

The Federated Church of East Arlington



September 2023

Meditation, Meanderings, and Musings from Pastor Kathy

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:"

After approximately 175 of these newsletter reflections over the past 16 years, this is the final one that I will be sharing with all of you. Looking back, some of them have been very "news of the day" in their specificity while many have reflected some thought or idea or concern that grabbed my attention. Just this morning I was reading an article by a Mennonite pastor in North Carolina who summed up pastoral ministry quite succinctly. She indicated that her job "is to pay attention for a living."

Paying attention - to the wider world and then zooming in on issues and concerns with more and more of a focus on national then state then local community and ultimately paying attention to individual people. That's what we do as church. We are inextricably linked to each other and our attention, can at times, feel like it is being pulled in a dozen different directions and then the critical issue becomes discerning which person or activity or even object needs our attention most at that time.

Being a person of gratitude is the message that wants the attention of my head and my heart as the countdown of my final days as your pastor is progressing with amazing speed. 'Tis the season for giving thanks. First and always foremost, there is gratitude to our ever-present God with whom we have been in a three-way covenant since I was called on that lovely August Sunday in 2007. God's presence throughout our time together has been felt more strongly on some days than others but the knowledge of being held in love by the strength and light and power that is the Divine has made even the saddest and hardest of days bearable.

We, you the congregation and me the pastor, are the other two parts of the covenant and I want to express the deepest of thanksgiving for calling me and loving me while we have been church together all these years. In both remarkable and everyday ways, you have embodied what it means to be Christ to one another and the world. This community is so blessed to have all of you continually acting on your faith.

I hope I have the chance to speak with as many of you as possible before my final day, September 27. I offer then this Irish blessing to the future:

May your mornings bring joy and your evenings bring peace.

May your troubles grow few as your blessings increase.

May the saddest day of your future be no worse than the happiest day of your past.

May your hands be forever clasped in friendship and your hearts joined forever in love.

Your lives are very special, and God has touched you in many ways.

May his blessings rest upon you and fill all your coming days.

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

2023 Congregational Giving Budgeted:	\$ 66,000.00
Congregational Giving as of 8/31	\$ 31,378.62
Building use	\$ 2,000.00
Fundraising	\$ 824.60



Thank
you!

Church attendance

	Adults	Children
8/6	2	0
8/13	40	0
8/20	23	1
8/27	55	8



And many on Zoom and by phone

Search Committee Report

By Brian Allen, Chair

Divine intervention delivered to us our new pastor. On August 27th, the congregation of the Federated Church of East Arlington called Andris Berry as our minister, succeeding Kathy Clark and starting on September 17th. Andris will overlap with our esteemed Kathy for two weeks and take the reins with Jesus at his side on October 1st.

Andris comes to us via Hollywood, Astoria, Saint Louis, and the Northeast Kingdom so, like many ministers today, he's here circuitously. His father, the Rev. Dr. Steve Berry, is the pastor at the Rupert church. Andris was a Teamster truck driver for Hollywood studios but, over time, moved toward the work of God, came back to Vermont, and enrolled in the intensive pastor preparation program run by the United Church of Christ. The program develops men and women to pastor small churches, and I emphasize "pastor." He'll care for us, teach us, and lead us.

Donna Stone, Karen Tibbetts, Karen Underhill, and Christy Wood joined me on the search committee. We read Andris's application, met him, attended a worship service he led and were nudged by the Holy Spirit. We worked together for a year with not a cross word, focused as we were on continuing and expanding the church's work, now in its 191st year. We were conscious of past, present, and future.

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.
1. Gail Rice	2. Ann Smith

September Birthdays

- 4 – Sandy Grover
3402 VT Route 7A
Arlington, VT 052502
- 17 – Pastor Kathy Clark
159 Matteson Road
North Bennington, VT
025257
- 22 – Marie Davies
66 Country View Lane
Arlington, VT 05250
- 27 – Kaitlyn Daniels
6 Tel Road
Bennington, VT 05201
- Patti Cody
348 Green Mountain Road
Manchester Center, VT 05255
- 29 – Sherrill (Sue) Snow
P.O. Box 85
East Arlington, VT 05252
- 30 – Jeff McConnell
77 Hagelberg Hill
Arlington, VT 05250



September Anniversaries

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



**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.

- September 3:** Pittsford Congregational Church
- September 10:** Grace Congregational Church, Rutland
- September 17:** Congregational Church of Rupert
- September 24:** Shrewsbury Community Church

Lectionary Readings for September

- :Sept. 3** Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28
- Sept. 10:** Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
- Sept. 17:** Exodus 14:129-31; Psalm 114
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
- Sept. 24:** Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Hospitality is one form of worship.
Jewish proverb



**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).

September Helping Hands Needed

We need helpers to assist with our services.

Sign up for:

Greeter – 1 per service

Altar flowers each week

Readers – 1 per month, or share with someone

Refreshment time – help 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.

CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Christian Education

Sunday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m. is RALLY SUNDAY, which is the beginning of our Sunday School year. A potluck lunch will follow the worship service.

There is a sign-up sheet in Bailey Hall for the potluck lunch.

Youth Group: the first meeting will be on Sunday, September 24th at 5:00 p.m. in Bailey Hall for anyone in grades 6-12.



Ways we can help!



Thank
You



Adventures In Reading

Our annual lunch was held on Friday, July 28 at the Grille at Mount Anthony Country Club. 12 members attended.

New Adventures in Reading lists have been distributed. If you haven't received yours or are interested in joining us, please let Phyllis Warren know. The first gathering will be in September with a date to be determined.

There are many reasons for adult reading for pleasure. Here are three.

(3) Unexpected Benefits of Reading for Pleasure as an Adult with Sarah Taylor)

Readers of fiction have increased creativity, empathy, and emotional intelligence. Losing yourself in fictional characters' experiences can make us more open-minded and allow us to spend time in someone else's shoes.

Reading boosts brain power, creating cognitive engagement which can help with things like memory and brain function as we get older.

Reading supports self improvement. Lifelong learning is important, and one of the best ways to do that is to pick up a book to learn something new.



BACK
TO
SCHOOL

VT Conference UCC E-Kit

www.vtcucc.org, choose e-kit for weekly news.



Thank you & Farewell, Pastor Kathy!

There will be a potluck dinner on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 5:00 in Bailey Hall to say thank you and goodbye to Pastor Kathy. The following day, September 24, is her last day in the pulpit, and it will be nice to celebrate her time with us at the Federated Church of East Arlington. Bring a dish to pass, beverages will be provided.

We are collecting money for a going away gift (a Roseanne Henning pottery pasta bowl with a picture of the church on it) and a “purse” (cash, so Pastor Kathy can use it as she would like). Please make checks payable to the **Federated Church** with “**Pastor Kathy**” on the memo line, and send contributions to the church (by September 16).

Federated Church of East Arlington
102 Ice Pond Road
Arlington, VT 05250

You can also drop off money or checks to Sandy in the church office or on Sunday mornings (by September 16) if that works for you.

Let’s have a nice send off and thank you to Pastor Kathy. If you have any questions, feel free to call Patti Cody at 802-362-4382.

Spread the word! This is a community event!

Today's Prayer

Rev. Ted Crass, President, The United Methodist Foundation of New England Inspiration: Exodus 3.1-5

Holy One,

Could today be a day in which I recognize a holy moment –

Experiencing your presence and love?

I will anticipate a holy moment breaking into an ordinary conversation
or becoming visible in a silent act of service.

Where ego is released.

Where curiosity is expressed.

Where vulnerability is shown.

Where trust becomes palpable.

Where goodwill and kindness are offered ... and even accepted.

Where truth is spoken.

Where hearts are recognized in awe and knowing.

Maybe I will be involved or maybe I will witness it among others.

Whether kindled by a gentle inviting presence or fanned by a holy impatience,

I will not resist either the spark or combustion ...

Hearts afire and yet never consumed

Ready to spread and carry to the next available heart.

Through your grace, may I participate in this holy moment today.

Amen.

Missions

Flood relief for UCC and UMC churches in Vermont, \$1,010 after match.

Flood relief from chicken barbecue, \$2,631 to Southern Vermont Flood Relief administered by the Stratton Foundation.

Thank you to all. We truly are the hands and feet of Jesus.



a just
world
for all
ucc.org



The
United
Methodist
Church

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

Beauty Despite Bigotry

Kenneth Samuel

When Pharaoh calls you in and asks, "What is your occupation?" you should answer, "Your servants have tended livestock from our boyhood on, just as our fathers did." Then you will be allowed to settle in the region of Goshen, for all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians. - Genesis 46:33-34 (NIV)
After revealing himself as kin to his ten Hebrew brothers, Joseph the Prince of Egypt invites his entire family to come live with him in Egypt and thereby escape the famine that has plagued the Middle East. Before presenting his family to the Pharaoh for final approval, Joseph cautions them to tell the Pharaoh that they are all herdsmen—tenders of livestock.

Joseph knows that when the Pharaoh hears of his family's occupation, he will assign them a territory called Goshen, located in the northeast region of the Nile Delta. The territory is in Egypt, yet separate from the Egyptians; Joseph is aware that many Egyptians consider Hebrew herdsmen to be uncouth, uncultured, and of lower caste than Egyptian city dwellers.

But in their separate, segregated region, the Hebrews flourish. So much so that by the time a new Pharaoh came to power in Egypt, he notices that the Hebrews in segregated Goshen had outnumbered and become more powerful than the Egyptians.

Scripture tells us that the more the new Pharaoh sought to suppress the Hebrews, the more they multiplied.

Black Americans have had to deal with bigotry in America historically and systemically. But American bigotry has not been able to stifle the creativity, the resiliency, and the vibrancy of Black American life.

Listen to our music. Taste our food. Experience our worship. Enter our ethos.

Beauty has thrived despite bigotry in Native American artistry, in LGBTQ pageantry, and in countless "China Towns" across the country.

It was Joseph who declared that what was meant for evil, God used for good.

Prayer

God, only you can bring light out of darkness, and we thank you. Amen.



Rally Sunday

Sunday September 10th,

2023 10AM at

Federated Church

Backpack Blessing

Sunday School Fun

Activity

Potluck lunch

following worship

All Children are

Welcome!



Youth Group

Lets get together to form an amazing Youth Group

Please, join us on Sunday September 24th, 2023 from 5pm-6pm



Federated Church
102 Ice Pond Road
Arlington, VT. 05250
802-375-2548
Grades 6-12

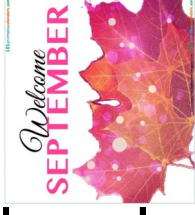
Everyone is Welcome

- Fun
- Games
- Snacks
- Caroling
- Art Projects
- Social Fellowship
- Faith Based
- Community Assistance





September 2023



	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1	2
3	10a-Worship/Communion Service under the tent and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time	4	5 12n-Senior Meals	6	7 12n-Senior Meals	8	9
10	RALLY DAY! Sunday School Registration 10a-Worship in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time with potluck lunch	11	12 12n-Senior Meals	13	14 12n-Senior Meals	15	16
17	10a-Worship Service in person and on Zoom 11a-Fellowship time 11:45a-Church Council	18	19 12n-Senior Meals	20	21 12n-Senior Meals	22	23 5p-Potluck dinner to thank Kathy. Community event. Spread the word
24	10a-Worship Service in person and on Zoom Sunday School 11a-Fellowship time 5p-Youth Group	25	26 12n-Senior Meals	27	28 12n-Senior Meals	29	30