

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

## NOVEMBER 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:

#### What is Spiritual Formation and Why is it Important?

*"The man who is wise, therefore, will see his life as more like a reservoir than a canal. The canal simultaneously pours out what it receives; the reservoir retains the water till it is filled, then discharges the overflow without loss to itself ... Today there are many in the Church who act like canals, the reservoirs are far too rare ... You too must learn to await this fullness before pouring out your gifts, do not try to be more generous than God."*

- Bernard of Clairvaux, (1089-1153) *On the Song of Songs*

I enjoy church services. I had fun sitting and drawing or coloring through them at an early age, liked the music as a teenager and looked forward to the sermon and times of corporate prayer as I got older. Today, when I have a Sunday off at the United Church, I usually attend a church service somewhere, and sit anonymously in worship.

Last month I had this opportunity and, along with my daughter Camille, I attended a Quaker Meeting in South Starksboro. The meeting house was small, without electricity, the pews faced the center of the room where a tall cylindrical wood stove sat, radiating warmth. Crocheted afghans lay about for especially cold mornings. We sang from the *Worship in Song* hymnal to begin, including a wonderful song about George Fox. And then we sat. For one hour. In silence.

Even though I knew it was coming, I wonder if I was prepared. I rarely sit in silence, let alone for an hour straight without having a book, a doodle pad, the radio on, or a screen in front of me. As my mind

wandered every which way – trying to focus, or pray or mediate or count the pops of bursting steam in the wood stove – I wondered if everyone feels this way when entering a church – any church – for the first time: awkward, wondering if I am missing something important, but trying to find some part of the Sacred in this time and place.

Camille, of course handled it well. She sat in silence for an hour too, with the occasional assistance from an activity book. My mind quieted – a little at least – and I left the meeting better than I entered it. I also felt stretched. I admit that my mind went to the smart phone in my pocket several times – wondering if anyone would notice if I checked the injury reports of my favorite NFL team or who George Fox was. I also hope to return, when I have a Sunday off here and there because there is clearly something there for me.

*Spiritual Formation* is defined as the process by which a person progresses in one's spiritual or religious life. The idea is pretty simple. Faith is not a "thing" that can be possessed, static, unchanging, like the generations-old family recipe for pot roast. Rather, faith is a "way" or "vocation," that is experienced, organic and changing, like the love of cooking. Those that love to cook are always looking for better ways to cook: new recipes and techniques, cooking classes and new foods, and, of course a healthy veneration for the saints of the craft like Saint Yotam Ottolenghi, patron saint of the tastiest and most complicated meatballs.

Our faith – whatever that sacred thing inside us that yearns for peace, longs for justice and wishes to love and be loved – is meant to grow. Our ability to see the good in others, resist bigotry and intolerance in ourselves and comfort those in terrible situations requires spiritual growth and maturity. Our capacity to hold on to what is good, life giving and nurturing requires attending to our spiritual and religious life. Our lives are better, longer and healthier when our spirits are growing.

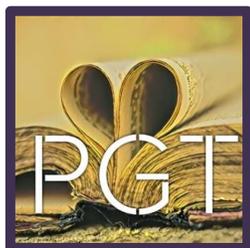
We will begin, restart and continue a number of spiritual formation activities at the United Church in the coming months. These activities – small groups, Bible study, book groups and contemplation - are only a few ways that people of faith stretch and learn and grow. I encourage you to try one. And if you have an idea about something else, let's talk and see if we can make it happen.

Blessings,

*Pastor Jared*

## **Spiritual Formation Activities at UCH in November and December**

### **Practicing God Talk - Third Sunday of the Month - 11:15am to 12:00pm**



*Practicing God Talk* meets on the third Sunday of each month to look at contemporary issues and interesting ideas through the lens of faith. This month we will read the recent *Christian Science Monitor* cover story, "Refugees Poured into My State. Here's How it Changed Me" by Cynthia Anderson. The article can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/322M64a>, in hardcopy on the table at the back of the church, or in the church office. Join the discussion about bias, refugees and faith November 17th from 11:15-12:00pm in the back classroom of the Parish Hall. All are welcome!

### Wednesday Night Considering Faith Small Group - First Wednesday of the Month - 6:30-7:30pm

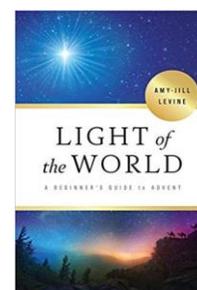


New at UCH! Our Wednesday Night Considering Faith Small Group will meet on the first Wednesday of each month at Parkside Café (10244 Route 116) from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Come, grab a drink, and share life as we talk about our encounters with faith: good, bad and everything in-between. This month we'll discuss our faith origin stories and what we think about them today. All are welcome!

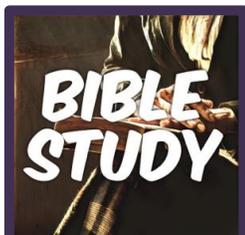
### Advent Book Group - Beginning December 5th - 4:00 to 5:15pm



*Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent* by author, professor and scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the story of Jesus' birth through Jewish culture, the role that women held in first century Palestine and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat. This is a new resource for 2019, and will be our Advent Book Group reading this year. This group, which is open to anyone, will meet on Thursdays at 4pm in December (Dec. 5th, 12th and 19th) in the Parish Hall. The book can be purchased online in print and e-book formats at: <https://www.cokesbury.com/p-9781501884375-light-of-the-world> or through the church office for \$15.



### AM Bible Study - Last Sunday of the Month - 9:00 to 9:45pm



We are also bringing back AM Bible Study 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 – Interim Chair; Alice Cobb, Grace Farley, Bonnie Farrow, Carrie Huestis, Barbara Lyman, Heather Roberts, Mary Thompson*

### 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](mailto:revjared@gmavt.net) or the church office at 482-3352 or [unitedchurch@gmavt.net](mailto:unitedchurch@gmavt.net) to receive more details.

Don't forget we have Prayer Shawls in the glass front cabinet in the church entrance. The shawls are made and donated by members of the church needlework group. They are made for anyone who is experiencing a loss, is ill or going through a difficult time. Each shawl is labeled with a prayer (and washing instructions). Please feel free to give a shawl to someone you know who might benefit from such a special gift. Please sign the book in the cabinet. Shawls can go to anyone, not just members of the congregation.

We are planning to update the church directory in 2020. There are new families and individuals to add and sadly some to remove, and lots of pictures to update. When we have a time frame we will let everyone know. Sooner rather than later, we hope!

On Sunday, Oct. 20, 2019, the Membership Care Committee, on behalf of the congregation, presented a "house warming" gift to the Hamiltons - a gift certificate to Rocky Dale Gardens in Bristol. Pastor Jared, Leah and their children moved from the parsonage into their new house in Starksboro in August and are happily settling into their new country home.

### **Missions & Social Justice Committee News**

*Missions: Lori McKenna - Chair; Sue Barden, Karen Farnsworth, Barbara Forauer, Penny Grant, Kristi Johnson, Melissa Loretan, Meaghan McKenna, Katie Dooley Morris*

#### **Safe Harbor Tents and Tarps Drive**

Missions is spearheading our 5th annual fundraising drive for Safe Harbor, a program in Burlington that serves our homeless neighbors. The United Church of Hinesburg has had a decades long mission to provide blankets to those in need and more recently we have provided sleeping bags to keep those identified as homeless warm during our frigid Vermont winters. We run this mission during the month of November to coincide with Veterans Day, a federal holiday that honors military Veterans who have served in the US armed forces, as 9% of those who are homeless are Veterans.

For the past 4 years we have focused on providing sleeping bags which have been well received. Volunteers from UCH who have delivered the sleeping bags have described a profoundly moving impact on themselves during this short exchange. This year we have become aware that tents and tarps are also greatly needed and our goal is to provide 8 sets of each. One set of a tent and tarp cost approximately \$85 dollars, so we are seeking about \$600 to reach this goal (as we already have one set).

So what is Safe Harbor? Safe Harbor is a program within the Community Health Center of Burlington. Its mission is to provide quality healthcare at no cost, to those who are homeless. People who are homeless are often disengaged from health care services making them more susceptible to extreme weather events and increased morbidity and mortality. Services at CHCB are not only available at walk in clinics, CHCB clinicians and caseworkers are also out on the streets and in the encampments on a weekly basis to ensure a connection to preventative care services. In 2018, this program saw 1,458 people who identified as homeless and they had 14,084 visits. Clearly the need is very great and we are hopeful that our mission of tents and tarps can in some small way help ease the burden for those who have limited access to resources and shelter.

Donations can be made to The United Church of Hinesburg; please write Safe Harbor in the memo field of your check. Donations will be accepted throughout the month of November.

Warm regards,  
The Missions and Social Justice Committee

## Christian Education Committee News

*Christian Education Committee: Eileen Ashe - Chair; Heather Roberts – CE Coordinator, Leah Hamilton, Mary Hong, Theron Main, Renate Parke, Sharonlee Trefry*

During October, we explored **Sunday School** lessons about “The Bible and How We Use It” and “Divine Energy”. We also had two special Sundays: Youth in Action Sunday on October 13<sup>th</sup> when the kids remained in church to hear about the service activities of our youth program during the 2018-2019 year AND October 20<sup>th</sup> when we made pretzels during a One Room Schoolhouse Sunday School to share during our “Churchtoberfest” coffee hour. As always, the pretzels were a hit.....both with the kids preparing them and with the congregation eating them!

In November, we will continue with lessons from our *A Joyful Path* curriculum: “God in Nature” on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and “Remembering God’s Presence” on November 10<sup>th</sup>. After that, we will begin preparations for our annual **Christmas pageant** (is it that time already???) with kids receiving their lines and music on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The pageant will be performed in church on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. If your Sunday School-aged child is unable to participate for any reason, please let Heather know as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, the Sunday School **movie night** planned for Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> has been cancelled due to a scheduling conflict. Our next Friday night event will be on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> when we will decorate cookies for the Missions Committee’s holiday baskets.

Can you help our growing Sunday School program by volunteering your time on Sunday mornings or one Friday evening per month? We are in need of:

- Leaders for our younger Sunday School classroom (grades K-3)
- Leaders for our older Sunday School classroom (grades 4-6)
- Roamers to monitor Sunday School classrooms and help out where needed
- 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
- Folks who have a special project or activity to share with the Sunday School during a One Room Schoolhouse (usually around holidays or school vacations when attendance is lower)
- Chaperones for our monthly movie or game nights on the first Friday of the month

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



**Youth in Action  
Service  
October 13th  
2019**



## Fall 2019 Middle and High School Groups



Our Fall 2019 youth groups, also known as the Hinesburg Youth Project or simply HYP, will continue this month with a few changes. First, because we lost our New Community Project event on October 27th to the weather, we will go a week longer, meeting to discuss the 2020 youth trips on Sunday, November 17th. Sessions are divided into middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12) with middle school meetings from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and high school meetings from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. An overlapping dinner from 6:00pm to 6:30pm is designed to gather everyone together.

Also, both groups will begin exploring themes related to their prospective trips. We will be looking at the issues facing indigenous communities, peacemaking and service. These themes will also carry over into the Winter session that will begin in January.

Along with these opportunities, both groups will meet to discuss combined recreational, service and fundraising projects. The calendar of those events will come out shortly.

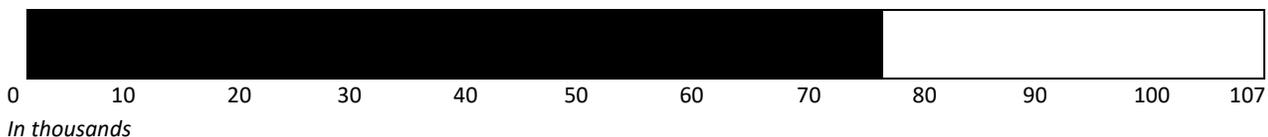
If you have any questions about the youth programs at UCH or would like to help facilitate these meetings, please contact Pastor Jared at [revjared@gmavt.net](mailto:revjared@gmavt.net).

### Finance Committee News

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

Financial support from our congregation through our offering, in addition to contributions of our time and talent, helps to ensure that our church will continue to grow and thrive and serve the spiritual and physical needs in our local and global communities. The progress bar below is published periodically to show how we are doing. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Plate offering received as of **September 30, 2019** (\$73,821 69% 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.

## Save the Date! Annual Holiday Bazaar – Saturday, November 23rd

We will be holding our annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00am – 1:00pm. This is a 60+ year old tradition and it gets better every year. Come and shop in our Grandmother's attic, the jewelry corner, and the arts & crafts center. Our homemade baked goods area includes a delicious array from our local cooks including baked beans, pies, homemade breads, pickles, cookies and fudge, as well as our traditional "brown bobbies" table. We are sure you will enjoy the selections and the very reasonable prices in all our areas - you will find something for you and gifts for others!

**Lunch will be served between 11AM and 1PM** and features homemade soups and sandwiches. Each order includes a free dessert and free coffee is served throughout the day.

For your shopping convenience a local wreath maker will have a variety of Christmas wreaths for sale in our parking lot on that same day.

If you have any questions please contact Mary Eddy Stewart at 802-777-8288 or Heather in the church office at 482-3352.

### Donations for the Holiday Bazaar are being accepted!

**Grandmother's Attic:** We are accepting donations, gently used and clean, which could include linens, kitchenware, table dressings, small furniture items, children's toys, books, and Christmas and everyday decorations. We aren't able to accept large furniture items or electronics. Small electronic items will be accepted and must be in working order. If you have any questions about donations, please contact Mary Eddy Stewart at 802-777-8288 or Heather in the church office.

**Jewelry Corner:** Do you have jewelry hanging around that you just aren't wearing anymore? Consider donating it to us – the jewelry corner is one of our most popular areas at the Bazaar. Dianne Hall and Bonnie Farrow are the dynamic duo in charge of this area and are happy to collect your donations.

**Arts and Crafts:** We are planning on four themes and would appreciate your donations in any of these areas. These handmade items have always been a holiday shopping favorite for young and old.

**Christmas-** Stockings, tree skirts, ornaments, mantle and table decor, wall hangings, lap quilts and anything else festive and fun.

**Children's Table-** Seasonal and gift items for children, to catch a parent or grandparent's eye -the more charming the better!

**Gifts-** Hats, mittens, scarves, sweaters, quilts and wall hangings, hand-crafted jewelry, wooden bowls, tote-bags and reusable shopping bags, and whatever else people enjoy making

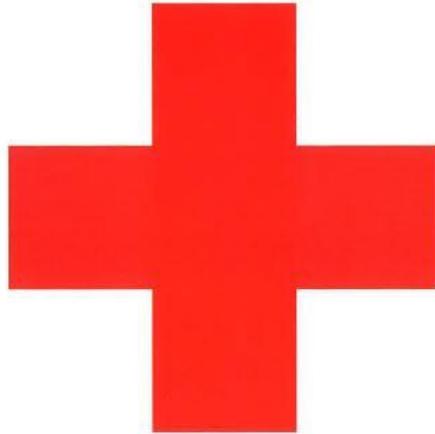
**For the Thanksgiving table and home-** Placemats, napkins, table runners, centerpieces, aprons, and decorative items of all kinds. With the bazaar being held the weekend before Thanksgiving, these gifts will provide last-minute purchases to help make shoppers' homes and tables extra special. And, these items would also make a great hostess gift if you'll be visiting family or friends over the holiday!

All donated craft items should be marked with a price, and can be brought to church anytime on Friday afternoon November 22<sup>nd</sup> or dropped off at the church office any time before then at your convenience. Should you have any questions about donating to our arts and crafts area, please contact Mary Eddy Stewart at 802-777-8288.

*Give blood.*

Every 2 seconds someone  
in the U.S. needs blood.

**American Red Cross**



**Blood Drive**  
**Hinesburg Community**  
**United Church of Hinesburg**

Parish Hall  
Route 116  
Hinesburg, VT 05461

**Thursday, November 14, 2019**  
**12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: UNITED to schedule an appointment.

**Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.**



Scan to schedule an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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1101 | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | 1101 | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767



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!** The Little Free Pantry is designed to help neighbors in need and is available for food, toiletries and household items 24 hours a day, no questions asked. Take what you need, leave what you can. Do you have an excess of fruits or vegetables from your garden as we near the end of harvest season? Please place any fresh produce in the bins to the right of the pantry. Thank you!

## Coffee Hour Help Needed



Coffee hour committees are assigned to one month per year and one Sunday during the summer. The committee members prepare coffee and lemonade and provide food for fellowship time after church each week. They are responsible for setting up before church and cleaning up at the end of coffee hour.

Many of the coffee hour committees are short of members so, if you are not on a committee and are willing to serve, you can sign up! There are times when help to provide food or just work or both may be needed. If you are willing to be on a committee or are already on a committee and are willing to help out when other committees are short-handed, please contact Sandy White: email [sbwhite@gmavt.net](mailto:sbwhite@gmavt.net) or call 482-2629.

## November 2019 Happenings at UCH

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

Monday mornings (except 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	10:00am-11:00am	Spanish speaking group
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> )	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Sunday, November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11:30am-8:00pm	Middle School & High School Youth Group service project at New Community Project in Starksboro followed by a bonfire at the Hamilton's house
Sunday, November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11:30am-1:30pm	Tourtiere fundraiser for H4H (pick-up: 12:45 - 1:30pm)
Wednesday, November 6 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Wednesday, November 6 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm-7:30pm	Considering Faith at Parkside Cafe
Friday, November 8 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm-8:00pm	Cub Scout popcorn sorting
Saturday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-11:00am	Cub Scout popcorn pick-up
Saturday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Social Band Fall Concert in the church sanctuary
Sunday, November 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Lay-led service
Sunday, November 10 <sup>th</sup>	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group (includes dinner)
Sunday, November 10 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group (includes dinner)
Wednesday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	Worship Committee meeting
Thursday, November 14 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-6:00pm	Red Cross blood drive
Sunday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	11:15am	Practicing God-talk discussion of "Refugees Poured Into My State...."
Sunday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	11:15am	Finance Committee meeting
Sunday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	5:00pm-6:30pm	Middle School Youth Group (includes dinner)
Sunday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm-7:30pm	High School Youth Group (includes dinner)
Tuesday, November 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Wednesday, November 20 <sup>th</sup>	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Saturday, November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00am-1:00pm	Holiday Bazaar (set-up on Thursday & Friday)
Sunday, November 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am-9:45am	AM Bible Study before church
Monday, November 25 <sup>th</sup>		December newsletter deadline
Monday, November 25 <sup>th</sup> - Friday, November 29 <sup>th</sup>		Church office closed



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 November 6<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>. 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!

There was a theft of personal property from the Parish Hall during Sunday School on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. We are reviewing the security measures in the Parish Hall and will be making some changes in the next few weeks. If you currently have a key to the Parish Hall and would like to ensure you receive a new one when the locks are changed, please contact Heather in the church office.



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## *November Birthdays & Anniversaries*

01	Jack Main
01	Meaghan McKenna
04	Jennifer Lian
06	Maureen Blanck
06	<i>Glenn &amp; Laurie Place</i>
07	<i>David &amp; Maureen Blanck</i>
08	Ellie Baker
08	Julia Baker
08	Kyle Walker
12	Gail Riggs
15	John Mead
16	Jaime Ciffo
16	Emma Main
17	Aengus Mead
18	Ethan Hans
18	Stephen Stewart
20	Mary Eddy Stewart
22	Olivia Mead
22	Andy Riggs
25	Larry Rice
26	Dianne Hall

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



## **November 2019**

### **November 3rd**

*Greeter: Cathy Foutz*

*Ushers: Barbara & Bob Forauer*

*Reader: Marie Eddy*

### **November 10th**

*Greeters: youth*

*Ushers: youth*

*Readers: youth*

### **November 17th**

*Greeters: Carrie & Allison Huestis*

*Ushers: Grace Ciffo & Kate Schubart*

*Reader: Karen Farnsworth*

### **November 24th**

*Greeters: Sandy & Reggie Robinson*

*Ushers: Melissa Loretan & Kristi Kilbride*

*Reader: Renate Parke*

**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.abcvnh.org](http://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!**

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