

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

## DECEMBER 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:***

*As I have read the Gospels over the years, the belief has grown in me that Christ did not come to found an organized religion but came instead to found an unorganized one. He seems to have come to carry religion out of the temples into the fields and sheep pastures, onto the roadsides and the banks of rivers, into the house of sinners and publicans, into the town and the wilderness, toward the membership of all that is here. Well, you can read and see what you think.*

*-Wendell Berry Jayber Crow*

December is for many the busiest time of the year. It's a month that can stretch our budgets, our patience, and after a solid month of feasting, our pants as well. Some travel to be closer to family and friends; others provide home base for family time together. And there are cards to get out and trees to decorate and presents to buy and wrap all while playing Christmas music in the background or watching *Frosty the Snowman* and *It's a Wonderful Life*.

The season does feel like it comes with some difficult expectations. And one of the most difficult ones has to do with "holiday cheer." We are supposed to be happy during the "Most wonderful time of the year," aren't we? In the life of the church, baby Jesus is coming, and how can we be sad or in grief while picturing the bucolic setting of the Jesus wrapped and laying in the manger among the on-looking stable animals.

These images of the good old-fashioned family Christmas, however, work better on the screen or in our loveable but shmaltzy Christmas music. Many in our church and in the wider community will spend this holiday time away from their families. Others will not have enough to buy presents this year. Some will spend the holiday alone. And for many of us, this time is a mixed blessing - a time when we are blessed to be around our loved ones and a time when we acutely feel the loss of those who are no longer with us.

The Season of Advent begins on December 2nd, the first Sunday of the new Christian year. Far from being a month-long baby shower for Jesus, the themes of Advent focus on hope, expectation and promise. We wouldn't focus on hope if everything was alright. We wouldn't expect God to do something new if the way we've been going about living was perfect. And we wouldn't need to be reminded of the promise that God is ever and always with us if we felt that all the time. Maybe we come to worship services to hear these words of encouragement – but the season requires a little more.

In *Jayber Crow*, Wendell Berry does something very powerful in the quote above. He makes the practice of faith local. It wasn't gold-laden, stained-glass-gleaming temples where Jesus found God's divine presence or faithfully lived out God's calling. Most of the time Jesus settles in a place – a pasture, a mount, a well, a marketplace, a small town, the house of some close friends – and is present there among the community, friends and foes and everyone in between.

At my November conference in Denver, a religious scholar from Eastern Mennonite University argued that by being a global religion, Christianity has sometimes neglected its local places. Instead of working in the local ecosystem, churches have sought to be a refuge from the ills of local life, a place of retreat, a place set apart. These churches can be active in mission work around the world but struggle to be present in the lives of folks in their own communities. And this is unfortunate. Because we live in our community all the time.

Advent invites us to find hope in the darkness, expect God to do something new and calls on us to retell the old promises. Practically. Outside the stained-glass walls of our sanctuaries in the lives of folks in our community. So this Advent Season, practice your faith where you are. Be present in the lives of your friends and your neighbors. Provide comfort and hope to someone grieving. Give unexpectedly to someone in need or a local cause. And talk about the promises that yes, God is still with us, always with us.

May God bless you and keep you this Advent and Christmas Season,

*Pastor Jared*



**Holiday Breakfast**  
**Saturday, December 8, 2018 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 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 6<sup>th</sup> to the church office at 482-3352 or [unitedchurch@gmavt.net](mailto:unitedchurch@gmavt.net). Please join us!

## Worship Committee News

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



December is an exciting and meaningful month of worship at the United Church of Hinesburg.

This month, **please bring items to fill our Little Free Pantry.** During these cold months, please bring only dry goods that can freeze/thaw. Some examples are: breakfast cereal, granola bars, pasta, rice, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, foil-wrapped tuna or chicken, baking mixes, toiletries & hygiene products. Please no canned goods, glass jars or liquids.

**Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** – The First Sunday of Advent – Communion Sunday – Baptism of Ayla Carol Bless; Community Brunch after the service; Food Drive for the Little Free Pantry begins

**Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** – The Second Sunday of Advent – Pageant Sunday – New Member Sunday; Food Drive continues

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** – The Third Sunday of Advent – The return of the Hand Bell Choir – The tree goes up; Food Drive continues

**Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00pm** – Blue Christmas service

**Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>** – The Fourth Sunday of Advent; Food Drive continues

**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve services; Food Drive continues

**5:00pm Family Candlelight Service:** Geared toward children and families with gifts, laughter and music from Larry Rice, Betsy Parenteau and Steven Kingrea

**10:00pm Traditional Candlelight Service:** A traditional service with candlelight and choir and special music by Margaret Roddy, clarinet

**Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>** – Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday & Caroling; Food Drive continues



We will again be ordering poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. They are 8" pots and 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 phone or email. 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 the United Church of Hinesburg with "flowers" on the memo line.

## GOOD GRIEF

AN ADVENT SERIES ON GRIEF AND LOSS

THURSDAYS AT 3PM  
NOVEMBER 29TH  
DECEMBER 6TH &  
DECEMBER 13TH

at the United Church of  
Hinesburg Parish Hall

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH AT 3PM

We often hear that the Holidays are the "Most Wonderful Time of the Year." But for many, the holidays remind us of those loved ones that are no longer with us. How can we approach this season of hope while acknowledging our feelings? of grief and loss?



JOIN US THIS ADVENT SEASON AS WE CREATE SPACE FOR OUR GRIEF. FOR THREE THURSDAYS, BEGINNING NOV. 29TH, WE WILL MEET TO DISCUSS OUR EXPERIENCES OF LOSS AROUND THE HOLIDAYS AND READ C.S. LEWIS' "A GRIEF OBSERVED."

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH @ 3PM WE WILL HOLD A **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** THAT PROVIDES SPACE FOR OUR PAIN AND CELEBRATES THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US.

EACH SESSION WILL BE FACILITATED BY PASTOR JARED AND FRANCESCA ARNOLDY, AUTHOR AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE END-OF-LIFE DOULA PROGRAM AT UVM. FOR MORE INFO ABOUT FRANCESCA, CHECK OUT HER WEBSITE AT: <https://contemplativedoula.com>.

This series is open to anyone that would benefit. Copies of the book are in the church office and cost \$12. There's no need to read it before the first meeting.

Please RSVP to Pastor Jared by calling the church office at 802-482-3352 or by email at [revjared@gmavt.net](mailto:revjared@gmavt.net).

### Membership Care Committee News

*Membership Care Committee: Dianne Hall – Interim Chair; Grace Farley, Bonnie Farrow, Barbara Lyman, Anne Carter Mahaffey, Judy Parker, Heather Roberts, Sandy White*

#### Are you interested in becoming a member at UCH?

Joining a church is one way of acknowledging the bond between individuals and a community of faith. When new members join, the entire community has the opportunity to pledge their care, support and commitment to the new member and the new member does the same.

We will be holding a New Member service on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Contact Pastor Jared at [revjared@gmavt.net](mailto:revjared@gmavt.net) or the church office at 482-3352 or [unitedchurch@gmavt.net](mailto:unitedchurch@gmavt.net) for more details.

## 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*

In November, the **Sunday School** classes finished up their “Working for Justice” lessons in our *Faith Practices* curriculum, made dry soup mix for the Little Free Pantry (which is gone already!) and began rehearsals for this year’s pageant. We had a fun game night on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, sharing a dinner of macaroni and cheese and playing board games. Apples to Apples, Twister and Pie Face were most popular.

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** will be performed during the service on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be another great performance you won’t want to miss! Parents should have received their children’s lines and the lyrics to the Christmas carols we’ll be singing by email the week before Thanksgiving. Hopefully the kids have been practicing during the holiday break from Sunday School! We will rehearse during Sunday School this Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and have our final run-through at 9:00am on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> (before our performance during that morning’s worship service).

Our next Friday Night event will be an evening of **cookie decorating** on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00pm in the Parish Hall. All Sunday School children and middle & high school youth are welcome to this very popular event. We will share a dinner of make-your-own pizzas and then bake and decorate cookies for the Missions & Social Justice Committee’s Christmas Baskets. This is a friend-friendly event so feel free to bring others along! To help us with meal planning and to ensure we have enough dough prepared, please RSVP at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c49adaa29aaf49-sunday12>

## Finance Committee News

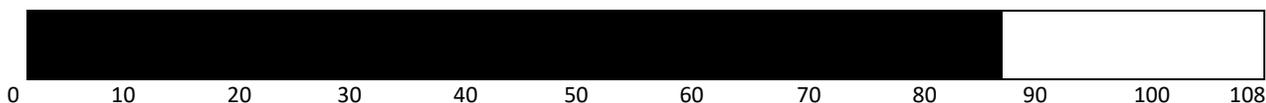
*Finance Committee: Yvonne Whitaker – Treasurer; Ellen Dooley & Sandy Milbank – Co-Financial Secretaries; Phil Pouech, Keith Roberts, Mary Eddy Stewart*

### Financial Update

Our 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 is published monthly to show how we are doing.

Over the next two months we need to receive \$22,597 in offering to stay on target. We can do it with your help! If you have any questions about our church finances, please contact me.

Plate offering received as of **October 31, 2018** (\$85,153 **79%** of offering budget)



*In thousands*

Yvonne Whitaker, Treasurer

## 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*

### Community Brunch

This Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, directly following worship, The Missions & Social Justice and Coffee Hour Committees will host a **special end of year community brunch**. The menu includes quiche/breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, fresh salad, cookies, coffee and juice. This brunch is open to the community. Please do stop by! There is *no charge* for this; donations are welcome (not expected) to support our local hunger relief efforts.

### Sleeping Bag Mission

Our fifth annual sleeping bag drive has been a tremendous success! As a result of your generosity, 33 sleeping bags will be delivered to Safe Harbor at the Community Health Center in Burlington within the next week or so. Thank you for supporting this important mission of our church!

### Christmas baskets

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, the Missions Committee and the Sunday School 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:

### Salvation Army bell ringing



Members of our congregation are invited to participate in Salvation Army bell-ringing at Walmart in Williston again this year on Saturday, December 1st. One hour time slots are still available at 9:00am, 4:00pm, 5:00pm & 6:00pm. If you are interested in signing up, please visit:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-salvation1>



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. 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.

**\*\*Please note that the colder weather limits the type of items that can be left in the Little Free Pantry – no canned goods or liquids that could freeze/thaw. Dry goods are welcome all year long! Some examples include: breakfast cereal, granola bars, pasta, rice, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, foil-wrapped tuna or chicken, baking mixes, toiletries & hygiene products.**

## December 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
Mondays (except 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	9:00am-10:30am	Hinesburg Friends of Families baby playgroup
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
Saturday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	9:00am-7:00pm	Salvation Army bell ringing at Walmart in Williston
Saturday, December 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00am	Memorial service for Rhonda Ploof
Sunday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11:15am	Community Brunch hosted by Missions & Social Justice Committee
Wednesday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Thursday, December 6 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	“Good Grief” discussion group
Saturday, December 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	Holiday Breakfast
Sunday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Pageant Sunday (rehearsal @ 9:00am); New Member Sunday
Sunday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>	11:15am	Monthly committee meetings during coffee hour
Tuesday, December 11 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Thursday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	“Good Grief” discussion group
Friday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm-8:00pm	Youth & Sunday School event – cookie decorating
Saturday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Cub Scouts pack meeting – caroling
Sunday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Special Music Sunday – hand bells
Sunday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>		Missions & Sunday School assembling Christmas baskets
Sunday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Blue Christmas service
Wednesday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Friday, December 21 <sup>st</sup>		January newsletter deadline
Monday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	5:00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
Monday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00pm	Christmas Eve Traditional Service
Tuesday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>		Church office closed in observance of Christmas
Sunday, December 30 <sup>th</sup>		Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday & caroling



We are looking for a few specific items for the Parish House kitchen. If you happen to have any extra of the following items, please drop them at the Parish House:

- Dinner forks (not dessert forks, all set there)
- Teaspoons (not tablespoons, all set there as well)
- Serving spoons (bigger than a tablespoon, but smaller than a slotted spoon)
- Serving Bowls around 9” diameter and 2 quart capacity

### 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.

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## *December Birthdays & Anniversaries*

04	Donald Rahelich
05	Danielle Pezzimenti
06	Meg Reilly
09	Donald & Jan Rahelich
12	Doug Mead
14	Kerri Brien
14	Mary Thompson
15	Henry White
17	Kathy Newton
17	Rev. Jared & Leah Hamilton
18	Erle Mead
18	Lily Mead
21	David Haire
22	Sherrie & David Simmons
26	David Palmer
27	David Danforth
27	Chip Foutz
29	Dianne & Gene Hall
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 2018**

### **December 2nd**

*Greeters: Mary Thompson & Sarah Hayes*

*Ushers: Dan & Meg Reilly*

*Reader: Judy Parker*

*Advent Wreath: The Sayre family*

### **December 9th**

*Greeters: youth*

*Ushers: youth*

*Readers: youth*

*Advent Wreath: The Ciffo family*

### **December 16th**

*Greeters: Sandy & Reggie Robinson*

*Ushers: Kristi Kilbride & Sherrie Simmons*

*Reader: Dianne Hall*

*Advent Wreath: The Reilly family*

### **December 23rd**

*Greeters: Cathy Foutz*

*Ushers: Grace Ciffo & Kate Schubart*

*Reader: Thea Gaudette*

*Advent Wreath: Mary Thompson & Sarah Hayes*

### **December 24th**

*Advent wreath (5pm): The Main family*

*Advent wreath (10pm): The Patrick family*

### **December 30th**

*Greeters: TBD*

*Ushers: Sandy Milbank & Kate Schubart*

*Reader: Yvonne Whitaker*

*Coffee Hour: Mary Eddy Stewart & Sharonlee*

*Trefry – Co-chairs; Sue Barden, Lia Cravedi,*

*Sheri Hanlon, Phil Pouech, Yvonne Whitaker*

**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!**