the bread came in:

Panettone bread is the typical Italian Christmas dessert.

It's during the holidays when we gather with our loved ones and share a powerful feeling that transforms a simple recipe into a loving kindness, a gesture of friendship into warmth, and togetherness into long lasting memories. Because, in the end, it's not about being under the same roof but living in each other's hearts.

The feeling of family.

Bishop's Installation Service is Feb. 2

The New England Conference Committee on Episcopacy invites you to the Service of Installation for Bishop Peggy A. Johnson. The online service will be from 7-8 pm on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023. All New England United Methodists are encouraged to join our new bishop for this time of worship and celebration. msgs-neumc-119@brtapp.com

msgs-neumc-119@brtapp.com

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 tiggyrice1@gmail.com

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.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

Is there still interest in a Prayer Shawl Ministry?

Join us on Saturday, February 18th, 11:30am to consider the future of this ministry.

Bring your lunch—coffee and tea provided.

Bring your knitting, crocheting, handiwork and join us.

Raebeth has stepped down as leader to give someone else a chance to serve for this wonderful ministry.

Thank you Raebeth for all your time and care.

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



Valentines

are being collected

for residents of nursing homes in our area to brighten others lives and share the love.

Thanks to David Moore for the idea and for all who give Valentines, including the children.



Come Let Us Reason Together

Jewish-Christian Conversations

A Forum Series sponsored by
Israel Congregation, First Congregational Church of Manchester,
and The Interfaith Council of Northshire

We are excited to announce a new interfaith venture aimed both at educating and creating opportunities for connections and dialogue. The inaugural two-part series will explore Christian Antisemitism from the First Century to the modern period.

Each session will include content, response and an opportunity for audience participation.

Rev. Bill Borrer, the new minister at First Congregational Church, will be the presenter. Rev. Borrer's academic background is in Church History, having taught at three different seminaries and graduate schools, including classes on Jewish-Christian Origins and the History of Antisemitism. He was CLI Fellow at Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and member of the national Jewish-Presbyterian Dialogue team from 2007-2010.

Christian Antisemitism-from its Origins to 21st Century

Session 1-Tuesday, January 24th 7:00 p.m.
First Congregational Church of Manchester, Vermont

Session 2 -Tuesday, February 28th 7:00p.m.
Israel Congregation, Manchester Center, Vermont

Moderated by Cantor Scott Buckner, Israel Congregation
Presentation by The Rev. Bill Borrer, First Congregational Church, Manchester
Respondent - Rabbi Michael Cohen, Rabbi Emeritus, Israel Congregation



Join Rev. Borrer, Rabbi Michael Cohen, and Cantor Scott Buckner

for their upcoming forum series

“Come, Let Us Reason Together” Jewish-Christian Conversations

“Christian Antisemitism from its Origins to 21st Century”

Session 2: Tuesday, February 28th at 7pm @ Israel Congregation

JOIN US IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM

This ZOOM link will be active at the start of the forum on both evenings

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86548066636?pwd=bldtMVg3TXo2M21HeXBBCQjdHQk9mQT09>

Meeting ID: 865 4806 6636

Passcode: 997007

ARLINGTON LIONS CLUB



Come in your PJs ready to have fun, eat popcorn, and watch a movie with your friends.

Help raise awareness for Pediatric Cancer.

Friday, February 24th 6:00 – 8:30pm

The Federated Church of East Arlington

79 Ice Pond Rd. (Bailey Hall)

Showing The Lion King

Grades

2-5



Doors Open

At 5:45

\$5.00 suggested donation at the door

Proceeds to benefit Pediatric Cancer

Reserve your tickets by 2/22 at: askalion@arlingtonlions.com

Email Students Full Name, Grade & Parent/Guardian's Contact Information

SELECTED NEGATIVE TEACHING EVALUATIONS OF JESUS CHRISTBY AMANDA LEHR

Very inconvenient class! Always holds lectures on top of mountains, in middle of the Sea of Galilee—but never close to the main campus.”

“Inconsistent attendance policy. Said we had to be in class by 9:00 a.m. every day. Over half the class showed up late or didn’t attend until the last meeting, but we all got the same participation grade.”

“He’s nice enough, I guess, but he doesn’t vet his TAs: they all provide completely different, conflicting lecture notes. (TIP: Try to get in Luke’s section.)”

“By week one, I was already tired of his anti-rich, pro-Samaritan bullshit. I wanted to take a course in Christianity, not liberalism

“Wears sandals too much. No one wants to see your dusty feet.”

“Not what I expected. They say his area of specialty is carpentry, but we never built anything.”

“Kind of absent-minded. My name’s Simon, and he’s called me ‘Peter’ for the entire semester.”

“I wanted to like this class, but on the first day, he submerged us in a river instead of going over the syllabus, and that was kind of a lot.”

“Doesn’t respect students’ time. A line of us had been waiting outside his office for over an hour. Finally, he showed up, said, ‘And the last shall be first,’ and started seeing us in reverse order. Made me late for work-study.”

“Tells too many stories. Easy to get him off track during lectures.”

“Feels like a class for farmers. Hope you like talking about seeds. Wheat seeds. Mustard seeds. Seeds, seeds, seeds.”

“DON’T take his class if you care about your GPA!!! Treats everything like pass/fail. Only cares about you if you’re failing the class, so good luck getting that A- up to an A.”

“Plays favorites. (Sorry, we can’t all be John ‘The Beloved.’)”

“Brought a bunch of snacks for the whole class once, then never did it again. Kind of a letdown.”

“I asked him to sign my accommodations form from the Disability Services Office, and he spit on the ground and rubbed the dirt in my eyes. I can see now, but it was still rude.”

“Won’t give straight answers. I asked him if something was going to be on the test, and he said, ‘You say that it will be,’ and stared at me with no expression. I mean, come on, bro.”

“Definitely plays favorites. Calls on the same twelve guys over and over. I even heard he took them out to dinner.”

“Weird format for a discussion class. He put everyone on one side of the table, so we can’t face each other when we talk.”

“Instructor is a drama queen. He stopped in the middle of a lecture to announce, ‘ONE OF YOU WILL BETRAY ME,’ right after I had told him that I was switching advisors.”

“What is this class? Why do we keep going out on fishing boats? What was with the thing where we had to sort out goats from sheep? Why did we have to shove a camel through the eye of a needle? What is this class?”

“I reached out because I needed an extremely important, last-minute letter of rec for a summer internship. He didn’t get back to me for three days. Do your job.”

“Inaccessible. He told me he’d be in his office; I walked all the way there, and the door was open, and he was gone.”

“One time, I questioned one of his points during discussion, and he made me put my fingers through his hand-holes, WTF.”

“He straight-up ghosted us. He took on the entire class as his advisees, got us all excited to work with him, then immediately left for a 2,000+ year sabbatical. Thanks for nothing.”

“A complete joke. Only got the job because his dad is important.”

MCSWEENEY’S QUARTERLY

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Read [an interview with Amanda Lehr](#) about her inspiration for writing this piece.



February 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10a-Worship/Communion in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time		12n-Senior Meals	1 2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	2 12n-Senior Meals 7p-UJC Bishop Installation-Zoom	3 9a-Book Study 11a-New Member Orientation	4
5 10a-Worship/Communion in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time	6	7 12n-Senior Meals	8 2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	9 12n-Senior Meals	10 9a-Book Study	11
12 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom & Sunday School New members welcomed! 11a-Fellowship time	13	14 12n-Senior Meals	15 2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	16 12n-Senior Meals	17 9a-Book Study	18 11:30a-Prayer Shawl
19 10a-Worship-in person and on Zoom Annual Meeting 11a-Fellowship time 12p-Junior Girl Scouts	20	21 12n-Senior Meals	22 Ash Wednesday 12-Service/ashes Ashes-to-go outside St. James Church 7:30-9a;4:30-5:30p 2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	23 12n-Senior Meals	24	25
26 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom & Baptism 11a-Fellowship time 12p-Junior Girl Scouts	27	28 12n-Senior Meals 7p-Antisemitism program-Israeli Congregation & on Zoom	2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	12n-Senior Meals		

Black History Month

February is Black History Month, and this is an important opportunity for us as a nation and as a church to take a long look at our past and to use that understanding of our history to create a brighter future.

I would like to tell you about a very famous Black man who was also Deaf. Rev. Andrew Foster was born in 1925 in Ensley, Alabama; he became Deaf at the age of 11 from spinal meningitis.

In those days in Alabama, there were limited education opportunities for students who were Deaf. He moved to Michigan to live with relatives and attended the Michigan School for the Deaf, which provided education for Deaf students as far as the 8th grade. Foster continued his education by taking night classes and correspondence courses while working in restaurants and auto factories. Foster finally received his high school diploma at the age of 26.

He sought entrance to [Gallaudet University](#) (then Gallaudet College, an institution of higher education for people who are Deaf in Washington, DC) but was turned down several times because of his race. He was finally accepted and in 1954, became the first Black graduate in the school's history.

Foster, a fervent Christian, was ordained in the Baptist Church and felt a strong call to international missionary service. He established the "Christian Mission for the Deaf" in 1956 and spent time touring the United States and raising funds in order to establish Deaf Schools in Africa. Very few countries (only 12) on that continent at the time had any educational opportunities for children with hearing loss and few used sign language as a means of classroom instruction.

Finally, Rev. Foster arrived in Africa in 1957 and began establishing schools where there was a need. He met his wife, a German teacher of the Deaf, at the Third World Congress of the Deaf. They were married in 1961 and had four children. He and his wife went on to establish 32 schools and mission churches, which included some in countries that spoke French.

The couple also taught at these schools, preached at the churches, trained teachers, and educated the public about the need for education for Deaf students. Foster also helped to connect some of his school graduates to Gallaudet to pursue their education.

Rev. Foster received an honorary doctorate from his alma mater in 1970; there is a building at Gallaudet named for him. Sadly, he died in a plane crash in December 1987 enroute from Rwanda to Kenya as part of this ministry.

But his legacy lives on in the many schools and churches he established across Africa and the lives he touched along the way. I was one of them. I was privileged to hear him speak at the Urbana Missionary Conference in 1976. He stood on the stage and signed to the audience about the need for people to be in partnership in ministry with Deaf people. I remember being amazed at the time at his sign language and his passion for the souls of the people he wished to reach for Christ.

As a bishop in 2014, I traveled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and attended the formal dedication of new United Methodist buildings in the East Congo Conference of The United Methodist Church. This country is French speaking, but what a surprise; all the Deaf people there knew American Sign Language, the language that Andrew Foster had brought to them years earlier. I was able to communicate with them easily, and I celebrated those seeds of Deaf education that had been planted years earlier and continued to blossom.

I thank God for Rev. Foster, and I want to remind you that mission work is vitally important. Seek opportunities to partner with international friends in reciprocal relationships. The United Methodist Church has a vitally strong presence in over 300 countries.

Have the spirit of Andrew Foster, who never gave up even though he experienced a great deal of discrimination and personal rejection in the United States and in Africa for being Black, for being Deaf, and for living in a cross-racial marriage. "Never be weary in well doing," as the Scriptures tell us, "for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart ... (Galatians 6:9)."

Finally, don't forget to celebrate Black History Month in your churches!

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

Reference: [Visionary Leader - May 2014, Andrew Foster](#)