

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

## JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER



**TO:**

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

#### **2020 Youth Trip to Harrisonburg, Virginia**

“The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.”

- Psalm 24:1

“He that plants trees loves others besides himself.”

- Dr. Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)

Growing up on a 100-acre dairy farm in rural Ohio probably conditioned me to read the Bible as a story about the relations between God, people and the land. Written largely by agrarian folks that lived the seasons, depended on good weather and cared for flocks and herds, our Bible gushes with land imagery. It's a book of green pastures and still waters, rain clouds and holy rivers, giant cedars and fruitful vineyards. For those of us that live in rural settings or can easily get lost in one for good fun, this makes reading Scripture easier. We've experienced our own gardens of Eden, floods and droughts, and carried on conversations with our animals like the stories of the Hebrew Bible. And we've experienced Jesus' parables about rich and rocky soil, plants that overtake gardens and measuring plants by their fruitfulness.

Because of its context, our Scriptures also connect the way people treat the land with social justice. Planting and harvesting practices, resource extraction and flock management rules are intertwined with care for the poor, fair labor procedures and proper business ethics. When the land is treated poorly, it's usually a sign that vulnerable populations are suffering at the hands of the wealthy and powerful.

Today, however, even in a place like Vermont we are less connected to the ways that environmental stewardship and social justice intersect. As such, it might be difficult for us to imagine what participating in Green Up Day, growing a garden or putting up solar panels has to do with helping people on the margins. Further, how might environmental regulation, watershed education or composting make for a better, more just world?

These are the questions our young people will explore during the 2020 Hinesburg Youth Project summer service trip. The combined middle and high school programs will be going to the ***New Community Project Sustainable Living Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia June 15th to June 22nd.***

The NCP Sustainable Living Center will provide opportunities for youth to experience and work with sustainable agriculture, permaculture projects, and alternative/affordable transportation initiatives alongside native Virginians, Congolese refugees and migrant workers.

There will be plenty of work! Wood splitting (a group favorite), gardening, green house construction, building/renovation work, meal making and the construction of a bike path to promote affordable transportation in Harrisonburg are all projects in the pipeline - with more to come. Much of the work will be done with and for folks that have little or no access to the land, are homeless or housing insecure or simply want to live a simpler, more grounded life.

To ground our environmental and agrarian work in social justice and care for all people, we will have the opportunity to hear from NCP staff and James Madison University faculty about how their environmental work is integral to working with those on the margins. If you're interested in exploring more about NCP in Harrisonburg, visit:

<https://www.newcommunityproject.info/harrisonburg>

For some, the name "New Community Project" may sound familiar. That's because the New Community Project also has a site in Starksboro, Vermont. Our church has been working with Pete Antos-Ketcham and the organization for a few years. This local connection provides us with a substantive way of translating our service trip work to our local situation.

We will have a formal meeting about the meeting with all the details **Sunday, January 12th at 6pm.** If you are interested in having your young person attend this trip, or if you are interested in chaperoning, this would be a great introduction. And of course, if you have any questions about the trip, do not hesitate to contact me.

There's a lot of good to be done in the world, one garden at a time!

Blessings,

*Pastor Jared*



### Hymnals Available

We have recently purchased new *Chalice Hymnals* to replace the *United Methodist Hymnals* we have used for many years. There are many *United Methodist Hymnals* that were dedicated in memory or honor of someone when given to the church.

The full list can be found at:

<https://www.ucofh.org/hymnal-dedications.html>

If one or more were given in memory of a family member, loved one or friend and you would like it, please notify the church office. If you would just like a hymnal to have at home, that's okay too!

## Membership Care Committee News

*Membership Care Committee: Dianne Hall – Interim Chair; Alice Cobb, Grace Farley, Bonnie Farrow, Carrie Huestis, Barbara Lyman, Heather Roberts, Mary Thompson*

### Are you interested in becoming a member at the United Church?



Joining a church is one way of acknowledging the bond between individuals and a community of faith. When new members join, the entire community has the opportunity to pledge their care, support and commitment to the new member and the new member does the same.

If you are new to the United Church of Hinesburg and are interested in learning more about the church and/or joining as a member, please contact Pastor Jared at [revjared@gmavt.net](mailto:revjared@gmavt.net) or the church office at 482-3352 or [unitedchurch@gmavt.net](mailto:unitedchurch@gmavt.net) to receive more details.

## Missions & Social Justice Committee News

*Missions: Lori McKenna - Chair; Sue Barden, Karen Farnsworth, Barbara Forauer, Cathy Foutz, Penny Grant, Kristi Johnson, Kristi Kilbride, Melissa Loretan, Meaghan McKenna, Katie Dooley Morris*

### November 2019 Tent & Tarp Drive

Passing along a HUGE thank you from the staff at Safe Harbor Health Center. They were extremely appreciative and know these will be put to use quickly. As we all are aware, there are folks that are enduring this weather sleeping outdoors. They haven't received tents in quite a while and were so thankful.

Thanks to everyone who helped and supported this fundraising effort...it was well received.



## Christian Education Committee News

*Christian Education Committee: Eileen Ashe - Chair; Heather Roberts – CE Coordinator, Leah Hamilton, Mary Hong, Theron Main, Renate Parke, Sharonlee Trefry*

Our next Friday Night event will be a **movie night** on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:30pm in the Parish Hall. We will share a dinner of spaghetti, garlic bread and veggies and then watch *Mary Poppins Returns*. Please bring a blanket, pillow, bean bag chair, etc. to watch in comfort. Popcorn and drinks will also be provided. This is a friend-friendly event so feel free to bring others along. We hope to see you there! To help us with meal planning, please RSVP at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c49adaa29aaf49-sunday16>

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** was performed during the service on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. It was another great performance by our brave and talented Sunday School children. Highlights included the moon and stars (Hope, Peace and Joy) introducing the story of Jesus' birth, an entourage of stars, angels, shepherds, wandering sheep, Mary, Joseph and an exceptionally well-behaved baby Jesus. Thank you to all who participated.....and all who came to enjoy the show!



In January, we will return to the classroom for lessons on *Concentrating our Energy*, *Learning from Mistakes* and *Connecting with Kindness*. On Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have a One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School, making dry soup mix to stock the Little Free Pantry this winter.

Can you help our growing Sunday School program by volunteering your time on Sunday mornings or one Friday evening per month? We are in need of:

- Leaders for our younger Sunday School classroom (grades K-3)
- Leaders for our older Sunday School classroom (grades 4-6)
- Roamers to monitor Sunday School classrooms and help out where needed
- A musician or vocalist to work with the Sunday School for 4-6 weeks at a time, learning a song to be performed in church
- Folks who have a special project or activity to share with the Sunday School during a One Room Schoolhouse (usually around holidays or school vacations when attendance is lower)
- Chaperones for our monthly movie or game nights on the first Friday of the month
- Nursery substitutes to cover when our usual providers are unavailable

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Heather in the church office.

## Middle and High School Youth Groups – Upcoming fundraisers



### Mid-winter Book Sale

Date: Saturday, January 25th

Time: 10:00am-1:00pm

Where: Osborne Parish Hall

Looking for some mid-winter reading to cozy up with by the fire? Visit HYP's Mid-Winter book sale! Funds raised will benefit the youth group's service trip to New Community Project's Sustainable Living Center in Harrisonburg, VA in June 2020.

Now is the perfect time to de-clutter your book shelf! We will be accepting donations of gently used books of all kinds until Thursday, January 23rd. No damaged or mildewed books please. You can drop donations off on the stage in the Parish Hall during office hours or on Sundays. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

### Monthly Free Community Meal

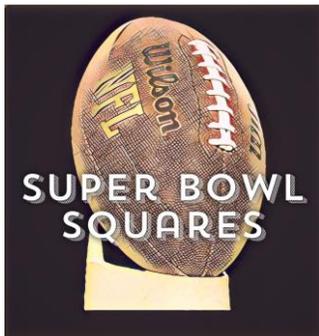
Date: Friday, January 31st

Time: 5:30-7:00pm

Where: Osborne Parish Hall

Join us for our monthly free community meal featuring a variety of lasagnas. Donations are accepted but not expected and will support HYP's service trip to New Community Project's Sustainable Living Center in Harrisonburg, VA in June 2020.

### Super Bowl Squares



Whether or not you are a football fan, you can still have fun watching the Super Bowl. 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 one team's score and the other represents the last digit of the other team'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 1<sup>st</sup> at 5pm.



Children gathered on the chancel for the Children's Message at the Christmas Eve 5pm Family Service.

## Finance Committee News

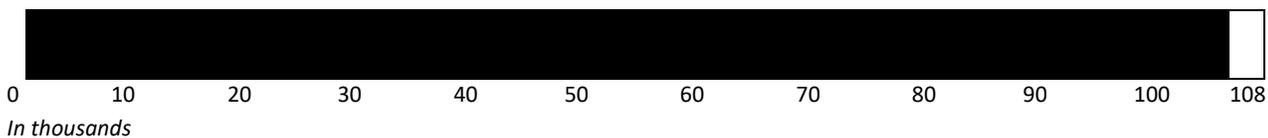
*Finance Committee: Yvonne Whitaker – Treasurer; Ellen Dooley & Sandy Milbank – Co-Financial Secretaries; Phil Pouech, Mary Eddy Stewart*

Our 2019 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 2019 Treasurer's Report and 2020 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, 2019** (\$105,069 **98%** 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.

## Staff Parish Relations Committee News

*Staff Parish Relations Committee: Marie Eddy - Chair; Ellen Dooley, David Eddy, Sheri Hanlon*

The UCH Staff/Parish Relations Committee serves as the main conduit for communications between the congregation and the staff. To help us do this, we invite your input on the service, the nursery, the office, the facilities, whether it be praises or concerns. Please feel free to reach out to an SPRC member at any time.

### Members:

David and Marie Eddy, 482-2645 [marieeddy9@gmail.com](mailto:marieeddy9@gmail.com) and [davideddy09@gmail.com](mailto:davideddy09@gmail.com)

Ellen Dooley, 279-4929 [dooley@gmavt.net](mailto:dooley@gmavt.net)

Sheri Hanlon, 318-1200 [sheri@gmavt.net](mailto:sheri@gmavt.net)

## January 2020 Happenings at UCH

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

Monday mornings (except 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	10:00am-11:00am	Spanish speaking group
2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	8:00am-3:00pm	WIC
Monday nights	5:00pm-9:30pm	Parish House reserved by private group
Tuesday nights	6:15pm-7:30pm	Cub Scouts
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday night	6:30pm-8:00pm	4H Midnight Riders
Wednesday nights	6:30pm-9:00pm	Boy Scouts
Thursday mornings	10:00am-11:00am	Spanish speaking group
Fridays (except 1 <sup>st</sup> )	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Wednesday, January 1 <sup>st</sup>		Church office closed in observance of New Year's Day
Friday, January 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm-8:30pm	Sunday School Friday Night event – <i>Mary Poppins Returns</i>
Saturday, January 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-11:00am	Cub Scout Derby Car workshop
Wednesday, January 15 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-1:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group meets in the Parish Hall
Saturday, January 18 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm-5:00pm	Parish Hall reserved by private group
Sunday, January 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Guest pastor – Andi Lloyd
Sunday, January 19 <sup>th</sup>		One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School – soup mix for LFP
Monday, January 20 <sup>th</sup>		Church office closed in observance of MLK Jr. Day
Saturday, January 25 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am-2:00pm	HYP Book Sale fundraiser
Sunday, January 26 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Special Music Sunday/Hymn Sing
Monday, January 27 <sup>th</sup>		February newsletter deadline
Friday, January 31 <sup>st</sup>	5:30pm-7:00pm	Free Community Meal hosted by HYP

**\*\*Please note that Considering Faith, Practicing God-talk and AM Bible Study will not meet in January. They will resume in February.**



The United Church of Hinesburg is host to the first **Little Free Pantry** in Vermont and we continue to need your help to keep it stocked! 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.**



Our knitting/crocheting group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 12:30-2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Join us on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Bring your project, old or new, or just bring yourself. We have a large supply of yarn if you need some to start a prayer shawl or a project for next year's Holiday Bazaar. Come for some stitching fun and conversation!

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*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 2020**

**January 5th**

*Greeter: Cathy Foutz  
Ushers: Grace Ciffo & Kate Schubart  
Reader: Keith Roberts*

**January 12th**

*Greeters: The Wuthrich family  
Ushers: Grace Farley & Melissa Loretan  
Reader: Calvin Wuthrich*

**January 19th**

*Greeter: Thea Gaudette  
Ushers: Barbara & Bob Forauer  
Reader: reader from St. Jude's*

**January 26th**

*Greeters: Sandy & Reggie Robinson  
Ushers: Kristi Kilbride & Sherrie Simmons  
Reader: Mary Eddy Stewart*

**Thank you for your service!**



**Looking for news regarding specific denominations?**

Check these websites...  
[www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org) | [www.vtcucc.org](http://www.vtcucc.org) | [www.abcvn.org](http://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!**

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