

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

FEBRUARY 2019 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:

Blessed are the Organized

“Organizing is what you do before you do something, so that when you do it, it is not all mixed up.”

-A.A. Milne (1882-1956)

“But all things should be done decently and in order.”

- Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 14:40

We all know that organization is an important part of our lives. It's a positive trait, mystical to some, natural (so it seems) to others. There are parts of our lives that are more organized than others and we all feel anxiety creep in when we aren't organized enough in some areas.

Being unorganized can also have consequences. Here are some statistics:

- According to the *National Association of Professional Organizers*, the average person spends 8,700 hours over a lifetime looking for lost or misplaced things.
- *Harris Interactive* reports that 23 percent of adults admit to paying bills late (along with late fees) because they lose them. *The Wall Street Journal* reports that Americans pay over \$10 Billion dollars in credit card late fees per year alone.
- *The National Soap and Detergent Association* reports that getting rid of clutter can eliminate 40 percent of housework in the average home. According to the NAPO, 80 percent of the items we keep are never used.

In his 2012 book *Philanthropy in America*, Olivier Zunz describes the seismic changes that took place in not-for-profit institutions in the early twentieth century. Moving away from charity models that addressed meeting the immediate

basic needs of the downtrodden, wealthy individuals, academics, local governments, and progressive religious institutions worked together to unravel the various root-cause issues related to poverty, disease and inequality. Hospitals were built and medical research was funded. New, secular universities sprang up along with theater companies, symphony orchestras, and public libraries. The Social Gospel Movement influenced many North American Protestant churches, who, in turn, started to participate in their local communities to combat issues of alcoholism, crime, racial tensions, and child labor through education, support groups, mediations, and advocacy.

One of the primary motivators for these changes, argues Zunz, was the influx of “organizational wizardry” to the not-for-profit sector by the founders and owners of industry. These wealthy individuals donated large fortunes to worthy causes and expected their money to be spent well. So, they worked with these early not-for-profits to develop systems, set goals and improve service. Charities, higher education institutions, hospitals, and churches “got organized” to meet the needs of a dramatically changing world.

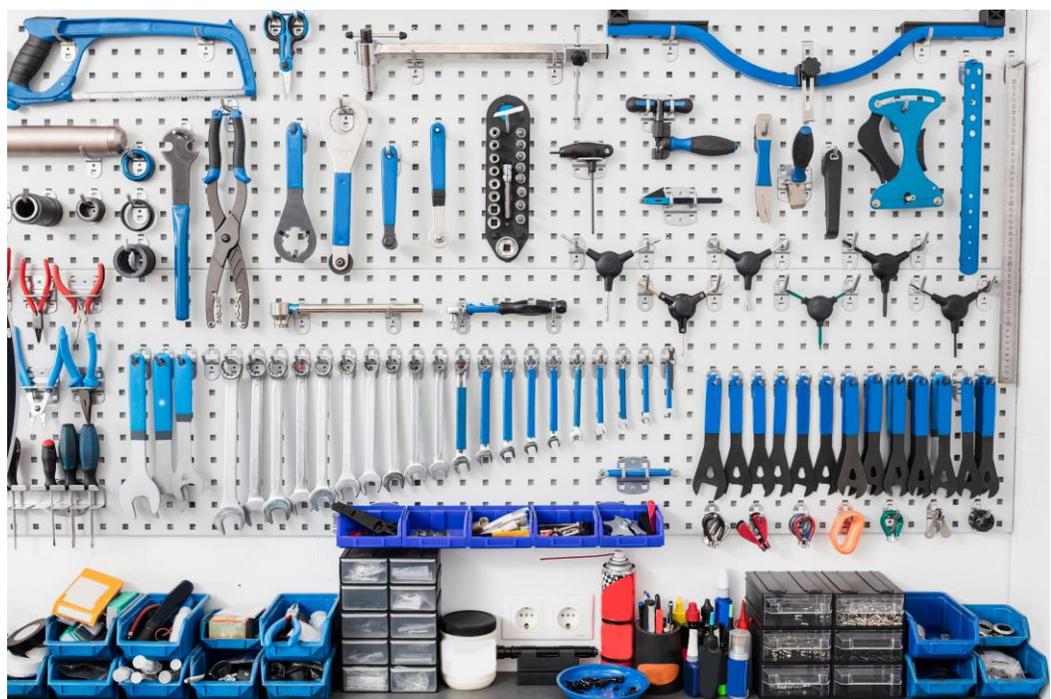
When Paul writes, “But all things should be done decently and in order”, he is addressing a Corinthian community that was having difficulty meeting together. When they gathered, some sang, while others spoke, prophesied or spoke in other languages. More than anything, folks left these gatherings more confused and not “built up.” Like today, folks in this ancient faith community found disorder unsettling.

Striving for greater organization is a clear theme in the 2019 Congregational Goals that were approved at the January Church Council meeting. Along with planning for this year’s centennial, the council proposed: 1) that we streamline our church governance structure to fit the work we are doing today and, 2) that we develop manuals and procedures for all standard church processes and work. Granted, this isn’t as stirring as taking a youth group to Puerto Rico or beginning a new worship or mission project. It’s more like housekeeping. But, it’s an important and necessary part of organizational self-care. And some of this work has already begun.

So, in the next few months we will call on those among us who are fluent in “organizational wizardry” to help us attain these goals. Of course, if this work appeals to you, don’t wait to be called on. Give the office a call or send us an email and we will connect you to good work.

Blessings,

Pastor Jared



Annual Membership Meeting February 10, 2019

Our annual United Church membership meeting will be held on February 10, 2019 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 2018 accomplishments, what we are envisioning for 2019 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 in the church office beginning Wednesday, February 6th.

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

January recap:

- We began a new unit in our *Faith Practices* curriculum, **Keeping Sabbath**, learning about how we can take time to “rest” as God did on the seventh day of the creation story. This includes both inward (prayer, solitude, meditation, etc.) and outward (ritual, acts of justice, etc.) means of integrating the Divine with humanity. Thank you to Betsy Patrick and Leah Hamilton for leading our classrooms during the month of January!
- We had a good turnout for our **Sunday School Movie Night** on Friday, January 4th. We shared a dinner of spaghetti, garlic bread and salad and then watched *Incredibles 2* on the TV in the back classroom. It was a cozy spot for the kids to snuggle into their beanbag chairs, blankets and pillows and enjoy some popcorn, juice boxes and a popular movie.
- Due to the cancellation of church on Sunday, January 20th, we did not hold our One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School where we intended to make more curried lentil **soup mix for the Little Free Pantry**. The supplies are all ready to go in the church office and we will find a time for the kids to complete this project during the month of February.

Also in February, we will continue our Keeping Sabbath lessons in our **Sunday School** classes on February 3rd, February 10th and February 17th. On February 24th, at the beginning of February school break, we will hold a One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School.

Our next Friday Night Sunday School event will be a break from our usual movie and game nights. On Friday, February 1st, we will gather from 6:00-7:30pm (note the slightly shorter time), welcoming Ashley Williams-Wenschhof to lead a **yoga class** for our kids. We will do our yoga first and then share a dinner of pizza, salad and dessert. This is a friend-friendly event so feel free to bring others along. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat or beach towel if you have one. Please RSVP so we know how many pizzas to make!

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

For the Youth

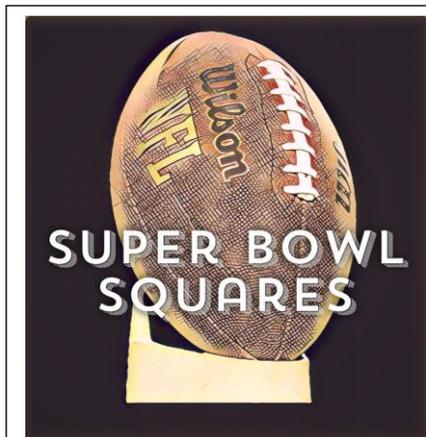
Middle and high school youth groups at the United Church of Hinesburg resume on Sunday, February 10th. We will meet for four weeks with the middle school meeting from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and the high school meeting from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. There will be an overlapping meal from 6:00pm to 6:30pm for everyone. If you are able, please bring \$5 to help cover the cost of the meal.

The middle school youth will continue to make delicious meals this session as we focus on *Food and Faith*. During our time together we will explore what faith and food tell us about our family roots, refugees, the environment and gratitude. On March 3rd, we will announce the middle school summer trip for 2019.

The high school group will begin this session by talking about our 2019 summer trip. It is important that HS youth attend the first gathering on February 10th to discuss the youth trip to H.O.M.E. Inc. in Orland, ME. Parents are welcome to attend if they wish as well as this meeting will discuss all the details of the trip. At the final three gatherings we will explore Jesus' reflections on poverty before wrapping up with an overview of how different world religions approach poverty on March 3rd.

We need at least two parents to help out with each group each week. Please contact Pastor Jared if you're able to help on February 10th. The Signup sheet will be available at the first meeting for parent helpers to sign up for subsequent meetings. We will also have registration forms available for all participants for the 2019 calendar year.

February Fundraisers



Whether or not you are a football fan, you can still have fun watching the Super Bowl this Sunday. Buy a Super Bowl Square from HYP! For \$10, you can purchase one square in our 10x10 grid. The numbers 0-9 are then assigned to the columns and rows at random, giving two numbers to each individual cell. One axis represents the last digit of the Ram's score and the other represents the last digit of the Patriot's score. Whoever has the correct digits of the score at the end of each quarter wins - \$100 at the end of each of the first 3 quarters and \$200 at the end of the game. If you're interested in purchasing a square, please email or call the church office by Saturday, February 2nd at 5pm.

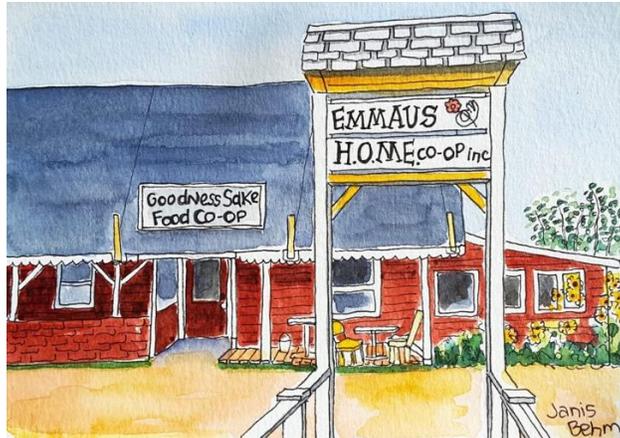


Individuals, families and children accompanied by an adult are invited to celebrate Valentine's Day by decorating beautiful sugar cookies! We'll have 4 pre-made cookies available per person and all of the decorating supplies plus some take home packaging - or feel free to bring your own container to transport your masterpieces! A suggested donation of \$10.00 per person or \$20.00 per family will benefit the Hinesburg Youth Project's trip to Orland, ME in June. Please RSVP at:

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

or to the church office at 482-3352 or unitedchurch@gmavt.net to reserve your spot!

2019 HYP High School Youth Trip



Full Information Session Sunday, February 10th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Every summer, high school youth from Hinesburg travel for a week of service, education and fun. In previous years, this group has explored food insecurity in New York City, social justice issues in Boston, Massachusetts and disaster cleanup in Puerto Rico. This June the Hinesburg Youth Project high school group will travel to H.O.M.E. Inc in Orland, Maine to explore rural poverty.

H.O.M.E. Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping and enhancing the quality of life for low-income and homeless families. Through services, stewardship of resources, and shared responsibility, they aim to bring forth new possibilities for food, jobs, shelter, low-income housing, education, and self-sufficiency.

H.O.M.E. is the primary resource in Orland that provides assistance with basic needs like food, shelter, daycare, job training and other poverty alleviation services. Youth will have a variety of volunteer opportunities on this trip ranging from building and repair, grounds keeping, cooking and serving, daycare supervision, gardening and office work.

Youth will also have time for fun, swimming at Craig Pond after the work day and spending a day white water rafting the lower Penobscot River.

Why Rural Poverty?

When we imagine places of poverty, homelessness, food insecurity and job insecurity, we often picture large cities. Poverty is more prevalent, however, in rural areas of the United States. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, nearly a quarter of children growing up in rural America live below the poverty line. In rural areas of the US, there are still fewer jobs than there were in the pre-recession (2008) years. Disability is more prevalent in rural counties than their urban counterparts, and those living with poverty, job insecurity and disability have less access to resources and services than those living in urban areas. All of this promotes chronic poverty over decades and generations. This is a pressing issue in the United States, one that requires our attention, understanding and support. By travelling to an area that is working directly with this issue, we hope that young people from Hinesburg will better understand rural poverty in our community and inspire others to support poverty alleviation work here in Chittenden County.

The trip will take place Sunday, June 16th to Sunday, June 23rd and is open to all high school students from Hinesburg. An Information Session will be held Sunday, February 10th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the United Church of Hinesburg Parish Hall.

Vision Facilitation Team News

Our Visioning Process is Underway!

On Sunday, January 13th, members of the Vision Facilitation Team* gathered for a late afternoon/early evening kick-off to the first phase of our six-month journey to seek a renewed mission and vision for our church. Carla Wuthrich, a member of our church with professional experience in strategic development whom we have engaged to facilitate our work, led the team as we shared ideas and perspectives about where we are now and who God is calling us to be. We were fortunate to have Amy Sayre and Meg Little Reilly join us for this discussion. The next step in our journey is to gather views and perceptions from the broader church community. To that end, two surveys have been published - one electronic (available at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqfBWVCcf468PJijEzmmcBFiCu64aYObQV1yTnr59TDXt-Kw/viewform?usp=sf_link) and one paper (available in the Sunday bulletin this week), and informal interviews/personal discussions are being planned. A renewed vision is very important work for our church and will help us to remain vital, provide clarity, and focus our ministry and outreach in ways that will make the most impact. We encourage everyone to participate as fully as possible.

*Pastor Jared, Marie Eddy, David Eddy, Barbara Herrington, Heather Roberts, Kate Schubart, Wayne Schwab, Mary Eddy Stewart, Yvonne Whitaker

Welcome Sammy Angstman

We are happy to announce that Sammy Angstman will be joining us as the United Church of Hinesburg's regular organist beginning this week.



Sammy is a pianist and teacher who grew up in Williston. She started taking piano lessons when she was seven, eventually studying classical piano with Paul Orgel and jazz piano with Tom Cleary in middle and high school. After graduating from CVU in 2009, she attended New England Conservatory and earned her Bachelor of Music degree in classical piano performance in 2013, followed by a Master's degree from Stony Brook University in 2015. Now, Sammy is working towards her doctorate in piano performance at Stony Brook, where she studies with Gilbert Kalish and Christina Dahl. She is especially interested in 20th-century American piano music, particularly music by women composers such as Ruth Crawford Seeger, Vivian Fine, and Louise Talma.

Sammy is very happy to have recently moved back to VT to start a piano studio, work on her dissertation recital, and collaborate with other local musicians! She is based in Williston and welcomes piano students of all ages and levels of experience. Recordings and videos of some of Sammy's performances can be found on her website, www.sammyangstman.com.

February 2019 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	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 st)	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Friday, February 1 st	6:00pm-7:30pm	Sunday School event – yoga with Ashley Williams-Wenschhof
Sunday, February 3 rd		Super Bowl Sunday – no youth group meetings
Wednesday, February 6 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Saturday, February 9 th	1:00pm-3:00pm	Valentine's Cookie Decorating fundraiser
Sunday, February 10 th	10:00am	Scout Sunday
Sunday, February 10 th	11:15am	Annual Meeting of the United Church of Hinesburg
Sunday, February 10 th	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group meeting
Sunday, February 10 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group meeting – 2019 trip planning
Saturday, February 16 th	9:00am-12:00pm	Missions & Social Justice Committee retreat – Meaghan's house
Sunday, February 17 th	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group meeting
Sunday, February 17 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group meeting
Wednesday, February 20 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Friday, February 22 nd	5:30pm-7:00pm	Open Table Diner free community meal hosted by Missions
Friday, February 22 nd		March newsletter deadline
Sunday, February 24 th		One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School
Sunday, February 24 th	2:00pm-4:00pm	Boy Scout Eagle ceremony
Sunday, February 24 th	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group meeting
Sunday, February 24 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group meeting

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.



We are always looking for **photos or videos** of church events (including worship services, Sunday School/youth events, fellowship gatherings and other community events taking place at the church) to share in the newsletter, on the church website and on Facebook. If you like to take photographs with your camera or phone, we would welcome your help in documenting all the exciting things that are happening at our church. If you have already taken pictures that you think would be a good addition to the church records, we would welcome those as well. Please contact Heather in the church office to find out how/where to send them.

Do these look familiar?



They were found on south side of the balcony at the 5pm Christmas Eve service. Please contact the church office if they belong to you.

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	Desmond Hong
12	Connor Sterrett
13	Jonathan Trefry
14	<i>Grace & Jaime Ciffo</i>
14	<i>Eric & Melissa Loretan</i>
18	Sarah Hayes
19	Beth Sengle
20	Kelli Brown
20	Karen Farnsworth
21	Katherine Ashe
21	Judith Burritt
24	Keith Roberts
24	Erin Walker
25	Josephine Reilly

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



February 2019

February 3rd

Greeters: Carrie & Allison Huestis

Ushers: Sherrie Simmons & Kristi Kilbride

Reader: Marie Eddy

February 10th

Greeter: Kristi Johnson

Ushers: Melissa Loretan & Grace Farley

Readers: Thea Gaudette

February 17th

Greeter: Cathy Foutz

Ushers: Sherrie Simmons & Kristi Kilbride

Reader: Betsy Patrick

February 24th

Greeters: Sandy & Reggie Robinson

Ushers: Grace Ciffo & Sandy Milbank

Reader: Barbara Herrington

*Coffee Hour: Anne Donegan & Jean Isham – Co-
chairs; Karen Farnsworth, Inez French, Meg
Reilly, Kate Schubart*

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!