



# UNITED CHURCH OF HINESBURG

Newsletter - February 2021

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## Looking Back and Planning Ahead

Traditionally, the United Church of Hinesburg holds its annual membership meeting on the second Sunday in February. At these meetings, members and friends of UCH receive reports from committees and groups that were active in the previous year, review the approved budget of the current fiscal year, and affirm the leadership slate and goals for the new year. Along with the official business that takes place at these meetings, this meeting provides a forum for conversation, questions, and feedback among those invested in the work and mission of the church.

**The Church Council has moved forward with a plan to hold this year's annual meeting on June 6th.** This change was made for two reasons. First, the ongoing pandemic does not allow us to gather in person at this time. Second, UCH has used the time during this pandemic to align its financial fiscal year with the program year (July 1st – June 30th).

In 2020 Pastor Jared and the Steering Committee worked in six-month blocks to set a budget and priorities. This allowed us to be agile during the many different phases of the pandemic when resources and needs changed quickly and often. A budget for July-December 2020 was passed by Council as required by our Bylaws, and another six-month budget, January-June 2021, was recently passed by Council as well.

Our June 2021 Annual meeting will look much like the annual meetings in previous years, whether we gather in person or online. We will share reports, nominate new leaders, and review a new fiscal year budget that better reflects the ebbs and flows of our program year.

That said, we wish to offer a reflection on the work accomplished at the United Church of Hinesburg in 2020, inform our members and friends of our January-June 2021 plans and provide space for conversation, questions and feedback by holding a congregation-wide info session at 11:00 am on Sunday, February 14th by Zoom.

This newsletter includes:

- The 2020 Reflection and Financial Information
- January-June 2021 Priorities, Leadership List, and Budget
- Additional material usually found in our monthly newsletters

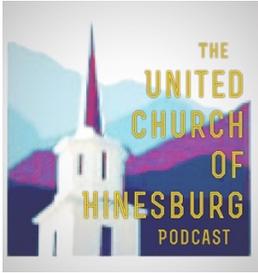
If you have any questions about these changes, feel free to contact Pastor Jared at [revjared@gmavt.net](mailto:revjared@gmavt.net).

## UCH 2020 Reflection

2020 began like any other year at UCH. We made plans and set goals for the year, and worked on a corresponding budget. We prepared for another summer youth trip and began work on new projects like developing a church green space.

All of this changed in March when the COVID-19 pandemic began. Below is a reflection on the work in 2020 at the United Church of Hinesburg as we adjusted to the unique challenges of the year.

### Worship



Worship evolved in 2020 as we adjusted to the pandemic. In-person services stopped mid-March to comply with Governor Scott's Stay At Home Order. Spiritual reflections and worship resources were compiled soon after and mailed and emailed to members of the congregation. Regular online check-ins and Vesper services were held online. ***The United Church of Hinesburg Podcast*** launched on April 12th, Easter Sunday. The podcast was updated every week after and received over 600 downloads by the end of the year.

Our first ***Sunday Morning Livestream Service*** was held on July 26th, and our regular worship took place over Zoom every Sunday morning through the end of the year. The Worship Committee supported Livestream worship services by providing flowers for the sanctuary, coordinating readers, and building a digital music library for use in online worship. Members of the committee and other volunteers developed procedures for safe in-person worship, and we held two test services in the fall before the fall pandemic surge fell on us.

By the end of 2020, regular and consistent worship resources can be accessed by mail, email, on the church website, your favorite pod-catcher, Facebook, and Vimeo.

We are thankful for the many volunteers, contractors, and staff that worked creatively and persistently to get us up to speed. Chris Walker identified technical issues and fixed them. Chris Dorman gave us a tour of his Livestream studio at his Music for Sprouts Studio in Shelburne. Andy Seaton priced out equipment. With permission from the Hinesburg Artist Series Board and Rufus Patrick, Barbara Herrington, and Doug Olufsen sifted the extensive HAS music catalog for sacred music, allowing us to use previous recordings for worship services. Many readers and liturgists recorded worship elements. Jody Ciano learned how to knit together each service. Larry Rice, Joanne Russell, Barbara Herrington, Betsy, Rufus, and Amy Patrick and Sammy Angstman, and others provided music for services throughout.

### Missions and Social Justice Work

UCH has addressed food insecurity issues for over ten years. The COVID-19 public health emergency made this a more immediate, fundamental, and critical community concern in 2020. The Missions and Social Justice Committee, many other UCH volunteers, and a devoted community worked to address food insecurity through several initiatives by:

- Hosting community meals before pausing due to the pandemic. 2020 marked UCH's 9th year of the community meals program.
- Donating \$635 to the Hinesburg Community School through the Food Angels Campaign to pay down school lunch debt for local families.

- Assuming the management and oversight of Little Free Pantry during the pandemic. This effort included fundraising, heightening community awareness about food insecurity, daily oversight, and collaboration with local farm stands, grocery stores, and the Hinesburg Community Resource Center.
- Thanking the over 70 community members who donated nearly \$15,000 to the Little Free Pantry in 2020.
- Holding the 8th annual Hearts for Hunger fun run/walk as a virtual event. As a result of this event, UCH made a \$6,025 donation to the VT Foodbank Backpack Program.
- Donating funds to vital causes like the Chittenden Asylum Seekers Assistance Network, the Delta Rescue in California, and a food assistance program in Beirut, Lebanon.
- Fundraising to donating 20 sleeping bags to Safe Harbor, an organization that supports the needs of those who are chronically homeless locally.
- Continuing the 40+ year tradition of giving away Christmas Food Baskets in December to 17 families.



*The Little Free Pantry and community volunteer Phil Bosen.*

### Membership Care & Pastoral Care



*Pastor Jared with the very wiggly Hallie Foutz*

Mary Eddy Stewart joined the Membership Care Committee and co-chaired with Dianne Hall in 2020. At the onset of the pandemic, folks on the committee and other volunteers updated the contact information for members and friends of the church and connected with everyone in our contact database. Follow-up calls were made throughout 2020, and birthday and anniversary greetings were sent out by email and regular mail. The committee also worked to rally around those facing particular hardships during the pandemic, supporting people who became ill, experienced an injury, or faced grief and loss. This was done by sending cards, coordinating meal trains, and by phone calls.

Pastor Jared met with people by phone, Zoom, and, when possible, in-person for pastoral care and counseling. Before the pandemic set in, UCH celebrated the baptism of Hallie Jean Foutz, daughter of Peter and Ashely Foutz. Graveside funerals and committals were held for Dick Chapman, Jim Collins, Robert Emmons, Betty Lantman, and Randy Whitney using recommended COVID-19 pandemic precautions. In September, Pastor Jared officiated Emily Milbank and Matthew Vosburgh's outdoor wedding, again using recommended COVID-19 pandemic precautions.

### Staffing

Staffing at UCH changed in 2020 in many ways. Pastor Jared had shoulder surgery in January, and volunteers filled in nicely during this recovery. Our longtime administrator, Heather Roberts, moved across the lawn to Town Hall in April to fill the Assistant Town Clerk role. The Steering Committee and Staff Parish Committee worked with Pastor Jared throughout the pandemic to identify ongoing staffing needs. Mary Eddy Stewart, Yvonne Whitaker, and other volunteers took over many of the administrative tasks. Pastor Jared's planned Sabbatical was delayed to 2021 because of the pandemic. Sammy Angstman continued in her role as worship accompanist through the year, providing music for online worship. Jody Ciano was hired in June to provide administrative, communication, and technical support. Her role changed when we began Zoom worship, as she provided her expertise in knitting together each worship service.

Andi Lloyd joined the team as a pastor intern in September. Pastor Andi is a current student at Yale Divinity School and is undergoing Supervised Ministry, a field education program for so-to-be pastors. Jared and Andi met weekly to coordinate work, reflect theologically, and explore the daily rhythms of pastoring in a local church setting. Andi has been a valued addition, providing thoughtful worship services, online reflections, small group opportunities, and pastoral care. Additionally, she spearheaded the revamping of the UCH Facebook page, began a UCH Instagram account, and worked on a team that developed COVID-19 procedures for in-person gatherings.

## Trustees and Property

Although we couldn't use our physical spaces much in 2020, ongoing maintenance, repairs, and improvements took place.

Ongoing maintenance included recruiting volunteers to mow the lawn, shovel snow, general tidying up as needed, and contracting with Proprietors Pride of Hinesburg to provide cleaning services, including additional pandemic cleanings.

Repairs included replacing the roof at the Parish Hall entryway and repairing the concrete at the Sanctuary entrance steps.

Improvements included rekeying all building locks and implementing a new key policy, installing smart thermostats, Wi-Fi enabled and motion-sensitive lighting, and networked smoke and CO2 detectors in the Sanctuary and Parish Hall, and installing an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in the Parish Hall. Recording equipment was purchased, the Sanctuary was networked, and the Parish Hall network was reconfigured and updated to support online worship.

Additionally, volunteers worked on additional projects like applying for grants for the Baptist lot and green space projects and working with the local private Hinesburg Citizens Group to finalize the plans for the Vestry.

## Children & Youth

The pandemic affected this area of the church more than most. Sunday School, children activities, and youth programs were held before the pandemic. The Hinesburg Youth Project (HYP) organized a successful book sale to help fund the 2020 summer service trip to Virginia, which was as postponed.

Staff and volunteers worked to check-in with families as the pandemic continued. Occasional Zoom calls and outdoor gatherings took place. The high tunnel project, which was started on a snowy day in 2019, was completed at the Starksboro community gardens. The high tunnel will extend the ***New Community Project's*** growing season, a local organization that provides food and fuel relief to folks in Chittenden and Addison counties. Special thanks go to the Wuthrich and Lepple families for seeing this project through.

Youth provided readings and liturgies for online worship services throughout the year. In the fall, Heather Roberts continued in her role as CE director and worked to provide families with regular faith formation activities that could be done at home.

We look forward to relaunching children and youth programs in 2021 when we can safely gather in person again.

## Stewardship & Finance

Stewardship is defined as “the responsibility of taking care of something, like an organization or property.” In church settings, stewardship carries the same connotation and is often focused on caring for one’s local church's financial well-being.

We are thankful for the many gifts of time, talent, and financial resources during 2020, especially during the pandemic. While folks in our church and broader community gave generously in 2020, staff and volunteers worked to make giving easier and safer, promoting new online and electronic giving options.

- We overhauled the website and expanded the donation page on the church website to allow one-time or recurring donations from a bank account or charged to a debit or credit card for offering special missions such as the Little Free Pantry, and memorials
- We added mobile and text giving options, expanding the ways individuals can donate to the church; information about these options provided during the weekly Livestream service
- We sent out mid-year and end of year contribution statements and mailed thank-you cards in November acknowledging on-going financial support to the church during the pandemic
- We moved our three annual fundraisers, the Plant Sale, Chicken Pie Supper, and Holiday Bazaar, online with the help of many volunteers.

We monitored our financial situation regularly, not knowing what would unfold as the pandemic continued. We made adjustments to the 2020 budget by splitting the year in half, with January - June and July to December budgeting periods, which were developed and approved by Church Council. This also allowed us to move forward with changing our financial, fiscal year from January-December to July-June to align with our program year. We streamlined the accounting process by adopting a new accounting system call PowerChurch Fund Accounting. Below is a Financial Summary of 2020:

### January - December, 2020 Financial Summary

	Jan-June	July-Dec	2020 Total	% of Total
<b>Income</b>				
Offering	48,541	52,531	101,073	67%
Unrestricted Investments*	3,250	4,250	7,500	5%
Restricted Investments**	10,550	12,425	22,975	15%
Trustee Investments***	680	2,966	3,646	2%
Fundraisers (Gross)	6,497	4,564	11,061	7%
Rent and Funeral Receptions	1,205	225	1,430	1%
Other	537	1,613	2,150	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$71,260</b>	<b>\$78,574</b>	<b>149,834</b>	<b>100%</b>
Carry forward from 2019	2,980		<b>2,980</b>	
Transferred from Restricted Funds	580	2,615	<b>3,195</b>	

## Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	58,846	55,961	114,807	74%
Utilities & Maintenance	9,899	10,043	19,942	13%
Church Operation	6,795	3,266	10,061	6%
Program	2,541	757	3,298	2%
Financial Assistance	2,043	1,000	3,043	2%
Conference Mission Shares	0	4,869	4,869	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80,124</b>	<b>\$75,896</b>	<b>\$156,020</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Difference** - \$11

- \* Unrestricted investments include the General Fund and the Roberts Trust, which can be used for any church expense (20% of our investment portfolio)
- \*\* Restricted investments include the Music Fund, the Housing Fund, and the Youth Investment Fund, which can only be used for specific purposes (64% of our investment portfolio)
- \*\*\*Trustee investments must be used for church insurance but can also be used for building maintenance and improvements (16% of our investment portfolio)

## Looking Ahead

### *January-June 2021 Priorities, Leaders & Budget*

The United Church of Hinesburg will move forward with another six-month planning and budgeting cycle from January to June 2021. We are prioritizing the continued work of online worship, connecting and supporting one another during the pandemic, and providing physical and spiritual support for the wider community. We will continue to monitor the pandemic and prepare for in-person activities when we can regather safely.

We will also reengage in a handful of projects that were started in 2020 but were placed on hold. This work includes governance restructuring and the green space project.

There are changes to staffing. Jody Ciano, who served as the administrative assistant, will focus solely on online and Livestream worship support. Yvonne Whitaker will volunteer to provide administrative support, and any correspondence with the church office can be directed to her or Pastor Jared. A new administrative assistant will be hired in the second half of 2021 when the pandemic is over.

Pastor Jared will begin his two-month sabbatical on June 14th. An interim pastor will be hired to provide worship and pastoral care while he is away. He will return August 16th.

We are thankful that many of our leaders will continue on their roles during this planning period.

Steering Committee: *Mary Eddy Stewart, Yvonne Whitaker, Phil Pouech, Andy Seaton, Heather Roberts, Marie Eddy & Penny Grant*

Moderator/Council Chair: *Mary Eddy Stewart*

Worship: *Barbara Herrington*

Mission & Social Justice: *Lori McKenna*

Membership Care: *Mary Eddy Stewart & Dianne Hall*

Staffing: *David Eddy*

Trustees and Property: *Andy Seaton*

Children & Youth: *Eileen Ashe & Heather Roberts*

Stewardship & Finance: *Yvonne Whitaker*

Treasurer: *Yvonne Whitaker*

Auditor: *Barbara Herrington*

Financial Secretaries: *Ellen Dooley, Sandy Milbank & Joanne Russell*

Work for the financial, fiscal year/program year of July 2021 -June 2022 will begin in May. At that time, the Steering Committee will work with the congregation to articulate goals and priorities, recruit and nominate new leaders, and develop a budget.

The budget approved by Council for the January 1st – June 30th, 2021 period is below.

### January – June, 2021 Funding and Spending Plan

*Our funding and spending plan support our vision “to build a more just, loving and sustainable world through acts of fellowship, community service and joyful worship”.*

**Budget \$75,529**

#### **FUNDING**

Offering\* 66%

Your generosity makes our church’s ministry and mission possible.

Investments 20%

Income from unrestricted investments that can be put toward church expenses and restricted investments that can only be used for specific purposes.

Fundraisers 12%

Projected income from the annual plant sale, the church’s largest fundraiser.

Other 1%

Other income from various sources.

*\* Offering, given either in the offering plate or electronically, is used to meet the cost of worship, learning, communication & caring, and specific missions & outreach expenses.*

*In addition, special appeals throughout the year support missions projects such as the Little Free Pantry and the Sleeping Bag drive which are not included in the plan.*

#### **SPENDING**

Worship 53%

- Pastoral leadership
- Music director and accompanist
- Livestreaming software
- Printed materials and worship resources
- Administrative support

Learning 13%

- Christian Education Coordinator
- Sunday School curriculum and supplies
- Ministry intern

Communications & Caring 19%

- Pastoral care visits and appointments; travel expenses
- Weekly updates and monthly newsletters
- Website and communications software
- Administrative support

Missions & Outreach 15%

- Administrative support for mission projects
- Conference (UCC, NEUMC and ABC of VT/NH) mission shares

*Costs for utilities and maintenance are shared equally by each of the above categories.*

## Balance Sheet

### Income

Offering	50,000
Unrestricted Investments	3,950
Restricted Investments	10,529
Trustee Investments	850
Fundraisers	9,200
Rent and Funeral Receptions	0
Other	800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$75,329</b>

### Expenses

		% of Total
Salaries & Benefits	50,868	68%
Utilities & Maintenance	9,854	13%
Operations	9,424	13%
Program	1,475	2%
Conference Mission Shares	3,706	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$75,327</b>	<b>100%</b>

## February Worship Week at UCH - Schedule and ZOOM Info



The Season of Lent begins February 17th with Ash Wednesday. This is a time in the Christian Calendar year when people of faith begin their annual journey toward Easter's celebration. But the journey isn't an easy one. We journey with Jesus and his disciples in the gospel stories as they encounter corruption, illness and death, grief, violence, poverty and oppression. They meet these challenges with resistance, healing, comforting, self-sacrifice and ultimately, resurrection.

Our Sunday worship services in February follow Jesus into the wilderness and stand near to him as he foretells his death. Our Wednesday evening Vesper services provide additional time for prayer, reflection, and community during this holy season. Join us on this annual pilgrimage through holy stories and practices as we prepare to meet the risen Christ once again.

### Worship Schedule

**Sunday, February 7th** - The Fifth Sunday in after Epiphany Worship Service – 10am (Communion)  
*RCL Scriptures: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39*

**Sunday, February 14th** – Transfiguration Sunday Worship Service – 10am  
*RCL Scriptures: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9*

**Wednesday, February 17th** – Ash Wednesday Vesper Service – 7pm

**Sunday, February 21st** – The First Sunday in Lent Worship Service – 10am  
*RCL Scriptures: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15*

**Wednesday, February 24th** – Wednesday Evening Lenten Vesper Service – 7pm

**Sunday, February 28th** – The Second Sunday in Lent Worship Service – 10am  
*RCL Scriptures: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38*

Below are the ZOOM Invite Credentials  
for all Sunday Services & Wednesday Vespers

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3085092306?pwd=TENNSkFIRGRyd1gzcGlkaktqWm1WZz09>

Meeting ID: 308 509 2306 Passcode: cz5D8W

Join by phone  
877 853 5257 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 308 509 2306  
Passcode: 348991

## Giving Stock to the United Church

Giving is an investment in the gospel of Jesus Christ. For some, 'investing an investment' by donating a gift of stock to the church may be a giving option. For others, making an IRA Charitable Distribution may be an option.



### Donations of Stock

If you hold individual stock you can avoid capital gains by gifting the stock directly to the church and claiming the market value as a donation. If you hold your stock in a brokerage account, provide the following information to your advisor:

Charitable Organization: United Church of Hinesburg  
Telephone Number: 802-482-3352 (church office)  
Receiving Institution: Morgan Stanley  
DTC Number: 0015  
Receiving Institution Account Number: 383-109209

### IRA Charitable Distribution

If you have reached the age where you need to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your traditional IRAs, you can avoid paying taxes on them by donating the money directly from your plan administrator to a charitable organization such as the church.

### Questions

Please contact your tax advisor or financial consultant with specific questions related to your situation. If you have questions for the church regarding these options, contact Yvonne Whitaker by phone at 482-4279 or by email at [whitaker@gmavt.net](mailto:whitaker@gmavt.net).

### Snow shovelers



Thank you to our faithful snow shovelers! This month's volunteers are:

2/3-2/9	John and Sally Mead
2/10-2/16	David Eddy
2/17-2/23	Theron Main
2/24-3/2	Kristi Johnson

## The United Church of Hinesburg

Pastor: Reverend Jared M. Hamilton

Pastor's Email: [revjared@gmavt.net](mailto:revjared@gmavt.net)

Pastor Intern: Andi Lloyd

Pastor Andi's email: [lloyd.andi@gmail.com](mailto:lloyd.andi@gmail.com)

Administrative Support: Yvonne Whitaker

Office Email: [unitedchurch@gmavt.net](mailto:unitedchurch@gmavt.net)

Office Phone: 802-482-3352

Office Hours: Call or email for us during the pandemic

Website: [www.ucofh.org](http://www.ucofh.org)



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TO:

*Please help keep our records current by contacting the UCH Office with changes to your e-mail or mailing address. Thank you!*