

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

MARCH 2020 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:

What is a Sabbatical?

The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, 'When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the Lord. For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the Lord. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap what grows of itself in your harvest, or gather the grapes of your undressed vine. It shall be a year of solemn rest for the land.'"
- Leviticus 25:1-5

The definition of the word *sabbatical* is something like "an extended period of leave from one's customary work or job for rest, training or the development of new skills." Historically, sabbatical leave is a common practice for academics and clergy where professors and pastors take time away from professing and pastoring to rest, recharge, and research. Commonly a sabbatical leave can last anywhere from two months to a year, is usually a paid leave and comes with the promise that the same job will be there upon return.

Recently, this age-old practice has expanded to other parts of the business world. A 2018 study by the Society for Human Resource Management reported that 15 percent of US employers offer a professional sabbatical as a benefit to their employees, showing that the age-old practice is catching on. Increasingly, businesses are offering sabbatical leaves to their employees (and not only to their corner office executives) to protect them from burnout, gain analogous experiences, retool, and improve overall health. NRG in Hinesburg is an example of a business that provides

sabbatical leave for their employees. And the research is solid – employers benefit from employees that take sabbatical leave with increased buy-in, productivity and drive.

The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ recommends that UCC clergy take a sabbatical leave every five years for a period of three months. The Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization Ministry Team of the UCC writes the following:

A sabbatical is a significant time of rest, renewal, and refreshment for pastors. For pastors, the sabbatical is time to nourish their relationship with God, recommit to their call, and provide renewed vision and focus for ministry. A sabbatical is not a vacation, but it does provide time away from the daily work of ministry. Sabbatical leave may include study or a project, but its first goal is reconnecting with one's sense of vocation through rest, reflection, and prayer.

I have been a pastor at the United Church of Hinesburg since August of 2013 and feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to take my first sabbatical in 2020. At the recommendation of a close clergy advisor, my sabbatical will last two months instead of three (July and August this year) but will take place every three years instead of five beginning this year. During this time, Rev. Debbie Ingram, our former bridge pastor and current Executive Director of Vermont Interfaith Action and state senator will serve UCH for pastoral care/visitation and will lead communion services. The congregation will work together to supply services as well and help with other day-to-day operations.

During these two months, I will be stepping away from UCH entirely. I will spend much of the summer with my family while my children are on summer break and find rest enjoying our new home, developing new gardens and exploring our woods. I will also work on two projects that I have longed to devote some time too. The first is a professional development program that focuses on lean management and project management concepts. The second is developing resources for worship and religious education that focus on “green” themes like environmental stewardship, agrarianism and creation care. With these two projects, I hope to retool and recharge so my work at UCH will continue to be fruitful and productive for years to come.

Offering a sabbatical to pastors, while common, is a new experience for the United Church of Hinesburg. There are bound to be questions. Beginning in March, we will provide an overview document entitled “A Sure Foundation: Resources for the Relationship between Pastor and Congregations” at the back of the church and in the church office. This document outlines what sabbaticals for pastors and churches look like. You should also feel free to ask me any questions you might have about my upcoming sabbatical.

Blessings,

Pastor Jared

Spiritual Formation Activities at UCH in March

AM Bible Study – Last Sunday of the Month – 9:00 to 9:45am



AM Bible Study meets on the last Sunday of each month before Sunday Worship services from 9:00 to 9:45am. Come for good coffee and conversation about the lectionary passage for the day. All are welcome!

Membership Care Committee News

Membership Care Committee: Dianne Hall & Mary Eddy Stewart – Co-Chairs; Alice Cobb, Grace Farley, Bonnie Farrow, Carrie Huestis, Barbara Lyman, Judy Parker, Mary Thompson, Sandy White

Are you interested in becoming a member at the United Church?



Joining a church is one way of acknowledging the bond between individuals and a community of faith. When new members join, the entire community has the opportunity to pledge their care, support and commitment to the new member and the new member does the same.

If you are new to the United Church of Hinesburg and are interested in learning more about the church and/or joining as a member, please contact Pastor Jared at revjared@gmavt.net or the church office at 482-3352 or unitedchurch@gmavt.net to receive more details. Information packets are available on the back table in the sanctuary. A New Member Sunday service is planned for Palm Sunday, April 5th, with an information session after church on Sunday, March 22nd.

Missions & Social Justice Committee News

Missions & Social Justice Committee: Lori McKenna – Chair; Sue Barden, Karen Farnsworth, Barbara Forauer, Cathy Foutz, Penny Grant, Kristi Johnson, Kristi Kilbride, Meaghan Mckenna, Katie Dooley Morris

We would like to thank all of our “Food Angels” at the United Church who have contributed to our mission to help pay down school lunch debt at Hinesburg Community School. We collected \$835 to donate which is a phenomenal success!!! This mission directly supports our church's overall goal to address food insecurity locally, nationally and globally. We recently received a letter from the HCS school principal who asks that we pass on his deepest thanks. The ‘Food Angels’ mission is an event that has been occurring recently to address federal cutbacks in school lunch grants. Thank you again for your support! WOW!

Finance Committee News

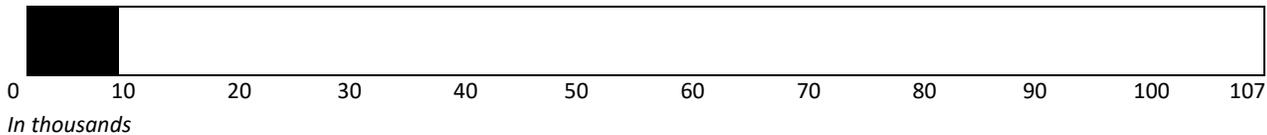
Finance Committee: Yvonne Whitaker, Treasurer; David Eddy, Danielle Pezzimenti, Phil Pouech

Financial Update

Our 2020 budget includes an offering goal of \$107,750. With your generosity we will achieve that goal, providing the financial support needed for our church to continue to grow and thrive. The progress bar below will be published throughout the year to show how we are doing.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Plate offering received as of **January 31, 2020** (\$9,786 9% 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, Sharonlee Trefry



In **February**, we continued using *A Joyful Path* in the classroom, with lessons about Sharing, Self-control and Stillness. We finished the month with a One Room Schoolhouse on February 23rd making dry soup mix for the Little Free Pantry, a great way to get a hearty, nutritious meal to our neighbors in need.

There is no Sunday School on March 1st due to the February school vacation. We will return to the classroom on March 8th and March 15th for lessons from *A Joyful Path* on Learning Patience and Experiencing the Oneness of All Through Service. On Sunday, March 22nd we will rehearse for our **Children's Sunday service** on March 29th when our Sunday School kids will be involved in the service as greeters, ushers, readers, lay liturgists, prayer leaders and drama participants. Please contact Heather in the church office if there is something in particular your child would like to do or if you know that you child will be unavailable that day.

Unfortunately, our game night scheduled for Friday, February 7th had to be cancelled as a result of the major snowstorm we received that day. We will not have a first Friday event in March to allow families to attend the PiE Family Dance at HCS. This month, in place of our usual movie and game nights, the Sunday School will be hosting the **monthly community dinner** on Friday, March 27th. The meal will feature soup, bread, salad and dessert and donations will support a mission of the kids' choosing in our community. Ideas include the Little Free Pantry, the Hinesburg Food Shelf, and the HYP summer youth trip. To provide food or sign up to help with the meal, visit:

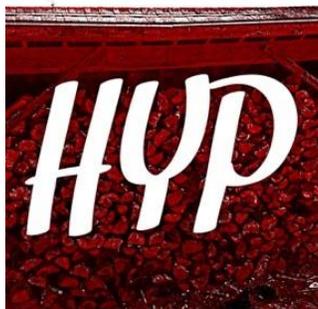
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-march3>

Can you help our growing Sunday School program by **volunteering** your time on Sunday mornings or one Friday evening per month? We have a particular need for a musician or vocalist to work with the Sunday School for 4-6 weeks at a time, learning a song to be performed in church. In addition, we are in need of:

- Leaders for our Sunday School classrooms (grades K-3 and grades 4-6)
- Roamers to monitor Sunday School classrooms and help out where needed
- A special project or activity to share with the Sunday School during a One Room Schoolhouse
- Chaperones for our monthly movie or game nights on the first Friday of the month
- Nursery substitutes to cover when our usual providers are unavailable

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Heather in the church office.

Middle and High School Youth Groups - Upcoming fundraisers



Town Meeting Bake Sale

Monday, March 2nd 7:00-10:00pm

Stop by the HYP bake sale table outside the CVU Auditorium during Town Meeting for some delicious homemade treats. Donations support the HYP 2020 summer trip to the New Community Project's Sustainable Living Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Youth Group Program Schedule

Winter Session 2020 - Continued

The middle and high school groups resume meeting to continue the winter session, meeting Sunday evenings, March 8th to the 22nd. The middle school will meet from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and the high school will meet from 6:00pm to 7:30pm on the 8th. The two groups will meet together from 5:00pm to 7:30pm on the 15th and 22nd because we will be hosting special guests. 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.

We will continue to focus on the intersection of environmental stewardship and social justice, which will provide context for our local service work and the 2020 summer service trip to the New Community Project Sustainable Living Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia. On March 15th, Church Reiss and Jim Goldsmith will meet with the group about sustainable and ecologically-minded building practices. On the 22nd, James Donegan will help us make a seasonal dinner and talk with us about local sustainable food systems.

Additionally, if you plan to participate in the 2020 Summer Trip and have not sent in your \$100 deposit, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions or are interested in scholarship opportunities, please contact Pastor Jared.

Schedule

Sunday, March 8, 2020: How Climate change affects real people

- Middle School: 5:00pm to 6:30pm
- High School: 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Sunday, March 15, 2020: Sustainable Building Practices w/ Chuck Reiss and Jim Goldsmith

- Middle School & High School: 5:00pm to 7:30pm

Sunday, March 22, 2020: Sustainable Food Systems w/ James Donegan of Trillium Hill Farm

- Middle School & High School: 5:00pm to 7:30pm

2020 HYP Youth Trip

Background

Every summer, 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, accessibility and animal care issues in Massachusetts, disaster cleanup in Puerto Rico, and rural poverty in Orland, Maine. 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 6-12 in Hinesburg, Vermont and the surrounding areas.



This year, participants will travel to the **New Community Project Sustainable Living Center** in Harrisonburg, Virginia to explore the intersection of environmental stewardship and social justice. The Living Center is a multifaceted organization that works to promote the healing of local lands and people by “Creating sustainable systems that care for the earth, empower people, educate and inspire, and build the foundation for a nonviolent life style.” In practice, this looks like creating green spaces in the city, campaigning and building bicycle routes to promote alternative transportation, working with schools to install gardens, offer energy audits to local businesses, provide housing for those in transition, including refugees, and many educational programs that connect the worlds of climate justice and sustainable practices with direct human impact. Founded by David Radcliff, and run by Tom Benevento, the Living Center is a vital part of a true one-of-a-kind organization called the New Community Project. For more information on this organization, visit:

<https://www.newcommunityproject.info/harrisonburg>, and <https://www.facebook.com/newcommunityproject/>.

There will be many options for service including work around the farm and community gardens, preparing meals, chop wood, working on bike path construction, and performing light carpentry work. To ground our environmental and agrarian work in social justice and care for all people, we will have the opportunity to hear from NCP staff and James Madison University faculty about how their environmental work is integral to working with those on the margins. Finally, youth will also have the opportunity for fun, exploring Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley and hanging out as a group.

The trip will take place **Monday, June 15th to Monday, June 22nd.**

Cost

Trip fees and fundraising cover all lodging, meals, transportation and program costs. Scholarships are available by email Jared Hamilton @ revjared@gmavt.net.

Trip Fee: \$300 (scholarships Available) if signed up by 2/23;
 \$400 if signed up by 3/31;
 \$500 if signed up by 4/30;
 \$Full Cost (\$750) if signed up 5/1 or later

A deposit of \$100 is due by February 23, 2020, or on the date of registration. Remaining Balance is due June 1, 2020

All participating youth (and their families when possible) are strongly encouraged to participate in program, fundraising and service projects throughout the year. Service projects will be focused on the New Community Project Site in Starksboro, Vermont. These opportunities prepare us for the subject material of this trip, ease the total trip cost to families, and strengthen bonds between the youth and chaperones before the trip.

March 2020 Happenings at UCH

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

| | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Monday mornings (except 2 nd) | 10:00am-11:00am | Spanish speaking group |
| 2 nd Monday | 8:00am-3:00pm | WIC |
| Monday nights | 5:00pm-9:30pm | Parish House reserved by private group |
| Tuesday nights | 6:15pm-7:30pm | Cub Scouts |
| 2 nd Tuesday night | 6:30pm-8:00pm | 4H Midnight Riders |
| Wednesday nights | 6:30pm-9:00pm | Boy Scouts |
| Thursday mornings | 10:00am-11:00am | Spanish speaking group |
| Fridays (except 1 st) | 9:00am-1:00pm | Hinesburg Senior Meal site |
| Sunday, March 1 st | | No Sunday School; No Youth Group |
| Wednesday, March 4 th | 12:30pm-2:00pm | Knitting/crocheting group meets in the Parish Hall |
| Thursday, March 5 th | 6:00pm-9:30pm | Girl Scout cookie sorting & distribution |
| Sunday, March 8 th | 5:00pm-6:30pm | Middle School Youth Group (includes dinner) |
| Sunday, March 8 th | 6:00pm-7:30pm | High School Youth Group (includes dinner) |
| Friday, March 13 th | 6:30pm-8:00pm | Cub Scout pack meeting |
| Sunday, March 15 th | 5:00pm-7:30pm | Middle & High School Youth Group (includes dinner) |
| Wednesday, March 18 th | 12:30pm-2:00pm | Knitting/crocheting group meets in the Parish Hall |
| Sunday, March 22 nd | 10:00am | Special worship service - World Day of Prayer |
| Sunday, March 22 nd | 11:15am | New member information session |
| Sunday, March 22 nd | 5:00pm-7:30pm | Middle & High School Youth Group (includes dinner) |
| Monday, March 23 rd | | April newsletter deadline |
| Friday, March 27 th | 5:30pm-7:00pm | Monthly free Community Meal hosted by the Sunday School |
| Sunday, March 29 th | 9:00am-9:45am | AM Bible Study |
| Sunday, March 29 th | 10:00am | Special worship service – Children’s Sunday |



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. 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.

****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! Examples include: breakfast cereal, granola bars, pasta, rice, mac & cheese, peanut butter, foil-wrapped tuna or chicken, baking mixes & toiletries.**



Our knitting/crocheting group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 12:30-2:00pm in the Parish Hall. Join us on Wednesday, March 4th and Wednesday, March 18th. 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 our next Holiday Bazaar. Come for some stitching fun and conversation!

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 | Carter Ciffo |
| 07 | Erin Beaudry |
| 07 | Barbara Forauer |
| 08 | John Brien |
| 08 | Jayden Grant |
| 11 | <i>Marianne & Scott Brunetto</i> |
| 11 | Hallie Jean Foutz |
| 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>Sharonlee & Jonathan Trefry</i> |
| 22 | Yvonne Whitaker |
| 23 | David Brown |
| 23 | Cole Cudney |
| 25 | <i>Erle & Suzy Mead</i> |
| 26 | Annalise Wood |
| 27 | Sam Foutz |
| 27 | Holly Lian |
| 28 | Barbara Lyman |
| 28 | Deanna Utter |
| 30 | Peter Foutz |
| 30 | Karla Munson |

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



March 2020

March 1st

Greeter: Jamie Cudney

Ushers: Kristi Kilbride & Sandy Milbank

Reader: Amy Patrick

March 8th

Greeters: youth

Ushers: TBD

Reader: youth

March 15th

Greeters: Mary Thompson & Sarah Hayes

Ushers: Barbara & Bob Forauer

Reader: Thea Gaudette

March 22nd

Greeter: Sherrie Simmons

Ushers: Grace Ciffo & Mary Eddy Stewart

Reader: Karen Farnsworth

March 29th

Greeter: Marilyn Utter

Ushers: Kate Schubart & Mary Eddy Stewart

Reader: Mary Eddy Stewart

*Coffee Hour committee: 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 | 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!