

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

JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER



TO:

Pastor: Rev. Jared Hamilton
Pastor's Email: revjared@gmavt.net
Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am – 12pm
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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:

“Like Water”

“With joy you will draw water from the wells of renewal.” -- Isaiah 12:3

Last fall the youth program decided to take a leap of faith and plan a service trip to Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Grants were written, yards were raked, fundraisers were held, planning groups gathered and the young people worked tirelessly to make this trip possible. We met regularly to discuss the impact of last September's hurricane on the island. After many months of planning and hard work, twenty-four people travelled to Puerto Rico from Hinesburg for nine days of service in late June. The group included sixteen high school students and eight adults.

We worked with Daniella Rodriguez Besosa of Siembra Tres Vidas, an organic farmer and community organizer in the central mountain town of Aibonito as well as other small scale market farmers like Maria, Jessica and Antonio. We worked in a warehouse with Yvette Acevedo and Sara Lopez of Puerto Rico Rises on the western shore town of Aguadilla and delivered items from PRR to the residents of a small town called Juncos with Celine, a member of the IDDPMI Pentecostal Church. We built temporary housing in San Isidro with Derlis, Jaclyn, Sophia Andrea and many other young volunteers with TECHO (*roof* in Spanish), a group that was working in one of the hardest hit pockets of the Island.

Our young people and adult volunteers were incredible on this trip. Many of our days started at 5 or 6 AM and began with long drives. In fact, we logged over 3000 miles between our four vehicles on the trip! We followed these drives with hard, physical work on hot days. Sometimes the work was physically demanding. Other times it was monotonous, and sometimes it was really gross. Yet this group of twenty-four worked as a team, with each providing what they could to make sure our jobs got done.

We will be reporting on the details of the trip over the next several months in many different ways. There are simply too many stories to tell from this trip and too many lessons that will come out of it. So I offer here only a short reflection on water from our trip.

Water simply is. It is necessary for life yet it can cause death. It can inspire a sense of peace like the little waterfall in Aibonito some of our group travelled to or it can inspire feelings of despair, like the permanent standing water in one of the occupied homes in Juncos. Water can be contained like the picturesque pool at the Palmas Del Mar Country Club or it can spill into the streets and sweep away cars and homes and people, like it did when Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico.

Water was a constant theme on our trip. We were fortunate to have a pool at one of our houses in Palmas – a wonderful way to cool off after a hard day of work. Outside of a handful of places, we were told not to drink the tap water – even at the expense of having a \$72 bottled water bill for the group at a restaurant in Aguadilla one evening. In towns where the response to the hurricane has been slow like Juncos or San Isidro, water is regularly shut off to fix an issue or still not reconnected. Those that are able have water tanks for such times. Others keep the bathtub full or rely on purified water donated from local agencies.

It rained every day we were in Puerto Rico, though only for a few hours at most. And serendipitously, the Night of Saint John (San Juan) fell during our trip. On the Eve, we were hosted by the Palmas Country Club where we stayed up until midnight on Saturday and then threw ourselves into the pool backward three times, a nod to the trinity or to ward off bad luck and welcome good luck for the year.

In a recent essay in *Lapham's Quarterly*, Donovan Hohn remarks that, "Judaism, Christianity, Islam—they may all be 'desert religions,' sure, but they are also, like most faiths people have observed all over the world and throughout the recorded centuries, religions of water. The Bible is a soggy book." Water is everywhere in our scriptures. The world begins in water and is destroyed by water in the first few chapters. Moses splits a sea and makes water flow from a rock to feed a thirsty people. Important figures meet at wells and springs. People are cured in rivers and baptized in the River Jordan. In John's depiction of heaven at the end of Revelation, a stream of water runs through heaven.

Scripture uses the imagery of water because we can all get it. We need it. It can be dangerous. It can be fun and it can present challenges. It can carry great meaning. It can also wreck everything.

As the people of Puerto Rico ready themselves for hurricane season, I ask that we pray for good water. Plant-growing water for Daniella and her funky group of organic farmers in the hills, more bottled water for Yvette and the people who work so hard to distribute it at Puerto Rico Rises, clean water for people in towns like Juncos and San Isidro, and safe water for laughter and fun.

An experience like this is not possible without the many, many folks that helped along the way stateside. We greatly appreciate everyone that donated time, money and resources to make this trip possible. This is especially true of the parents of the kiddos that travelled who were proactive in fundraising and planning. We are thankful for a generous grant from SCHIP, and many other groups. A full report of this trip is in process. I want to thank the high school youth that worked hard and worked together masterfully. And I want to especially thank Eileen and Wes Ashe, Penny and Casey Grant, Ryan and Carla Wuthrich and Leah Hamilton for sharing the lead on this trip. They "went with the flow" every day as plans were bound to change from one moment to the next.

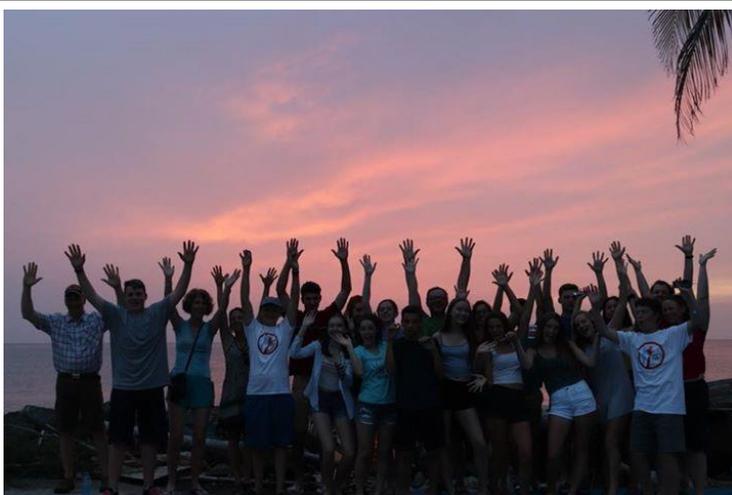
More to come!

Blessings,

Pastor Jared

Images from the Puerto Rico service trip

June 18th-26th, 2018



Spiritual Formation Committee News

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

Practicing God-talk will meet during coffee hour on July 22nd. We will focus on mission in the wider world using “Selling the Protected Area Myth” by Richard Coniff, a contributing opinion writer, in *The New York Times* (6/10/18). “[Change] will at times entail setting aside our profits and our precious convenience . . . But the alternative is to spend our lives in a world increasingly without wildlife.” A related biblical theme: “They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9). Read the article online or print it out at <https://nyti.ms/2JG1pqY>. Copies of the full article will be available in the church on the back table as you leave on July 15th and July 22nd. On July 22nd, get your snack and meet in Classroom 1 for 20-25 minutes of discussion.

Staff Parish Relations Committee News

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Marie Eddy, Chair; Ellen Dooley, David Eddy, Sheri Hanlon, Deanna Utter

Dear Members of UCH,

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is conducting a survey to gather input from the congregation in order to better evaluate our services. Please help us understand how we are doing by filling out this questionnaire. If you would prefer a hard copy, copies will be available in the back of the church until July 22nd.

<https://goo.gl/forms/r2LxncxeuJrCVx292>

Thank you for your time,

Deanna Utter, Ellen Dooley, Sheri Hanlon, David Eddy, Marie Eddy

Coffee Hour help needed!

Our coffee hour chair for September, Mabel Young, will be moving to Florida for the winter. So....she is no longer able to serve as chair. Is there any one or two folks who would be willing to take over this task?? If so, or for questions, call Sandy White 482-2629 or email sbwhite@gmavt.net.

Our coffee hour time is VERY important to our church fellowship! Thank you for considering taking this important job!!

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

There will be no Sunday School classes during the summer months (June 17th – September 2nd). However, nursery care will continue to be available for children up to age 5 throughout the summer. Sunday School will resume on Homecoming Sunday, September 9th. We hope to plan a few get-togethers in July and August to keep the kids connected with one another over the summer. Details will follow by email.

Special thanks is due to the following for making our 2017-2018 Sunday School year such a success:

- Christian Education Committee members
- Classroom leaders and roamers– Eileen Ashe, Katie Ashe, Dianne Hall, Leah Hamilton, Carrie Huestis, Melissa Loretan, Kristi Kilbride, Theron Main, Renate Parke, Betsy Patrick, Amy Sayre, Howdy Russell, Deanna Utter
- Children’s Choir leaders – Leah Hamilton, Andrea Haulenbeek, Barbara Herrington
- Parent volunteers too numerous to name!

We couldn’t do it without you!!

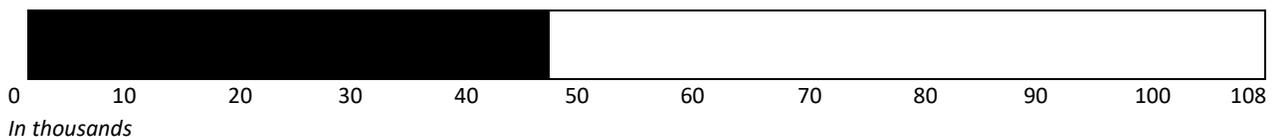
Finance Committee News

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

Financial Update

Our 2018 budget includes an offering goal of \$107,750. With your generosity we will achieve our goal, providing the financial support needed for our church to continue to grow and thrive. The progress bar below will be published monthly to show how we are doing. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Plate offering received as of **May 31, 2018** (\$46,141 **43%** 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.



A New Playground at the United Church of Hinesburg

The playground behind the United Church of Hinesburg has been a resource for the church and the wider community for many years. It has seen constant use by young people during UCH activities and by many others from Hinesburg during soccer events at the town hall and church fields. Because it had the only public infant swing in town, it was a regular stop for parents and grandparents with little ones during the week.

This playground, however, did not winter well so it was recently replaced and upgraded. The new playground features more activities, extra swings and a larger footprint. The Church sees this new playground as a public resource so all are welcome to use the playground during daylight hours.

Special thanks to Bill Baker, Jaime Ciffo, Ken Cudney, Keith Roberts, and Matt Sayre for working on this project and for those who have begun donating to this project.



The United Church of Hinesburg is now host to the first **Little Free Pantry** in Vermont and we need your help to keep it stocked! The idea for Little Free Pantries arose from the growth of Little Free Libraries and works on a similar reciprocal arrangement – Take What You Need; Leave What You Can. They are designed to help neighbors who are food insecure and are available for food, toiletries and household items for those in need, no questions asked, 24 hours a day. 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.

July 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
Thursday mornings	10:00am-11:00am	Spanish speaking group
Most Fridays	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Sunday, July 8 th	10:00am	Laity Sunday – Celebrate Gardens; guest speaker Howdy Russell
Tuesday, June 10 th	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Thursday, July 12 th	12:30pm-6:00pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Sunday, July 17 th	11:15am	Church Council meeting
Wednesday, July 18 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Friday, July 20 th		August newsletter deadline
Sunday, July 22 nd	11:15am	Practicing God-talk
Friday, July 27 th	5:30-7:00pm	Open Table Diner free community meal hosted by the Missions Committee
Sunday, July 29 th	9:00am	Trustees meeting

Church-wide Picnic to celebrate the end of the program year and beginning of summer June 10, 2018



Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



**We will be hosting another Red Cross
Blood Drive in the Parish Hall on
Thursday, July 12th from
12:30-6:00pm**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please contact the church office.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

01	Mary & JP Hong
01	Eric Loretan
06	Doug & Patti Mead
07	Jeff Pratt
09	Mary Hong
09	Kristi Kilbride
10	John & Sally Mead
10	David & Kathy Newton
11	Bonnie Farrow & Larry Rice
11	Michelle Fischer
12	Samantha Brown
12	Meg & Dan Reilly
15	Erik Simkins
18	Barbara Herrington
19	Kieran Kilbride
19	Christopher Walker
20	Fiona Robertson
23	Leah Hamilton
23	Jessie Johnson
24	Dan Reilly
27	Westley Ashe
29	Anne & Roger Donegan
29	Donna & Anthony Pezzimenti
30	Barbara & Bob Forauer
30	Cody O'Neil
30	Andy & Gail Riggs
30	Ryan Wood
31	Sarita Baker

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



July 2018

July 1st

Greeters: Mary Thompson & Sarah Hayes

Ushers: Ellen Dooley & Kate Schubart

Reader: Thea Gaudette

Coffee Hour: January committee

July 8th

Greeter: Ellen Phelps

Ushers: Phil Pouech & TBD

Reader: Sharonlee Trefry

Coffee Hour: February committee

July 15th

Greeter: TBD

Ushers: Barbara & Bob Forauer

Reader: Yvonne Whitaker

Coffee Hour: November committee

July 22nd

Greeters: Sandy & Reggie Robinson

Ushers: Grace Ciffo & TBD

Reader: Renate Parke

Coffee Hour: March committee

July 29th

Greeter: Paul Emmons

Ushers: Kristi Kilbride & Sandy Milbank

Reader: Howdy Russell

Coffee Hour: May committee

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!