

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

AUGUST 2018 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:

"Give us today our daily bread..." The Gospel of Matthew 6:11

August in Vermont is a liminal space. It's still clearly summer with long, hot, dry days and warm evenings. Everything is still green (or brown in these drought-filled days) and a walk about town on the weekend smells of barbeques, bug spray and flowers. Occasionally, in the distance kids are laughing, the playgrounds filled with parents desperate to help their children release their summer energy.

It's also a time of preparation. Schools return to session at the end of the month, vacation season winds down and preparations are made for the fall and the season "that will not be named" to follow.

August is also a boon for gardeners and small-scale farmers. It's a time of harvest. Tomatoes, peppers, beans, basil and cucumbers abound. Sometimes we are able to put away our bumper crop of produce – canning salsa, dilly beans and freezing pesto. Other times we stare at a counter full of over-ripened zucchini and Google a recipe that calls for 12 pounds of the green vegetable.

In the ancient Near East during the times of the Hebrew Scriptures, religious centers performed the duty of storehouses of summer crops. Grains like wheat and barley, olive oils and wine fermented from the summer's vineyard were stored and redistributed based on need, because most folks didn't own land, let alone enough to provide for their families.

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "give us today our daily bread," there was nothing figurative about it. With the exception of the elite, people in Jesus' time were hungry. For basic sustenance. Notice Jesus does not teach his disciples to pray for locally grown, grass-fed tenderloin or organically grown, farm to table beets.

This is not meant to make us feel ill-at-ease about our food choices or the ability to grow our own food. On the contrary. Those of us who are able to make choices about what food we eat, and have the space and time to grow our own is commendable in every respect. By growing our own food and supporting local agriculture, we promote healthier, more sustainable living, and cut down on our carbon footprint.

Yet there are those in Vermont and our very community that struggle not only to eat well, but to have enough to eat. Folks whose prayer, “give us today our daily bread” is very literal. This is especially true of children who have gone the summer without school provided meals. Here at UCH, we’ve noticed this need as the use of our “Little Free Pantry” at the church has been used with greater and greater frequency as the summer wears on. These are folks sleeping out and living on the margins and they are also our neighbors whose need often goes unseen.

In ancient Greek, Roman and Hebrew cultures, as well as early Christian religions, the concept of offering “First Fruits” was traditional. Folks offered the best of their harvest to their deity, and a majority of that produce found it’s way to people in need.

As we enter this liminal time, a time when our gardens are booming and before school provided meals begin for children, let us consider what we offer to those who are hungry in our community. Would we eat what we drop off at the church or the Hinesburg Food Shelf? Would we offer it to our children or to our guests? Are our offerings honoring the sacred dignity of all people or do our offerings fall in the “better than nothing” pile?

A working and vital church like the United Church of Hinesburg can continue to impact the issue of hunger and food insecurity in our area. As we prepare for the fall, and the season “that will not be named,” let us offer the first fruits of our harvest, showing the love and generosity, compassion and care of an all-loving God.

Blessings,

Pastor Jared



Eight members of our Middle School Youth Group will be travelling to the **Berkshire Outdoor Center** in Becket, Massachusetts from Friday, August 24th to Sunday, August 26th for a long weekend of young leadership development, teambuilding exercises, environmental education and direct service. While there, they will complete a high ropes course, ride a zipline, participate in a raft-building activity and climb an alpine tower to a giant swing. They will also do traditional camp activities such as archery, swimming and eating s’mores around a campfire.

On their return trip to Vermont on Sunday, they spend the afternoon helping to serve a Salvation Army meal to approximately 60 people in Pittsfield, MA.

Special thanks to Pastor Jared, Drew Lepple and Amy Sayre for volunteering as our chaperones on this trip.

We can’t wait to hear all about their adventures when they return! Please keep the group in your prayers during their journey.

Finance Committee News

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

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 about our church finances, please contact me.

Plate offering received as of **June 30, 2018** (\$53,177 **49%** 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.

The United Church of Hinesburg is 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.

Right now, we have a particular need for the following:

- Pasta
- Rice
- Macaroni & cheese
- Peanut Butter
- Canned tuna or chicken
- Hearty soups such as Progresso
- Vegetable oil

Donations can be dropped off in the boxes in the Parish Hall entryway during office hours or on Sundays.

August 2018 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
Thursday mornings	10:00am-11:00am	Spanish speaking group
Most Fridays	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Wednesday, August 1 st	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Saturday, August 4 th	10:00am	Memorial service for Stephen Russell
Sunday, August 5 th	10:00am	Special Music – vocal duets with Doug Olufsen & Judy Larrabee
Saturday, August 11 th	1:00pm	Funeral service for David Lyman
Sunday, August 12 th	9:00am	Trustees meeting
Sunday, August 12 th	10:00am	Outdoor service (weather permitting)
Sunday, August 12 th	11:15am	Church Council meeting
Wednesday, August 15 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Sunday, August 19 th	10:00AM	Outdoor service (weather permitting)
Friday, August 24 th		September newsletter deadline
Friday, August 24 th – Sunday, August 26 th		Middle School Youth group trip to Berkshire Outdoor Center
Friday, August 31 st	5:30pm-7:00pm	Open Table Diner free community meal hosted by Williston USDA

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.

Coffee Hour Chair Needed for September Committee

Our coffee hour chair for September, Mabel Young, will be moving to Florida for the winter. So....she is no longer able to serve as chair. Is there any one or two folks who would be willing to take over this task?? If so, or for questions, call Sandy White 482-2629 or email sbwhite@gmavt.net.

Our coffee hour time is VERY important to our church fellowship! Thank you for considering taking this important job!!

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

03	<i>Andrew & 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>Joanne Russell</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 2018

August 5th

Greeter: Paul Emmons

Ushers: Kristi Kilbride & Sherrie Simmons

Reader: Renate Parke

Coffee Hour hosts: September committee

August 12th

Greeter: TBD

Ushers: David & Marie Eddy

Reader: David Eddy

Coffee Hour hosts: October committee

August 19th

Greeter: TBD

Ushers: Mary Eddy Stewart & Sharonlee Trefry

Reader: Mary Eddy Stewart

Coffee Hour hosts: December committee

August 26th

Greeters: Mary Thompson & Sarah Hayes

Ushers: Melissa Loretan & Grace Farley

Reader: Sharonlee Trefry

Coffee Hour hosts: April committee

Thank you for your service!



Looking for news regarding specific denominations?

Check these websites...

www.neumc.org | www.vtcucc.org | www.abcvn.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!