

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

DECEMBER 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:

"In Times of Transition, Plant Trees"

"Society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

- Ancient Greek Proverb

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

- Nelson Henderson - farmer, Manitoba, Canada

These two similar quotes are some of my favorites. I return to them, especially the Henderson quote, at this time each year to frame the season.

It's December. And Advent. And we must prepare for another holiday season. Cookies are made and Christmas trees are decorated. Some of us travel while others ready the house for visitors. Gifts are purchased. Some feel the pressure of over-buying more than others. Finding the balance of giving within one's means and giving in abundance can be difficult.

I for one feel this pressure. I have a large family that I really love. I have close friends that I deeply value. And I find it difficult to navigate the Black Fridays, Small Business Saturdays, Cyber Mondays and other sales that only take place during this time of year. What gifts are appropriate for each of my relationships? What is enough for the people I care about most?

I come back to these quotes because they slow me down. I am reminded that my love is not shown by the number of gifts or the money spent on my loved ones during this holiday season. If money cannot buy happiness, perhaps costly gifts are inadequate expressions of my love for others.

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou

Love – a deep and rooted relationship is a timely matter. It is built over lifetimes and extends through generations. I miss my great grandmother Spearman this time of year. When I was little, we would stay with her in her small house by the railroad tracks in Hahira, Georgia for Christmas. She was a great cook, cake maker and quilter. She talked kindly of others, even those she took issue with. And she made me feel loved as a little boy. She's been gone for twenty years but her impression on me is lasting. We all have people like this. Folks that were so good to us that their impression lasted far beyond their years. This is one way we, "plant trees, under whose shade we do not expect to sit."

I think 2017 has been a year of transition for our church. We've lost good folks, pillars that propped up this church for years through their work and their giving. At the same time there are many new faces all around. New people have joined the church and new partnerships with the community have come to life. We've invested our time and resources in a booming program for children and youth and we've spent a great deal of time imagining what's next for our growing church through a visioning process.

We are growing because people planted trees, under whose shade they do not sit. And now it's our turn. Now is our time to give – to our families and friends, to one another, to the young people in our community – not just those material things that will be used up but the gift of our very best selves.

In December, we will run a quiet Stewardship Drive. We will talk about the work of our faith community, and ways you can get involved. Kristi Johnson will talk about church outside of Sunday morning and Bill Baker will call on us to consider electronic giving, the easiest way to support the work of the church financially. Rev. Lynn Bujnak, the United Church of Christ Vermont Conference Minister, will visit our Church on December 17th to talk about how unique our church is – growing, multigenerational and youthful – in this day and age. On that day we will have a "job fair" during coffee hour where you are invited to self-select committee and project work that appeals to you.

My prayer for us this Advent is this: May we not get hung up on those impermanent things that are soon forgotten. Instead, may we give our very best selves to one another, planting the trees of love and care around us, knowing these things will last long after we are gone. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Jared

Would you like a time of peace in the midst of this busy season?

Come to our **Advent Quiet Morning** on Saturday, December 2nd, from 10:00am-12:00pm in the church. There will be times of reflection and times of keeping silence. You are welcome to bring a reflective book to read, or a journal to write in, or some knitting if this will be helpful to you in the silent periods. Questions? Call Anne Carter Mahaffey at 203-671-9959 or email acmahaffey55@gmail.com.



This year we will be buying bigger poinsettias to decorate the church. They are 8" pots which will cost \$16 each. You can order one to honor a loved one or a number of loved ones. There will be forms in the Sunday bulletin to fill out and put in the offering plate or you can notify the church office by email unitedchurch@gmavt.net or phone 482-3352. Please include the following information: name of donor(s) and name of person(s) being honored. You may pay by cash or check made out to United Church of Hinesburg with "flowers" on the memo line.

Worship Committee News

Worship Committee: Judy Parker & Sandy White (Co-chairs); Barbara Forauer, Barbara Herrington, Rufus Patrick & Kate Schubart

December is an exciting and meaningful month of worship at the United Church of Hinesburg, highlighted by a very busy Christmas Eve on December 24th.

This month we will focus on gifts suitable for a baby. **Beginning December 10th, please bring items babies might need (e.g. diapers - especially sizes 5 & 6, baby wipes, baby soap, formula, and swaddling blankets) to place under the tree in the sanctuary.** Donations will go to COTS in Burlington.

Sunday, December 3th – The First Sunday in Advent - Communion Sunday; Youth are invited to sing with the choir; Stewardship Drive commences; Community Brunch after the service

Sunday, December 10th – The Second Sunday in Advent – The Tree goes up; The Children’s Christmas Pageant; Bring baby items for COTS; Stewardship Drive continues

Sunday, December 17th – The Third Sunday in Advent – The return of the Hand Bell Choir; Rev. Lynn Bujnak, the Conference Minister of the Vermont Conference United Church of Christ; Bring baby items for COTS; Stewardship Drive continues; Church “job fair” after the service

Sunday, December 24th – The 4th Sunday in Advent – Special music; Bring baby items for COTS

Sunday Christmas Eve Services:

- **5pm Children and Family Candlelight Service:** Geared toward children and families with gifts, laughter and music from Larry Rice, Betsy Parenteau and Steven Kingrea; Bring baby items for COTS
- **10pm Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service:** A traditional lessons and carols service with contemporary readings, candlelight and choir



Music Survey Report

The Worship Committee would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to this fall’s survey. It drew almost 70 responses.

The results show broad enthusiasm for our varied music program, with the range of music in the Special Music Sundays particularly popular. There is enthusiasm for everything from jazz to hand bell ringing. All we need to do now, it appears, is plan a rap service!

The current costs of the music program are supported by the survey results and have been submitted to the Finance Committee for inclusion in the 2018 draft budget that came before the Church Council at their November 19th meeting.

As the music program evolves, there will be further surveys to gather feedback from the congregation. Meanwhile, many thanks to all who took the time to complete the survey.



Holiday Breakfast

Saturday December 9, 2017 at 9:00am
at the Osborne Parish Hall



The women and men of the United Church of Hinesburg are a very special group. We worship together, as well as feed the hungry, raise money, help others, and work on parish committees. Come celebrate the holiday season, our friendships, and count our blessings!

We will be providing a holiday breakfast to start your day on Saturday, December 9th. Child care will be offered. This has been a well-attended, fun event the last couple of years and it has proven to be a great way to start off a holiday weekend morning.

No need to bring anything – just yourself (and a friend or family member of course)!

We want to know how many places to set at the tables so please RSVP by December 7th to the church office at 482-3352 or unitedchurch@gmavt.net. Please join us!

Membership Care Committee News

Membership Care Committee: Dianne Hall (Chair); Jamie Cudney, Grace Farley, Bonnie Farrow, Laurie Danforth, Barbara Lyman, Anne Carter Mahaffey, Joyce Menning, Judy Parker, Heather Roberts, Mary Eddy Stewart, Sandy White



New members (left to right):
Kristi Kilbride; Carrie & Allison Heustis; Meg, Dan, Josephine & Annabelle Reilly; Joanne Russell; Sara & Jean Hawkins

We welcomed 7 new members to our congregation during the service on Sunday, November 12th. We are pleased to introduce you to:

Jean & Sara Hawkins

Jean and Sara moved to this area a few months ago from Arkansas to be near family. Jean worked for the U.S. Forest Service in timber management and fire control. Now, his hobbies are reading, bird watching and music. Sara taught school for 34 years (mainly elementary). Music, reading, bird watching and keeping up with their scattered families would be her major hobbies now.

Carrie Huestis

My daughter Allison and I moved from Charlotte, NC to Hinesburg over the summer. I started looking at churches a few months before we left NC, not expecting to find something that fit as well as our then-current church, but determined to find someplace for us. I wasn't brought up attending church, only summers with my Grandmother in Western NY, so I always felt like an imposter or outcast at more traditional services where everyone but me seemed to know what was going on and what to do. When I read the mission statement for the United Church of Hinesburg, it seemed too good to be true; it was everything that I always believed Jesus meant for Church to be. We came on our first Sunday in Hinesburg, and after a few services, that was it. I never did try any of those other churches I had on my list; this is the place for us and I feel incredibly blessed. God is a strong presence in my life, he always has been even when I didn't recognize it, and I am thankful for all of the blessings and hardships that led me to where I am now. My sincerest hope is that Allison grows up with her own personal relationship with Jesus, and that her faith will see her through her own life journey. We are excited to be in VT, in the Hinesburg community, and most especially a part of the United Church of Hinesburg.

Kristi Kilbride

My husband Kieran, aka KK, and I have lived in Vermont for many years but moved to Hinesburg in October 2013. My father is from the Jericho-Underhill area and my mother is from Chihuahua, Mexico. They met when my father was stationed at Fort Sill, Lawton OK and that's where my brother and I were born. Kieran's mother was from Vermont and his father was from Newtown, CT. We have been married for over 16 years and enjoy living here in Hinesburg. I am a proud mom of a 22 year old son named Grant who is finishing up his final year at UVM; I'm very fortunate to have him close by and see him often. As some of you know, Kieran is a semi-retired contractor but a farmer at heart. Right now he is raising a herd of white-faced beef cattle and he is loving life! I worked for the American Red Cross for 19 years both as an LPN traveling the state of VT and northwestern NH drawing blood from kindhearted and giving people and, later, in an administrative position. Currently, I am the administrative assistant to the two associate medical directors at the Community Health Centers of Burlington thus continuing my work in the non-profit world.

While Kieran and I have been coming to the United Church for almost 3 years, it was time for me to say yes to membership and make the commitment official. I have a true sense of how caring this church and community are by helping with missions meals, fundraising, crocheting/knitting with a lovely group of women and accompanying a great group of kids on their service mission trip to Brooklyn, NY.

Kieran and I were both brought up in the Catholic Church and at the time going to church was just something we did every Sunday; but choosing to attend church as an adult, listening to and learning from the sermons, meeting new friends and helping others in need truly brings us great joy. The United Church of Hinesburg, Pastor Jared and the congregation have made us feel welcome and we are so happy to be here. Our desire is to continue to grow, help those in need and become better people every day...

Dan & Meg Reilly

We recently moved to Hinesburg after many years in Washington, D.C. where we served in the Obama Administration. Dan now works in international development and Meg is a novelist working on her third published book. Josephine is in Kindergarten at HCS and Annabelle is in preschool at Annette's. We're thrilled to be in Hinesburg and to raise our family in this wonderful community.

Joanne Russell

I have lived in the Huntington/Starksboro area for over 30 years. I work for the Chittenden East Supervisory Union School District, in the business office. I have 3 adult children and one grandchild. I like to sing and enjoy my time in the church choir and South County Chorus. My hobby is to volunteer. I have volunteered at the Hinesburg Community Food Shelf and the Share-On program in Starksboro. I really enjoy interacting with people and being allowed to serve.

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



It's hard to believe that November is at an end! Our Sunday School children enjoyed a game night on Friday, November 3rd where we shared a dinner of tacos and then played board games. The Children's Choir performed "We Are the Church" during the New Member Sunday service on November 12th. On Sundays, we finished up the final lessons of our fall *Be the Church* curriculum by exploring "Sharing Earthly and Spiritual Resources" and "Loving

God". We ended the month with a One Room Schoolhouse on November 19th where we created a clothespin wreath and shared with one another what we are most thankful for.

December will be equally busy as we prepare to perform the **Christmas Pageant** during the service on December 10th. We will rehearse during Sunday School this Sunday, December 3rd and then again at 9:00am on December 10th, before performing for the congregation during that morning's service. If you have any questions, please contact Heather in the church office. If you are willing to help with costumes, or rehearsals, please let Heather know that as well.

We will not be holding a **Friday night event** this month. The cookie decorating that we usually do in December will be included in the activities for the Youth Babysitting Night Fundraiser on Friday, December 8th (see below). Our next scheduled event is a movie night on Friday, January 6th. Details to follow.

There are still several families who have not filled out **registration forms** for their children to be part of our Sunday School and youth programs. It's essential that we have information on hand about childrens' allergies, who may pick up your child from our programs, permission to take photos, etc. Forms are available in each classroom (including nursery) and on the Sunday School page of the church website: <http://www.ucfh.org/sunday-school.html>). If you have not already done so, please complete the applicable form and return it to the church office at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Heather in the church office. Thank you!

Our Christian Education programs at UCH continue to grow. Each year we engage more and more children in our classrooms on Sunday morning and in fun gatherings on Friday nights during the school year. In order to sustain this growth, **we need your help!** Our Caring Community Policy & Procedures requires at least 2 adults to be present at all events 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 help lead a classroom, run a One Room Schoolhouse or be present to help chaperone a Friday night event, please complete the Volunteer Participation Covenant found on the Sunday School page of the church website, <http://www.ucofh.org/sunday-school.html>, and return it to the church office at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please contact Heather directly.

The High School youth have been very busy fundraising for their service trip to Puerto Rico at the end of June 2018. There are several ways you can support their efforts in the month of December:

- The youth will be selling **fresh handmade holiday wreaths** after worship on Sunday, December 3rd by donation.
- Drop your child(ren) off for a spaghetti dinner, cookie decorating and a movie at our **Holiday Kids' Night Out** on Friday, December 7th from 5:30-9:00pm. \$20/child or \$50/family. Register at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-babysitting3 or by calling or emailing the church office.
- Purchase a **coupon for a future night of babysitting** either at the Kids' Night Out or at coffee hour on Sundays. Coupons are \$50 and the babysitting services must be used in Hinesburg before the High School youth trip at the end of June.

Spiritual Formation Committee News

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

Notes from 11/19/17 – Sharonlee Trefry on health services in public schools

Sharonlee Trefry, who supports health services for all public school students throughout Vermont, prepared a useful handout that is available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. While describing an approach allowing schools and communities to support students' well-being, she illustrated a rich and varied program that includes the role of the school nurse in every school district. The school nurse reviews an annual survey of the health care each student receives. If, for example, a student needs dental care, a volunteer in the school system can see that the student gets to and receives the care needed. Federal funds and insurance can pay for the treatment, even for needed taxi fares for eligible students. Mental health needs can be met the same way. One adolescent student in four experiences depression for two or more weeks. One adolescent student in five has a plan for suicide. Do share around the word that help can be made available wherever it is needed when local schools and communities team up to identify needs and use resources wisely. For more information about this approach, go to Whole School, Whole, Community, Whole Child: <http://bit.ly/2AzMopW> or Health Appraisal: <http://bit.ly/2Bel8K2>.

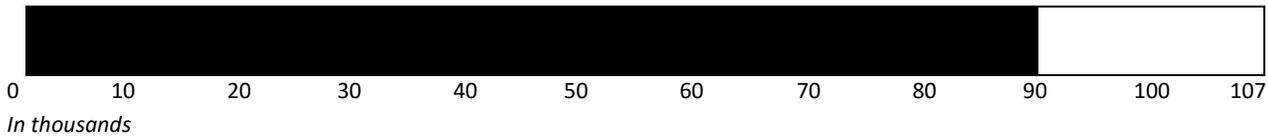
Finance Committee News

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. We are falling short of that goal but, with your generosity, we can close the gap in December. Our offering supports all of the work of our church. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Plate offering received as of **November 30, 2017** (\$89,604 **84%** 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.

Missions & Social Justice Committee News

Missions & Social Justice Committee: Lori McKenna, Chair; Sue Barden, Katie Dooley, Karen Farnsworth, Barbara Forauer, Penny Grant, Kristi Johnson, Melissa Loretan, Meaghan McKenna

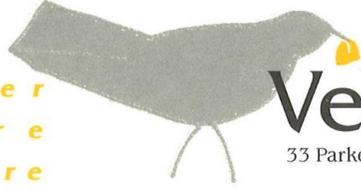


Our fourth annual sleeping bag drive was a tremendous success, far exceeding our goal to provide 20 sleeping bags to Safe Harbor, a program of the Community Health Center in Burlington that serves our chronically homeless neighbors. With your help over 40 sleeping bags will be delivered to Safe Harbor in the next week or so. Thank you for your incredible generosity in supporting this important mission of our church!

On December 17th we will be assembling 15 holiday food baskets for our neighbors in need, a tradition that has gone on for at least 35 years. Please sign up to donate items to the baskets by calling or emailing the church office or at:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-christmas3.

Gather
Share
Nurture



Vermont Foodbank

33 Parker Road • Barre, VT • 05641 • Tel. 802-476-3341 • Fax 802-476-0319

September 29, 2017

Lori McKenna
United Church of Hinesburg
PO Box 39
Hinesburg, VT 05461

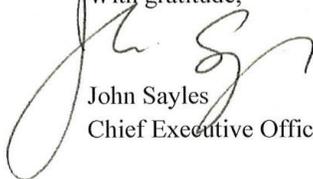
Dear Lori, Meaghan and the unstoppable team at the United Church of Hinesburg,

Your annual Hearts for Hunger 5K continues to inspire us. Your unwavering commitment to support the Backpack program is an amazing example of neighbors helping neighbors and we are honored to be a part of it! Thanks to you and your hard work, this year's donation of \$7613.00 will help to provide stability and security for children across Vermont struggling with hunger.

Your Foodbank recognizes that thousands of Vermonters rely on us for their food security. Food security for children is particularly important in establishing a good foundation for a child's future physical and mental health, academic achievement, and economic productivity. Unfortunately, food insecurity is an obstacle that threatens that critical foundation. We cannot thank you enough for your efforts to address this critical need.

I realize you have a choice of many worthy organizations to support and all of us at the Vermont Foodbank are thankful for your loyalty and partnership in ensuring that no one in Vermont goes hungry.

With gratitude,


John Sayles
Chief Executive Officer

*Words cannot begin to express
how grateful we are!
Thank you!!*

www.vtfoodbank.org


FEEDING
AMERICA

December 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
Tuesday afternoons	1:30pm-2:30pm	Disciplines study group
Every other Tuesday night	6:00pm-7:00pm	Cub Scouts – Wolf Den
2 nd 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 st Thursday	7:30pm-8:30pm	Cub Scout parents meeting
Most Fridays	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Saturday, December 2 nd	10:00am-12:00pm	Advent Quiet Morning in the sanctuary
Saturday, December 2 nd	9:00am-7:00pm	Salvation Army bell ringing at Walmart in Williston
Sunday, December 3 rd	8:30am	Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting
Sunday, December 3 rd	10:00am	Pageant rehearsal during Sunday School; youth singing w/choir
Sunday, December 3 rd	11:15am	Open Table Diner Free Community Brunch
Tuesday, December 5 th	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Wednesday, December 6 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Friday, December 8 th	5:30pm-9:00pm	Babysitting Night fundraiser for high school youth trip
Saturday, December 9 th	9:00am-11:00am	Holiday Breakfast (child care available)
Sunday, December 10 th	9:00am	Pageant rehearsal
Sunday, December 10 th	10:00am	Pageant Sunday
Sunday, December 10 th	11:15am	Church Council meeting
Sunday, December 10 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School youth trip parent planning meeting
Tuesday, December 12 th	8:00am-6:00pm	Hinesburg HUB co-working event
Sunday, December 17 th	10:00am	Special Music Sunday – hand bells; One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School; Christmas food baskets
Wednesday, December 20 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Sunday, December 24 th	10:00am	Worship Service – 4 th Sunday in Advent; No Sunday School
Sunday, December 24 th	5:00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
Sunday, December 24 th	10:00pm	Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols w/choir
Monday, December 25 th		Church office closed in observance of Christmas Day
Tuesday, December 26 th		January newsletter deadline



We are still looking to fill three slots for **Salvation Army bell-ringing** at Walmart in Williston this Saturday, December 2nd. One hour time slots are available from 9:00-10:00am, 4:00-5:00pm and 5:00-6:00pm.

If you are interested in signing up, please visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c49adaa29aaf49-salvation> or contact the church office.



You may have noticed the lovely new plants and shrubs surrounding the church sign and in front of the Parish Hall. Special thanks is due to Sally & John Mead, Art Thompson, Anne Donegan and Andrea Morgante for ridding the area of invasives, developing a landscape design and putting the new plants in place.

To keep the new shrubs in front of the Parish Hall healthy through the winter months, we will need 5 shrub covers. If this is something you would be willing to build, please contact Anne Donegan (ardonegan@gmail.com or 482-2017). Thanks!

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

04	Doug Olufsen
04	Donald Rahelich
05	Danielle Pezzimenti
06	Meg Reilly
09	<i>Don & Jan Rahelich</i>
12	Doug Mead
14	Kerri Brien
14	Mary Thompson
15	Henry White
17	Kathy Newton
17	<i>Rev. Jared & Leah Hamilton</i>
18	Erle Mead
18	Lily Mead
21	David Haire
22	<i>Sherrie & David Simmons</i>
26	David Palmer
27	David Danforth
27	Chip Foutz
29	<i>Dianne & Gene Hall</i>
30	Nathan Brown
30	Mackenna Riggs

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



December 2017

December 3rd

Greeters: Roberts family

Ushers: Anne Castle & Sandy Milbank

Reader: Sharonlee Trefry

December 10th

Greeters: Youth

Ushers: Youth

Reader: Youth

December 17th

Greeter: Anne Carter Mahaffey

Ushers: Kate Schubart & TBD

Reader: Renate Parke

December 24th

Greeter: Cathy Foutz

Ushers: Melissa Loretan & Grace Farley

Reader: Amy Patrick

December 31st

Greeters: Mary Thompson & Sarah Hayes

Ushers: TBD

Reader: Barbara Herrington

December Coffee Hour Hosts —

Co-Chairs – Mary Eddy Stewart & Sharonlee Trefry; Sue Barden, Lia Cravedi, Sheri Hanlon, Phil Pouech, Yvonne Whitaker

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!