

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

MARCH 2018 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:

The Youth Programs and the 2018 Summer Youth Trip(s)!

A few years ago we had a problem. We had a big Sunday School program that was beginning to turn out older kids. And we didn't have a place for them to go. In small steps, we began offering one-off events and occasional five or six-week sessions on cool topics like world religions and weird ancient Christian practices. But there was a clear desire to do more.

So in 2016, ten youth went to New York City for a week of service that focused on hunger and food insecurity. We planned the trip with Youth Service Opportunities Project, a Quaker organization based in Lower Manhattan. Our two teams travelled around the five boroughs making meals, packing food, serving lunches, separating produce and stocking food shelves. It was a truly inspiring trip.

In 2017, fourteen young people went to Boston to explore key issues in social and environmental justice. These young people gardened, worked with service dogs, learned about advocacy issues and worked on an art installation. It was an education-heavy trip and we brought back greater awareness about LGBTQ issues, ability/disability rights and support, animal welfare and white privilege.

These trips are very much a part of what the United Church of Hinesburg is all about. Young people do not have to be associated with the church to participate, but most are. All young people and their families help to fundraise and plan for the trips. Much of the money raised for each trip comes from those outside the church, although UCH folks have been incredibly generous and have sponsored kids each year. These trips are also religiously-inclusive, acknowledging that for some kids, working on these issues are expressions of faithful service in the Christian tradition, while for others, this is simply the right thing to do. All have been welcome regardless of faith/no faith traditions.

One of the byproducts of the interest these trips draw is continued growth in our Sunday evening religious programming. This is one of the new challenges we face in our youth programs. After the Boston trip, we decided to split the program and have a middle school and high school program both for religious programming on Sunday evenings and for summer youth trips.

Over the next few months you will hear a lot about the upcoming middle school youth trip to the Berkshire Outdoor Center in Becket, Massachusetts in August and the High School youth trip to Puerto Rico in June. Realizing the need to build close friendships in middle school years, the Becket trip will focus on team building and service. Meanwhile, eighteen high school kids will travel to Puerto Rico to volunteer their time and energy as the island continues to recover from last year's hurricanes.

The youth programming at the United Church of Hinesburg is the fastest area of growth in our church. It gathers young people who have grown up in our faith community and new kids from outside UCH. It has served our church as a consistent bridge to the outside community with great events like the Pancake Supper, the Music and More night and other community-based activities. Above all, both the Sunday evening programs and the two youth trips engage our young people in thinking through the world's greatest challenges while offering tangible ways to respond.

Again, the youth programs are not possible without you. The church has made this a priority, one that I am able to spend time on. Folks have given generously to make our trips possible and we will need that generosity again. If you would like to support the 2018 youth trips, consider giving by check made out to the United Church of Hinesburg with "middle school trip" or "high school trip" in the memo line, at <https://www.youcaring.com/hinesburgyouthproject-1093407> (high school trip only) or using the Donate button on the church website <https://www.ucofh.org/donate.html>.

Blessings,

Pastor Jared

March 2018 Worship and Faith Formation Schedule

March 1 st :	3:00pm – 4:15pm – Bible Study w/ Pastor Jared: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 and John 2:13-22
March 4 th :	10:00am – Worship in the Sanctuary – Third Sunday in Lent
March 8 th :	3:00pm – 4:15pm – Bible Study w/ Pastor Jared: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
March 11 th :	10:00am – Worship in the Sanctuary – Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15 th :	3:00pm – 4:15pm – Bible Study w/ Pastor Jared: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
March 18 th :	10:00am – Worship in the Sanctuary – Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22 nd :	3:00pm – 4:15pm – Bible Study w/ Pastor Jared: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalms 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47
March 25 th :	10:00am – Worship in the Sanctuary – Palm Sunday
March 29 th :	7:00pm (simple dinner begins at 6:00pm) - Service of Tenebrae and communion
March 30 th :	3:00pm - Ecumenical Good Friday Service at St. Jude's Catholic Church
April 1 st :	6:30am – Easter Sunrise Service
April 1 st :	10:00am – Easter Sunday Service



Spring plants in honor or memory of loved ones will be available for purchase to be displayed on Easter Sunday. Forms to order flowers will be included as inserts in Sunday bulletins beginning in mid-March. Multiple names can be listed for one plant. The suggested donation is \$10/plant and checks should be made payable to the United Church of Hinesburg with "flowers" in the memo line.



Spotlight on.....the Membership Care Committee

Membership Care Committee: Sherrie Simmons, Chair; Jamie Cudney, Grace Farley, Bonnie Farrow, Dianne Hall, Barbara Lyman, Anne Carter Mahaffey, Joyce Menning, Heather Roberts

Under the United Church of Hinesburg's bylaws, the Membership Care Committee is tasked with

- 1) Identifying prospective new members.
- 2) Reaching out to visitors with hospitality and welcome.
- 3) Assisting the Pastor in recruiting sponsors for and providing orientation for new members.
- 4) Paying special attention to members at times of particular need such as illness, loss, family crisis, or the physical inability to attend worship.
- 5) Providing, and periodically updating, a church directory for congregational use.
- 6) Collecting weekly attendance for the Pastor's review and maintaining the data in order to provide statistics for annual denominational reports

The Membership Care Committee meets monthly to discuss the current needs of our congregation and the many ways we can support newcomers, those who are home-bound, and everyone in between. Some examples of the ways in which we do this:

Lay Visitation – The Committee maintains a list of those who could benefit from a visit from the pastor or a member of our lay visitation team. Visits could include phone calls, stopping by the house for conversation and companionship, help getting to doctor's appointments, providing meals, etc. If you are aware of someone in our congregation in need of these services, please contact the church office.

Birthday and Anniversary Cards – The Committee sends birthday and anniversary cards to remind members of our congregation that we are thinking of them on their special day. If you are not currently receiving a card for your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office to ensure we have the necessary information.

Coffee Hour – The Committee organizes the teams that provide the coffee hour that follows our worship service each Sunday morning. Each coffee hour team includes 5-7 people who serve for one month. The Committee identifies those who are willing to serve as "chairs" of each monthly team and those who are willing to participate on a monthly team by preparing food, serving and cleaning up in the kitchen afterwards. The Committee also coordinates special events during coffee hour such as soup & sandwich luncheons on the second Sunday of each winter month, the church-wide picnic in June, and Churchtoberfest. If you are not currently serving on a coffee hour team but would like to be, please contact the church office.

Funeral Receptions – The Committee oversees the provision of receptions for family and friends after funeral services. Similar to coffee hour, this includes recruiting people who can make food for the receptions and those who can work at the reception serving and cleaning up. If you would like to be involved in this important service to members of our community in a time of great need, please contact the church office.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – We are looking for people who knit or crochet and might enjoy making shawls of any size or shape. Many of you were present on the day when our then large supply of shawls was given away to go in many needed directions. Now we are finding we do not have enough shawls to meet the ongoing need! Basic shawl directions and yarn are available in the bottom of the prayer shawl cabinet by the church front door. Any size or shape that will go around shoulders will work.

Getting to Know You – The Committee interviews members of the congregation for our occasional “Getting to Know You” column in the newsletter. This is a great way to learn more about each other and to discover connections you may have with a person or family that you’ve seen in the pew or coffee hour line.

Connecting with newcomers – Our growing church is blessed with new faces in worship on a regular basis. If you sit near someone you do not know, how about introducing yourself and saying “welcome”? If you are standing in line at the end of church and see an unfamiliar face, how about inviting that person to coffee hour? And at coffee hour, would you consider sitting with someone you do not know? Or talking to a newcomer as you wait in line for your cup of coffee? Any friendly attention can make a big difference to someone who is visiting us for the first time, or has not been her for a while. This is a wonderful way to “be the church”!

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 March 25th. We will focus on mission in the wider world using “Matthew Desmond Talks About the Church’s Response to Housing Instability,” an interview with the Pulitzer-winning author of *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, by Betsy Shirley from *Sojourners* (June 2017). Desmond says, “What can people who have experienced eviction teach the church? I think that they can teach about how much human potential and creativity we squander.” A related biblical theme: “And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me’” (Matthew 25:40). Read the article online or print it out at <http://bit.ly/2hIQF7t>. Copies of the full article will be available on the back table in the sanctuary as you leave on March 18th and 25th.

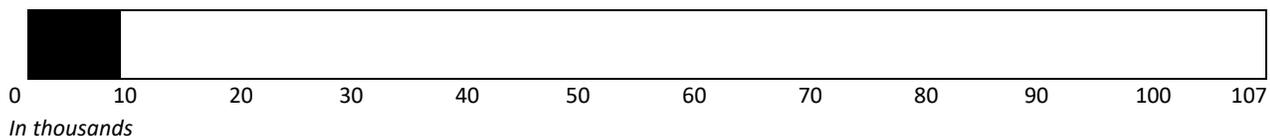
Finance Committee News

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 **January 31, 2018** (\$8,528 **8%** of offering budget)



Yvonne Whitaker, Treasurer

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

We have no Sunday School on Sunday, March 4th due to school vacation week but have several special activities planned for the remainder of the month:

- On Sunday, March 11th, we will welcome Ashley Williams-Wenschhof back to UCH for another session of yoga during Sunday School. Be sure to wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat or beach towel if you have one.
- On Sunday, March 18th, we will do a lesson focused on St. Patrick.
- On Sunday, March 25th, Palm Sunday, we will assemble our traditional Easter baskets for home-bound and elderly members of our congregation. If you are interested in donating fruit or chocolates to fill these baskets, please visit www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-easter2.

We will return to regular classroom days in Sunday School after Easter, continuing with the *Faith Practices* curriculum for both age groups. If you are interested in **leading a classroom** during the spring, please contact Heather in the church office for available dates.

We will not be holding the **monthly Sunday School Movie Night** originally scheduled for Friday, March 9th because of a conflict with the family dance at HCS that evening. We will reschedule for Friday, April 6th with details to follow.

In lieu of a Friday night event in March, the Sunday School will be hosting the **Open Table Diner free community meal** on Friday, March 23rd (a week early this month because of Good Friday). The menu will feature soups, bread, salad and dessert and all donations will support the 2018 summer youth trips. To provide food or sign up to help with the meal, visit www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-march1.

There are still several families who have not filled out **registration forms** for their children to be part of our Sunday School and youth programs. It's essential that we have information on hand about childrens' allergies, who may pick up your child from our programs, permission to take photos, etc. Forms are available in each classroom (including nursery) and on the Sunday School page of the church website: <http://www.ucofh.org/sunday-school.html>). If you have not already done so, please complete the applicable form and return it to the church office at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Heather in the church office. Thank you!

Our Christian Education programs at UCH continue to grow. Each year we engage more and more children in our classrooms on Sunday morning and in fun gatherings on Friday nights during the school year. In order to sustain this growth, **we need your help!** Our Caring Community Policy & Procedures requires at least 2 adults to be present at all events and for those adults to have reviewed our policy and consented to a state background check (at no cost to them or the church). If you think you'd like to help lead a classroom, run a One Room Schoolhouse or be present to help chaperone a Friday night event, please complete the Volunteer Participation Covenant found on the Sunday School page of the church website, <http://www.ucofh.org/sunday-school.html>, and return it to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Heather in the church office.

For the Youth

Our youth program started back up for a seven-week series on February 11th. Our middle school group meets from 5:00-6:30pm to continue exploring the basics of Christian faith through a popular curriculum called *re:form*. The high school group meets from 6:00pm to 7:30pm to begin preparing for the summer trip to Puerto Rico by learning more about the island, the devastation caused by the Hurricanes Irma and Maria and the response. The two groups share a meal from 6:00pm to 6:30 pm and work together and play together during combined service and recreational events. Pastor Jared leads both groups. If you have questions about the differences between the groups, would like to volunteer or want to explore the best group for your child, please contact Jared at revjared@gmavt.net.

This month, both groups will work together on a dessert fundraiser at the Hinesburg Town Meeting on Monday, March 5th. Both groups will be baking cookies, cupcakes etc. during their meetings this Sunday, March 4th, to sell at a table outside the CVU Auditorium near the beginning of the meeting on Monday. We will have plenty of ingredients and recipes to bake from on Sunday, but if you have something special that you would like to make with the group, bring the ingredients and we will give it a shot. Feel free to also make desserts at home; sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094da4aa292-desserts/11415289> to indicate what you can provide.

March 2018 Youth Schedule

- March 4th: 5:00pm – 6:30pm Middle School Youth Group (dessert fundraiser prep)
 6:00pm – 7:30pm High School Youth Group (dessert fundraiser prep)
- March 11th: 5:00pm – 6:30pm Middle School Youth Group
 6:00pm – 7:30pm High School Youth Group planning meeting – youth and parents
- March 18th: 5:00pm – 6:30pm Middle School Youth Group
 6:00pm – 7:30pm High School Youth Group
- March 25th: 5:00pm – 6:30pm Middle School Youth Group
 6:00pm – 7:30pm High School Youth Group

Scenes from the Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner Fundraiser



March 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
Tuesday afternoons	1:30pm-2:30pm	Disciplines study group
Every other Tuesday night	6:00pm-7:00pm	Cub Scouts – Wolf Den
2 nd Tuesday night	6:30pm-8:00pm	4-H meeting
Most Wednesday nights	6:30pm-9:00pm	Boy Scouts
Thursday mornings	10:00am-11:00am	Spanish speaking group
Thursday mornings	10:00am-11:30am	Hinesburg Friends of Families baby playgroup
1 st Thursday	7:30pm-8:30pm	Cub Scout parents meeting
Most Fridays	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Thursday, March 1 st	3:00pm-4:15pm	Lenten Bible Study
Sunday, March 4 th		No Sunday School; nursery care is available
Sunday, March 4 th	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group (dinner included)
Sunday, March 4 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group (dinner included)
Monday, March 5 th	6:30pm-7:30pm	Youth group dessert fundraiser at Hinesburg Town Meeting
Wednesday, March 7 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Thursday, March 8 th	12:30pm-6:00pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, March 8 th	3:00pm-4:15pm	Lenten Bible Study
Sunday, March 11 th	8:30am	Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting
Sunday, March 11 th	10:00am	Laity Sunday – World Day of Prayer
Sunday, March 11 th	10:15am	Yoga during Sunday School
Sunday, March 11 th	11:15am	Soup & Sandwich Coffee Hour
Sunday, February 11 th	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group (dinner included)
Sunday, February 11 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth trip planning meeting
Tuesday, March 13 th	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Thursday, March 15 th	3:00pm-4:15pm	Lenten Bible Study
Sunday, March 18 th	11:15am	Church Council meeting
Sunday, March 18 th	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group (dinner included)
Sunday, March 18 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group (dinner included)
Wednesday, March 21 st	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Thursday, March 22 nd	3:00pm-4:15pm	Lenten Bible Study
Friday, March 23 rd		April newsletter deadline
Friday, March 23 rd	5:30-7:00pm	Open Table Diner free community meal hosted by Sun. School
Sunday, March 25 th		Palm Sunday; Easter Basket project in Sunday School
Sunday, March 25 th	11:15am	Practicing God-talk
Sunday, March 25 th	5:00pm-8:00pm	Middle School Youth Group (dinner included)
Sunday, March 25 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group (dinner included)
Thursday, March 28 th	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday service (simple meal begins at 6:00pm)
Friday, March 29 th	3:00pm	Good Friday service at St. Jude's Catholic Church

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.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

01	Cindy Mahoney
03	Kendall Blanck
04	Valerie Ducharme
04	Jean Hawkins
07	Tom Barden
07	Erin Beaudry
07	Carter Ciffo
07	Barbara Forauer
08	John Brien
08	Jayden Grant
11	<i>Marianne & Scott Brunetto</i>
13	Maeve O'Neil
13	Linda Quinn
14	Nicole Palmer
15	Glenn Place
16	Amy Lyman
17	Penny Grant
18	Annabelle Reilly
19	Alonzo Bedard
19	Valerie Spadaccini
21	Kate Roberts
22	<i>Jonathan & Sharonlee Trefry</i>
22	Yvonne Whitaker
23	David Brown
23	Cole Cudney
26	<i>Erle & Suzy Mead</i>
26	Annalise Wood
27	Holly Lian
28	Barbara Lyman
28	Deanna Utter
30	Karla Munson

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



March 2018

March 4th

*Greeters: Carrie & Allison Huestis
Ushers: Grace Ciffo & Mary Eddy Stewart
Reader: Howdy Russell*

March 11th

*Greeters: youth
Ushers: youth
Reader: youth*

March 18th

*Greeters: Sandy & Reggie Robinson
Ushers: Barbara & Bob Forauer
Reader: Kate Schubart*

March 25th

*Greeters: TBD
Ushers: Grace Farley & Melissa Loretan
Reader: Barbara Herrington*

March Coffee Hour Hosts —

Chair – Cathy Foutz; Eileen Ashe, Ellen Dooley, Marie Eddy, Mary Hong, Mary Thompson

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!