

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

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

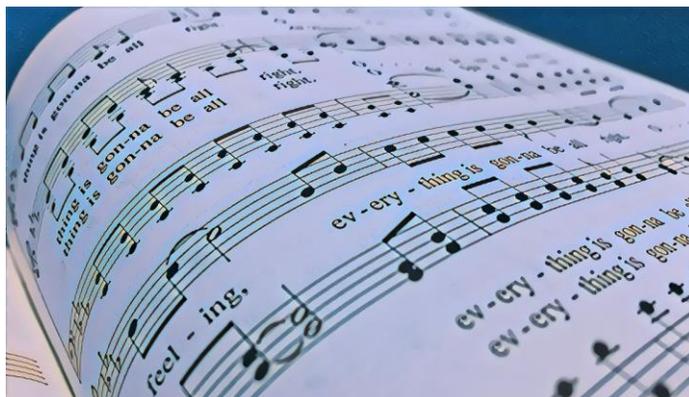


TO:

Pastor: Rev. Jared Hamilton
Pastor's Email: revjared@gmavt.net
Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am – 12pm
Office Contacts: 482-3352 / unitedchurch@gmavt.net / www.ucofh.org

Please help keep our records current by contacting the UCH Office with changes to your e-mail or mailing address. Thank you!

Pastor's Message:



Hymnals, Inclusion and the United Methodist Decision

For many of us, a good church hymnal is as much a part of Sunday morning worship as reciting the Lord's Prayer or sitting in our favorite pew. I still remember the green bound *Songs of the Church* hymnal I grew up with and how my friend John and I would flip through the pages over and over as little kids during Sunday services, pretending to read the music. In fact, I even have a copy of this hymnal on my shelf at home today.

Here at the United Church of Hinesburg, we've used *The United Methodist Church Hymnal* (UMCH) since 1990 and added one of its supplemental editions, *The Faith We Sing* (FWS) around 2000. They have served us well for many years because they contain many of the old favorites, a well-organized Psalter, and, with *The Faith We Sing*, a collection of praise music.

No hymnal is perfect, however, and for a few years we've talked about other options. Specifically, we've kept our eyes out for hymnals that use more inclusive language, promote more diverse theology, include other traditional hymns not found in the UMC hymnal, and arrange contemporary worship music a little better. We want all of this while retaining many of the features and favorites we use today. There are many hymnals available that get us part of the way there, but we've been unable to find any one hymnal that meets all of these needs so we've stayed with *The United Methodist Church Hymnal* and *The Faith We Sing*.

In February, the United Methodist Church General Conference voted to reinforce the denomination's discriminatory language regarding human sexuality and strengthen the enforcement measures of this language. Local UMC jurisdictions would be required to suspend or defrock LGBTQ Methodist clergy, and churches, regional conferences and affiliated organizations (like colleges) that do not agree with the annual conference's decision would be unable to use UMC trademarked material and would be required to leave the denomination. The repercussions of this decision are enormous and unclear, and local churches are left in a holding pattern until clear alternatives are present.

The discriminatory language, which has existed at the UMC's highest level for over forty years, was rejected by members of the United Church of Hinesburg fifteen years ago when the church designated itself as Open & Affirming, Reconciling and Welcoming & Affirming in its three historic denominational traditions. And we weren't the only ones. Many UMC churches and churches with UMC affiliations like ours have gone through the same process. We are thankful that the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church has been supportive of churches like ours and has moved toward greater inclusion itself, publicly voicing its frustration with the General Conference's decision.

So, what does this have to do with hymnals? The cover of our hymnals is the only place in our church sanctuary that promotes our ties to any of our three historic denominations. This faith community has worked diligently over the years to be an inclusive and welcoming community for people from all genders, ethnicities, sexual orientations, ages, faith traditions and political affiliations. It sends a mixed message when we say at the beginning of every service, "No Matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here" and then use hymnals from a denomination that has recently and publicly stated the opposite. Further, hymnals that have been compiled elsewhere and more recently have made significant strides to be more inclusive, diverse and denominationally focused.

So, while we continue to learn more about the impact this decision will have on our church, we have decided to take a break from our United Methodist Church Hymnals. For a period of time, we will go without hymnals entirely, instead supplying a weekly hymn insert in each program. Because we strive to be an inclusive and welcoming church, this break can also be an opportunity to be more inclusive in our worship music. Our hymns will be drawn from our *UMCH* and *FWS* hymnals and will also include new hymns and arrangements from other hymnals like *The Chalice Hymnal*, *The New Century Hymnal*, *Singing the Living Tradition* and online sources. This diversity of sources will provide us with music for worship that is traditional and contemporary, that comes from many faith traditions, that is inclusive, and hopefully sing-able.

We will likely return to the UMC Hymnal or some alternative by June. Any final decision we might make about church hymnals is a discussion and decision we will all have and make together. And you can be assured that we will continue to get information to you about the future of the United Methodist Church as it reaches us. In fact, there is an update later in this newsletter.

If you have any questions or comments about hymnals and congregational singing, please let me know. Feedback is, most assuredly, our friend.

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

April recap:

- On April 7th, we celebrated our annual Children' Sunday service with our Sunday School children and youth involved in the service as greeters, ushers, readers, lay liturgists, prayer leaders and drama participants. As usual, everyone did a great job!
- On Palm Sunday, April 14th, the Children's Choir performed "How Great is Our God" during the service and then we assembled our traditional **Easter baskets** for home-bound and elderly members of the congregation during Sunday School.
- There was no Sunday School on April 21st and April 28th because of Easter and April school vacation week.

In May, we return to a more normal schedule. We will resume our *Faith Practices curriculum* in Sunday School, continuing lessons on "Blessing and Letting Go".

On Friday, May 3rd, we will have our final Sunday School Movie Night of the program year. We will share a dinner of pizza and fresh veggies and then watch *Smallfoot* on the big screen in the Parish Hall. This is a friend-friendly event so feel free to bring others along to enjoy the show. Popcorn and drinks will be provided during the movie but please bring a pillow, blanket, bean bag chair, etc. to watch in comfort. Please RSVP at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-sunday14>

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12th, we will hold a One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School, potting flowers for the women in our congregation.

On Sunday, May 26th, there will be no Sunday School because of the Memorial Day holiday.

Scenes from Children's Sunday



Youth

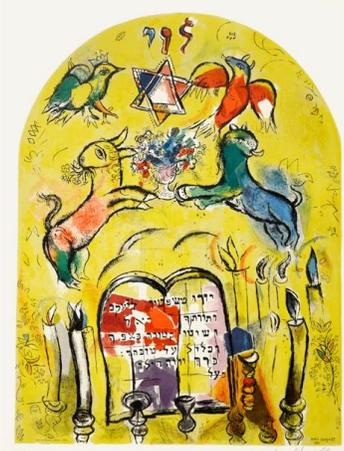
Middle and high school youth groups at the United Church of Hinesburg resume on Sunday, May 19th. We will meet for four weeks (5/19, 5/26, 6/2 and 6/9) with the middle school meeting from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and the high school meeting from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. There will be an overlapping meal from 6:00pm 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. Even if your young person is not attending the summer trip this year to the Service Dog Project in August, these groups will be fun and meaningful.

The high school group will continue to focus on the topic of rural poverty in preparation for the June trip to H.O.M.E. Inc. in Orland, Maine. During weeks three and four, the group will work on the details and expectations of the trip.

We need at least two parents to help out with each group each week. Please contact Pastor Jared if you're able to help on May 19th. The signup sheet will be available at the first meeting for parent helpers to sign up for subsequent meetings. We will also have registration forms available for all participants for the 2019 calendar year.

Marc Chagall's Twelve Tribes of Israel



The Tribe of Levi

The United Church of Hinesburg is blessed to have a number of pieces and examples of sacred art. From the stained-glass windows designed by Guido Nincheri that adorn our sanctuary, Dali's *Christ of Gala* print in the back of the church, and locally produced paintings, stained glass and needle work in the Parish Hall, art is part of our church's DNA.

And now we have twelve new additions. With gratitude, the United Church of Hinesburg received the gift of Marc Chagall's series entitled *Twelve Maquettes of Stained Glass Windows*. These twelve first edition lithograph prints now hang in the second floor of the sanctuary, are signed by Chagall and depict the artist's representation of the twelve tribes of Israel. This gift was donated by members Bob and Barb Forauer.

Marc Chagall (1887-1985) was an early modernist artist of Belarusian Jewish origin. Many of his subjects were religious, painting characters from the Hebrew Bible and a series of paintings depicting the crucifixion of Jesus that emphasize both Jesus's suffering and Jesus's Jewishness.

The *Twelve Maquettes* depict Chagall's preliminary drawings for one of his most heralded works, the stained-glass windows he created for the Hadassah-Hebrew Medical Center located just outside Jerusalem.

In the coming months, we will place information plaques at each of the lithograph prints and provide more information on the series.



2019 General Conference of the United Methodist Church Update

At the late April meeting of the Judiciary Committee, the United Methodist Church's top court, found that the Traditional Plan passed at the 2019 General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri is valid as church law. *The Book of Discipline*, the United Methodist Church's document that constitutes the law, doctrine and organizational structure of the church, will be updated to reflect changes and will go into effect on January 1, 2020.

The Traditional Plan reaffirmed current discriminatory language in the *Book of Discipline* regarding human sexuality. Under this plan, LGBTQIA clergy will be forced out of local churches and UMC churches cannot hold same-sex ceremonies in their buildings. Previously, local jurisdictions were able to stand "Out of Order" with the *Book of Discipline*, disregarding the language and enforcement required by the *BOD*. That will no longer be the case.

The United Church of Hinesburg has been a federated church of Methodists, Congregationalists and Baptists for 100 years and has been connected with Methodism's latest iteration, the United Methodist Church since its formation in 1968. UCH also maintains denominational connection to the American Baptist Church and the United Church of Christ. Currently this church is served by a UCC pastor and properties are held locally. As such, the United Church of Hinesburg is affected differently than non-federated UMC churches, though to what degree remains uncertain.

Further, as an Open & Affirming, Reconciling and Welcoming & Affirming congregation, the United Church of Hinesburg has made the decision to state publicly the following:

The United Church of Hinesburg is an open, welcoming, and affirming church and a reconciling congregation, embracing diversity in our congregation and community, and affirming the dignity and worth of every person as created in the image of God. We believe discrimination is incompatible with Christ's Gospel of unconditional love. We welcome into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, economic or marital status, and faith background. We affirm and celebrate all loving and committed relationships. We commit ourselves to work diligently to end oppression and discrimination. Following the example of Jesus Christ, we hereby declare ourselves to be an Open, Welcoming, and Affirming Church and a Reconciling Congregation (UCH Bylaws).

Thus far, members from UCH have attended a Courageous Conversations meeting for UMC churches in March and held an informational meeting at UCH in April. Our hope is to provide the congregation with as much context and information as we are able, to be transparent about the General Conference decision and the repercussions that follow, and to include the entire congregation in major decisions related to the United Methodist Church.

We remain thankful that Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, the Bishop of the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church, continues to stand against the Traditional Plan. His message regarding the Judicial Council ruling can be found here: <https://www.neumc.org/newsdetail/12799299>.

For the time being, Bishop Devadhar will be attending a "Holy Conversations" meeting at Hedding United Methodist Church in Barre, Vermont on Saturday, May 11th from 9am to 12pm. Although this conflicts with the Annual UCH Plant Sale, it will be important to have members from the church attend.

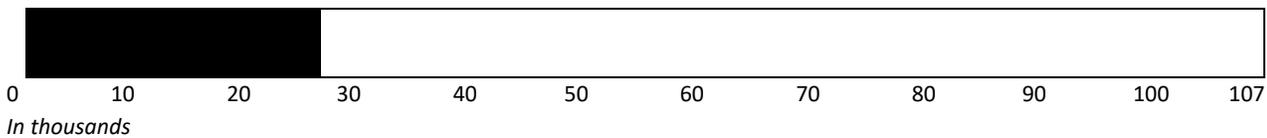
If you are able to attend the "Holy Conversations" meeting May 11th from 9am-12pm, please email Pastor Jared at revjared@gmavt.net for details including carpool information.

Finance Committee News

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

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 periodically to show how we are doing. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Plate offering received as of **March 31, 2019** (\$26,353 **24%** 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.

Zumbathon & Silent Auction



to benefit HYP Trip
Saturday, May 4th 9-11am



Bring a friend and join us for a fun 2 hour Zumba party at the Hinesburg Community School gym on Saturday, May 4th from 9-11am. You can dance for 20 minutes or two hours to the sets of 4 different instructors. The event will also include snacks and a silent auction.

Admission is *by donation* and all proceeds benefit the Hinesburg Youth Project's service trip to H.O.M.E. Inc. in Orland, ME in June. The group has also decided to donate a portion of the proceeds to Project HOePpnEr, an organization focused on teen suicide prevention in memory of a Hinesburg youth who passed away in the Fall.

If you'd like to help with this event, visit:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c49adaa29aaf49-refreshments>

Plant Sale Saturday, May 11th

We are having our **Annual Plant and Baked Goods Sale** on Saturday, May 11th from 9:00am – 3:00pm.

We are celebrating more than 40 years of this spring tradition. We will have hardy perennials, annuals and home-made baked goods for sale, all with the small-town hospitality you would expect in Hinesburg. The perennials, including traditional and unusual varieties, are dug from gardens in and around Hinesburg and are potted for transplanting. We offer them at very reasonable prices, well below those you would find at local garden nurseries. We also will have a large selection of annuals in full bloom for you to choose from. Our baked goods include pies, breads, cookies, baked beans and other delicious ready-to-serve fare.

We are looking for perennial donations, especially unusual varieties. Do you have any to donate? We'd love to talk to you!

For anyone looking to volunteer, please contact Mary Eddy Stewart at 802-777-8288 or by email at maryeddystewart@gmavt.net. We have many volunteer activities starting on Friday, May 3rd running through the day of the plant sale, May 11th. Many hands make light work – even an hour or two would help!



New this year.....pre-orders!

We will be selecting annuals for the plant sale on Thursday, May 9th. If you are looking for something in particular in numbers greater than 3, a pre-order will be greatly appreciated to help our planning. Please email Barbara Forauer at be4jay@cs.com with the plant name and quantity and possibly your color choice. If you want fully developed 4" pots or are ok with a 4 pack of smaller plants that helps too! Please, deadline is Wednesday, May 8!

On the same day, there will be additional fundraisers happening at the church to benefit our Hinesburg Youth Project trips to H.O.M.E. Inc. in Orland, ME in June and to the Service Dog Project in Ipswich, MA in August. The Middle School youth will be hosting a "GEARage sale" on the church front lawn from 8:00am – 1:00pm, offering outdoor clothing and equipment for all seasons. The High School youth will be selling cut flowers, Michigan hot dogs and beverages throughout the day.

Find gifts for Mom, gear up for summer and enjoy some delicious food while you shop!

**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>**

May 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
Wednesday, May 1 st	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Friday, May 3 rd	6:00pm-8:00pm	Sunday School Movie Night – <i>Smallfoot</i>
Saturday, May 4 th	9:00am-11:00am	Zumbathon fundraiser for HYP at Hinesburg Community School
Tuesday, May 7 th	6:00pm	Hinesburg Children’s Choir concert in the sanctuary
Saturday, May 11 th	8:00am-1:00pm	“GEARage” sale fundraiser for HYP middle school group
Saturday, May 11 th	9:00am-3:00pm	Plant & Baked Goods Sale
Saturday, May 11 th	11:00am – 2:00pm	Cut flowers & Michigan hot dog, snow cone & beverage sale for HYP high school group
Sunday, May 12 th		One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School – Mother’s Day flowers
Wednesday, May 15 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Thursday, May 16 th	6:00pm-9:00pm	Family-friendly Americana concert in the Parish Hall (Zach DeFranco and Adlai Waxman)
Saturday, May 18 th	9:00am	Hearts for Hunger Fun Run/Walk at CVU
Sunday, May 19 th	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group meeting – includes dinner
Sunday, May 19 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group meeting – includes dinner
Tuesday, May 21 st	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Friday, May 24 th		June newsletter deadline
Sunday, May 26 th	10:00am	No Sunday School – Memorial Day weekend
Sunday, May 26 th	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group meeting – includes dinner
Sunday, May 26 th	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group meeting – includes dinner
Monday, May 27 th	9:00am	Ecumenical Memorial Day service at Veteran’s monuments
Friday, May 31 st	5:30pm-7:00pm	Open Table Diner community meal hosted by the HYP middle school group



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.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

01	Sharonlee Trefry
03	Madine Churchill
03	Camille Hamilton
03	<i>George & Karla Munson</i>
08	<i>Danielle Pezzimenti & David Sterrett</i>
09	Bonnie Farrow
14	Scott Brunetto
14	Jamie Cudney
14	Bob Forauer
16	Wayne (Pat) Palmer
16	Ryan Walker
18	Bette Russell
19	<i>Stephen Stewart & Mary Eddy Stewart</i>
19	<i>Deanna & Steve Utter</i>
23	<i>Sean & Cindy Mahoney</i>
23	Chris Nielsen
24	Norma Sprague
25	<i>Kristi & Kieran Kilbride</i>
25	Sean Mahoney
25	Linda Palmer
27	Ellen Phelps
31	Julia Grant

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



May 2019

May 5th

*Greeters: The Cudney family
Ushers: Meg & Dan Reilly
Reader: Meg Reilly*

May 12th

*Greeters: The Ciffo family
Ushers: Kristi Kilbride & Sherrie Simmons
Reader: Yvonne Whitaker*

May 19th

*Greeters: Carrie & Allison Huestis
Ushers: Sandy Milbank & Grace Ciffo
Reader: Joanne Russell*

May 26th

*Greeters: Reggie & Sandy Robinson
Ushers: Barbara & Bob Forauer
Reader: Marie Eddy*

*Coffee Hour: Laurie Danforth – Chair; Sarita
Baker, Carrie Huestis, Anna Main, Judy Parker*

Thank you for your service!



Looking for news regarding specific denominations?

Check these websites...
www.neumc.org | www.vtcucc.org | 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!