

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

JANUARY 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:

A Church with a History

Through all this I remembered one thing, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning because God's faithfulness is great. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in my God." The Lord is good to those who wait patiently, to the soul who seeks God almighty. – Lamentations 3:21-26

2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the merger of three Hinesburg churches with historic ties to three different Christian denominations. Here's the United Church of Hinesburg's origin story:

Hinesburg was settled in the late 1780's by a group of families from Connecticut. They were drawn to the area by the fertile ground, hardwood forests and streams that were suitable for building mills. The leader of this original group was Abel Hine, the namesake of our town.

The settlement grew quickly by Vermont standards and, after a visit by the original group's pastor from Connecticut, the Congregational Church was formed on May 20th, 1789 with twelve members.

By 1800, the population of Hinesburg had grown to 933 and the settlement included a sawmill, small grist mill, textiles, earthenware production and now two churches with the Episcopal Methodist Church gathering in 1799.

On May 10, 1810, the Baptist Church was organized, and during that summer the first meeting house was built in town. The three congregations collaborated to pay for and build the meeting house and it served as the house of worship for the Methodist, Baptists and Congregational churches for over a decade.



The Methodist Church



The Congregational Church



The Baptist Church

The early nineteenth century was characterized by a number of regional and national religious revivals and heightened religious fervor. By the mid 1820's all three congregations were outgrowing the space. The Baptists and Methodists built their own churches, and moved out. In 1839, the original building, now owned by the Congregational Church, was replaced with a brick building.

Some records from life at the Congregational Church were compiled by Leonard E. Carpenter in 1961:

At times, for the support of the church, members pledged themselves to pay cash, and donate livestock, grain and dairy products.

The church music was mostly by the choir. There were a few hymn books, without tunes. At times some of the congregation would sing, but it was not common.

There were three services on Sunday; the morning service at half-past ten; in the afternoon at one, and the Sunday night prayer meeting at 'early candle lighting.'

By the 1860 census, the population of Hinesburg was 1,702 and the three churches were well established. According to Erastus Bostwick's *1861 History & Tales of Hinesburgh, Vermont*, the Methodist Church had 118 members, the Congregational Church had 132 members and the Baptist Church approximately 75.

But for the next sixty years, the population of the town of Hinesburg would decline sharply. The American Civil War, western expansion, new railroad lines in neighboring towns and the decline of textiles all impacted Hinesburg's farming and industry base. By 1910, the population of Hinesburg had fallen to 1,042. All three churches struggled keep their doors open.

So, the three churches began to meet together in 1915 and in 1919, these three churches officially merged, "in view of the desirability of having 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).

Early on, the congregation worshipped at the Methodist Church located on the land that is now Memorial Park. The church burned down in the 1930's and the congregation began meeting in the Baptist Church, UCH's current home.

For most of UCH's history, the church has been served by Methodist Pastors. The Sanctuary was remodeled with New stained glass windows during the long pastorate of Rev. James Osborne in the 1960's. During his tenure, the Parish House was also built. In subsequent decades, the Parish House would see the addition of a kitchen and classrooms.

In the mid-2000's, the church went through the process of becoming an Open and Affirming church in the United Church of Christ, a Reconciling Church in the United Methodist Denomination and a Welcoming and Affirming Church in the American

Baptist tradition. This designation reflected the congregation's desire to welcome all people into the full life of the church without discrimination. Since then, the church has been served by pastors from the United Church of Christ.

This, of course, is only a sketch of the rich history that makes the United Church of Hinesburg what it is today. Throughout 2019 we will spend time looking over our records to search out stories of church life over the last one hundred years. We hope that we will be able to tell a little more of the story each month in the Newsletter, focusing more on the people that called UCH their faith community.

If digging through local history sounds interesting and you would like join the small group of amateur historians or if you are interested in working on a 100-year celebration event, contact the church office this January at 802-482-3352.

Blessings,

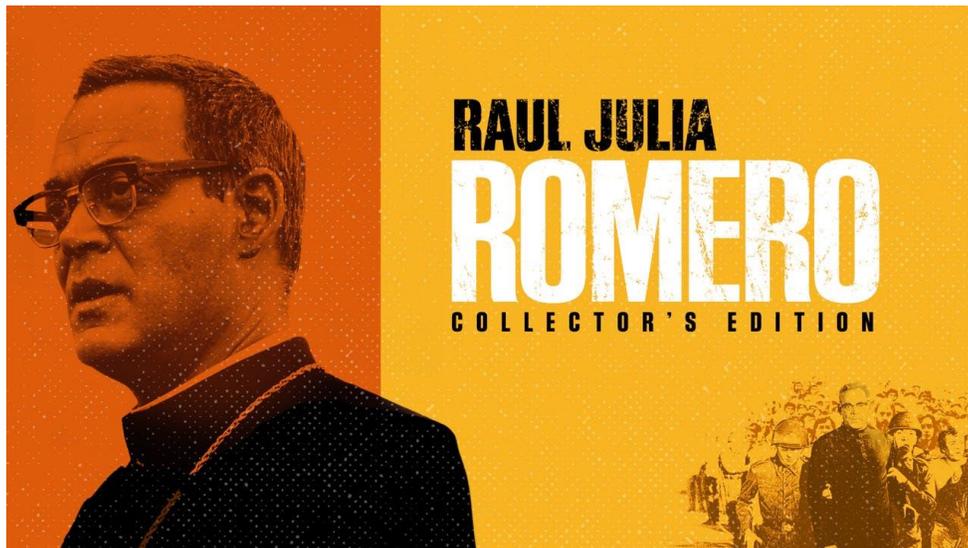
Pastor Jared

Spiritual Formation Committee News

Spiritual Formation Committee: Rev. A. Wayne Schwab, Chair; Sue Barden, Anne Carter Mahaffey, Danielle Pezzimenti, David Sterrett

UCH "Films During the Frost" Series

Romero—1989—102 minutes



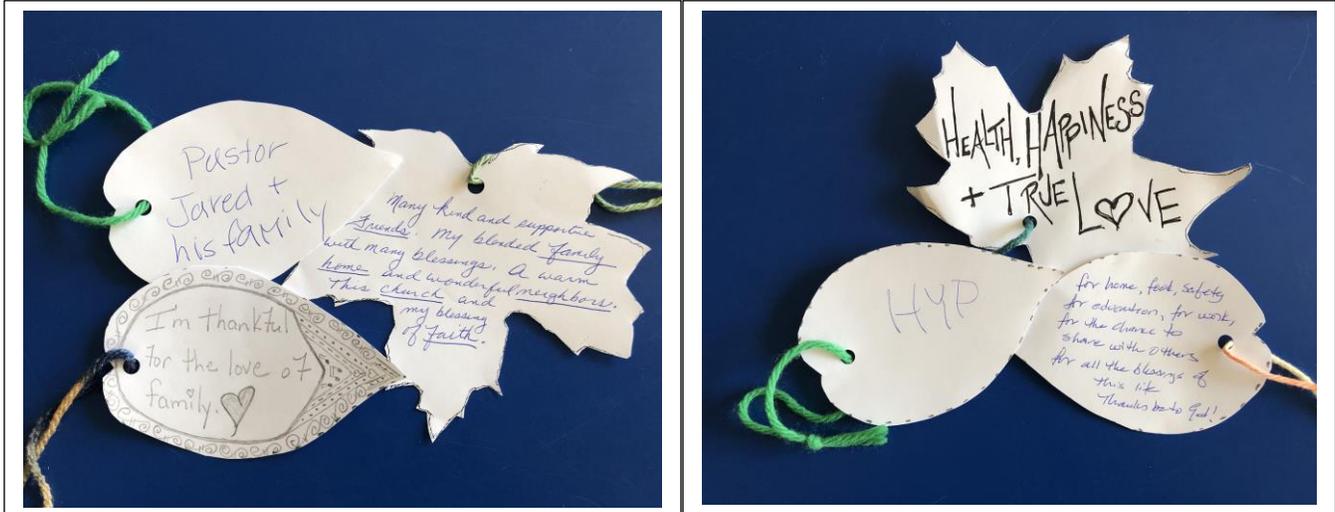
Join us Sunday, January 20th at 5:30pm for a screening of *Romero*, a 1989 biographical film about Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero's peaceful protest against a violent military regime and ultimate martyrdom. After the movie, we will discuss important themes including, the role of church in society, complacency and courage, and the movie's representation of liberation theology.

Soup, bread and popcorn will be provided. All are welcome. See Pastor Jared if you have any questions.

Worship Committee News

Worship Committee: Judy Parker & Sandy White – Co-Chairs; Barbara Forauer, Andrea Haulenbeek, Barbara Herrington, Rufus Patrick, Kate Schubart

Examples of the leaves placed on our Thankfulness Tree in November



Church Council News

Church Council Reflections for 2018

- We've established a Steering Committee to make us nimbler and more efficient. A key objective of this committee is to focus on a Visioning project to help develop a long-term strategy.
- The Visioning process had a few starts and stops as we searched for outside consulting support. This is a new process for our church and we want to understand the needs and desires of this growing church body. We will utilize the "in-house" expertise of Carla Wuthrich to guide us as we move forward in 2019.
- We've reduced the number of Full Council meetings from monthly to 3 times per year. These will take place in January, May and September.
- We want to have the 2nd Sunday of each month designated as Committee meeting time. We believe a standard time for Committees can make meetings more accessible for members and improve access to Jared and Council leadership
- Lastly, we want to develop written procedures and processes for standard church work. Standard procedures allow more members to learn and support our church business.

2019 Calendar

January 20th – Full Council meeting (Budget and Goals) following service

February 10th – All Membership annual meeting following service

May or June – Full Council Retreat

September 8th – Full Council meeting following service

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



December recap:

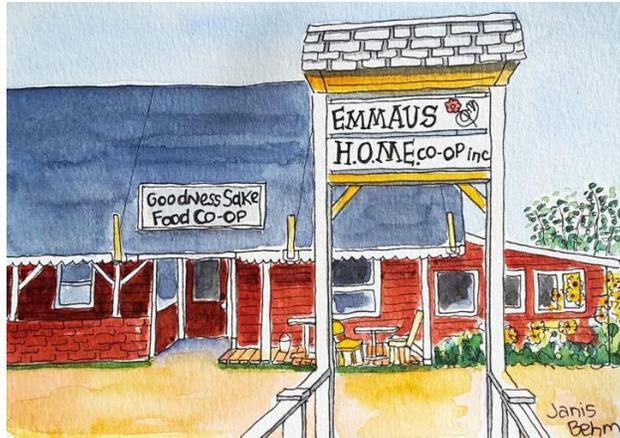
- The Sunday School rehearsed and then performed our annual **Christmas Pageant** during the worship service on December 9th. This year's pageant, "The First Christmas", required the kids to learn more lines, more songs and more complex staging.....and they rose to the challenge! Many members of the congregation commented on the amazing job the kids did and we are so proud of what they were able to accomplish!
- We had a very fun **cookie-decorating event** for Sunday School and youth on Friday, December 14th. Over 30 kids shared a dinner of make-your-own pizzas and then baked and decorated more than 12 dozen cookies! Some were eaten that evening but most went into the Christmas food baskets put together by the Sunday School and the Missions & Social Justice Committee on Sunday, December 16th. It was a great event which demonstrated that helping others can be fun!

In January, we will begin our next *Faith Practices* curriculum topic, **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. Regular Sunday School classes will be held on January 6th, 13th and 27th. On January 20th, we will take a break from the curriculum to make more curried lentil soup mix for the Little Free Pantry. The jars we made in November were very well received (they disappeared quickly!) and they are an excellent means of offering a hearty, protein-filled meal to our neighbors in need during these cold winter months when cans and jars cannot be placed in the Little Free Pantry.

Our next Friday night event will be a **Movie Night** on Friday, January 4th from 6:00-8:00pm. We will share a dinner of spaghetti, garlic bread and salad and then watch *Incredibles 2* on the big screen. This is a friend-friendly event so feel free to bring others along to enjoy the show. Popcorn and drinks will be provided during the movie but please bring a pillow, blanket, bean bag chair, etc. to watch in comfort. Please RSVP at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-sunday13> so we know how much spaghetti to make!

2019 HYP High School Youth Trip



Full Information Session Sunday, January 27th 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, January 27th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at the United Church of Hinesburg Parish Hall.

Finance Committee News

Finance Committee: Yvonne Whitaker – Treasurer; Ellen Dooley & Sandy Milbank – Co-Financial Secretaries; Phil Pouech, Keith Roberts, Mary Eddy Stewart

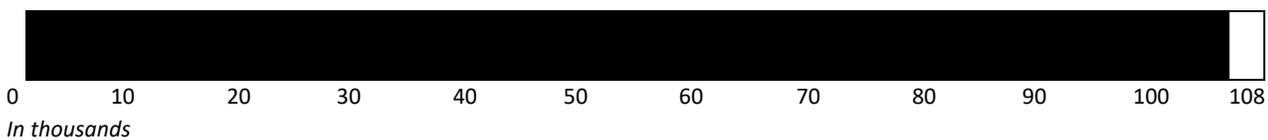
Financial Update

Our 2018 budget included an offering goal of \$107,750. While we fell short of that goal, we celebrate the generosity of our congregation that makes our church's ministry and mission possible.

A full 2018 Treasurer's Report and 2019 budget will be presented at the February Annual Meeting.

If you have any questions about our church finances, please contact me.

Plate offering received as of **December 31, 2018** (\$106,161 **99%** 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.



Thank you to everyone who donated during the month of December to stock our Little Free Pantry through the winter months. As you know, The United Church of Hinesburg is host to the first **Little Free Pantry** in Vermont. It is designed to help neighbors in need, whether they are food insecure or have a last-minute need for a food item after the grocery store is closed. The Little Free Pantry is available for food, toiletries and household items 24 hours a day, no questions asked. If you need a little something, stop in and get it. If you can share a little something, stop by anytime and drop it in the pantry.

If you have any questions about items that are appropriate to donate, please contact the church office. Please note that the colder weather limits the type of items that can be left in the Little Free Pantry – no canned goods or liquids that could freeze/thaw. Dry goods are welcome all year long! Some examples include: breakfast cereal, granola bars, pasta, rice, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, foil-wrapped tuna or chicken, baking mixes, toiletries & hygiene products.

Need a Ride in Hinesburg?

The Hinesburg Community Resource Center is excited to announce a trial run of a Hinesburg Rides "town bus." We have partnered with Affordable Transportation, a fully insured and background checked local transportation company, who will use their mini bus to take Hinesburg residents to locations within Hinesburg for doctor's appointments and errands. **This program will start on January 15, 2019**, and the bus will be available for trips **every other week on Tuesday mornings** from 9:30-11:30. The suggested donation for a ride is \$2.



To book a ride, residents should call Affordable Transportation at least 48 hours in advance to allow them to build a route schedule. Rides will be first come, first served and will be based on the route and what can fit within a two hour window. Elderly and disabled residents should still call Special Services Transportation Agency (SSTA) for out of town medical appointments and trips or if a wheelchair ramp is needed.

Affordable Transportation for an in-Hinesburg ride

Ken Martin: (802) 922-4975

Kelly Provost: (802) 922-4976

SSTA

(802) 878-1527

General Information

Hinesburg Community

Resource Center:

(802) 482-4946



January 2019 Happenings at UCH

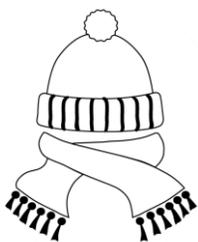
{All meetings/events are held in Osborne Parish House unless otherwise noted.}

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
Wednesday, January 2 nd	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Friday, January 4 th	6:00pm-8:00pm	Sunday School Movie Night – <i>Incredibles 2</i>
Sunday, January 13 th	10:00am	Special Music Sunday – Sammy Angstman, organ
Sunday, January 13 th	11:15am	Monthly committee meetings during coffee hour
Sunday, January 13 th	4:00pm-8:00pm	Visioning Team meeting
Wednesday, January 16 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Sunday, January 20 th	11:15am	Church Council meeting
Sunday, January 20 th	5:30pm	“Films During the Frost” series – <i>Romero</i>
Sunday, January 20 th		Deadline for 2018 Committee reports
Friday, January 25 th		February newsletter deadline
Friday, January 25 th	5:30pm-7:00pm	Open Table Diner free community meal
Saturday, January 26 th	9:30am-12:00pm	Missions & Social Justice Committee retreat
Sunday, January 27 th	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group meeting
Sunday, January 27 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group meeting – 2019 trip planning

Dear Congregation/Friends/Neighbors,

The Missions and Social Justice Committee would like to enthusiastically thank you all for your support in filling the holiday food baskets on December 16th! You didn't see the completed baskets because this year we delivered them, so we were on our way to homes before coffee hour began. We assure you they were bountiful, and very well received. The social workers at the local schools who assist with identifying need have commented about how amazing this church community is with its support and dedication to alleviate hunger. Thank you, thank you! This year, like last year, we are offering an additional basket, called The Basket of Hope. This basket is empty of food, but full of possibilities with monetary donations. The Basket of Hope will be given to the Hinesburg Youth Project to distribute to an area of need that THEY identify during their June 2019 service trip. In 2018, they gave The Basket of Hope (over \$1,900!) to local Puerto Rican organizations where they volunteered. For the next several weeks, donations to The Basket of Hope can be placed in the offering plate or dropped off in the church office. Thank you again for everything you do to support the missions of this church.

Lovingly, The Missions & Social Justice Committee



On February 1st, Barbara Forauer will be sending **hats, scarves and mittens** to the St. Joseph's Indian School in South Dakota. If you have any to donate, you can drop them off in the church office or contact Barbara directly at be4jay@cs.com or 482-2511.

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 Stewart

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



January 2019

January 6th

Greeters: Mary Thompson & Sarah Hayes

Ushers: Dan & Meg Reilly

Reader: Mary Eddy Stewart

January 13th

Greeters: youth

Ushers: youth

Readers: youth

January 20th

Greeters: TBD

Ushers: TBD

Reader: TBD

January 27th

Greeters: TBD

Ushers: TBD

Reader: TBD

Coffee Hour: Heather Roberts & Jennifer Lian –

Co-chairs; 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!