

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

## APRIL 2019 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:



#### A Less Abstract Easter

... And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

*Christ has died,*

*Christ is risen,*

*Christ will come again.*

- The short version of the *Mysterium Fidei*

“People can say what they like about the eternal verities, love and truth and so on, but nothing’s as eternal as the dishes.”  
- Margaret Mahy (1936-2012)

Easter was a true springtime event for me growing up. With the rare exception, Easter fell during the beginning of spring in central Ohio – a place where spring is a real season that lasts more than a few weeks and hasn’t been superseded by “Mud

Season.” Every year, my brother and I would get a set of Easter Sunday clothes that included a new short-sleeve button-down shirt and clip-on ties, and, to mark the spring, squirt guns. After Easter services, my entire Hamilton family would get together, share a meal, go on an Easter egg hunt and play outside until dark.

Easter falls on April 21st this year, a date later than usual for the most holy Christian holiday. The timing coincides more closely with the actual arrival of spring in Vermont, and the analogies between Easter and spring are hard to miss. For centuries, preachers, poets, theologians and writers alike have used the images of spring to describe the *mystery of our faith* – the resurrection of Jesus. Martin Luther once wrote, “Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.” Bernard Williams tells us that, “The day the Lord created hope was probably the same day He created spring.” Writer Richelle E. Goodrich takes the analogy and runs with it:

Easter is...  
Joining in a birdsong,  
Eying an early sunrise,  
Smelling yellow daffodils,  
Unbolting windows and doors,  
Skipping through meadows,  
Cuddling newborns,  
Hoping, believing,  
Reviving spent life,  
Inhaling fresh air,  
Sprinkling seeds along furrows,  
Tracking in the mud.  
Easter is the soul’s first taste of spring.

Personally, I love the metaphor of spring to describe Easter. Life reveals itself – is resurrected – from the dark and muddy ground, heralding a time of growth and longer, warmer days. It can be counted on, even when the world is dark and gray and covered in snow. And it happens every year, a reminder that there’s always another chance at new life.

But the metaphor does not work for everyone. Easter in the global south takes place in the fall – a more subdued season where life goes into hiding and cold nights grow longer. The imagery of spring does not work for those in season-less places and dry climates too – where spring is eternal or non-existent. What’s left when the metaphor we use to help us understand our faith’s greatest mystery doesn’t work? For that matter, what about those who wish for something more than metaphor in the Easter message, something less abstract and more tangible.

The post-resurrection account found in the gospel of Luke might be of interest here. More than any other gospel, Luke’s resurrected Jesus is physical, present and human. He walks with a group to Emmaus and discusses current events. He eats a meal with this group because he is hungry. Likewise, when Jesus appears next to his disciples, he invites them to see and touch his body, which still carried the wounds of his death. Again, he’s hungry, so his disciples give him food to eat. And it is only after Jesus walked, talked, ate, showed his wounds and ate again that the resurrection miracle was revealed and a final message proclaimed.

Tangibility lies at the heart of Luke’s story of the resurrection. It takes place in real time with a real Jesus doing human things. It takes place in a dynamic environment, on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, at a table, breaking bread. And it takes place in the real, imperfect world, where even the risen Christ bears the wounds of violence and hatred. The resurrection for Luke is something that is lived out in the real world.

As such, the Easter proclamation – Christ is Risen! Hallelujah! – isn't so much a doctrine of faith, a rigid statement that we either believe or don't, but a call to practice resurrection in our world today. Planting trees is a form of practicing resurrection because it brings health and renewed vitality to overused land and exhausted soil. Reconnecting or reconciling with an old friend is practicing resurrection because, in doing this, we breathe new life into a relationship that was once dead. Performing acts of service, giving philanthropically or using our time to help a neighbor is practicing resurrection, because these acts of sacrifice (giving our time, money, etc.) strengthen the bonds we have to one another. Even doing the dishes on Easter Sunday is a way to practice resurrection because all those dishes piled to the kitchen ceiling remind us that we are able to celebrate this day with the people we love.

For those who need more than a message this Easter, practice resurrection. Find ways – practical, tangible ways – to bring new life, healing, and hope into the world. Sacrifice something to strengthen our common bonds and celebrate Hallelujah moments even during the messy cleanup. And may God bless you with a true, down-to-earth Easter this year.

Blessings,

*Pastor Jared*

## Worship Committee News

*Worship Committee: Judy Parker & Sandy White – Co-Chairs; Samantha Angstman, Barbara Forauer, Barbara Herrington, Rufus Patrick, Kate Schubart*

## Holy Week Services



- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>   | 10:00am – Palm Sunday; Children's Choir performance                                  |
| Thursday, April 18 <sup>th</sup> | 7:00pm (simple dinner begins at 6:00pm) – Service of Tenebrae and communion          |
| Friday, April 19 <sup>th</sup>   | 3:00pm – Ecumenical Good Friday service at UCH                                       |
| Sunday, April 21 <sup>st</sup>   | 6:00am – Easter Sunrise service in front of the church (inside if inclement weather) |
| Sunday, April 21 <sup>st</sup>   | 10:00am – Easter Sunday service  |

## Music in March fundraiser



Envelopes are still trickling in but, to date, we have raised nearly \$2,400 through our Music in March fundraiser. Thank you to all who have donated so that we can continue to offer a wide variety of musical artists and styles in our worship services. If you have not yet donated but would like to, it's not too late! Contact the office to find out which envelopes are still available.

## Flowers for Easter



Spring is just around the corner and so is Easter. As in past years, there is an opportunity to purchase spring flowers to be displayed at church on Easter Sunday. The plants ordered are Easter lilies, daffodils, tulips and hyacinths. These plants can be in memory or thankfulness for special persons.

Please fill out the form in the church bulletin with name of donor and name of memorial person(s). One plant can be purchased for more than one person. The suggested donation is \$10 per plant. Make checks payable to The United Church of Hinesburg with "flowers" on the memo line. Please take the plant after the Easter Sunday service.

### Christian Education Committee News

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

March recap:

- We held a One Room Schoolhouse on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, **making pretzels** to share during coffee hour for the first Sunday in Lent. Pretzels were purportedly developed by an Italian monk in the 600s to conform to the Lenten abstinence and fasting laws of the time. Learn more at: <https://bustedhalo.com/life-culture/pretzels-and-lent>.
- We explored the first two of our six **Blessing and Letting Go** lessons in our *Faith Practices* curriculum. Thank you to Dianne Hall and Amy Sayre for leading our classrooms during the month of March!
- We prepared for our **Children's Sunday service** on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Our Sunday School kids will be involved in the service as greeters, ushers, readers, lay liturgists, prayer leaders and drama participants.
- We began rehearsing our next **Children's Choir** song to be performed on Palm Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- In place of our usual Friday night event in March, the Sunday School hosted the **Open Table Diner free community meal** on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. The menu featured soups, breads, salad and dessert and we raised over \$170 to support the 2019 summer youth trips.

In April, we will begin the month with our **Children's Sunday** service on April 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have not already done so, please contact Heather in the church office to discuss how your child could participate.

On Palm Sunday, the Children's Choir will perform during the service and then we will assemble our traditional **Easter baskets** for home-bound and elderly members of the congregation during Sunday School. If you are interested in donating fruit of chocolates to fill these baskets, please visit:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-easter3>

There is **no Sunday School** on Easter Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, or on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> (at the end of April school vacation week). Children are welcome to stay in the service each of those days. However, nursery care will still be available in the Parish Hall for children ages 0-preK from the beginning of the service.

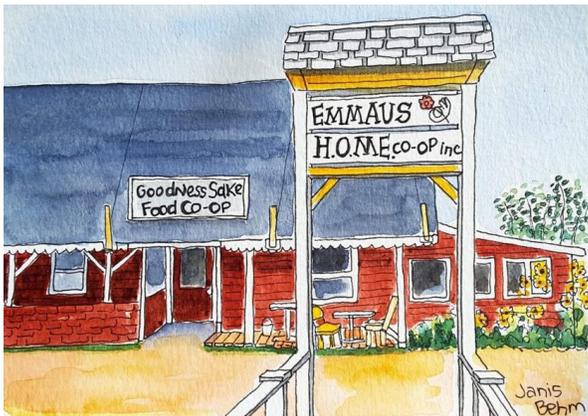
## Youth



### **Middle School Summer Trip Update**

Middle School youth will be traveling to Ipswich, Massachusetts August 18th to the 21st to volunteer at the Service Dog Project, a nonprofit organization that breeds and trains Great Danes as service dogs for people with mobility and balance issues.

*The Student Information/Release Form* and \$100 trip deposit for all participants are due to the church office by Sunday, April 14th. If you have any questions about the trip, or need a new *Information/Release Form*, contact Pastor Jared at [revjared@gmavt.net](mailto:revjared@gmavt.net).



### **High School Summer Trip Update**

The Hinesburg Youth Project (HYP) will be hosting a “Music & More” night on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00pm at NRG (110 Riggs Road, Hinesburg). Please join us for a fun and entertaining evening with talented local youth performing musical numbers, poetry, skits and more! Donations will be accepted at the door.

This event is a fundraiser for the Hinesburg Youth Project’s June 2019 service trip to H.O.M.E., Inc. in Orland, ME. This trip is focused on rural poverty and will give Hinesburg youth in grades 8-12 experiences in serving this population in various ways including cooking, building, child care, creative outlets, etc.

HYP will also be donating a portion of the proceeds of “Music & More” to Project HOePpnEr, a local group whose mission is *To increase awareness around the catastrophe that is teen suicide* and *To offer courage for kids to say “I need help” and for their loved ones to hear it*. Many of the youth in HYP have been personally impacted by the death of a friend and want to support this important cause.

### **Sunday Evening Youth Programming**

Sunday evening youth group resumes Sunday, May 5th and runs through June 2nd (with no meeting on May 12th – Mother’s Day). Middle School youth will meet from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and will continue to make dinner while beginning to discuss the issues of accessibility in preparation for their trip. The high school group will meet from 6:00pm to 7:30pm and will continue its work on understanding rural poverty. Dinner is provided. All are welcome.

Report from “Courageous Conversations” Meeting

March 9, 2019

United Community Church of Morrisville

UCH Attendees: Ellen Dooley, Barbara Forauer, Bob Forauer, Rev. Jared Hamilton, Barbara Herrington, and Joanne Russell

The New England Conference of the UMC provided space for local churches to gather and discuss the recent decisions made by the UMC General Conference regarding human sexuality and ministry. Over 100 pastors and lay members from UMC and Federated churches attended this event. Although we hoped to receive some concrete information on what the decisions will mean, there were no long term answers provided. We viewed a video from two delegates of the New England Conference delegation to the General Conference and the recommendation from the delegation was to proceed slowly with prayer and patience.

Working in small groups, attendees were asked to respond to three questions:

- What has been your reaction to this Special Session (the General Conference)?
- How do you think the actions of the General Conference will affect you and your congregation?
- What does the way forward look like to you?

The responses we heard in our various groups could be described as a “stone soup” of thoughts and emotions. In many cases, responses seemed to represent opposite poles of thinking and feeling:

- Anger and frustration ----- Hope and optimism (God is at work in this)
- It doesn't affect me ----- My ordination is at risk
- We need to move slowly ----- It's time for action – “civil disobedience”

One area of general agreement seemed to be that the United Methodist church will ultimately split on this issue.

All of us were glad to have the opportunity to attend this event and hear what other churches are feeling about the decision. We are also grateful that as a federated church with a UCC pastor, our position as an open and affirming church will not be compromised. However, there is concern that, while many attendees expressed faith that God will produce good out of this situation, they presented few actual steps that individuals or churches planned to take to push back against the decision. Because UCH retains ties with the United Methodist denomination and this association is very public, we agreed that further discussions are needed within our congregation on action steps that we should take in response to the decision.

**An Information and Update meeting will be held on Sunday, April 14th after the worship service (11:15am) in the back two classrooms of the Parish Hall. This meeting will be facilitated by Mary Eddy Stewart and will explore the General Conference's decision in greater detail, its possible implications, and what some UMC churches are doing in a response to the decision. There will also be time to share feelings and insights in the group and ask questions about what this decision means for us at UCH. All are welcome to attend.**

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this privately with Pastor Jared, please feel free to contact him at [revjared@gmavt.net](mailto:revjared@gmavt.net).

## Vision Facilitation Team News

*Vision Facilitation Team: Carla Wuthrich – facilitator; David Eddy, Marie Eddy, Rev. Jared Hamilton, Barbara Herrington, Meg Reilly, Heather Roberts, Amy Sayre, Kate Schubart, Rev. Wayne Schwab, Yvonne Whitaker*

The Visioning and Strategic Development working group has made great progress over the past few weeks. Thanks to all the thoughtful feedback we received in response to recent poll questions, we feel confident that the congregation is largely in sync on overarching values and priorities for the future of our church. With those shared values in mind, we've been refining the language we use to describe UCH to the broader world. We wanted to share that language with you today.

This is our **draft mission statement**:

"The United Church of Hinesburg is a welcoming and inclusive community where all are invited to connect, serve, worship, celebrate and grow with God's help."

This is our **draft vision statement**:

"The United Church of Hinesburg seeks to build a more just, loving, and sustainable world through acts of fellowship, community service, and joyful worship."

We welcome your feedback on these statements. And if you are interested in getting more involved with the process, please feel free to join us at our next meeting.

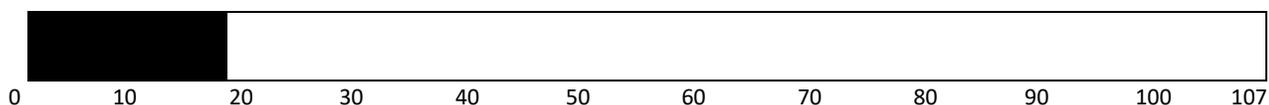
## Finance Committee News

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

### Financial Update

Our 2019 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 periodically to show how we are doing. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Plate offering received as of **February 28, 2019** (\$16,704 16% of offering budget)

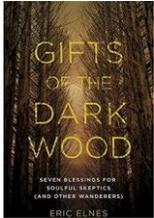


*In thousands*

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.



Our **Lenten Study Group** will meet on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm to explore how God is present during difficult times. *Gifts of the Dark Wood* by Eric Elnes will be our guide. This book offers a look at the blessings and new perspectives gained during life's more difficult times. Themes of loss, uncertainty, emptiness, and feeling invisible are approached as places where God is most present.

## Save the Date!

We are having our **Annual Plant and Baked Goods Sale** on Saturday, May 11th from 9AM – 3PM.

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

We are looking for perennial donations, especially unusual varieties. Do you have any to donate? We'd love to talk to you!

For anyone looking to volunteer, please contact Mary Eddy Stewart at 802-777-8288 or by email at [maryeddystewart@gmavt.net](mailto:maryeddystewart@gmavt.net). We have many volunteer activities starting on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> running through the day of the plant sale, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Many hands make light work – even an hour or two would help!



**7TH  
ANNUAL**



# **5K HEARTS FOR HUNGER**

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

**SATURDAY  
MAY 18, 2019**

**CVU HIGH SCHOOL  
HINESBURG, VT**

**9:00AM**



**REGISTER ONLINE AT  
<https://heartsforhunger5k.redpodium.com/2019>**

## April 2019 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
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	6:30pm-8:00pm	4H Midnight Riders
Wednesday nights	6:30pm-9:00pm	Boy Scouts
Every other Wednesday night	6:00pm-7:00pm	Cub Scouts – Tiger & Bear Dens
Thursday mornings	10:00am-11:00am	Spanish speaking group
Last Thursday night	7:30pm-8:30pm	Cub Scout parents meeting
Fridays (except 1 <sup>st</sup> )	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Tuesday, April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6:30pm	Governance meeting
Wednesday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Thursday, April 4 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Lenten study group - <i>Gifts of the Dark Wood</i> by Eric Elnes
Sunday, April 7 <sup>th</sup>		Children's Sunday; Guest Speaker David Radcliff (Director, New Community Project)
Tuesday, April 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Thursday, April 11 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Lenten study group - <i>Gifts of the Dark Wood</i> by Eric Elnes
Saturday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm-9:00pm	Music & More fundraiser for HYP at NRG (110 Riggs Road)
Saturday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Social Band Concert in the sanctuary
Sunday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>		Children's Choir performance; One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School – Easter Baskets
Sunday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>	11:15am	Meeting to discuss UMC General Conference decision
Wednesday, April 17 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Thursday, April 18 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday service (simple meal @ 6pm in the Parish Hall)
Friday, April 19 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Ecumenical Good Friday service @ UCH
Friday, April 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	Cub Scout pack meeting – movie
Sunday, April 21 <sup>st</sup>	6:00am	Easter Sunrise service in front of the church (inside if inclement weather)
Sunday, April 21 <sup>st</sup>	10:00am	Easter Sunday service; no Sunday School
Friday, April 26 <sup>th</sup>		May newsletter deadline
Friday, April 26 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-7:00pm	Open Table Diner community meal hosted by Boy Scouts
Sunday, April 28 <sup>th</sup>		No Sunday School
Sunday, April 28 <sup>th</sup>	11:15am	Membership Care Committee meeting



We are always looking for **photos or videos** of church events (including worship services, Sunday School/youth events, fellowship gatherings and other community events taking place at the church) to share in the newsletter, on the church website and on Facebook. If you like to take photographs with your camera or phone, we would welcome your help in documenting all the exciting things that are happening at our church. If you have already taken pictures that you think would be a good addition to the church records, we would welcome those as well. Please contact Heather in the church office to find out how/where to send them.



The United Church of Hinesburg is host to the first Little Free Pantry in Vermont and we continue to need your help to keep it stocked! It is designed to help neighbors in need, whether they are food insecure or have a last-minute need for a food item after the grocery store is closed. The Little Free Pantry is available for food, toiletries and household items 24 hours a day, no questions asked.

**Please note that, as temperatures are warming and the items in the pantry are not in danger of freezing, we are now accepting jarred and canned foods again.**

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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	<i>Tod &amp; Yvonne Whitaker</i>
15	<i>Sara &amp; Jean Hawkins</i>
15	Ella O'Neil
17	Miles Hamilton
18	<i>Anita (Sam) &amp; Jim Collins</i>
19	<i>Bill &amp; Joyce Menning</i>
19	Marie Eddy
19	Edward Sengle
24	Eleonora Cudney
25	Lana Benoit Ouimet
28	<i>Daniel &amp; Valerie Spadaccini</i>
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 2019**

### **April 7th**

*Greeters: youth  
Ushers: youth  
Reader: youth*

### **April 14th**

*Greeters: Carrie & Allison Huestis  
Ushers: Grace Farley & Melissa Loretan  
Readers: Mary Eddy Stewart & Sharonlee Trefry*

### **April 21st**

*Greeters: The Foutz family  
Ushers: Sherrie Simmons & Grace Ciffo  
Readers: Anna, Theron & Emma Main*

### **April 28th**

*Greeter: TBD  
Ushers: Barbara & Bob Forauer  
Reader: Barbara Herrington*

*Coffee Hour: Sally Mead – Chair; Grace Ciffo,  
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!**