

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

FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER



TO:

Pastor: Rev. Jared Hamilton
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Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am – 12pm
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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:

Making Positive Change

On January 27, 2017, President Trump signed an executive order called "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States." The order suspends the US Refugee Admissions Program for 120 days. This order also suspends entry to the United States by nationals of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen for 90 days and Syrian nationals indefinitely. Shortly after the signing of this executive order, border officials began denying foreign nationals entry at airports. Legal immigrants and refugees, students and professors on legal visas, tech workers and family members coming to the states legally were returned to their country of origin or other holding countries.

We are a nation of immigrants and refugees, indigenous peoples and former slaves. We are Buddhist, Sikh, Muslim, Hindu, Christian and Atheist. This diversity adds to the colorful tapestry that is our great country. Our national humanity is challenged when we deny entry to those who legally turn to the United States for a place of refuge from war-torn areas. Our national humanity is challenged when we discriminate against people of color or different religious backgrounds. Our own humanity is challenged when we do nothing to stop this injustice.

This is a matter of faith for those who hear the words of Jesus. Here is his message about the *Judgment of the Nations* from Matthew 25:31-45:

"Now when the Son of Man comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left."

“Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, and receive good things from my God. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. For I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.’

“Then those who are righteous will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

“Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you didn’t give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn’t give me anything to drink. I was a stranger and you didn’t welcome me. I was naked and you didn’t give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’

“Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn’t do anything to help you?’ Then he will answer, ‘I assure you that when you haven’t done it for one of the least of these, you haven’t done it for me.’

When we work for justice for those who have been mistreated and discriminated against, we work for justice for the author of our faith, Christ Jesus. I am pleased that leaders from our three historic denominations (*American Baptist, United Methodist and United Church of Christ*) have signed letters opposing the refugee ban. But I am ready to do something as well and, if you are like me, the question is, “Where do I start?” Here are three places:

- **Sunday, February 5th from 11:15am-12:30pm, Faith and Justice Group** at the UCH Parish Hall. We will begin by having a meeting after church to brainstorm about positive ways to make social change possible. Come to share your thoughts and what you are currently doing to promote justice work. Come and listen to what others are doing. Tell us what resources you would like to see our church make available. My hope is that we will begin to formulate faithful, non-reactive and positive action steps that demand justice for all people and the environment.
- **Thursday, February 16th from 6-8:30pm, Nonviolent Activism 101** at CVU High School, Hinesburg. Nonviolence has been proven to be incredibly effective in addressing oppression even though our culture may not embrace or encourage this truth. Learn the strategy of building a nonviolent movement. Participants will also explore how they are affected by various systems of oppression to help unlock meaningful ways to work towards social justice and peace without perpetuating the cycles of violence that permeate our culture. Register online through CVU’s Access Program or call 802-482-7194. \$10 general / \$5 for people over 64 and under 18.
- **Sunday, February 26th from 6-8:30pm, “Pray the Devil Back to Hell” Screening** at the UCH Parish Hall. “Pray the Devil Back to Hell” is the inspiring story of a group of ordinary women who came together – Muslim and Christian, rich and poor, urban and rural – to bring peace to their war-torn but beloved Liberia. The story of their historic achievement is gripping, suspenseful, terrifying and ultimately incredibly satisfying. This is a potluck dinner so bring something to share. After the movie we will have a time for discussion.

Everyone is invited to these events and I pray that we have the courage and make the time to put our faith into action.

Blessings,

Pastor Jared

Missions & Social Justice Committee News

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

The Missions Committee extends a warm and heartfelt thank you for your participation to make our annual holiday food basket mission a success. We served 15 families, primarily from HCS and CVU. One comment from a recipient summed up our belief that one act of kindness begets another; this person was en route to visit and provide care to a gravely ill family member and now would be able to share a nice meal together.

Our tradition/mission of holiday food baskets originated in 1980, thirty six years ago when we began providing food baskets to the Visiting Nurses Association for distribution through their Maternal Child Health program. Roots. Community. Action. Love. Stay tuned for unfolding missions in 2017!

Warm regards, The Missions and Social Justice Committee

Want to serve? Assistance is requested and welcomed for special projects or to serve on the committee. See Heather, Pastor Jared, or Lori McKenna. Thank you!

Given recent events in our country, it also seemed appropriate to re-issue a statement made by our church just over one year ago.

Statement of Solidarity with our Muslim Neighbors

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30-31

As members of the United Church of Hinesburg Missions and Social Justice Committee, we share a responsibility to speak to important moral and ethical issues facing our community and the broader world.

We are saddened and deeply disturbed by the wave of anti-Muslim sentiment that has been intensifying in our nation and strongly repudiate action that divides our nation and excludes our Muslim neighbors. We uphold the mission of our church to welcome, affirm and reconcile religious difference; open our doors to those who flee from countries that experience terror, persecution and war; and understand that our differences make us stronger as a community and a country. This is the very fiber on which our federated church and this nation are built.

We pledge to challenge phobias of any kind and wish to extend our hands in friendship to Muslims in our community and around the world.

We will not remain silent as the morals that inform our faith are marginalized for capital or political gain. Bigotry and discrimination have no place here.

In this spirit, we wish to express our deepest commitment to racial and religious diversity and reaffirm our commitment to work for justice, inclusion and equality for all our neighbors, wherever and whoever they may be.

With peace,
The Missions and Social Justice Committee
Reverend Jared M. Hamilton
December 16, 2015

Annual Membership Meeting February 12, 2017

Our annual United Church membership meeting will be held on February 12, 2017 after our worship service. A light soup & sandwich lunch will be served before the meeting. All are encouraged to attend and join in the discussion; members of the United Church of Hinesburg are entitled to vote. Nursery care will be provided.

Our church is in an exciting period of growth. The annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to hear from church leaders about our 2016 accomplishments, what we are envisioning for 2017 and beyond, and to ask questions. Come and be involved in decisions that will help to shape our future.

Please contact me if you have questions. I hope to see you at the meeting!

Yvonne Whitaker, Chair, Church Council

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



A lot is happening in our Christian Education programs this winter!

On Sunday, January 22nd, our children and youth enjoyed practicing **yoga with Ashley Williams – Wenschhof** during Sunday School and we look forward to a visit from Ashley again on March 26th.

We held a very successful **movie night** on Friday, January 13th in the Parish Hall. We enjoyed a dinner of tacos followed by a screening of *The Secret Life of Pets* on the big screen in the main room. 17 children and youth (and a few parents) snuggled into their beanbag chairs to watch this very entertaining movie.

Our next event will be a **game night** on Friday, February 3rd from 6:00-8:00pm in the Parish Hall. We will share a dinner of waffles and sausages and then play a variety of “minute to win it” games. If you have suggestions for challenges that are fun to do with a group, please contact Heather. Sign up to bring toppings for the waffles at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c49adaa29aaf49-sunday4>.

Speaking of successful events, 31 youth from our church and wider community enjoyed an evening at **Get Air trampoline park** in Williston on Saturday, January 28th. The kids jumped/raced/climbed for an hour at Get Air and then returned to the Parish Hall for a dinner of pizza and beverages. Thanks to all the chaperones who made it possible to transport such a large group!

Our **One Room Schoolhouse** on January 15th found 15 children & youth making dried soup mix for the Hinesburg Food Shelf. The kids did a great job assembling 15 bags of dried beans, rice and spices for a hearty soup to warm our neighbors during these cold months. We will have another One Room Schoolhouse on Sunday, February 26th when we will begin helping the Missions Committee with preparation for the Hearts for Hunger Fun Run.

For the Youth

The United Church of Hinesburg offers a wide range of events, programs and activities for the young people of the church and the wider community. As our programs continue to grow, we have created two groups for young people in grades 4-7 and 8-12. If you have questions about the differences between the groups or want to explore the best group for your child, feel free to contact Pastor Jared.

February events for Grades 8-12

- **First Sunday Choral Singing** – Come sing with the adult choir on the first Sunday of each month. Arrive at 9:00am on Sunday, February 5th for rehearsal. Continental breakfast will be available in the choir room.
- Sunday, February 5th from 11:15am-12:30pm, **Faith and Justice Group** at the UCH Parish Hall. We will begin by having a meeting after church to brainstorm about positive ways to make social change possible. Come to share your thoughts and what you are currently doing to promote justice work. Come and listen to what others are doing. Tell us what resources you would like to see our church make available. My hope is that we will begin to formulate faithful, nonreactive and positive action steps that demand justice for all people and the environment.
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- **Summer Youth Trip Planning Meeting** on Thursday, February 23rd at 6PM. This is an important meeting to discuss the June 2017 Boston Youth Trip that will focus on issues of social justice. The trip is available for all kids currently in 7th grade and above. We hope to define the focus of this trip and settle on fundraising endeavors at this meeting. ***If you or your child is interested in this trip, please attend this meeting. Parents and youth are welcome.***
- Sunday, February 26th from 6-8:30pm, **“Pray the Devil Back to Hell” screening** at the UCH Parish Hall. Pray the Devil Back to Hell is the inspiring story of a group of ordinary women who came together – Muslim and Christian, rich and poor, urban and rural – to bring peace to their war-torn but beloved Liberia. The story of their historic achievement is gripping, suspenseful, terrifying and ultimately incredibly satisfying. This is a potluck dinner so bring something to share. After the movie we will have a time for discussion.



*We will offer a variety of toppings to indulge every palate. Gluten free pancakes will be available.

Shrove Tuesday – a Brief Introduction

Shrove Tuesday is a day in February or March preceding Ash Wednesday. The day is called *Pancake Tuesday* in some countries because the holy day is celebrated by – you got it – eating pancakes. *Mardi Gras*, French for “Fat Tuesday,” is another name for the day. It is marked as a time for carnival, merriment and eating rich food.

The day is important because it is the last day before the Christian liturgical season of Lent, a penitential season historically observed by renunciation, fasting and self-reflection. In English-speaking countries it is traditional to eat pancakes the day before Lent begins as a way to use up rich foods such as eggs, milk and sugar. Lent is then observed by eating plainer food, where observers often refrain from eating meat, dairy, sugar or eggs.

On February 28th, we celebrate Fat Tuesday with a pancake dinner at the church from 5:30pm-7:00pm. All are welcome. The meal is free to all although donations are welcome and will go to the 2017 Summer Youth Trip to Boston.

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 Sunday, February 26th

We will focus on a community mission, refugee resettlement, using "A program the U.S. can be proud of" and noting "Three million refugees have resettled in this country since 1975 - through a careful, time-tested process that we can be proud of" in *The Christian Century*, 10/25/16. A related Biblical theme: "...I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35c) Read it at: <http://bit.ly/2iQpazZ>. Copies will be available on the back table in the sanctuary on February 19th and February 26th.

Worship in the Home – February 2017

We are in the *Season of Epiphany* for all of February. This month's readings and prayers reflect the meaning of the word *Epiphany* as "making God manifest", using the traditional imagery of light/darkness and life/death. This service is put together to be a resource for those that wish to pray and reflect throughout the month on their own away from church. This order of service can be performed daily or when time permits.

Opening Prayer

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.
With you, O God, is the well of life
and in your light shall we see light.

Scripture Reading **Psalm 36.1-10 (Voice)**

- 1** Corruption speaks in the depths of the soul
of those who oppose God; they listen closely to its urgings.
You'll never see the fear of God in their eyes,
- 2** For they flatter themselves—
convinced their acts will remain secret, undiscovered, and so
unhated.
- 3** They speak words of evil and deceit.
Wisdom and goodness, they deserted long ago.
- 4** Even as they sleep, they are plotting mischief.
They journey along a path far from anything good,
gravitating to trouble, welcoming evil.
- 5** Your love, O Eternal One, towers high into the heavens.
Even the skies are lower than Your faithfulness.
- 6** Your justice is like the majestic mountains.
Your judgments are as deep as the oceans, and yet in Your
greatness,
You, O Eternal, offer life for every person and living thing.
- 7** Your strong love, O True God, is precious.
All people run for shelter under the shadow of Your wings.
- 8** In Your house, they eat and are full at Your table.
They drink from the river of Your overflowing kindness.
- 9** You have the fountain of life that quenches our thirst.
Your light has opened our eyes and awakened our souls.
- 10** May Your love continue to grow deeply in the lives of all
who know You.
May Your salvation reach every heart committed to do right.

Prayer for the Month

Loving God, bring peace to our house and to all who live here.
Bless, O Lord, our household and family, and allow all of us who
live in this home to find in it a shelter of peace and health.
Inspire each of us to develop our individual talents and to
contribute wisdom and good works for the benefit of the whole
family.
Make our house a haven for us all, and a place of warmth and
caring for all our friends who come to visit us. Enlighten us with
the brilliance of your Epiphany star, so that, as we go into the
world, we might clearly see our way to You and discover You in
our work and play. This we ask to your glory and in the power
of your kingship. For yours is the kingdom and the power and
the glory now and forever, 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 **2 Corinthians 4.6-9**

- 6** God said, "Let light shine out of darkness." This is the same
God that has shone in our hearts to give the light of the
knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- 7** Therefore, we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be
made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and
does not come from us. **8** We are afflicted in every way, but not
crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; **9** persecuted,
but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

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 *An Irish Grace*

Bless, O Lord, this food we are about to eat; and we pray to
You, O God, that it may be good for our body and soul; and if
there be any poor creature hungry or thirsty walking along the
road, send them into us that we can share the food with
them, just as You share your gifts with all of us.

February 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
2 nd Tuesday night	6:30pm-8:00pm	4-H meeting
Most Wednesday nights	6:30pm-9:00pm	Boy Scouts
Thursday mornings	10:00am-11:30am	Hinesburg Friends of Families baby playgroup
1 st Thursday night	7:30pm-8:30pm	Cub Scout parents meeting
Most Fridays	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Sunday afternoons	2:00pm-5:00pm	Tiger Monkey Dragon theater/improv group
Wednesday, February 1 st	1:00pm-2:30pm	Knitting/Crocheting group gathering in the Parish Hall
Friday, February 3 rd	6:00pm-8:00pm	Sunday School Game Night
Sunday, February 5 th	8:30am	Christian Education Committee meeting
Friday, February 10 th	6:00pm-9:00pm	Parish Hall reserved for private party
Sunday, February 12 th	10:00am	Special Music Sunday featuring Jane Kittredge
Sunday, February 12 th	11:15am	Soup & Sandwich Coffee Hour
Sunday, February 12 th	11:30am	Annual Membership Meeting
Wednesday, February 15 th	1:00pm-2:30pm	Knitting/Crocheting group gathering in the Parish Hall
Sunday, February 19 th		Scout Sunday
Monday, February 20 th		Church office closed in observance of President's Day
Monday, February 20 th		March newsletter deadline
Thursday, February 23 rd	6:00-8:00pm	Youth Trip planning meeting
Friday, February 24 th	5:30pm-7:00pm	Open Table Diner free community meal
Sunday, February 26 th		One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School
Tuesday, February 28 th	5:30pm-7:00pm	Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner fundraiser for summer youth trip

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 offers communion during worship on the first Sunday of the month. We are looking for volunteers

to prepare Communion before worship on those Sundays or distribute the communion elements during the service. If you are interested, please contact Sandy White at 482-2629 or sbwhite@gmavt.net.



Do you **knit, crochet, embroider, cross-stitch, etc?** A group of needle crafters from our congregation has begun to gather a few times a month in the Parish Hall to work on our

projects together and enjoy some fellowship time. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 1:00-2:30pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome - including beginners. Bring a project you're currently working on or a project that's been gathering dust, make something for the Holiday Bazaar or join our prayer shawl ministry. We hope you can join us!

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

04	Laurie Danforth
07	Simon Hamilton
08	Betsy Patrick
10	Douglas Lantman
01	Dot Blanck
11	Suzy Mead
11	Kathy Riggs
12	Desmond Hong
13	Jonathan Trefry
14	<i>Eric & Melissa Loretan</i>
18	Sarah Hayes
19	Beth Sengle
20	Kelli Brown
20	Karen Farnsworth
21	Katie Ashe
21	Judith Burritt
24	Keith Roberts
24	Erin Walker

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



February 2017

February 5th

Greeter: Kate Schubart

Ushers: Kristi Kilbride & Sherrie Simmons

Reader: Sharonlee Trefry

February 12th

Greeter: Sue Barden

Ushers: Phil Pouech & Lia Cravedi

Reader: Yvonne Whitaker

February 19th

Greeters: Boy Scouts

Ushers: Boy Scouts

Reader: Boy Scouts

February 26th

Greeter: Sherrie Simmons

Ushers: TBD

Reader: Dianne Hall

February Coffee Hour Hosts —

Anne Donegan & Jean Isham – Co-Chairs;

Karen Farnsworth, Inez French, Joyce Menning

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!