

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

AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER



TO:

Pastor: Rev. Jared Hamilton
Pastor's Email: revjared@gmavt.net
Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am – 12pm
Office Contacts: 482-3352 / unitedchurch@gmavt.net / 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:

"Every Living Thing Works"

"I sometimes fear the younger generation will be deprived of the pleasures of hoeing."

- John Updike

"May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands."

- Psalm 90:17

Every living thing works. I was not expecting much when Andy Seaton offered to help me check on my beehive at the end of July. I had suited up and looked in on my bees just a month earlier and they were working, but slowly, and there wasn't much action in the super, the top box where they store surplus honey. I guessed that I might not be able to get any honey this year.

So when we opened the hive and the top box was packed with honey, I was surprised and overjoyed. I was thankful for the hard work of the bees. We go through a lot of honey in the Hamilton household and it is great to have honey made in our backyard.

Every living thing works. Of course we are all at different stages of work because work is not just narrowly defined as "the place that pays you for your time." We work to meet our basic needs everyday when we cook and clean, do laundry and mow the lawn. We work for remuneration but also for admiration, the care of others, for survival and sustenance. There is dignity in these many forms of work.

Far too often we see work too narrowly. In an essay entitled "*Rethinking the Value of Work*," John Ikerd writes:

“The fundamental problem is a failure of society to recognize the full value of work. [We often see] work as inherently unpleasant or distasteful. The money gained from working is the only reward for giving up the alternative of enjoying leisure.”

But work is more than time exchanged for money. Work can provide social and cultural value and can provide purpose and meaning to life. The Apostle Paul tells the little church in Colossae that, *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working unto the Lord.”* I really appreciate those that provided the reception for Sara Thompson’s memorial service last month. It was work done “unto the Lord” with friends while sharing life together.

Sometimes we do not value the work of others. Often, farm workers are exposed to deplorable conditions, harassment, pesticide showers and low wages to grow our food. Similar conditions are reported in shops or factories that make our goods around the world. The US has not raised the federal minimum wage in ten years – a minimum wage that currently sits at \$7.25 an hour. Even in Vermont, where the minimum wage sits at \$10.00 an hour, we must ask ourselves if that is equitable.

Every living thing works and when we see that work is more than money (although fair living wages are just), we can see it as a great pleasure. So whether we are sitting in a cubical, folding our laundry, or hoeing the ground, may God’s favor rest on your work and may you find pleasure and dignity in the work of your hands.

Blessings,

Pastor Jared

Christian Education Committee News

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

This is the LAST CHANCE to register for our Small Wonders Nature Camp which will be held at the church next week. Registrations must be received by this Friday, August 5th.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with dinner prep/clean up and activities during the camp. If you are interested, please contact Heather in the church office.

Thanks!

**United Church of Hinesburg
Small Wonders Nature Camp**

Join us for this conservation-themed camp for children in grades 1-5 to explore renewable energy, composting/recycling, conserved land and butterfly habitat renewal

August 7th-11th
5:30-7:30pm (Dinner included)
\$50/child; multi-child discounts available

United Church of Hinesburg
10580 Route 116

For more information, call 482-3352 or visit
www.ucofh.org

Spiritual Formation Committee News

Spiritual Formation Committee: Sue Barden, Anne Carter Mahaffey, Danielle Pezzimenti, Rev. A. Wayne Schwab and David Sterrett

Practicing God-talk will meet during coffee hour on August 27th to discuss “Can the Graduation Approach Help to End Extreme Poverty?” by Tony Sheldon in *Yale Insights* (February 7, 2017). “intensive development intervention [with] the destitute has shown remarkable promise. . . The methodology involves consumption support, technical skills training, asset transfers, financial literacy training, and exposure to savings. . . [and] weekly engagement with the program staff in ‘life skills coaching’ . . . to change aspirations, expectations, and healthcare practices, and to get kids into schools.” A related biblical theme: “you need someone to teach you again the basic elements” (Hebrews 5:12). Read it online at <http://bit.ly/2odDIEx>. Copies will also be available on the back table in the sanctuary on August 20th & August 27th.

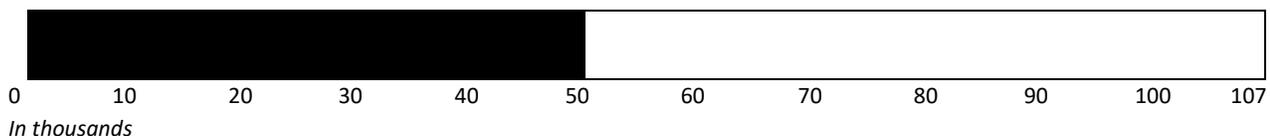
Finance Committee News

Finance Committee: Yvonne Whitaker (Treasurer), Sandy Milbank (Financial Secretary), JP Hong, Phil Pouech, Keith Roberts, Mary Eddy Stewart

Financial Update

Our 2017 budget includes an offering goal of \$107,000. It is important that we achieve our goal in order to cover our expenses this year. 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 **June 30, 2017** (\$49,881 **47%** 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.

Worship in the Home – August 2017

This month's worship in the home focuses on the role of work in our lives. These Scriptures, questions and prayers can be used as a resource throughout the month for private reflection.

Opening Prayer

May the meditations of my heart and the words of my lips be pleasing to the Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading *Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

There's a season for everything
and a time for every matter under the heavens:
a time for giving birth and a time for dying,
a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was
planted,
a time for killing and a time for healing,
a time for tearing down and a time for building up,
a time for crying and a time for laughing,
a time for mourning and a time for dancing,
a time for throwing stones and a time for gathering
stones,
a time for embracing and a time for avoiding embraces,
a time for searching and a time for losing,
a time for keeping and a time for throwing away,
a time for tearing and a time for repairing,
a time for keeping silent and a time for speaking,
a time for loving and a time for hating,
a time for war and a time for peace.

Prayer for the Month

Providing God, you give me work in due time and not more than I can bear. Be with me, guide me and sustain me as I go about my work at home and in the world. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father (Mother/Creator/God) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading *Ecclesiastes 3:9-15*

What do workers gain from all their hard work? I have observed the task that God has given human beings. God has made everything fitting in its time, but has also

placed eternity in their hearts, without enabling them to discover what God has done from beginning to end.

I know that there's nothing better for them but to enjoy themselves and do what's good while they live. Moreover, this is the gift of God: that all people should eat, drink, and enjoy the results of their hard work. I know that whatever God does will last forever; it's impossible to add to it or take away from it. God has done this so that people are reverent before him. Whatever happens has already happened, and whatever will happen has already happened before.

Question to Consider

How do you view work? Are you passionate about work? Dedicated? Apathetic? Resentful? What do the passages from Ecclesiastes tell you about work?

Silence and Personal Prayers

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
It is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

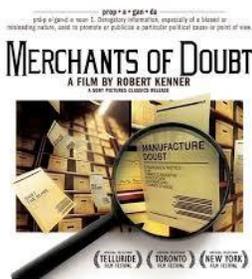
A Prayer for Mealtime

This food that sustains me
was grown by people in the fields of God.
May these people and these places
be treated with respect, dignity,
honesty and care so food may continue to grow
to feed me and this hungry world. Amen.

August 2017 Happenings at UCH

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

2 nd Monday	8:00am-3:00pm	WIC
Monday nights	5:00pm-9:30pm	Parish House reserved by private group
Wednesday afternoons	2:15pm-6:15pm	TKD Kicks tae kwon do
Most Fridays	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Wednesday, August 2 nd	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Wednesday, August 2 nd	6:00pm	Finance Committee meeting
Sunday, August 6 th	8:30am	Christian Education Committee meeting
Monday, August 7 th - Friday, August 11 th	5:30-7:30pm	Small Wonders Nature Camp (includes dinner)
Monday, August 7 th	7:00pm	<i>Merchants of Doubt</i> screening at Hinesburg Town Hall
Sunday, August 13 th	8:30am	Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting
Wednesday, August 16 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Friday, August 25 th	5:30pm-7:00pm	Open Table Diner free community meal
Sunday, August 27 th	8:30am	Finance Committee meeting
Sunday, August 27 th	11:15am	Practicing God-talk meets during coffee hour
Monday, August 28 th		September newsletter deadline



Monday, August 7th at 7:00pm, *Merchants of Doubt* Screening at Hinesburg Town Hall. *Merchants of Doubt* is a 2014 film that traces the use of public relations tactics developed by the tobacco industry to forestall appropriate governmental response to the risk of global climate change. The discussion will be facilitated by Betsy Hardy of Vermont Interfaith Power and Light. The screening is sponsored by the United Church of Hinesburg and the Hinesburg Energy Committee.



The Trustees are looking for a good plumber. Randy Warren had been doing plumbing work at the church for several years but has now moved to Florida. We thank Randy for the work he has done and wish him the best of luck in Florida.

We are looking for recommendations for plumbers for the work we have from time to time. Please contact Andy Seaton at aseaton@pccconstruction.com or 482-4313 if you have a suggestion.

United Church of Hinesburg Community Survey

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is developing a survey to gain a better understanding of how well our church is serving the broader community and to solicit suggestions for how we might better address the community's needs in the future. This survey will be a Google form available on the church website & Facebook page and will also be distributed in hard copy to select locations in town. Look for information about the survey to be published on Front Porch Forum, *The Citizen*, and *The Hinesburg Record* over the next several weeks. Please also spread the word to friends and family in the area so we can get as broad a sampling as possible.

In 2016 and early 2017, the church piloted a **Special Music program** with guest musicians performing in the service on the second Sunday of each month. Examples included: Inseldudler German band, Julie Winn & friends, Chris Dorman, and jazz with Andrea Haulenbeek & George Volland. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is preparing a survey to gather your feedback on this program. The survey will be available next week through Survey Monkey (look for details in the weekly update) and in hard copy on the table at the back of the church. Please provide your feedback to help us define the future path of Special Music Sundays at UCH.

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

03	<i>Drew & Susan Lepple</i>
05	<i>Rodney & Madine Churchill</i>
06	<i>Andy Seaton</i>
07	<i>Leonard & Valerie Ducharme</i>
08	<i>Thomas Lian</i>
10	<i>Rosie Brien</i>
10	<i>Sophie Brien</i>
12	<i>Faibe Achinda</i>
12	<i>Debbie Seaton</i>
12	<i>Heidi Simkins</i>
13	<i>Meg Roberts</i>
15	<i>Keith & Heather Roberts</i>
16	<i>Julia Blanck</i>
16	<i>Tim Riggs</i>
16	<i>Edward & Beth Sengle</i>
17	<i>Jean & Roderick Isham</i>
18	<i>Renate Parke</i>
19	<i>Gene Hall</i>
19	<i>Robert & Jennifer Lian</i>
19	<i>Daniel Spadaccini</i>
22	<i>Susan Lepple</i>
22	<i>Sharlene Palmer</i>
22	<i>Stephen & Norma Sprague</i>
27	<i>Gerald Ouimet</i>
27	<i>Sherrie Simmons</i>
30	<i>Rufus Patrick</i>
31	<i>Noel Bedard</i>
31	<i>Charles & Marilyn Utter</i>

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



August 2017

August 6th

Greeter: Paul Emmons

Ushers: Anne Castle & Sandy Milbank

Reader: Barbara Herrington

August 13th

Greeters: Sandy & Reggie Robinson

Ushers: Sandy Milbank & Kate Schubart

Reader: Mary Eddy Stewart

August 20th

Greeter: TBD

Ushers: TBD

Reader: Marie Eddy

August 27th

Greeter: Paul Emmons

Ushers: TBD

Reader: Renate Parke

August Coffee Hour Hosts —

August 6th – January committee

August 13th – December committee

August 20th – March committee

August 27th – February committee

Thank you for your service!



Looking for news regarding specific denominations?

Check these websites...

www.neumc.org | www.vtcucc.org | www.abcvnh.org

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!