

The Federated Church of East Arlington



May 2023

Meditation, Meanderings, and Musings from Pastor Kathy

It was the Indian author Amit Ray who wrote, “A bird is safe in its nest - but that is not what its wings are made for.” Safety, in its many forms, is among the very greatest of human needs. These last few weeks have seemed to be filled with news of young people, those on the verge of flying on their own who were simply living their lives, doing things we all do, when in an instant their safety and very existence were in jeopardy. They knocked on the wrong door, pulled into the wrong driveway, got in the wrong car and suddenly their lives were taken or changed forever by gun violence.

Here in rural and small-town Vermont, acts of terrible violence can seem so far away and yet they are not. These are all, shooters and victims, our brothers and sisters. When the temptation to put on blinders to the world’s troubles seems strongest is the time when we are called to pay the most attention and then act. What is our responsibility as followers of the way of Jesus for action? How do we give our children both roots and wings in a culture so saturated with violence? Our New England Conference UMC Bishop Peggy Johnson has powerful thoughts on what must change in her article shared within these pages.

As we continue prayerfully to determine how best we can stem the tide of gun violence, let us find wisdom and courage in the words and teachings of scripture. We will begin our next Friday morning study on **May 5 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom**. At that time, we will dive into the words of 1 Thessalonians and continue (except for May 12) until we finish by early June. If you would like the Zoom link sent to you, please be in touch.

May this season of birds building nests and bears re-emerging from their winter’s sleep find you at peace with God. May you feel God’s love when you need it most.

Blessings and peace,

Kathy



Photo courtesy of Central Square Congregational Church

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	\$ 15,751.77
Building use	\$ 1,200.00
Fundraising	\$ 395.00



Thank
you!

**Church attendance**

	Adults	Children
4/2	30	7
4/6 Holy Thurs.	17	0
4/9 Sunrise	16	0
4/9 Easter	55	12
4/16 Baptism	45	9
4/23	25	0
4/30		

And many on Zoom and by phone



Well, it is starting to get warmer and I am enjoying the sun shine. Breezy is pulling me around and I am getting my exercise. I can hear the birds chirping. Looking at all the things that are coming up for spring and Summer.

The Tent will go up by May 21st - I hope that we will get to see more people in Church whether we are inside or outside.

I hope that everyone is doing well and praise the Lord that we will still attend and enjoy worship. If there is anything you would like to talk about, you can reach me at home -802-442-9574.

Sue Congdon, Church Council Chair

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	Alyson Grzyb
Worship & Ministry	David Moore
Missions & Outreach	Sandra Grover

Team Members

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

May Birthdays

- 9 – Kathy Hayden
276 Oak Knoll
Arlington, VT 05250
- 12 – Karen Underhill
983 Berwal Road
Arlington, VT 05250
- 19 – Kathy Frost
16 Kempton Place #6
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
- 21 – Sharon Davis
3104 Vt. Route 7A
Arlington, VT 05250



May Anniversaries

- 13 – Karen and Ed Coy
449 Sunrise Lane
Arlington, VT



Youth and Children's birthdays

- 5/10, 2017 Ronan Caples



**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.

- May 7:** Congregational Church of Rupert
- May 14:** Shrewsbury Community Church
- May 21:** First Congregational Church of Wallingford
- May 28:** United Church of West Rutland

Lectionary Readings for May

- May 7:** Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
| Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- May 14:** Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20
| Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- May 21:** Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
| Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
- May 28:** Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35
| Corinthians 12:3-13; John 20:19-23

**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).

Our Church Profile

www.vtcucc.org/pastoral-openings

May Helping Hands Needed

- We need helpers to assist with our services.
Sign up for:
- Greeter – 1 per service
 - Altar flowers
 - 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, replace if needed.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who reached out to me at the time of my daughter Raneé's passing. The cards, calls, emails, messages, texts, visits, attendance at her celebration of life, thoughts, prayers and presence in my life. God continues to bless me through you.

Sandy Grover



CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Christian Education

Sunday School May 21 Celebration Sunday, 12 noon -1pm

Potluck Picnic and Outdoor Games

Hot Dos/Rolls/Condiments

Paper Products and drinks will be provided

Bring a dish to share and be ready to have some fun!

Watch the midweek message for added
Sunday School days.



The Bible in 50 Words

God *made*,
Adam *bit*,
Noah *arked*,
Abraham *split*,
Joseph *ruled*,
Jacob *fooled*,
Bush *talked*,
Moses *balked*,
Pharaoh *plagued*,
People *walked*,
Sea *divided*,
Tablets *guided*,
Promise *landed*,
Saul *freaked*,
David *peeked*,
Prophets *warned*,
Jesus *born*,
God *walked*,
Love *talked*,
Spirit *flamed*,
Word *spread*,
God *remained*.



Girl Scout Juniors Bailey Hall

May 7th, 12-1

May 21 st, 12-1

Ways we can help!



Thank
You



VT Conference UCC E-Kit

www.vtcucc.org

Click on green circle "subscribe to weekly newsletter"
then choose e-kit for weekly news.



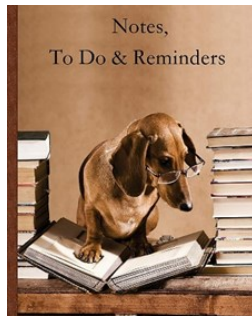
Adventures In Reading

May has arrived and your Adventures in Reading lists are due. You can mail it to me, hand it to me, or email it to me. Please include books that you'd recommend for the upcoming book list (emailed preferred)! Author Last name, First name. Book Title. Short blurb about the book.

I'm looking forward to receiving both!

As a reminder:

"To Be a qualified reader, you must have read one book from each list. The only acceptable substitutions are books of the same genre by another author on the list or books in the same group from an earlier Adventures in Reading list."



Our next potluck book discussion is on Monday, May 22 in Bailey Hall. Mark your calendars!

Phyllis Warren

Summer Lunch Program

It takes a village of volunteers!

The Arlington Area Summer Lunch Program begins on Tuesday, June 20, 2020 and runs through August th.

This program is designed to provide a week's worth of lunch food per child.

Volunteers order the food from Aldi's, as well as milk cards, ice cream cards and egg cards from Stewarts.

Volunteers call the families each week as a reminder to pick up the bags of food.

Volunteers pick up the food and deliver it to the school. Volunteers pack each bag.

Volunteers distribute the bags to the families.

Arlington Memorial High School gives us the space and refrigeration to help with this program.

Our church and St. James Episcopal Church collect individually wrapped snack items to be added to the bags.

Thank you all for your donations to this program.

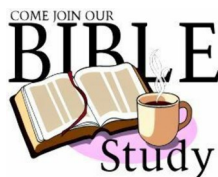
Thanks to all the volunteers.

There is a box in Bailey Hall for individually wrapped snack items for this program.



Bible Study

Friday morning study begins on **May 5 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.** At that time, we will dive into the words of 1 Thessalonians and continue (except for May 12) until we finish by early June. If you would like the Zoom link sent to you, please be in touch with Pastor Kathy or Sandy at the office.



Blanket the World with Love

How does our support change lives? Contributions to CWS Blankets mean Church World Service will be ready to help families around the world recover from disasters and displacement.

There are envelopes and information in the pews and on a table in Bailey Hall. Just \$10 per blanket makes a difference. Cash or checks to the Federated Church with blankets in the memo.



Blanket Sunday is Mother's Day,

Unfolding Light

What if God is joy?
 What if the Father is bliss and the Son is gratitude
 and the Holy Spirit is gleeful wonder?
 What if creating is God's play,
 and the big bang was an outburst of happiness
 and the galaxies are spun from pure delight?
 What if gravity, that holds the universe together,
 is simply the pleasure of harmony,
 and every created thing's ecstatic desire for one another?
 What if earth is God's great celebration,
 spinning and dancing and making music and beauty
 and inviting everyone in to feast and wonder?
 What if being itself is such a miracle
 that God gets endless enjoyment out of it?
 What if God doesn't own a throne (most uncomfortable)
 and has never handled a gavel,
 but has a million musical instruments?
 What if God goes to hell every weekend
 with a load of tissues and listens to everybody
 who's locked themselves up in there
 until they've cried out all their sorrows,
 and they come out laughing and dancing?
 What if what it means to come to God
 is to enter into God's joy?
 What if the work of justice
 is to enable everyone to truly know joy?
 (And would that not mean that cruelty and injustice
 are most heinously sinful?)
 What if even in our grief and our despair
 the root of our being is joy,
 and resurrection means passing through our sorrow
 into God's delight?
 What if salvation means
 being rescued from our inability to rejoice?
 Why not? Why not? Do you think you can convince me
 that God is all somber and serious?
 What if even now, as you consider this,
 and think it's kind of silly,
 God is laughing... and waiting?

Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes



Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless

Food. Shelter. Support.

Spring is Here!

Spring time is here, though Vermont's weather is predictably unpredictable! While the tulips are blooming, the trees are budding, and the seasonal allergy sufferers are sneezing, there are still a lot of Bennington County residents who are struggling to find safe and secure housing. Our family shelter is still completely full and our emergency shelter has been either at maximum capacity or close to it. Thank you all SO MUCH for the monetary donations, clothing and food donations, volunteer work, and for sharing our social media posts online. The variety of help you give to us every week makes SUCH a difference in the lives of Vermonters who are struggling.

It's time for some spring cleaning at Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless but we're running low on cleaning supplies! If you have an extra spray bottle of Lysol cleaner, some hand soap, or any of the items on our wish list, would you consider donating them to us? Thank you so much!

Please put the items in the basket in Bailey Hall.

Spray cleaners

Sponges

Dish soap

Toilet paper

Paper towels

Disposable gloves

Laundry detergent

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

New England Conference UMC

A Message from Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

April 3, 2023

Enough

Recently the Central Square Congregational Church (UCC) of Bridgewater, MA, put a display of empty chairs on its front lawn spelling out the word “E-N-O-U-G-H.”

As we hear of yet another horrific mass shooting in this country, this simple and poignant message rings true in my heart and I am sure yours as well. This time it is a school in Nashville. There have been more than 100 mass shootings so far this year in our country. That is a staggering number, but each comes as a shock — and a horror. This almost everyday occurrence of assault rifle violence increases our sense of fear, hopelessness, and frustration.

We have prayed, we have written to our lawmakers about gun laws and background checks, we have called for greater accessibility to mental health services, we have declared our churches “gun-free zones.” Still it appears that these horrific acts of violence are on the rise.

As we approach Holy Week, during which we walk the Via Dolorosa with the Lord of love once again, his brutal execution at the hands of religious and secular authorities shows me that humankind has long turned to violence and cruelty as its answer to disagreements, hatred, and threats to the powers that be. This is nothing new, but we cannot be given to despair and lose hope.

In his resurrection there comes the ultimate hope for the day when swords will become plowshares and spears will turn into pruning hooks (Isaiah 2:4). His bodily resurrection is just a part of the full restoration of peace for all people and all of creation. Believe this, no matter how long the wait.

As Easter people we still need to be working together with God to make a better day now. So, start with yourself. Where are you harboring hatred for people? How does your criticism and negativity against one of your siblings foment violence? Jesus said, “Everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council and whoever says, ‘you fool’ will be liable to the hell of fire.” (Matthew 5:22)

Teach peace in your churches’ communities by instructing people about how to resolve differences and conflicts in restorative ways rather than with division and retaliation.

Take political action as you can. Our democracy calls on all of us to speak out for justice and laws that promote safety and health for all. If you do nothing, you are complicit in the continued wave of violence. Believe in the power of one voice. Remember that the faithful actions many have already taken and continue to take have made a difference.

New England Annual Conference, I rejoice in your faithful witness and pray for you as you journey on this Holy Season. Shout from the roof tops “Enough” and then follow the footsteps of Jesus in bringing life and reconciliation to this world.

Photo courtesy of Central Square Congregational Church

Our District Contact Info

District Superintendent Rev. Jill Colley Robinson

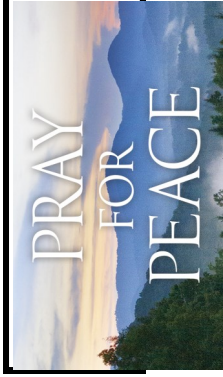
Administrative Assistant Rena Flint

Address 152 South Main St., Northfield, VT 05663

Office Phone (802) 485-4724

Email GMDS@neumc.org / GMDistrict@neumc.org





May 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 * Dunlap Hall	2 12n-Senior Meals	3 7:30-11:30a-Bailey Hall in use	4 11:30a-3:30p-Dunlap Hall in use 12n-Senior Meals	5 9a-Bible Study on Zoom 1 Thessalonians	6	
7 10a-Worship/Communion Service in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time 12p-Girl Scouts	8 9 12n-Senior Meals	10 11 12n-Senior Meals	12 9a-Bible Study on Zoom 1 Thessalonians	13		
14 Service in person and on Zoom 10a-Worship 11a-Fellowship time	15 16 12n-Senior Meals	17 18 12n-Senior Meals	19 9a-Bible Study on Zoom 1 Thessalonians	20 11:30a-Women's group, knit, crochet, fellowship		
21 10a-Worship Service— Celebration Sunday- in person and on Zoom 11a-Church picnic 11:45a-Church Council 12p-Girl Scouts	22 12n-Adventures in Reading potluck lunch & meeting	23 12n-Senior Meals	24 25 12n-Senior Meals	26 9a-Bible Study on Zoom 1 Thessalonians	27	
28 10a-Worship Service in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time	29 30 12n-Senior Meals	31				