

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

## MARCH 2019 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:*



#### **Preparing for Easter**

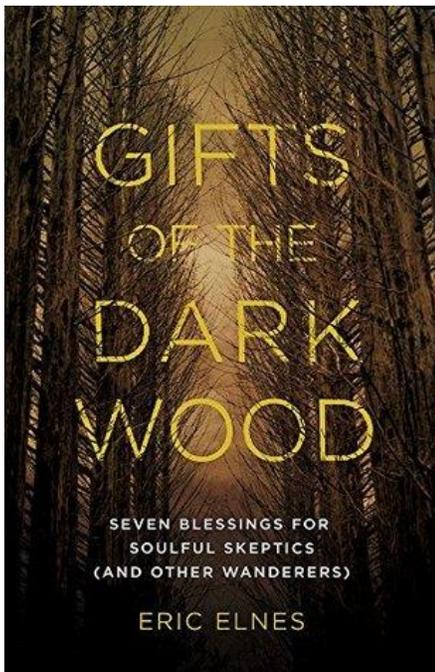
Easter is the highest holy day of the Christian faith, which makes celebrating it without preparing for it rather difficult. It would be like receiving a diploma without schooling, a championship without the practices or a wedding celebration without a courtship. Without preparation, these major events are robbed of their true significance.

For many Christians throughout the world, the season of Lent provides space and time for this preparation. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, and going for 40 days (minus Sundays), this solemn religious observance walks people of faith through Christianity's biggest question: "So what is God doing in a world where bad things happen?"

To lean into this question, we are asked to journey with Jesus and his disciples in the gospel stories as they encounter corruption, illness and death, grief, violence, poverty and oppression. They meet these challenges with resistance, healing, comforting, self-sacrifice and ultimately, resurrection.

For this reason, many people of faith take extra time during Lent to “practice” new responses to the challenges of this world. They give up luxury items like chocolate, sugar, meat, coffee and technology so they might live more intentionally. They might give more generously of their time and money, supporting a cause that makes this world better and volunteering at local food pantries, warming shelters and hospice centers. Folks might also return to personal prayer and study, spending time daily with God in the spirit of thankfulness, confession and petition.

Only by preparing for something, do we take it seriously. Our faith is built on an odd and wonderful promise that God works in this world to overcome violence and injustice, grief and loss, even the sting of death through hope and resurrection. Our God, even to this day, breathes new life into areas of this world that seem lost, corrupt and evil. So, there is always hope that hate will become love, oppression will become freedom and fear will become peace. This is the promise of Easter.



We begin the Christian liturgical season of Lent on March 6th with a traditional **Ash Wednesday service**. This service reminds us of our humanity, our mortality, and our need for hope.

We will also hold a **5-week Lenten Study Group** every Thursday at 3pm beginning March 14th to explore how God is present during difficult times. *Gifts of the Dark Wood* by Eric Elnes will be our guide. This book offers a look at the blessings and new perspectives gained during life’s more difficult times. Themes of loss, uncertainty, emptiness, and feeling invisible are approached as places where God is most present. Books can be found here:

[https://www.amazon.com/Gifts-Dark-Wood-Blessings-Wanderers/dp/1426794134/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?crd=21PO7FVWJL1A&keywords=gift+of+the+dark+woods&qid=1551718705&s=gateway&sprefix=Gift+of+the+Dar%2Caps%2C138&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Gifts-Dark-Wood-Blessings-Wanderers/dp/1426794134/ref=sr_1_2?crd=21PO7FVWJL1A&keywords=gift+of+the+dark+woods&qid=1551718705&s=gateway&sprefix=Gift+of+the+Dar%2Caps%2C138&sr=8-2)

or purchased from the church office for \$15.

Finally, we will hold two Holy Week services: **Maundy Thursday Service** will take place Thursday, April 18th at 7:00pm with a simple dinner before the service in the Parish Hall at 6:00pm, and our **Ecumenical Good Friday Service** on Friday, April 19th at 3:00pm. St. Jude’s Catholic Church will join us in our sanctuary for this year’s ecumenical service.

Finally, if you are interested in daily devotionals and Scripture readings to deepen your spiritual life for Lent, there are many possibilities online. You can sign up for the Daily Devotional from the United Church of Christ here:

[http://www.ucc.org/daily\\_devotional](http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional), or follow a well-thought-out reading plan from Central Presbyterian Church of Baltimore here: <https://www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans/lent?version=NIV>.

May your preparation go well!

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*

February recap:

- We completed the **Keeping Sabbath** lessons in our *Faith Practices* curriculum. Thank you to Betsy Patrick and Leah Hamilton for leading our classrooms during the month of February!
- We welcomed Ashley Williams-Wenschhof to lead a **yoga class** for our kids during our First Friday gathering on February 1st. We practiced yoga for about 45 minutes and then shared a dinner of pizza, salad and dessert.
- Carrie Huestis led a One Room Schoolhouse on Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, making more curried lentil **soup mix for the Little Free Pantry**. It is a perfect hearty meal to offer during the cold winter months when cans and jars cannot be stored in the Little Free Pantry.

In March, we will begin the month with no Sunday School on March 3<sup>rd</sup> (at the end of February school break) and then making pretzels for the first Sunday of Lent on March 10<sup>th</sup>. After that, we will start a new topic in our *Faith Practices* curriculum – Blessing and Letting Go - in our **Sunday School** classes on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> we will prepare for our Children's Sunday service on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

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 29<sup>th</sup>. The menu will feature soups, breads, salad and dessert and all donations will support the 2019 summer youth trips. To provide food or sign up to help with the meal, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-march2>

### For the Youth

**Middle and high school youth groups at the United Church of Hinesburg continue to meet on Sunday evenings through March 10<sup>th</sup>.** The middle school group meets from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and the high school group meets 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*. During our time together we will explore what faith and food tell us about our family roots, refugees, the environment and gratitude. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, parents are encouraged to attend as we will discuss the middle school summer trip for 2019 and plan our fundraising efforts.

The high school group will continue to discuss poverty in preparation for their 2019 summer trip to H.O.M.E. Inc. in Orland, ME.

We need at least two parents to help out with each group each week. Please contact Pastor Jared if you're able to help. We will also have registration forms available for the 2019 calendar year for anyone who has not yet completed one.

## **March Youth fundraisers**

The bake sale at Hinesburg Town Meeting raised over \$250 and the Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner raised nearly \$300 for our High School Youth Trip to Orland, ME. Watch your email for details about our next fundraiser, Music & More, an evening featuring our talented youth and their families performing music, theater, storytelling, etc. It is currently planned for Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **2019 HYP Middle School Youth Trip**



#### **Full Information Session Sunday, March 10th from 5:00pm-6:30pm**

Every summer, high school youth from Hinesburg travel for a time of service, education and fun. In previous years, this group has explored food insecurity in New York City, social justice issues in Boston, Massachusetts and disaster cleanup in Puerto Rico. This program, called the Hinesburg Youth Project (HYP) is a non-denominational/interfaith/no-faith inclusive program of the United Church of Hinesburg and is open to youth grades 8-12 in Hinesburg, Vermont.

Last year, HYP launched a middle school summer trip program that took Hinesburg youth to the Berkshire Mountains for wilderness exploration and community service.

Prompted by an idea from our youth, this year's middle school youth trip will travel to Ipswich, Massachusetts to volunteer at the Service Dog Project. Founded by Carlene White in 2003 on her 12-acre farm, the Service Dog Project breeds, raises, trains and matches certified Great Dane service dogs to individuals who have balance and mobility limitations due to Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, Cerebral Palsy, and traumatic injury. For more information on this organization, visit: <https://www.servicedogproject.org>.

Youth will work around the farm, caring for the dogs and learning about Carlene's work. Youth will also have the opportunity for fun, exploring Massachusetts' North Shore, local beaches and other activities. Finally, youth will travel to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire on the final day for fun and recreation.

The trip will take place Sunday, August 18th to Wednesday, August 21st and is open to all middle school students grades 5-7 from Hinesburg. An Information Session will be held Sunday, March 10th from 5:00pm to 6:30pm at the United Church of Hinesburg Parish Hall.

## Worship Committee News

*Worship Committee: Judy Parker & Sandy White – Co-Chairs; Samantha Angstman, Barbara Forauer, Barbara Herrington, Rufus Patrick, Kate Schubart*

### Music in March

The United Church of Hinesburg music program is a valuable part of our faith community. Our musical accompaniment and active choir have guided us in worship. We've also been fortunate to have many guest musicians offer their unique styles for special services like Jazz Sunday, Churchtoberfest and Easter Sunday Brass.

Special Music planned for March includes:

- March 3: Special music from our new accompanist, Sammy Angstman
- March 10: Sammy Angstman, piano and Baker Angstman, violin
- March 17: Old fashioned hymn sing and Irish music appropriate to the day
- March 24: Guest artist Becky Bass, vocalist and steel drum specialist, providing a sneak preview of her performance later in the day with the South County Chorus

In order to continue to provide a wide variety of music artists and style, and to keep our choir singing on our current schedule, we are looking to you during Music in March to support the music program in 2019.

At the back of the church and in the Parish Hall you will find envelopes labeled with dollar amounts from \$1-\$100.

- Choose an envelope with the dollar amount you would like to donate,
- Fill it with the dollar amount on the envelope, either by check or cash (include your name if you wish to have your donation recorded for the UCH 2019 year-end statement),
- Place your envelope in the offering plate, drop it off in the church office or send it by mail by March 24<sup>th</sup>.

If all the envelopes are returned, the music program will be fully funded for the rest of the year.

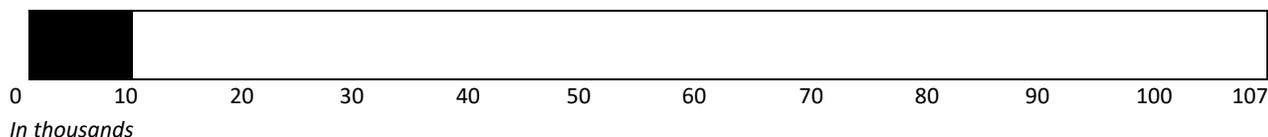
## Finance Committee News

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

### Financial Update

Our 2019 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, 2019** (\$9,146 8% 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.

## Missions 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*

As we gear up for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Hearts for Hunger, we'd like to kick it off by sharing some important statistics on how our fundraising event has changed the lives of children in Vermont!

Each backpack of food costs \$3.50 and the Vermont Foodbank BackPack Program runs for 35 weeks each year.

To date, we have donated \$37,444.80! Now, for the statistics!

Date	Amount	Backpacks of Food	Children
2013	\$3,220.03	920	26
2014	\$4,801.70	1,372	40
2015	\$6,503.07	1,858	53
2016	\$7,507.00	2,145	61
2017	\$7,613.00	2,175	62
2018	\$7,800.00	2,229	63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$37,444.80</b>	<b>10,699</b>	<b>305</b>

**We hope to see you on May 18, 2019 at 9:00am for what promises to be another great event!**

\*Event Registration website:

<https://heartsforhunger5k.redpodium.com/2019>

\*Donations website:

<https://heartsforhunger5k.givingfuel.com/2019donations>

**7TH  
ANNUAL**



# **5K HEARTS FOR HUNGER**

**A RACE TO BENEFIT  
VT FOODBANK BACKPACK  
PROGRAM**

**SATURDAY  
MAY 18, 2019**

**CVU HIGH SCHOOL  
HINESBURG, VT**

**9:00AM**



**REGISTER ONLINE AT  
<https://heartsforhunger5k.redpodium.com/2019>**

## Vision Facilitation 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, Mary Eddy Stewart, Yvonne Whitaker*

### Insights from our last meeting (2/17/19):

- We envision our strategic work together now to be focused and aligned to these 3 areas
  - Spiritual Growth/Support
  - Advocacy and Service
  - Securing and Effectively Utilizing Resources
- We acknowledge that there are many activities that are currently happening in these areas...perception: often tactical or reactive
- We envision these strategic work areas will be coordinated and complementary (not in silos)
- We acknowledge the institutional nature of the work of this group, toward a shared spiritual vision
- We envision that by improving the effectiveness of our procedures, meetings and communication, we will be able to find more time and resources for more strategic, institutional and spiritual activity

**NEXT MEETING:** March 10<sup>th</sup> after church 11:15-12:45. Meetings are open to all.

## Trustees News

*Trustees: Yvonne Whitaker – Andy Seaton – Chair; Wes Ashe, Ken Cudney, Bob Forauer, Chip Foutz, JP Hong, Phil Pouech, Matt Sayre*

One of the Trustee goals is to make the Church and Parish House more accessible for wheelchairs. As part of that effort, we will be creating a space for a wheelchair in the church.

We consulted a contractor who does work in churches (and his consultant) who recommended that the space for the wheelchair seating should be located close to the handicap accessible entrance for safety in case of an emergency.



We spoke to several parishioners and decided the best approach would be to remove one half of a pew in the back of the church (see photo).

Note that this work we be taking place in March, we will update the congregation with our progress in the weekly announcements.

Please contact Andy Seaton if you have any questions:  
[aseaton@pconstruction.com](mailto:aseaton@pconstruction.com)

## March 2019 Happenings at UCH

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

2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	8:00am-3:00pm	WIC
Monday nights	5:00pm-9:30pm	Parish House reserved by private group
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> )	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Sunday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>		No Sunday School
Sunday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group meeting
Sunday, March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group meeting
Monday, March 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm-10:00pm	HYP Bake Sale fundraiser at Hinesburg Town Meeting @ CVU
Tuesday, March 5 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-7:00pm	Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner – HYP fundraiser
Wednesday, March 6 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Wednesday, March 6 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday service
Sunday, March 10 <sup>th</sup>		One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School - pretzels
Sunday, March 10 <sup>th</sup>	11:15am-12:45pm	Visioning Team meeting
Sunday, March 10 <sup>th</sup>	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group meeting – trip planning
Sunday, March 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group meeting
Thursday, March 14 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Lenten study group - <i>Gifts of the Dark Wood</i> by Eric Elnes
Saturday, March 16 <sup>th</sup>	1:30pm	Memorial Service for Paul Zengilowski
Tuesday, March 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Wednesday, March 20 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Thursday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>	3:00pm	Lenten study group - <i>Gifts of the Dark Wood</i> by Eric Elnes
Friday, March 22 <sup>nd</sup>		April newsletter deadline
Thursday, March 28 <sup>th</sup>	3:00pm	Lenten study group - <i>Gifts of the Dark Wood</i> by Eric Elnes
Friday, March 29 <sup>th</sup>	5:30pm-7:00pm	Open Table Diner community meal hosted by Sunday School
Saturday, March 30 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Music & More HYP Fundraiser
Sunday, March 31 <sup>st</sup>	10:00am	World Day of Prayer service



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 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.**

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## *March Birthdays & Anniversaries*

01	Cindy Mahoney
03	Kendall Blanck
04	Valerie Ducharme
04	Jean Hawkins
07	Tom Barden
07	Carter Ciffo
07	Erin Beaudry
07	Barbara Forauer
08	John Brien
08	Jayden Grant
11	<i>Marianne &amp; Scott Brunetto</i>
13	Maeve O'Neil
13	Linda Quinn
14	Nicole (Utter) Palmer
15	Glenn Place
16	Amy Lyman
17	Penny Grant
18	Annabelle Reilly
19	Alonzo Bedard
19	Valerie Spadaccini
21	Kate Roberts
22	<i>Sharonlee &amp; Jonathan Trefry</i>
22	Yvonne Whitaker
23	David Brown
23	Cole Cudney
26	<i>Erle &amp; 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 2019**

### **March 3rd**

*Greeter: Paul Emmons*

*Ushers: Sandy Milbank & Kate Schubart*

*Reader: Judy Parker*

### **March 10th**

*Greeter: Paul Emmons*

*Ushers: Barbara & Bob Forauer*

*Reader: Meg Reilly*

### **March 17th**

*Greeters: Mary Thompson & Sarah Hayes*

*Ushers: Melissa Loretan & Grace Farley*

*Reader: Renate Parke*

### **March 24th**

*Greeters: Sandy & Reggie Robinson*

*Ushers: Grace Ciffo & Sandy Milbank*

*Reader: Grace Ciffo*

### **March 31st**

*Greeter: Kristi Johnson*

*Ushers: Meg & Dan Reilly*

*Reader: TBD*

*Coffee Hour: Cathy Foutz – Chair; 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](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!**