

# The Federated Church of East Arlington



March 2023

#### Lent by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Lent is when we go downstairs, down into the basement of our souls, into the dark, dingy, dirty places, and clear out the junk we need to get rid of. *In Lent we don't need to beat ourselves up.* We need to lighten our load, bag up those fears and desires that are leaking all over everything, take our quilt and shame out to the curb. It's not easy to lay our hands on broken things, to look deep into the gummed up works. That's why Jesus shines with his light, shines so we can see our way down into the dark, see to lift up the junk and hand it over, so he can haul it out into the light of the dumpster.

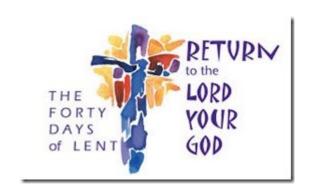
The light Jesus shines is good with dark places, so we know even from the deepest hole down there we'll come out. The light will lead us. We'll be OK. Mucking around down there we get dirty, and we come up with grime on our hands and ashes on our foreheads for everybody to see. But we're free of all that blame and disappointment. And the darkest, deepest cellar hole becomes an empty tomb.

I think our recent issues with the furnace and water heater, both of which are in the Parsonage basement, solidified both my trepidation as well as awe of basement experiences. Those things which make it possible for us to live with the comfort of heat and hot water that we so often take for granted probably are due some respect. Resolving our issues of the past month involved many people – both dedicated volunteers and skilled professionals along with the kindness of neighbors.

Personally, I avoid our basement whenever possible. It has a very low ceiling, a not really solid floor, and lots of cobwebs so naturally our curious 8-month-old cat, Seamus, tries every way he knows how to sneak by us and explore it. But it is also at the foundation of our home. It is a necessary place that we count on others to shine a light on. They get their hands dirty there and I benefit directly.

Lent, as this poem points out, is when we put on our big girl (or boy) pants and face what needs facing in our relationship with God. Once we spend time with the basement parts of our lives, we hopefully come to realize that there is still light and hope and promise. The comfort that comes from the knowledge we do not make the trip down there alone can be reassuring. We find out that we will be OK. We're on our way through this season of Lent that will take us through the highs of Jesus' ministry and the lows of his final week. We travel knowing that the empty tomb of resurrection ultimately awaits us. God be with you now and always.

Grace and peace, Kathy-





#### The Federated Church of East Arlington

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 \$9,325.00
Building use \$475.00
Earthquake in Turkey & Syria \$550.00
Match from Missions \$550.00





	Church attendance						
	Adul	ts	Child	ren			
2/5	25	5	5				
2/12	32	2	8				
2/19							
2/5 2/12 2/19 2/26	24	1	2				
Ι.	1	7	1.1	1			

And many on Zoom and by phone

### OGHS—One Great Hour of Sharing UMCOR—United Methodist Committee on Relief

We will be collecting for OGHS and UMCOR on March 19th. Donations can be given all through March. This is the mission arm of each of our denominations. Checks to be made to The Federated Church with OGHS in the memo and will be equally shared with UMCOR. Envelopes are in the pews and in Bailey Hall.





Church Council		Team Members		
Chair	Sue Congdon			
Treasurer	Olavi Wirkki			
Clerk	Sandra Grover			
Ex Officio-	Pastor Kathy Clark			
Building and Grounds	Ed Coy	1. Alyson Grzyb	2. Jeff McConnell	
Education	Tammy Lang	1. Scott Lang	2.	
Finance	Brian Allen	<ol> <li>Scott Lang</li> </ol>	2. Alyson Grzyb	
Worship & Ministry	David Moore	<ol> <li>Phyllis Warren</li> </ol>	2. Linda McDevitt	
Missions & Outreach	Sandra Grover	1. Gail Rice	2. Ann Smith	

#### **March Birthdays**

I – Carolyn Lavalee Brown26 Jasper LaneArlington, VT 05250

II – Michelanne Sylvester3008 Vt. Route 7AArlington, VT 05250

18 – Lauriane Cornwell 475 Old Depot Road Shaftsbury, VT 05262

29 – Nathalie Caler 96 Carbonti Circle Arlington, VT 05250

#### **Anniversaries**

15—Dianne and Kevin Horton534 Warm Brook RoadArlington, VT 05250

Children and Youth
March 18, Kiera Bushee



# 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).

#### Valentine's Update

Together Girl Scout Junior Troop 61642, The Federated Church of East Arlington, Fisher School, Arlington Memorial High School and the Arlington, Vt Community collected 680 Valentine's Day cards for Equinox Terrace, Crescent Manor, Bennington Veteran's Home, Bennington Health and Rehab, and Bromley Manor Residents. Notably this year there were a big variety of cards, including bookmarks and hand knitted heart coasters. Thank you so much for your participation because you made a difference. See you next year!

# 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.

March 5: United Church of Dorset and East Rupert

March 12: Federated Church of East Arlington

March 19: First Congregational Church of Fair Haven

March 26: First Congregational Church of Hubbardton

#### **Lectionary Readings for March**

March 5: Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121

Romans 5:1-11; John 3:1-17

March 12: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 19: | Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-45

March 26: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

#### **March Helping Hands Needed**

We need helpers to assist with our services.

Greeter – 1 per service

Readers – 1 per month, or share with someone

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.





#### Christian Education

Sunday School

March 12

Watch the midweek message for added Sunday School days.



March 5 Girl Scout Sunday at The Federated Church March 12 from noon-Ipm
March 26 from noon-Ipm

#### Ways we can help







Candy to fill plastic eggs





#### Thank you!

Thank you to those of you who have provided rides for Steve and to those of you who have offered to give rides. It has been extremely helpful to have that help and I am forever grateful for all of you!

Steve is no longer going to be attending BPI. It is a fantastic facility but Steve and I are feeling more and more confident about him staying home alone so we're going to give that a try for a while.

Alyson



#### Welcome New Members

We are so blessed and thankful to God for our new members.

Casey Annunziata (Adam to join soon) 810 Dunlap Farm Road Arlington, VT 05250 973-479-9472 caseyannunziata@gmail.com

Karen and Ed Coy
449 Sunset Lane
Arlington, VT 05250
Karen's cell 661-433-9342
karencoy8@gmail.com
Ed's cell 802-440-2340
edwardcoy60@gmail.com

Dianne Horton
534 Warm Brook Road
Arlington, VT 05250
802-375-2817
Cell 802-681-8525
kdkabhorton@yahoo.com

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#### **Adventures In Reading**

In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, March is designated as National Reading Month, a month to motivate Americans of all ages to read every day. Reading is fun and has many benefits, regardless of your age. Reading has benefits.

#### Reading often makes you kinder

Studies have shown that people who read more fictional books are more likely to be kinder to others than people who don't.

#### Reading fast helps your eyes

Reading a book fast will help to strengthen your vision.

#### It reduces stress

A good book can be a great stress reliever if you allow yourself to get lost in the book.

#### It improves your vocabulary

Reading good books often will help to improve your vocabulary as you would be coming across new words.

#### Your creativity is increased

Consistent reading will help to increase your imagination, which will stimulate your brain to develop new ideas and make you more creative.

Enjoy reading!

Phyllis



We met to discuss the future of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. It was decided to continue to meet the third Saturday of each month but not as Prayer Shawl but as a group of women to meet for fellowship. Giving away shawls, hats, scarves, etc. will continue.

We thought more women from the community would like to attend but not as Prayer Shawl, but with a new name. Those attending can bring their knitting, crocheting, etc. while enjoying the fellowship.

The next meeting we will come up with a name for this group, discuss the group's direction and see what comes out of this change.

Please invite and encourage others to attend on Saturday, March 18th at 11:30 a.m. in Bailey Hall. Bring your own lunch, coffee and tea will be provided.

How exciting to see where God leads this group.

See you there.

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

Masks optional Also: via Zoom using this link: https://us02web.zom.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

# It's Back! Mac and Cheese Extravaganza And Dessert Auction

at the Federated Church of East Arlington

Ice Pond Road, East Arlington, VT

# Saturday, March II<sup>th</sup>

5:00pm dinner 'til food is gone 6:00pm dessert auction





#### Free will offering

To benefit the programming of Arlington Area Childcare Inc. & Federated Church of East Arlington

For more information contact
Arlington Area Childcare at 375-6039

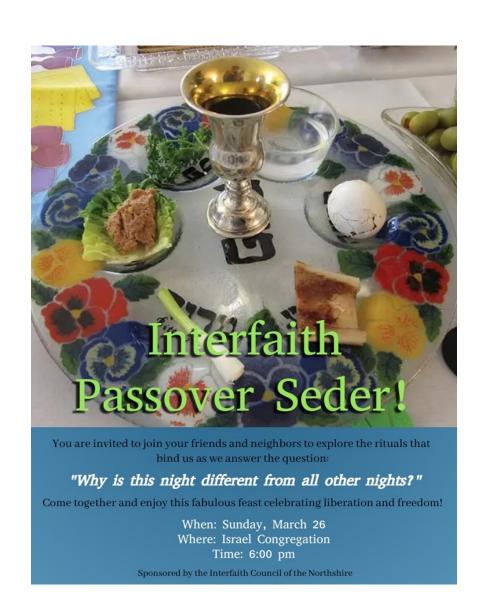
assistantdirector@arlingtonareachildcaer.org

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#### The season of lent







#### Bill Taylor Historical Harp Player Concert

Historical harp player Bill Taylor, visiting from Scotland, will give a solo recital on Sunday afternoon March 26th at the Federated Church of East Arlington to benefit the Summer Lunch Program.

He will present a concert of ancient, traditional and modern music from England, Ireland and Scotland using two small instruments – a medieval wire-strung harp made in Brattleboro and an antique psaltery made in Boston. He has chosen medieval sacred melodies in honor of the Virgin Mary and St. Patrick, dance tunes from 17th-century England, Gaelic airs from 18th-century Scotland and Ireland, an ancient pibroch, and modern tunes by Highland composers.

Bill, son of Herb and Pat Taylor in Bennington, is a specialist in the performance of ancient harp music from Ireland, Scotland and Wales. He has for thirty years been living in the Scottish Highlands, where he makes harps, teaches and performs with various groups.

The concert will take place at 2:00pm on Sunday afternoon March 26th. Donations are welcome. For more information, please contact the church office at 802-375-2548 or by email at <a href="mailto:federatedchurch05250@gmail.com">federatedchurch05250@gmail.com</a>

Bill had an interview with Helen Lyons from Vermont Public Radio via Zoom to promote his concert at the Federated Church of East Arlington on Sunday afternoon, March 26th. The interview will be edited and broadcast on Tuesday morning, March 21st at 8:30 a.m. and Thursday, March 23rd at 5:30 p.m.





# **March 2023**

St Patricks HAPPY Day

Sat

<u>Е</u>

Thu

Wed

**T**ne

Mon

4	11 Sp-Mac & cheese Dinner-Arlington Area Child Care 6p-Dessert auction DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Spring forward	18 11:30a-Prayer Shawl	25	hine
м	10 9a-Book Study	17 9a-Book Study	24	Son S
2 12n-Senior Meals 7p-Antisemetism program-Israel Congregation &	9 12n-Senior Meals	16 12n-Senior Meals	5:30p-Bill Taylor interview on NPR 12n-Senior Meals 5:30-7p-Dorset church dinner	
-	8 12n-Serenity Sing- ers	15 2:30-4p-Serenity Singers	22	
	7 12n-Senior Meals	14 12n-Senior Meals	21 8:30a-Bill Taylor interview on NPR 12n-Senior Meals	28 12n-Senior Meals
	•	<u>e</u>	20 First day of spring	27 12n-Adventures In Reading pot- luck lunch
	5 GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY Cookies available 10a-Worship/Communion in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time	12 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom & Sunday School 11a-Fellowship time 12p-Girl Scouts	19 10a-Worship-in person and on Zoom ONE GREAT HOUR SHARING 11a-Fellowship time	10a-Worship in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time 12p-Junior Girl Scouts 2p-Bill Taylor Harp Concert 6p-Israel Congregation IFC interfaith seder