

United Church of Hinesburg  
P.O. Box 39  
Hinesburg, VT 05461

## APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER



**TO:**

Pastor: Rev. Jared Hamilton  
Pastor's Email: [revjared@gmavt.net](mailto:revjared@gmavt.net)  
Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am – 12pm  
Office Contacts: 482-3352 / [unitedchurch@gmavt.net](mailto:unitedchurch@gmavt.net) / [www.ucofh.org](http://www.ucofh.org)

Please help keep our records current by contacting the UCH Office with changes to your e-mail or mailing address. Thank you!

### ***Pastor's Message:***

And Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."  
- the Gospel of Mark 16:15

For many years the Achinda family made their home in Hinesburg. Refugees from Tanzania, they were regulars at worship, worked locally at Lantman's and Good Times Café and were mainstays in our youth programs. The community grieved with the family when Robert, the family's patriarch, passed away in 2015.

During this time of grief, we got to know Anna Nyassa, Robert's wife better. We found out through translators that she was a pastor of several churches in Africa before coming to the US and had a long history of work in Christ's church. Coming from the Free Methodist Tradition, she was called in ministry in the 1980's while living in the city of Uvira in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She settled two churches there and then two other churches in neighboring Kigoma, Tanzania.

When she and her family moved to Vermont, she remained in constant contact with these churches, leading services in Swahili and French, preaching and praying through nightly online services that would go well past midnight.

Last summer the family moved to St. Louis, Missouri where Pastor Anna could pursue a new ministry opportunity. She started the Mount of Olives Ministry (*Uduma Ya Mlima Wa Mizeituni* in Swahili), a local church community. Today, just one year later, the congregation she serves numbers in the mid-100s and ministers primarily to and with Swahili-speaking immigrants and refugees that find themselves in the St. Louis area.

They have had to move around in the last year as their needs have changed. They have outgrown the church basement they have been renting from another congregation and hope to purchase a new sanctuary where they can better grow into their ministry and offer services to new refugees like English and computer classes.

Last month Pastor Anna returned to Vermont to visit. She asked if we might help with this worthy endeavor. Brochures about this project are at the back of the church and in the church office. If you would like to learn more about the church, visit their new website: <http://annaministry.global>. If you are interested in giving to the church project, a *gofundme* page has been set up: <https://www.gofundme.com/mountofolivesministry>.

May we all keep Anna and the whole Achinda family in our thoughts and prayers. May we lift up the good work Anna is doing in St. Louis and support God's work at Mount of Olives as we are able.

Blessings,

*Pastor Jared*



Rev. Anna Nyassa,  
Pastor, Mount of Olives  
Ministry in St. Louis.



Pastor Jared with  
Pastor Anna and  
Brother Timothy  
at Pastor Anna's  
commissioning  
last July.



## Spotlight on.....the Christian Education Committee

*Christian Education Committee: Eileen Ashe, Chair; Heather Roberts, Christian Education Coordinator; Leah Hamilton, Mary Hong, Theron Main, Renate Parke, Sharonlee Trefry*

Under the United Church of Hinesburg's bylaws, the Christian Education Committee is tasked with:

- 1) Identifying Christian education needs.
- 2) Studying and selecting materials, equipment, and curriculum.
- 3) Operating a Sunday School program for children, including recruiting and training leaders and other participants.
- 4) Publicizing among church families material for camps and conferences sponsored by denominational and ecumenical agencies.
- 5) Offering a Vacation Bible School when possible.
- 6) Maintaining guidelines for the Caring Community Policy.

The Christian Education Committee meets as needed to discuss the current needs of our Sunday School and associated activities for children. Some examples are:

**Sunday School program** – This includes curriculum selection and overall scheduling for Sunday mornings. In recent years we have added regular mission projects (sometimes as part of One Room Schoolhouse days in which the classrooms are combined together), yoga instruction by Ashley Williams-Wenschhof and other special activities like constructing a May Pole and learning about St. Patrick.

**Special Services** – We plan services throughout the year in which the Sunday School children play an integral role. This would include Homecoming Sunday (the first day of the program year), the Christmas Pageant (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in December) and Children's Sunday (in April).

**Children's Choir** – We oversee the Children's Choir directed by Leah Hamilton. The children generally perform 2-3 songs per program year in our worship services. In 2017-2018, they have performed "We Are the Church" (November) and "Clap Your Hands" (Easter).

**Friday Night Events** – We plan and implement monthly Friday night events for Sunday School-aged children, usually on the first Friday of the month. We alternate between game nights and movie nights and provide dinner prior to the evening's activities. These are friend-friendly events so we often have additional participants from outside of our congregation.

**Summer programming** – We have offered 2 Summer Camp programs in recent years (August 2015 & August 2017) centered around topics in nature. We hope to continue this programming every other year going forward and are looking at other ways to stay connected with kids and families during the summer months.

**Volunteer recruitment and training** – Our programs could not function – and grow – without the participation of many volunteers from our congregation. This includes classroom leaders, roamers, occasional nursery helpers, Friday night event chaperones, summer camp volunteers and Pageant helpers. Our Caring Community Policy & Procedures, developed and overseen by the Christian Education Committee, requires at least 2 adults to be present at all events involving children and for those adults to have reviewed our policy and consented to a state background check (at no cost to them or the church). If you think you'd like to be a Sunday School volunteer, please complete the Volunteer Participation Covenant and Background Check Authorization Form found on the Sunday School page of the church website, <http://www.ucofh.org/sunday-school.html>, and return it to the church office.

## Christian Education Committee News

*Christian Education Committee: Eileen Ashe, Chair; Heather Roberts, CE Coordinator; Leah Hamilton, Mary Hong, Theron Main, Renate Parke and Sharonlee Trefry*

**March** was a busy month for our Sunday School program.

- On Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed Ashley Willams-Wenschhof to our Sunday School for a session of yoga. The kids enjoyed the opportunity to breathe, stretch and balance.
- On Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, we watched a video about St. Patrick and learned about how he used the shamrock to demonstrate the trinity – Father, Son & Holy Spirit.
- We hosted the Open Table Diner free community meal on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, serving soup, bread and salad. All donations benefitted the 2018 middle & high school youth trips.
- On Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, we made cards and assembled Easter baskets for home-bound and elderly members of our congregation. They were much appreciated!

We have no **Sunday School** on Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, or on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> because of April school break. We have several special activities planned for the other Sundays of this month:

- On Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Children's Sunday. Our Sunday School children & younger youth will be involved in all aspects of the service – greeting, ushering, reading, performing music, etc. Older youth are invited to sing with the choir.
- On Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, we begin our final *Faith Practices* lesson of this program year. The topic this spring will be "Experiencing Beauty".
- On Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the beginning of April school break, we will hold a One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School with the details to follow.

We will be holding our **monthly Sunday School Movie Night** on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00pm. We will share a dinner of tacos and then watch *Coco* on the big screen in the Parish Hall. There will be popcorn and drinks during the movie. Bring a beanbag chair, pillow, blanket, etc. so you can watch in comfort. RSVP at: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-sunday9](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-sunday9) .



### Knitters & Crocheters Needed!

We are looking for people who knit or crochet and might enjoy participating in our prayer shawl ministry. The shawls have been meeting a need in our church community and we need help to maintain a healthy supply. Basic shawl directions and yarn are available in the bottom of the cabinet inside the front door of the church. Any size or shape that will go around shoulders or cover a wheelchair-bound recipient will work.

Do you know someone who could use a shawl to comfort them during a difficult time? Shawls are available in the cabinet and you are free to take one (or more) at any time.

Profits Benefit Hinesburg Youth Projects  
Trip to Puerto Rico  
to Help with Hurricane Relief



## Zumba-Jazz for Puerto Rico

All Costs are By Donation

Where: CVU Gymnasium (369 CVU Road, Hinesburg VT)

Date: April 15th 2018

Time: 9am-11am

Silent Auction  
Refreshments

If you would like to donate online visit:

<https://www.youcaring.com/hinesburgyouthproject-1093407>



The United Church of Hinesburg is now host to the first **Little Free Pantry** in Vermont and we need your help to keep it stocked! The idea for Little Free Pantries arose from the growth of Little Free Libraries and works on a similar reciprocal arrangement – Take What You Need; Leave What You Can. They are designed to help neighbors who are food insecure and are available for food, toiletries and household items for those in need, no questions asked, 24 hours a day. If you need a little something, stop in and get it. If you can share a little something, stop by anytime and drop it in the pantry. If you have any questions about items that are appropriate to donate, please contact the church office.

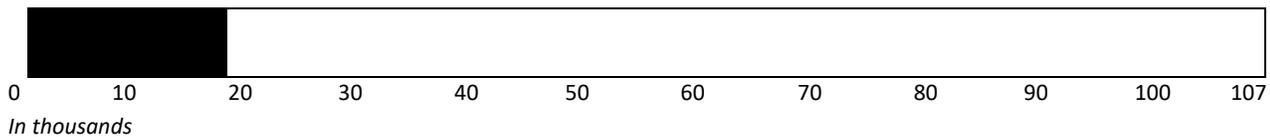
## Finance Committee News

*Finance Committee: Yvonne Whitaker – Treasurer; Ellen Dooley & Sandy Milbank – Co-Financial Secretaries; Phil Pouech, Keith Roberts, Andy Seaton, Mary Eddy Stewart*

### Financial Update

Our 2018 budget includes an offering goal of \$107,750. With your generosity we will achieve our goal, providing the financial support needed for our church to continue to grow and thrive. The progress bar below will be published monthly to show how we are doing. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Plate offering received as of **February 28, 2018** (\$17,393 16% of offering budget)



Yvonne Whitaker, Treasurer

### Planned Giving

If you would like to help to ensure that the United Church of Hinesburg continues to thrive for generations to come, consider making the United Church of Hinesburg a beneficiary in your will or living trust. Another option to consider would be the gift of an appreciated stock instead of cash. This option of donating shares of stock can have tax benefits for you and allow a larger contribution to our church. If you have questions about gifting stock, contact your accountant or contact Damon Kinzie, our Morgan Stanley financial advisor (658-2424). All calls and conversations with Damon will be strictly confidential.



We will be holding our **Annual Plant and Baked Goods Sale** on **Saturday, May 12th** from 9:00am – 3:00pm.

We are celebrating more than 40 years of this spring tradition. We will have hardy perennials, annuals in full bloom and home-made baked goods for sale, all with the small-town hospitality you would expect in Hinesburg. The perennials are dug from gardens in and around Hinesburg and potted for transplanting. We have traditional and unusual selections at very reasonable prices - well below what you would find at local garden nurseries. Our baked goods include pies, breads, cookies, baked beans and other delicious ready-to-serve fare.

We are looking for donations from local gardens - especially unusual varieties. Do you have any to donate? We'd love to talk to you!

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Mary Eddy Stewart at [maryeddystewart@gmavt.net](mailto:maryeddystewart@gmavt.net) or 802-777-8288. We have many volunteer activities starting on Friday, April 27th and running through the day of the plant sale, Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Many hands make light work – even an hour or two would help!

**6TH  
ANNUAL**

**5K**



**HEARTS FOR HUNGER**

**A RACE TO BENEFIT  
VT FOODBANK BACKPACK  
PROGRAM**

**SATURDAY  
MAY 19, 2018**

**CVU HIGH SCHOOL  
HINESBURG, VT**

**9:00AM**



**REGISTER ONLINE AT  
<https://heartsforhunger5k.redpodium.com/2018>**

If you do not want to register for the race but would still like to donate to the Vermont Foodbank through Hearts for Hunger, please visit:

<https://heartsforhunger5k.givingfuel.com/2018>

### Why We Do This:

ONE in FOUR children in Vermont live with food insecurity. That means they have no guaranteed meals when school is not in session.

### How it Works:

Teachers place bags of kid-friendly, nonperishable, vitamin-fortified food from all five food groups discreetly in a child's backpack.

### How You Can Help:

Each backpack of food costs just \$5! *Five Dollars.*

$$\text{🍎} = \$5$$

$$\text{🍎} + \text{🍎} = \$10$$

$$\text{🍎} + \text{🍎} + \text{🍎} + \text{🍎} = \$20$$

**\$20 = Feed a child for a month**

**\$180 = Feed a child for a school year**

In 5 years, the Hearts for Hunger 5K has raised

\$30,100 = 6,020 backpacks = 167 children fed for a school year!

*Together, we are making a difference. Be the change.*

## April 2018 Happenings at UCH

*{All meetings/events are held in Osborne Parish House unless otherwise noted.}*

2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	8:00am-3:00pm	WIC
Monday nights	5:00pm-9:30pm	Parish House reserved by private group
Tuesday afternoons	1:30pm-2:30pm	Disciplines study group
Every other Tuesday night	6:00pm-7:00pm	Cub Scouts – Wolf Den
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday night	6:30pm-8:00pm	4-H meeting
Most Wednesday nights	6:30pm-9:00pm	Boy Scouts
Thursday mornings	10:00am-11:00am	Spanish speaking group
Thursday mornings	10:00am-11:30am	Hinesburg Friends of Families baby playgroup
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	7:30pm-8:30pm	Cub Scout parents meeting
Most Fridays	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Sunday April 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:45am & 10:00am	Easter Sunday services
Sunday, April 1 <sup>st</sup>		No Sunday School; nursery care is available
Wednesday, April 4 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Friday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm-8:00pm	Sunday School Movie Night - <i>Coco</i>
Sunday, April 8 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Children's Sunday service
Tuesday, April 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Friday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm-8:00pm	Girl Scout Troop meeting
Saturday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Social Band Concert – "All the Fields"
Sunday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>		Champlain Association Pulpit Swap
Sunday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm	Champlain Association meeting @ UCH
Wednesday, April 18 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Friday, April 20 <sup>th</sup>		May newsletter deadline
Saturday, April 21 <sup>st</sup>	11:00am	Funeral service for Dwight Eddy
Sunday, April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:45am	Finance Committee meeting
Sunday, April 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Special Music Sunday; One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School
Friday, April 27 <sup>th</sup>	5:30-7:00pm	Open Table Diner free community meal hosted by 4H
Sunday, April 29 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	Trustees meeting
Sunday, April 29 <sup>th</sup>		No Sunday School

Dear United Church Friends,

We seriously miss you folks up there in VT but because of serious health problems for both of us we were unable to get there this past summer. Our health has improved somewhat so we are planning at least to make the trip to VT this next summer. We will no longer drive (will fly). Hope all there are doing well and give our best to them all.

Sincerely, Bill Roberts & Barb Bergevin

### Social Impacts and Responses to Opiate Abuse in our Community

Sunday, April 15, 2018 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Mater Christi School Gym (50 Mansfield Ave. Burlington, VT 05401)

The Sisters of Mercy and Mercy Associates invite you to an afternoon devoted to the problem of opiate abuse in VT. The format will consist of a panel with the following presenters: Christina Nolan, U.S. Attorney for State of VT; Mark Redmond, Director of Spectrum Youth and Family Services; and Dr. Stephen Leffler, UVM Chief Medical Officer. Facilitator will be Dr. John Reuwer, Emergency Medical Physician and Adjunct Professor of Peace and Justice, St. Michael's College.

In addition to the panel presentations, a portion of **The Hungry Heart**, a prize winning documentary film by Bess O'Brien, will be shown. Donations will be accepted at the door to benefit the Howard Center.

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### *April Birthdays & Anniversaries*

02	Phil Pouech
03	Connor Brien
06	Steve Utter
07	Reggie Robinson
08	Taylor Cummings
08	Ellen Dooley
08	David Sterrett
10	David Newton
10	Meg Patrick
13	Jacob Ashe
14	Amelie Lepple
14	Yvonne & Tod Whitaker
15	Ella O'Neil
15	Sara & Jean Hawkins
17	Miles Hamilton
18	Anita (Sam) & Jim Collins
19	Bill & Joyce Menning
19	Marie Eddy
19	Edward Sengle
24	Eleonora Cudney
24	Mike & Linda Quinn
25	Lana Ouimet
28	Daniel & Valerie Spadaccini
29	Brian Hanlon
29	Bella Seeholzer

*If you don't see your birthday or anniversary listed,  
please call the Church Office so we may include you!*



### **April 2018**

#### **April 1st**

*Greeters: Cathy Foutz*

*Ushers: Kate Schubart & Mary Eddy Stewart*

*Reader: Mary Eddy Stewart*

#### **April 8th**

*Greeters: The Main family*

*Ushers: youth*

*Reader: Emma & Jack Main*

#### **April 15th**

*Greeters: Sandy & Reggie Robinson*

*Ushers: Kristi Kilbride & Sherrie Simmons*

*Reader: Dianne Hall*

#### **April 22nd**

*Greeters: Cathy Foutz*

*Ushers: Mary Eddy Stewart & Kate Schubart*

*Reader: Sharonlee Trefry*

#### **April 29th**

*Greeters: Carrie & Allison Huestis*

*Ushers: TBD*

*Reader: Betsy Patrick*

#### **April Coffee Hour Hosts —**

Chair – Sally Mead; Michelle Fischer, Thea Gaudette, Anne Carter Mahaffey, Danielle Pezzimenti

**Thank you for your service!**



**Looking for news regarding specific denominations?**

Check these websites...

[www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org) | [www.vtcucc.org](http://www.vtcucc.org) | [www.abcvnh.org](http://www.abcvnh.org)

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**Distributing the monthly newsletter by email saves the church a considerable amount of money in postage expenses. If you currently receive a mailed hard copy of the church newsletter, please consider contacting the church office with an updated email address to which future issues can be sent. Thank you!**