

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

JUNE 2019 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:

"Rural Poverty"

"May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. May God defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy..."
- Psalm 72:3-4

My father is not a picky eater, save two things: chicken and corn. Growing up, my family rarely had chicken for dinner. We would have corn more often, but only if there were other side dishes so my father could avoid it. When I was little, I didn't notice this, and as I got older, I thought it was simply a matter of preference.

But a few years ago, while I was back visiting family, some of my aunts and uncles came over for a visit. And they talked about the year they had to eat corn.

As the story goes, my grandparents had just bought more acreage to add to their dairy farm. They had five kids at home, and mortgage payments on two lots when milk prices dropped. It was spring and the mortgage payments were due every November. My grandparents thought it would be a tight summer, but even tighter after the mortgage payments, if they could even make it. Preparing for the worst, my grandfather planted the four outside rows of a field reserved for field corn with sweet corn. My grandmother kept her roosters and planted a large garden. And the kids helped.



By the late summer, the garden was in full force and the coop was on its way to being stocked with chickens. And then the corn was ready. One day, my grandfather drove in with a truck bed of picked sweet corn – a 1950's grain truck bed filled with sweet corn. My father and my uncle, middle schoolers at the time, shucked corn for days. Their hands were sore and for days after they found sticky corn silk behind their ears, in their hair and in the cuffs of their clothes. My grandmother and aunts spent a week processing, canning and freezing corn. Every surface of the kitchen and dining room were sticky for a month.

Milk prices stayed low the rest of the year, but it had been a good year for field corn and beans. My grandparents were able to make the mortgage payments, if only barely. And things were tight over the winter and into the spring, as they suspected.

So, they ate corn. Nearly every meal. And they had eggs nearly every breakfast, with corn. And they ate a lot of chicken for dinner, with a side of corn. And, of course, they drank a lot of milk. Occasionally my grandmother was able to swap eggs for strawberry jam or grape juice at their church, but there was little variety until after the hungry gap of the next spring when the garden ramped up again and started producing peas and greens. That year, milk prices got a little better, and to the cheers of his family, my grandfather only planted one outside row with sweet corn the next year.

Perhaps there was once a time when the rural poor and the rural down-on-their-luck could turn to the land to meet some of their most basic needs. Gardens could be planted or expanded, animals could be raised and forests could provide wood for heat, game and homemade remedies. Communities provided a place to barter and gain support during trying times. The natural bounty of the land, mixed with community, planning and hard work (including the conscription of children) helped folks through some difficult times. And while it's unlikely that those who lived through lean years in the country look back nostalgically, it would be true to say that at least there was some agency – actions they could take – during that time to alleviate some of the financial, physical and emotional stresses of poverty.

Rural poverty in the United States is a little different these days. We've grown even more distant from the land, forests and communities that surround us. Those living in poverty in rural areas are four times more likely to rent than own their homes today, further separating the rural poor and the rural down-on-their-luck from the opportunity to take full advantage of the bounties of creation. It's an odd situation: surrounded by lush, green land, the rural poor have little access to garden spaces large enough to make a dint in a family's food budget or forests where wood could help with heating bills.

In her seminal book, *Scripture, Culture and Agriculture*, theologian Ellen F. Davis contends that the scriptures of the Christian faith are agrarian in nature and describe a way of being in the world – an ethical system – that allows all people the opportunity to share in the bounty and care of the earth. She also notes that this way of thinking – she calls it *agrarianism* – is “often out of step with the prevailing values of wealth, technology, and political and military domination” of the day, going back to ancient Israel, when and where our Scriptures were written. It seems that, in its various forms, this is a three-thousand-year-old problem, one that the writers of our Scriptures saw as being vitally important to the way they lived. Reconnecting with the land is a spiritual necessity. Making our common life together just so all have this opportunity is a spiritual mandate.

Last month, over twenty youth, parents, and church members travelled to Starksboro, VT to clean up the community garden plots of the New Community Project. The community gardens provide space for people to grow their own gardens regardless of whether they have the space where they live. The New Community Project plots are used to grow fresh produce for their food program and connect with neighbors. Last year over 700 pounds of produce came from the community gardens to help hungry families in southern Chittenden and Addison counties. Combined with a

growing firewood bank for the winter months, New Community Project is a leader in our area when it comes to living out the agrarian vision and principles of our Scriptures.

Later this month, the high school youth will travel to Orland, Maine for an immersive experience in rural poverty and what committed people of faith are doing to reconnect folks to the care and bounty of the land. Through H.O.M.E. Inc., we will be preparing garden spaces, repairing fences and cooking community meals. Most exciting of all, we will be doing this work with those that benefit. Our hope from this trip is that we will learn valuable techniques and gain inspiration to do similar work in our own area. If you are interested in supporting this trip, a *GoFundMe* page has been set up here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/hyp-youth-service-trip-to-orland-me>.



I conclude with a blessing and dismissal from the Church of England:

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon you his children, that you may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all peoples; and the blessing ...Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Go in the peace of Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Jared

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

May recap:

- On Friday, May 3rd, we had our final Sunday School Movie Night of the program year. We shared a dinner of pizza and fresh veggies and watched *Smallfoot* on the TV in the back classroom. We had a great turnout and, based on the relative quiet during the movie, the kids (and some parents) really enjoyed the film!
- On May 5th & May 19th, we resumed our *Faith Practices* curriculum in our 2 Sunday School classrooms, exploring the topic “Blessing and Letting Go”. Thank you to Howdy Russell and Theron Main for teaching during the month of May!
- On Mother’s Day, May 12th, we held a One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School, potting flowers for the women in our congregation.
- On Sunday, May 26th, there was no Sunday School because of the Memorial Day holiday.

In June, we conclude our “Blessing and Letting Go” lessons in our *Faith Practices* curriculum – and the program year - in Sunday School on June 2nd and June 9th. Plans are underway to have an outdoor movie night for the whole community sometime during the summer. Stay tuned!

Youth

Middle and high school youth groups at the United Church of Hinesburg continue through, Sunday, June 9th.

The spring Sunday evening youth group gatherings continue June 2nd and June 9th with the middle school meeting from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and the high school meeting from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. There will be an overlapping meal from 6:00pm to 6:30pm for everyone. If you are able, please bring \$5 to help cover the cost of the meal.

The middle school youth will continue to make delicious meals this session as we focus on *Food and Faith*. We will also begin to turn our attention to the topic of service animals and caring for people of differing abilities. Details for the service trip will be discussed at the meeting on June 9th.

The high school group will continue to focus on the topic of rural poverty in preparation for the trip to H.O.M.E. Inc. in Orland, Maine. These June sessions will focus on the details of the summer trip with an important all participant/leader meeting Sunday, June 9th. Finally, the group will travel to Orland, ME June 16th to the 22nd for a week of service.

Car Wash & Bottle Drive Fundraiser Saturday!



Got a pile of bottles in the garage along with a dirty car? Come to the Hinesburg Fire Station (10340 Route 116) this Saturday, June 1st, from 9am-1pm and the teens in the HYP high school group can help with both! Drop off those bottles and drive away with a shiny clean car. Donations benefit the HYP high school service trip to Orland, ME in June. Please join us for our final fundraiser before the trip!

Food & Hygiene Products for H.O.M.E. Inc.



The HYP High School youth are collecting non-perishable food items and hygiene products for men and women to donate to H.O.M.E. Inc. in Orland, ME during their service trip in June. Hygiene products would include:

Shampoo	Body Wash
Conditioner	Lip Balm
Deodorant	Shaving Cream

*H.O.M.E. Inc. does NOT currently need toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products or soap.

Items can be dropped off in the Parish Hall during office hours or on Sundays. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Missions & Social Justice Committee News

Missions & Social Justice Committee: Lori McKenna, Chair; Sue Barden, Katie Dooley, Karen Farnsworth, Barbara Forauer, Penny Grant, Kristi Johnson, Kristi Kilbride, Melissa Loretan, Meaghan McKenna

Thank you to all who came out to cheer on runners and walkers, to participate, and to volunteer for the 7th Annual Hearts for Hunger Event. Jesse Carpenter from the VT Foodbank was there with a backpack of food for demonstration and someone was looking over us as the rains held off. A number of changes were made this year which were well received. Thank you for a very successful event! Thank you to race director Meaghan McKenna and to the Missions Committee!

Donations are still being accepted either by check in the offering plate with a note in the memo field "Hearts for Hunger," or by online contributions: <https://heartsforhunger5k.givingfuel.com/2019donations>

Early estimates bring us to about \$6300, all of which will be donated to the VT Foodbank for the Backpack Program. There will be several other small events over the summer with donations being sent in September during National Hunger Awareness Month. Stay tuned!

Responding to The Humanitarian Migrant Crisis

Learn how people of faith and goodwill can respond to the current refugee crisis

- Learn about action including and beyond offering sanctuary
- Hear from those already involved
- Build partnerships in Vermont and beyond

Panel A: Migration in a legal context:

Erin Jacobsen, South Royalton Legal Clinic, Vermont Law School
Bria Yazic, AALV legal intern

Panel B: Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and other Migrants

Steve Crofter: Exec. Dir. of Community Asylum Seekers Project of Vermont
Annie Gonzalez Milliken, Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network

Panels run consecutively so you won't miss anything! Refreshments will be provided during the interval.

Information will be available from Migrant Justice; Amnesty International; Central Vermont Refugee Action Network; American Friends Service Committee; and ACLU of Vermont

Child care and translation provided upon request with registration

**Sunday, June 16,
1:00-5:00pm**

**Unitarian Church,
Montpelier, VT**

**Suggested donation:
\$10 at the door**

**Please register online
at: bit.ly/June16register**



Finance Committee News

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

Electronic Giving

Making a budget-friendly automatic monthly contribution from a bank account or on a credit card helps us be faithful stewards even if we are not at church on Sunday morning. There are three ways to participate:

Electronic Funds Transfer (through Vanco) - you designate an amount to be debited from your checking or savings account and deposited into the church's account. Our Financial Secretary receives a monthly report of contributors and amounts. To sign up, complete the Authorization Agreement, put it in a sealed envelope along with the applicable voided document, and either place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office, attention Financial Secretary. The form can be obtained from the church office or downloaded and printed from this link: https://www.ucofh.org/uploads/2/4/1/5/24158700/uch_eft_form-1.pdf

Donate through the United Church's website – go to the website (ucofh.org), click on 'Donate', and set up a recurring monthly donation charged to a debit or credit card. Choose the option 'My donation is for the ongoing work at the United Church of Hinesburg.'

Automatic payments from your bank - if your bank or credit union offers an online banking bill pay feature you can set up regular payments to the church. This service is usually free for you, the customer, and there is no cost to the church. Typically the bank or credit union generates and mails a check to the church on a date you specify. The funds are deducted from your account when the church deposits the check. The church's mailing address is PO Box 39, Hinesburg, VT 05461.

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.

Parsonage Update

As we began the search process for our new pastor eight years ago, we agreed we wanted the ability to offer a flexible housing option, either a parsonage or a housing allowance, as we knew our parsonage, an old home, may not be ideal for all candidates. The parsonage was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1856, and so we began a parallel process with the United Methodist Conference to secure a declaration from the court giving us clear title to allow us to sell the property if we decided to do so. All the legalities were completed in 2012, giving the United Church full ownership.

Pastor Jared and Leah chose to live in the parsonage and have made it their home for the past five (almost six!) years. Over those years, the Trustees have worked closely with them to make much-needed improvements to the house. As the Hamilton family has grown and their interest in homesteading has increased, however, they want a place they can call their own, with more land for chickens, bees, and gardens. And so, Pastor Jared has asked the church leadership to consider selling the parsonage and providing a housing allowance instead.

Pastor Jared's request is fully in-line with what we had planned for years ago. The Church Council, at its May meeting, approved selling the parsonage and investing the proceeds for the purpose of helping to fund the housing allowance, along with the current budget line items for the parsonage. The Steering Committee (Phil Pouech, Andy Seaton, Mary Eddy Stewart, Heather Roberts and Yvonne Whitaker), along with the Trustees, is working with Jared and Leah on the details of the transition. More specifics will be provided in future communications once they are known.

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

The Membership Care Committee has been busily working behind the scenes to take care of - and keep track of - our congregation. We are responsible for hospitality (including welcoming new members), visitation, card sending and prayer shawl missions, keeping attendance and the membership register. In general, we see to it that all who associate with the United Church of Hinesburg are recognized, feel welcome and cared for.

There have been some changes in the membership of this committee as life ebbs and flows. Barbara Lyman has been on hiatus while she recovers from knee surgery. She will be returning when she is able (soon we hope....We miss her!). Anne Carter Mahaffey will soon be moving to California - we are sad to see her go. Happily, we can report that we have three new team members joining us: Alice Cobb, Carrie Huestis and Mary Thompson.

Each of the responsibilities of our committee is equally important. Here I would like to talk briefly about hospitality. This includes:

- Coffee Hour, which many of you are a part of and most of us enjoy!
- Funeral Receptions provided for church members, friends of the church and anyone in the greater community who wants to come to UCH for a funeral for their loved one.
- Welcoming and being attentive to newcomers and visitors by sitting with them in church, introducing them to others in the congregation and inviting them to Coffee Hour.

While it is the responsibility of our committee to promote hospitality, we certainly appreciate all the help we can get from the congregation to welcome newcomers, make them feel comfortable and want to come back.

Ours is wonderful church to be a part of. Let's share our joy and concern for others by extending hospitality and continuing to be a welcoming and affirming community.



Don't Miss the Church-wide BBQ on June 9th

The end of the program year is fast approaching! As usual, we will celebrate with a church-wide BBQ after church on Sunday, June 9th. Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages will be supplied but we need donations of salads, chips, etc. to round out the menu as well as helpers in the kitchen.

If you can contribute or help on the day of the BBQ, please contact the church office or sign up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-churchwide4>

New Interior Storms in the Sanctuary



The Trustees are tasked with maintaining and improving the physical spaces of the United Church of Hinesburg. This is no easy task when managing property and buildings that date back to the early 19th century.

When two separate efficiency audits performed in 2018 returned recommendations for lowering the energy usage of the church sanctuary, the Trustees began researching options.

Earlier this year, trustee Ken Cudney with help from fellow trustee Chip Foutz, installed interior storm windows in all of the second-floor windows and recommended downstairs windows. These storms provide significant savings to the church by reducing heat loss during colder months, keep the sanctuary more comfortable during the summer, and also reduce our carbon footprint. And unless you are looking for them, it's unlikely that you will even notice they are there.

Special thanks go to Ken and Chip and all the trustees that worked on this project.



The playground took some damage during the storm on May 20th and we would like to get a few people together to rake and replace the mulch. If you are interested, please contact Andy Seaton at 482-4313 or aseaton@pccconstruction.com so we can set up a day and time.

June 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
Saturday, June 1 st	9:00am-1:00pm	Car wash/bottle drive fundraiser for HYP @ Hinesburg Fire Station
Sunday, June 2 nd	9:00am	Steering Committee meeting
Sunday, June 2 nd	11:15am-12:30pm	Visioning Team meeting
Sunday, June 2 nd	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group meeting – includes dinner
Sunday, June 2 nd	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group meeting – includes dinner
Wednesday, June 5 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Sunday, June 9 th	11:15am	Church-wide BBQ
Sunday, June 9 th	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group meeting – includes dinner
Sunday, June 9 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group meeting – includes dinner
Sunday, June 16 th - Saturday, June 22 nd		HYP High School youth service trip to H.O.M.E. Inc.
Tuesday, June 18 th	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Wednesday, June 19 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Monday, June 24 th		July newsletter deadline
Friday, June 28 th	5:30pm-7:00pm	Open Table Diner free community meal hosted by the Hinesburg Select Board



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.

Please note that, as temperatures are warming and the items in the pantry are not in danger of freezing, we are now accepting jarred and canned foods again.



Our knitting/crocheting group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (June 5th and June 19th 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!

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

02	Anne Donegan
03	Marianne Brunetto
04	Grace Hans
04	Doreen Kendall
04	Mike Quinn
05	<i>Kristi & Ethan Johnson</i>
05	Sandy Milbank
06	<i>Amy & John Lyman</i>
07	<i>Laurie & David Danforth</i>
07	Kay Hildebrand
07	Patti Mead
07	Amy Patrick
08	Brenda Bissonette
08	Rodney Churchill
09	Aiden Robertson
10	<i>Lia Cravedi & Phil Pouech</i>
13	Sandy White
14	Phyllis Kilburn
14	Betty Lantman
15	Sawyer Cudney
21	Ken Cudney
21	Evan Petrie
22	Melissa Loretan
22	<i>Heidi & Dan Simkins</i>
23	<i>Sandy & Henry White</i>
26	Isabel Brown
26	<i>Ken & Jamie Cudney</i>
26	Robert Lian
27	Anita (Sam) Collins
27	Barbara Haire
28	<i>Rufus & Betsy Patrick</i>
28	<i>Christopher & Erin Walker</i>
28	Sandy Robinson
30	Lauryn Ouimet

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

June 2019

June 2nd

Greeter: Paul Emmons

Ushers: Kate Schubart & Kristi Kilbride

Reader: Thea Gaudette

June 9th

Greeters: Reggie & Sandy Robinson

Ushers: Barbara & Bob Forauer

Reader: Judy Parker

June 16th

Greeters: TBD

Ushers: Melissa Loretan & Grace Farley

Reader: Joanne Russell

June 23rd

Greeters: The Foutz family

Ushers: Kristi Kilbride & Sandy Milbank

Reader: Sharonlee Trefry

June 30th

Greeters: TBD

Ushers: Grace Ciffo & Kate Schubart

Reader: Howdy Russell

Coffee Hour: Dianne Hall & Bonnie Farrow – Co-Chairs; Alice Cobb, Cindy Dunshee, Barbara Herrington, Kristi Kilbride

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!