

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

JANUARY 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:

"Bearing Fruit"

*Happy are those... who delight in the law of the LORD
and meditate on God's wisdom day and night.
They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
that yield their fruit in due season,
and their leaves do not wither.
They prosper in all they do.*

Psalm 1:1-3 (adapted)

2018 marks the ninety-ninth year of the United Church of Hinesburg's presence in Hinesburg, Vermont. Previously, three Protestant churches had served this community but when industry changed and jobs moved away, the town of Hinesburg dwindled in population. These three churches faced a difficult reality. They were dying. Instead of closing their doors, however, they decided to work together, finding it "desirable to have one strong Protestant church in Hinesburg which shall serve the entire community and shall consider all Protestants as part of its parish" (words taken from the original contract). Three churches became one diverse congregation that met together, worked together and prayed together.

For ninety-nine years the United Church of Hinesburg has provided a place of worship, service and support to those in south Chittenden County. Folks have worshiped in word, music and sacrament in its sanctuary and between its solar panels. The church was instrumental in launching the Hinesburg Food Shelf, was a founding member of Shelburne, Charlotte, Hinesburg Interfaith Project (SCHIP) and the Hearts for Hunger 5k for the Vermont Foodbank. Its Parish Hall has served as the home

for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, an after school tutoring program, the Gratitude Group (AA), 4H, and a weekly Senior Meals program.

For ninety-nine years the good folks of the United Church of Hinesburg have shaped the local landscape. Its many members have served at town hall, on the town Select Board and other town boards and committees. Its many members have been local business leaders, lawyers, teachers, farmers, nurses, doctors, and public service officers. Its many members have included judges and social workers, international development coordinators and state representatives.

In the book *Bearing Fruit*, authors Lovett Weems and Tom Berlin note that when a local church sees itself “as a vineyard whose fruit was planted to enrich the community, they will bless others as a way of life.” For ninety-nine years, the United Church of Hinesburg has been a vineyard for the town of Hinesburg and the surrounding area, providing basic needs, meeting spiritual needs and enriching the community through its people and resources.

Weems and Berlin ask congregations to examine why they go about the work they do. This question of clarity and identity is an important one. And it’s one that folks at the United Church of Hinesburg have been asking periodically for ninety-nine years. So, to ask the question again is continuing the work of those who have gone before us.

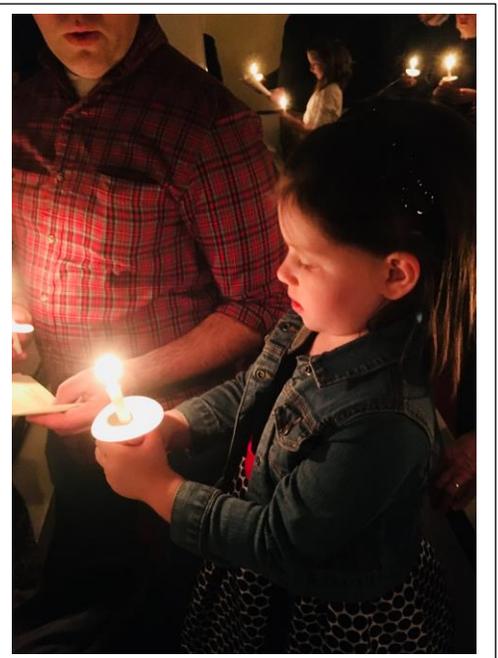
The Visioning Team will continue to ramp up in 2018, but I suggest that this question and other questions like it are for all of us. Why do you do what you do at UCH? Why have you chosen this place as your faith community? Why do you give your time, talents and resources to make what happens at UCH possible?

My prayer is that in asking these questions, we prepare ourselves for another ninety-nine years of bearing fruit in this little corner of God’s beautiful creation.

Blessings,

Pastor Jared

The Christmas season at UCH



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

Happy New Year! We had a busy start to December with rehearsals and then the performance of our annual **Christmas pageant** during the Sunday service on December 10th. Thank you to all participants for their hard work and to all parent volunteers for helping to make this traditional telling of the story of Jesus' birth so enjoyable for all. I have not received any pictures of the performance yet but hope to share some in next month's newsletter.



We will be holding our monthly **Sunday School movie night** in the Parish Hall on Friday, January 5th from 6:00-8:00pm. We will share a dinner of macaroni and cheese and a fresh vegetable platter and then watch *Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie* on the big screen. Please RSVP at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-sunday8 so we know how much food to prepare. We will provide popcorn and beverages but kids should bring a bean bag chair, blanket, pillow, sleeping bag, etc. to watch the movie in comfort. Venture out for a little fun before the deep cold and cabin fever take hold over the weekend!

Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 7th. After focusing on the themes of Pastor Jared's "Be the Church" sermon series during the fall, we will be returning to our *Faith Practices* curriculum to explore the topics of "Encountering Scripture" and "Experiencing Beauty" this winter/spring. If you are interested in leading a classroom during this session, please contact Heather in the church office for available dates.

We will hold a **One Room Schoolhouse** Sunday School on Sunday, January 14th (Martin Luther King weekend). 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.

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.

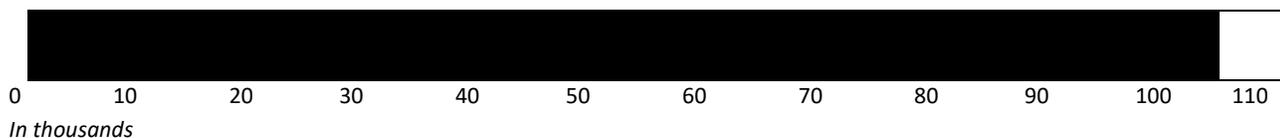
Finance Committee News

Finance Committee: Yvonne Whitaker (Treasurer), Sandy Milbank (Financial Secretary), JP Hong, Phil Pouech, Keith Roberts, Mary Eddy Stewart

Financial Update

Our 2017 budget included an offering goal of \$107,000. While we fell a little short of that goal, we celebrate the generosity of our congregation that makes our church's ministry and mission possible. A full 2017 Treasurer's Report and 2018 budget will be presented at the February Annual Meeting.

Plate offering received as of **December 31, 2017** (\$104,030 **97%** of offering budget)



Yvonne Whitaker, Treasurer

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.

January 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
Wednesday, January 3 rd	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Friday, January 5 th	6:00pm-8:00pm	Sunday School Movie Night – <i>Captain Underpants</i>
Saturday, January 6 th	9:00am-11:00am	Cub Scout derby car workshop
Saturday, January 6 th	12:00pm-6:30pm	Parish Hall reserved by private group
Sunday, January 7 th	11:15am	Visioning Team meeting
Tuesday, January 9 th	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Tuesday, January 9 th	1:30pm-2:30pm	Disciplines study group
Sunday, January 14 th		One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School (mission project)
Sunday, January 14 th	11:15am	Soup & Sandwich Coffee Hour
Tuesday, January 16 th	1:30pm-2:30pm	Disciplines study group
Wednesday, January 17 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Friday, January 19 th	6:30pm-8:30pm	Girl Scout movie night
Sunday, January 21 st	11:15am	Church Council meeting
Monday, January 22 nd		February newsletter deadline
Tuesday, January 23 rd	1:30pm-2:30pm	Disciplines study group
Tuesday, January 30 th	1:30pm-2:30pm	Disciplines study group



Reinventing Small Town Transportation
A Program of the
Hinesburg Community Resource Center

Hinesburg Rides is in need of additional volunteer drivers. You do not have to commit to a specific number of rides or certain days. SSTA will send an email and, if it is a ride you can or want to do, you

respond to them. Primarily rides are for medical appointments. Some are Hinesburg, Kennedy Drive area, hospital and various others including local grocery shopping. For more information and to become part of Hinesburg Rides volunteers, visit <http://www.hinesburgrides.org/> or contact Karla Munson directly at karlamunson@hinesburgrides.org.

Our church Annual Meeting will be held after church on **Sunday, February 18th**. 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.

Committee chairs should have their written reports to Heather in the church office by **January 31st** so she will have time to compile and distribute the annual report in advance of the meeting.



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. Please contact Heather in the church office to find out how/where to send them.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

01	Paul Eddy
01	Jack Milbank
04	Sheri Hanlon
04	Tod Whitaker
07	Adeline Baker
07	Theron Main
07	Stephen Sprague
11	Sally Mead
11	Judy Parker
14	Kate Sayre
15	Brittany Beaudry
15	Leonard Ducharme
19	Charles Utter
21	Carrie Huestis
21	Evan Mead
24	Sarah Johnson
26	Allison Huestis
31	Howard Russell
31	Sara Eddy Stewart

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



January 2018

January 7th

Greeter: Ellen Phelps

Ushers: Mary Eddy Stewart & Kate Schubart

Reader: Judy Parker

January 14th

Greeters: Carrie & Allison Heustis

Ushers: Sandy Milbank & Anne Castle

Reader: Renate Parke

January 21st

Greeters: Reggie & Sandy Robinson

Ushers: TBD

Reader: Dianne Hall

January 28th

Greeters: Ashe family

Ushers: Phil Pouech & Lia Cravedi

Reader: Mary Eddy Stewart

January Coffee Hour Hosts —

Co-Chairs – Heather Roberts & Jen Lian;

Jamie Cudney, Barbara & Bob Forauer, Betsy

Patrick, Tim & Kathy Riggs

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!