

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

JULY 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:

"When In Rome"



*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you and watch over you. - Psalm 32:8*

*Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice.
And the God of peace will be with you. - Paul's letter to the Philippians 4:9*

In *Spirituality for Dummies*, author Sharon Janis describes the benefits of studying spiritual teachings as follows:

- Spiritual teachings act as guideposts along the way [of life].
- Spiritual teachings help you recognize certain signs of progress so you can gain greater understanding of the twists and turns in your own journey.

- Spiritual teachings give you new words and concepts to consider as you expand your understanding of yourself, of God, and of life.
- Spiritual teachings help reveal your own ever-fresh spring of spiritual wisdom.
- Spiritual teachings help you realize that you aren't all the things society thinks you are – rather, you're a spiritual soul, seeking to find your way back to wholeness, self-recognition, and remembrance of your true nature.¹

Along with offering thanksgiving, prayer, giving and service, *study* is considered a hallmark Christian discipline, something Christians around the world practice regularly. Of these five disciplines, I gravitate most fully toward study, particularly the study of the Bible and other Christian writings. I find solace, encouragement and the challenge to be more just and loving in many of our Scriptures. And I love encountering passages that make no sense and putting in the work to better understand what it might be saying. For this reason, I have been a long-standing member of the Society of Biblical Literature and attend annual meetings with as many as 9,000 other clergy and academics as often as possible. At these meetings, several hundred papers are presented that explore the Bible's complex cultural backgrounds, the nuances of the original languages, and ways of interpreting Christianity's most sacred text for today's readers. I've always left these meetings refreshed from new learnings, humbled by the value and complexity of our faith and better equipped to pastor a local church.

This year the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature takes place in Rome, Italy from July 1 to July 5. In February, I received a grant through the United Church of Christ's *Next Generation Leadership Initiative* (NGLI) to attend this meeting. Along with attending sessions, I will be able to visit important religious sites like the Vatican and the Jewish Catacombs and explore a city that has been incredibly influential in the history of Christianity since its inception 2000 years ago.



I am of course grateful for my NGLI program grant for making this trip possible. I am also thankful to the folks at UCH that have made this trip possible as well. Thank you to the worship leaders while I am away, Marie Eddy, Yvonne Whitaker and Mary Eddy Stewart, and especially our Administrator, Heather Roberts, who does such a wonderful job throughout the year, and keeps us so well connected while I am away.

Blessings,
Pastor Jared



Pastor Jared officiated at the wedding of Katie Dooley and Paul Morris in Essex on June 15th. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

¹ Sharon Janis. 2000. *Spirituality for Dummies*. IDG Press; Foster City, p. 134.

Visioning Team News

Vision Facilitation Team: Carla Wuthrich – facilitator; David Eddy, Marie Eddy, Rev. Jared Hamilton, Barbara Herrington, Meg Reilly, Heather Roberts, Amy Sayre, Kate Schubart, Rev. Wayne Schwab, Yvonne Whitaker

In the April newsletter the Visioning and Strategic Development working group shared the following draft mission and vision statements:

Mission: The United Church of Hinesburg is a welcoming and inclusive community where all are invited to connect, serve, worship, celebrate and grow with God's help.

Vision: The United Church of Hinesburg seeks to build a more just, loving, and sustainable world through acts of fellowship, community service, and joyful worship.

Our mission and vision flow into three focus areas for our church for the next three to five years: Spiritual Growth and Support, Advocacy and Service, and Securing and Effectively Utilizing Resources.

As our church continues on our visioning journey, we have planned some activities for the congregation to help make our statements real and meaningful.

- In a “Pair and Share” activity during a church service in early June, members of the congregation turned to a neighbor in the pew and shared how they connected to the vision.
- In July and August, look for “Table Talk” sheets on the tables at coffee hour with the vision and mission statements and prompts for conversation. There will be different prompts each week. We encourage you to talk with your neighbor(s) about what the words mean to you and how you see them influencing our church’s direction.

Please share with a member of the Visioning team any thoughts or ideas that come from your own reflections or from your “Table Talk” conversations and story sharing that you want to be sure we capture.



Independence Day



The **church office will be closed** on Thursday, July 4th, re-opening on Monday, July 8th.

The HYP high school group will be selling **Michigan hot dogs** and beverages in front of the vestry/parsonage (10775 Route 116) from 10:30am-noon on July 4th. Hot dogs are \$3 each (\$2 plain) and drinks are \$1. Come say hello and enjoy a delicious meal to support the annual HYP high school trip.

Also on the 4th, the HYP middle school group will be selling **popsicles** for \$1 along the parade route through town. It’s forecasted to be a hot day so cool off while supporting the HYP middle school’s upcoming trip to the Service Dog Project in Ipswich, MA.

Finance Committee News

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

2018 Annual Audit

Earlier this year Barbara Herrington, as she has done for the past three years, performed an audit of the church's financial and computer practices for fiscal year 2018 (January – December) following accepted practices from the United Methodist Local Church Audit Guide. The audit, which is designed to assure that our procedures are adequate and that they are followed, included the following:

- **Financial reporting:** assure that appropriate processes such as bank reconciliation and reporting are carried out consistently, and assure accuracy of the reports. The core of the audit is reconciliation of accounts with QuickBooks, with Morgan Stanley reports on investments, and reconciliation with bank statements. The Treasurer's Reports for all months of 2018 were reviewed and income from plate offerings, fundraisers (including Fun Run registration fees and contributions made online through WePay), and VANCO electronic offerings were audited.
- **Trustee fund accounting and reporting:** assure that use of Trustees funds was appropriate and the legal reporting obligations were met.
- **Financial and computer processes:** a thorough review of financial and computer practices using an Internal Controls checklist provided by the UMC, modified as appropriate for use at the United Church.

This is a quote from Barbara's audit summary: "In general, UCH continues to be diligent in following processes that result in excellent stewardship of our resources and accuracy in reporting."

While there were no audit findings, Barbara recommended that the church establish written policies for: 1) the use of our credit and debit cards, 2) the approval process for large expenditures (including defining a large expenditure), 3) the frequency of changing computer passwords, and 4) safe storage of passwords. She also made two process improvement suggestions. The Finance Committee will take up these recommendations this year.

Many thanks to Barbara for performing this important work on behalf of the church. If you have any questions about the audit or if you are interested in seeing the complete report, please contact me.

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.

Membership Care Committee News

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

Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawls, made by members of the United Church, are available in a cabinet in the church entryway on the right side of the door as you leave the church. Feel free to take one to anyone you feel could use this extra comfort. Please use the book provided to list the names of those who will receive the prayer shawls.

The following blessing is attached to each shawl:



This shawl was made just for you
To bring comfort
To know you are loved
To share in your joy.
This shawl is to wrap you up
When you're cold
When you're hurting
When you need to snuggle.
This shawl was knitted or crocheted
With Blessings
With Love
With Prayers.

Please note: We currently have a large supply of donated yarn available in the bottom of the prayer shawl cabinet. Could you use some to make a prayer shawl or something for the Holiday Bazaar? Feel free to grab yarn on your way out of church or stop by the church office and we'd be glad to send you home with yarn for your next project!

Summer Coffee Hour Schedule



July 7: November committee

August 4: March committee

July 14: September committee

August 11: January committee

July 21: October committee

August 18: April committee

July 28: February committee

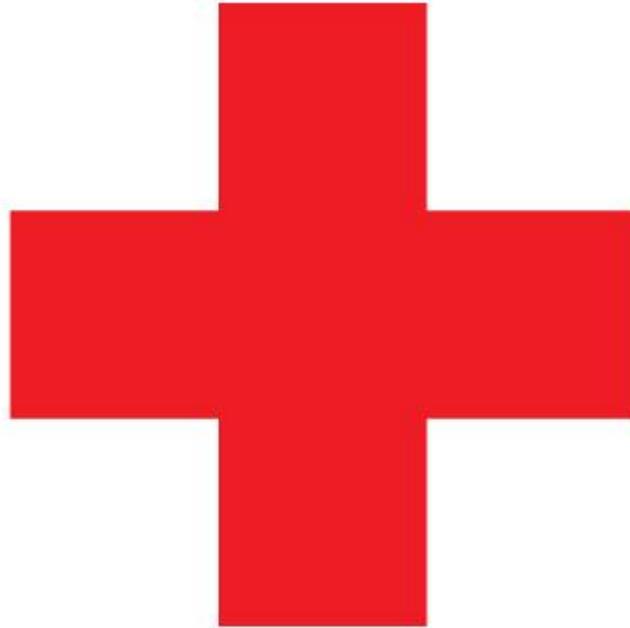
August 25: December committee

The church is scheduled to host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, July 11th from 12:30-6:00pm. Unfortunately, both Pastor Jared and Heather are away from the office that day. We need a volunteer who would be willing to open the building for the group when they arrive (approximately 11:00am) and to answer any questions they might have during set-up. If you could fill this need, please contact Heather in the church office. Thank you!

Give blood.

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

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Hinesburg Community
United Church of Hinesburg

Parish Hall
Route 116
Hinesburg, VT 05461

Thursday, July 11, 2019
12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter:
UNITED to schedule an appointment.

**Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15
minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to
complete your pre-donation reading and health history
questions on the day of your appointment.**

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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[14] - Order ID: 982331 - Item ID: 3555-00 - QTY: 1 of 1 - 094-629009 - 2015-APL-01555 - APR3+ 201914

July 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
Thursday mornings	10:00am-11:00am	Spanish speaking group
Fridays (except 1 st)	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Wednesday, July 3 rd	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Thursday, July 4 th		Church office closed in observance of Independence Day
Sunday, July 7 th	10:00am	Guest pastor - Marjorie MacNeill
Thursday, July 11 th	12:30pm-6:00pm	Red Cross Blood Drive in the Parish Hall (help needed!!!)
Sunday, July 14 th	10:00am	Lay-led service
Wednesday, July 17 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Monday, July 22 nd		August newsletter deadline
Friday, July 26 th	5:30pm-7:00pm	Monthly free community meal hosted by the Missions Committee



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.



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.



Our knitting/crocheting group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (July 3rd and July 17th this month) from 12:30-2:00pm in the Parish Hall. 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 the Holiday Bazaar. Come for some stitching fun and conversation!

There are a few items on the HYP youth program kitchen wish list:

- A box grater
- A large-ish rice cooker
- A food processor

Before we buy, perhaps you have one or more of these items you aren't using and would like to donate? If so, please contact the church office or just stop by during office hours or on Sundays to drop them off. Thanks!

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

01	Mary & J.P. 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 2019

July 7th

Greeters: Carrie & Allison Huestis

Ushers: Barbara & Bob Forauer

Reader: Mary Eddy Stewart

Coffee Hour: November committee

July 14th

Greeter: Paul Emmons

Ushers: Sandy Milbank & Kate Schubart

Reader: Yvonne Whitaker

Coffee Hour: September committee

July 21st

Greeters: Sandy & Reggie Robinson

Ushers: Meg & Dan Reilly

Reader: Dianne Hall

Coffee Hour: October committee

July 28th

Greeters: Mary Thompson & Sarah Hayes

Ushers: Melissa Loretan & Grace Farley

Reader: Renate Parke

Coffee Hour: February 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!