

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

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



TO:

Pastor: Rev. Jared Hamilton
Pastor's Email: revjared@gmavt.net
Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am – 12pm
Office Contacts: 482-3352 / unitedchurch@gmavt.net / www.ucofh.org

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

Pastor's Message:

“Farewell to Carefree”

Four years ago I was accepted into a young clergy program run by the United Church of Christ's Pension Board called the **Next Generation Leadership Initiative** or NGLI. The aim of the program is to strengthen congregational ministry through a “leadership development initiative that equips, energizes, and empowers younger pastors to build vibrant congregations that change lives and further God's mission in the world.”

For the last four years, I have travelled in January to Carefree, Arizona for week-long intensive sessions that have focused on family systems, poetic ministry, leadership styles and this year's topic, “Leading Congregations to Faithful and Fruitful Ministry.” Dr. Ann Michel taught this year's class. She is the Associate Director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership based out of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

This wide-ranging class examined the “Evolving Context of Congregational Ministry” that takes into account new(er) dynamics facing local congregations around the country. These dynamics include changing life patterns, changing patterns in where people live, changes in young adulthood, a rise in non-traditional households, changing patterns in how people engage one another, changes in how people engage local churches, the erosion of the paradigm of membership in local institutions, and the changing perception of institutional religion in America. The question posed to the class is “How can churches be faithful and fruitful in this new day?”

During the week we talked at length about the many evolving entry points into church life, bridge events, alternative models for faith formation and membership, creative approaches to stewardship and clarifying church mission. There's a lot to unpack here but I'll try to sum this up in two sentences. *Generally speaking, folks today enter congregational life through non-Sunday morning worship experiences and stay if they've found affiliation, affirmation and connection with the core*

mission and vision of the church and how it is played out in community. Today folks (again generally) form their spiritual lives through relationships that are authentic, organic and consistent and are willing to support churches with their time, talent and resources if those faith communities build authentic relationships with others, including those outside the congregation.

These learnings are helpful as we consider our work at the United Church of Hinesburg. While much of this research is based on statistical analysis, and often, Vermont seems to buck statistical trends, I think we have seen more folks engaging through a host of venues and events other than Sunday morning programs. I think there's certainly something to say about having clarity about a faith community's mission and vision. And, I believe that our faith is obviously shaped by the faith of those we call friends, mentors, teachers and partners. A question for us is how can we use some of these insights to live more faithfully to our calling while continuing to build our impact here in town and the surrounding area?

I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to think through new and better ways of being church through the NGLI program. The fact that I have had to travel to Arizona in January is certainly a plus. And the opportunity to connect with other thoughtful clergy from around the country has been perhaps the most important aspect of this program. But now, this phase of the program is done and I will no longer be travelling to Arizona for week-long intensives. The NGLI program will continue to provide me with financial resources for the next six years so I can continue to develop and mature in my role as a parish minister. But I will miss those weeks in January where I can be refreshed right after the joys and challenges of the Advent season.

Likely, we've all lost something in our lives that provided moments of refreshment and renewed energy. And if we are fortunate, we've moved into something new that brings about a different type of spiritual nourishment, "food for the journey" so to speak. Regardless of where we are, my prayer is that we all have the opportunity to find refreshment for our souls, a very important practice for a turbulent world.

Blessings,

Pastor Jared



Missions & Social Justice Committee News

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

Twenty seventeen proved to be another busy year for missions at UCH. We continued providing monthly community meals aimed at fostering fellowship, community building and food without charge. Our goal of having many of these meals hosted by groups both within and beyond the church community has almost been realized.

Our Hearts for Hunger Fun Run & Walk reached a milestone in 2017, celebrating our fifth year! This UCH event has become well-established in the community, is viewed as a fun family event, and has even drawn participation from as far away as Montreal. We raised \$7,853 and 100% of the proceeds went to the Vermont Foodbank to support their childhood hunger program (the backpack program).

This year also marked our 3rd year of fundraising for sleeping bags for some of Vermont's most vulnerable adults, those who are chronically homeless. We set a goal to donate 20 military grade sleeping bags to Safe Harbor, and were able to double that to 41 thanks to your generosity.

Lastly, in terms of our mission towards social justice, our church community has hosted forums where people can gather to discuss the political environment and how that intersects with faith, social justice and environmental concerns. This year has taken its toll on human suffering with hurricanes, flooding and earthquakes. As always, global missions and ministry is part of our focus. It is our hope in 2018, to form a global church partnership with a church in Puerto Rico and The Hinesburg Youth Project will likely begin sowing the seeds for that with their June 2018 mission trip. We also hope to have more opportunities for faith, fun, and fellowship. Stay tuned.



The Missions & Social Justice Committee met for their annual retreat on Saturday, January 27th.

Membership Care Committee News

Membership Care Committee: Dianne Hall, Chair; Jamie Cudney, Grace Farley, Bonnie Farrow, Barbara Lyman, Anne Carter Mahaffey, Joyce Menning, Heather Roberts, Sherrie Simmons

Please welcome Sherrie Simmons as our new committee chair. It's time for a new leader with new ideas, and a fresh perspective. Blessedly, our church continues to grow! With this growth there are new needs for us to identify and explore. Our basic responsibility of taking care of our congregation, welcoming new members, and keeping track of who's who won't change.

We started off the year with a Soup and Sandwich luncheon after church on Sunday, January 14th. The next one will be on February 11th and the final one will be on March 11th. Hot soup and the warmth of friendship help to get us through these cold winter months. Enjoy this time of fellowship and remember...it's free! Thanks, Grace for keeping this tradition going!

The knitting/crocheting group that evolved from our discussions about visitation and providing the gift of prayer shawls meets two Wednesdays a month. We had a stockpile of prayer shawls from this group but not anymore! After the "Blessing of the Shawls" in December, the congregation became aware that they were available and they went like hot cakes. The knitters are hard at work again! If you want to join the group, please feel free to join us on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 12:30-2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Dates are always published in the weekly update on email and in the bulletin. If you need a prayer shawl for yourself or anyone else, please let Heather or Pastor Jared know. If you would like to help with this mission but are not free on Wednesday afternoons, please contact Heather in the church office and she can get you the necessary information and supplies.

If you would like to volunteer some time or talent on Sunday morning, please consider signing up for Coffee Hour. Contact Sandy White at sbwhite@gmavt.net or 482-2629. Time and talent (cooking comforting food) would also be welcomed by Judy Parker on the Funeral Reception committee.

Thanks to all who make this church the vibrant place that it is.



Thursday, February 8th at 6:00pm in Osborne Parish Hall

Please join us in watching former US Vice President Al Gore return to the big screen with "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power," a new film that generates momentum in the Climate Reality movement.

This film comes a little more than a decade after "An Inconvenient Truth," which launched a global movement and inspired thousands to join Vice President Gore in his mission to spread the word about the climate crisis and its solutions. "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power" tells us that NOW is the time for all of us to fight like our world depends on it.

A short discussion will follow the film, led by Brian Maier and Jake Elliot from SunCommon, on how we can make a difference locally. This event is hosted by the United Church of Hinesburg and SunCommon.

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

Sunday School resumed on Sunday, January 7th. After focusing on the themes of Pastor Jared's "Be the Church" sermon series during the fall, we have returned to our *Faith Practices* curriculum to explore the topic of "Encountering Scripture" in January and February. If you are interested in leading a classroom during the winter/spring, please contact Heather in the church office for available dates.

We will be holding our monthly **Sunday School game night** in the Parish Hall on Friday, February 2nd from 6:00-8:00pm. We will share a dinner of homemade pizza and then play trivia games. This is open to all Sunday School children and their friends. We will be building teams comprised of older and younger kids and our questions will explore a variety of topics that kids of all ages may know. Make sure to bring your thinking caps! If you are interested in helping to chaperone this event, please contact Heather.

We will hold a **One Room Schoolhouse** Sunday School on Sunday, February 25th. If you have an idea for a mission project we could complete that day or are interested in helping to implement the project, please contact Heather in the church office.

Our last One Room Schoolhouse on Sunday, January 14th, was a great success. A hard-working group of Sunday School participants bundled up, grabbed snow shovels and offered our services in town clearing sidewalks after the big snow and ice storm the prior day. It was hard work but we managed to clear the sidewalks at two private homes and at the Hinesburg Nursery School. The kids definitely earned the soup & sandwiches waiting for us at coffee hour that week!

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.ucofh.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.

For the Youth

Last fall we realized that our youth program had grown to the point that it had to be split into a middle school and high school program. Our middle school group (kiddos currently in grades 5-7) met from 5:00pm to 6:30pm on Sunday nights and our high school kids met on the same evening from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. The two groups shared an overlapping dinner that provided for more interaction between the age groups.

Our youth program will start back up for a seven-week series beginning February 11th with a similar format. Our first meeting will be a middle school youth trip planning meeting for 5th-7th grade kids and their parents. After that, our middle school group will continue to explore the basics of Christian faith through a popular curriculum called *re:form*.

The high school group will meet from 6:00pm to 7:30pm every Sunday evening beginning on February 11th and will begin preparing for the summer trip to Puerto Rico by learning more about the island, the devastation caused by the Hurricanes Irma and Maria and the response.

The two groups will share a meal from 6:00pm to 6:30 pm and will also work together and play together during combined service and recreational events.

We will deviate from our regular schedule on February 25th. In lieu of our regular group meetings, both groups will go to **Petra Cliffs** for a few hours of fun climbing and bouldering. We will leave from the church parking lot at 3:30pm. A waiver will be sent out prior to the event that must be completed to participate. Dinner will be provided. Please bring \$12 to cover the cost of the event and dinner.

Along with our youth programming, the high school youth trip participants will be hosting two events: **Music and More will be held at NRG Saturday, February 3rd from 6pm to 8pm**. This event will showcase our very talented youth and will feature dinner and fun for all ages. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

On February 13th, the high school youth trip participants will sponsor our third annual **Fat Tuesday Dinner from 5:30pm to 7:00pm**. A centuries-old tradition, this meal on the last day before the season of Lent will feature pancakes, quiche, sausages and Mardi Gras activities for young people. All are welcome and donations support the summer trip.

Pastor Jared will be leading both groups. If you have questions about the differences between the groups, would like to volunteer or want to explore the best group for your child, please contact Jared at revjared@gmavt.net.

February 2018 Youth Schedule

February 11 th :	5:00pm – 6:30pm Middle School Youth Trip planning meeting – youth & parents
	6:00pm – 7:30pm High School Youth Group
February 18 th :	5:00pm – 6:30pm Middle School Youth Group
	6:00pm – 7:30pm High School Youth Group
February 25 th :	3:30pm – 7:00pm Petra Cliffs event for both groups with dinner

Music & More

Tickets @
The door!

An evening featuring
talented youth and families
performing music, theater
And storytelling.

At NRG Saturday, Feb 3rd
@ 6:00pm

All proceeds benefit the 2018
HYP youth trip to Puerto Rico



Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, February 13th -
5:30pm to 7:00pm



Donations Support the 2018
youth Trip to Puerto Rico

February 2018 Happenings at UCH

{All meetings/events are held in Osborne Parish House unless otherwise noted.}

2 nd Monday	8:00am-3:00pm	WIC
Monday nights	5:00pm-9:30pm	Parish House reserved by private group
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
Friday, February 2 nd	6:00pm-8:00pm	Sunday School Game Night – trivia
Saturday, February 3 rd	6:00pm	Music & More youth talent show @ NRG (to benefit HYP trip)
Sunday, February 4 th	8:30am	Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting
Wednesday, February 7 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Thursday, February 8 th	6:00pm-8:00pm	SunCommon screening of “An Inconvenient Sequel...” at UCH
Sunday, February 11 th		Scout Sunday
Sunday, February 11 th	11:15am	Soup & Sandwich Coffee Hour; Missions baked bean sale
Sunday, February 11 th	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Trip planning meeting (dinner included)
Sunday, February 11 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group (dinner included)
Tuesday, February 13 th	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Tuesday, February 13 th	5:30pm-7:00pm	Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner fundraiser for HYP trip
Wednesday, February 14 th	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes
Thursday, February 15 th	3:00pm-4:15pm	Lenten Bible Study
Sunday, February 18 th	11:15am	Annual Meeting during coffee hour
Sunday, February 18 th	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group (dinner included)
Sunday, February 18 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group (dinner included)
Wednesday, February 21 st	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Thursday, February 22 nd	3:00pm-4:15pm	Lenten Bible Study
Friday, February 23 rd		March newsletter deadline
Friday, February 23 rd	5:30-7:00pm	Open Table Diner free community meal
Saturday, February 24 th	11:00am	Helen Devoid funeral
Sunday, February 25 th	8:30am	Missions & Social Justice Committee meeting
Sunday, February 25 th		Jazz Sunday featuring Andrea Haulenbeek & George Voland
Sunday, February 25 th		One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School (mission project)
Sunday, February 25 th	5:00pm-8:00pm	Joint Youth Group outing to Petra Cliffs

Annual Membership Meeting February 18, 2018

Our annual United Church membership meeting will be held on February 18, 2018 after our worship service. 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 2017 accomplishments, what we are envisioning for 2018 and beyond, and to ask questions. Come and be involved in decisions that will help to shape our future.

Copies of the annual report will be available after church on Sunday, February 11th. Please contact the church office if you have questions. Hope to see you at the meeting!

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

04	Laurie Danforth
07	Simon Hamilton
08	Betsy Patrick
10	Douglas Lantman
11	Dot Blanck
11	Suzy Mead
11	Kathy Riggs
12	Sara Hawkins
12	Desi Hong
12	Connor Sterrett
13	Jonathan Trefry
14	<i>Jaime & Grace Ciffo</i>
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	Erin Walker
24	Keith Roberts
25	Josephine Reilly

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



February 2018

February 4th

Greeters: The Cudney family

Ushers: Matt & Amy Sayre

Reader: Judy Parker

February 11th

Greeters: The Ciffo family

Ushers: Kristi Kilbride & Sherrie Simmons

Reader: Yvonne Whitaker

February 18th

Greeter: Marilyn Utter

Ushers: Ellen Phelps & Kate Schubart

Reader: TBD

February 25th

Greeters: The Ciffo family

Ushers: Barbara & Bob Forauer

Reader: Karen Farnsworth

February Coffee Hour Hosts —

Co-Chairs – Anne Donegan & Jean Isham;

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.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!