



# UNITED CHURCH OF HINESBURG

Monday, October 24, 2021

Newsletter –October/November 2021

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## Pastor's Page

*<sup>29</sup> When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. <sup>30</sup> When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. <sup>31</sup> But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. <sup>32</sup> Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai.*

*<sup>33</sup> When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. <sup>34</sup> But whenever he entered the Lord's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, <sup>35</sup> they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the Lord.*

*-Exodus 34:29-35*

This is my favorite time of the year. The weather begins to cool, the Major League Baseball playoffs are on, and there's a lull between the busyness of our early fall family schedule and the start of the holiday season in November. Halloween also takes place this time of year, my favorite holiday.

Halloween is a special holiday for my family and me. Prior to arriving in Hinesburg eight years ago, we lived in Salem, Massachusetts, where Halloween is celebrated year-round. Salem has also served as a pilgrimage destination for lovers of Halloween for many years, and October particularly is a spectacle. Every few years we go back to Salem in October to see friends and take in the experience. Before the pandemic, it was common to have 75,000 or more people pack the city with children and adults in incredible costumes. The Ghostbusters car drives around town, concerts, evening graveyard tours, street dramas, and carnival rides are just part of the festivities. It's really worth experiencing, at least once in your lifetime.

Halloween, or All Hallows Eve begins the short solemn festival of Allhallowtide, which includes All Hallows (or All Saints) Day on November 1st, and All Souls Day on November 2nd. This short season provided Christians with the opportunity to remember the passing of loved ones, and pray for their souls as they journeyed to heaven. Often, a necrology is read in churches on the Sunday before or after All Hallows Day, a practice we continue at UCH.

Like many Christian practices, Halloween and the season of Allhallowtide were influences of other cultures including early Roman, Celtic, and Germanic pagan traditions. Some believed that the veil between the living and the dead is thinned during this time of year, and if the soul of a recently deceased loved one saw you, they may try to stay, instead of ascending to heaven. So, people would wear masks so the souls of their dead relatives wouldn't recognize them.

We've been wearing masks of a different sort for the last 20 months because of the pandemic. Like many, I've gotten pretty good at recognizing folks by the upper-third of their faces. Even so, there have been more than a few times when I pass someone in Lantman's or on the sidewalk and think I know them, but I'm not sure.

Mask wearing in the US has been seen as simple and effective safety precaution against the spread of the virus. It has also become a political battleground related to personal liberty. These battlegrounds take place nationally and, in the news, but they also take place locally, in school board meetings and on the sidewalks outside CVU.

In the scripture above, Moses has spent many days on Mount Sinai conversing with God. When he returns to the Israelite people at the bottom of the mountain, the people were afraid of him, because his face was radiant, (literally glowing in this story) from his experience with God. Moses put a veil over his face when he was with the people, so they would not be afraid, only removing it when he continued to converse with God. I like this story because it shows Moses as someone who considered the fears of his people, and took action, even at the expense of his personal liberty, to comfort their fears.

This Allhallowtide, it would serve us well to remember those in our lives who have passed between November 1, 2020 and October 31, 2021. That's what this season is about. It might do us well also to remember the hundreds of thousands who have passed in this last year of COVID, and the millions who have been diagnosed with the disease, faced complications, had to miss work, and were left with hefty medical bills afterward. In remembering, we can lift up prayers for the dead, and those who face obstacles to their recovery today. We might also pray for those who continue to be isolated because of underlying health conditions, for parents with young ones who cannot be vaccinated yet, and for school boards across the country that are tasked with keeping children safe during this divisive time.

This is a good season to remember your mask. Wear it to help stop the spread of the virus. Wear it to protect one another and alleviate the concerns of those around us. And this Halloween, wear one because it can be fun.

Blessings,

Pastor Jared

## Christian Education

We continue to evaluate the safety of resuming indoor weekly Sunday school as the situation evolves and the vaccine becomes available to our younger children.

### Family Pumpkin Carving



**Sunday, October 31st – noon** at the Parish House.

Pumpkins will be provided. Bring carving tools if you have them.

## Staff/Parish Relations Committee

### Introducing Our New Administrative Assistant

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is pleased to announce that Barbara Haggard has recently started in her role as the Administrative Assistant. Her regular hours are Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM to noon. Barbara, recently retired after over 40 years as a legal assistant, is happy to be working with us and looking forward to meeting everyone. Barbara lives with her husband Gregory. They have lived in Starksboro for 41 years. They have two daughters and three grandsons. Barbara enjoys reading, traveling, light gardening, her flowers, her backyard, her dog, her family and her friends.

## Worship

Find audio recordings of our Sunday morning services here: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1002412>.

### Deacon\* Volunteers Needed

Want to help the United Church despite having limited time? We are starting a Deacon program to help with Sunday services and now looking for a few volunteers to join our team. Don't worry, the time commitment is minimal, and the tasks are easy. David Eddy and I have been developing this program over the summer and now understand what tasks are needed and how to do them. We are ready for volunteers to join our team.

Why do we need Deacons? A few years ago, we realized that tasks associated with opening and closing the Sanctuary prior to and immediately after Sunday services were being done by Jared. It seemed unfair to have him worrying about these tasks when our Pastor should be focusing on service preparation and interacting with participants. So, we thought others should take care of these tasks (Ta Da -Deacons!).

What is the commitment of time?

We want to have 4-5 Deacons and since we only need one Deacon on any Sunday, Deacons only need to commit to about 1 Sunday/month. The time commitment is 8:45 to 11:30am. We'll make a schedule so you can sign up for the Sunday you choose and if something comes up, no problem, we can be very flexible.

What skills are required? Pretty Simple. The primary tasks include unlocking the church, verifying the heat is working and the walkway is safe (sanding), turning the lights and sound system. At the end of the service, we shut windows, turn off lights, etc. and lock the Sanctuary. Those who are interested can be trained in less than 30 minutes. We have an established check list and description of tasks so you can feel confident on remembering how and what to do.

So, what do you think? We encourage anyone who is interested to call or email Phil Pouech, 802-482-2060 / ppouech@gmavt.net or David Eddy, 802-482-2645 / davideddy09@gmail.com. We can give you more details and answer your question. Thanks

\* “Deacon” has different meanings in different faith communities. Currently, we are using the term to describe someone who helps facilitate in person worship services.

## Missions

It has been a busy 2021 for Missions and Social Outreach Committee and it may be helpful to recap some of the highlights for you. Missions is tasked with addressing local need, national concerns, and global relief. Our primary mission is to impact food insecurity in all three domains. The public health emergency and climate change both bring home how interconnected we all are.

### Local projects

The Little Free Pantry has noticed usage unlike any other time since its inception about 4 years ago. Currently the pantry is checked and stocked daily. Shopping for the pantry to supplement in kind donations average approximately \$1000 per month. The pantry is now completely sustained by the community; the United Church remains the host, the Burlington Sunrise Rotary Club remains a significant support. Education efforts to ensure sustainability and to heighten awareness of food insecurity have been on-going through various media. Over the past 19 months, many other pantries have popped up throughout VT and upstate NY and several are modeled after Hinesburg's.

A Valentine's Day pizza and cookie event was sponsored through the LFP, with delivery, to address social isolation, particularly for the older adults in the community.

A takeout (drive-by) community meal was held in March, also to address pandemic related isolation.

The 9th annual Hearts for Hunger Virtual 5K/1K walk and run, brought in \$6,300 for the VT Foodbank Backpack Program (a program that addresses food insecurity with children).

Donation to the LFP of \$200 from the recent Fall Festival and \$130 for the VT Foodbank.

### National Projects:

Disaster/emergency relief was given to the Houston, Texas Area Food Bank (\$200) during the March, 2021 unprecedented freezing temperatures and subsequent power failures.

### National/Global Outreach:

A \$100 donation was made to the VT Brattleboro Area Interfaith Youth Group. They requested funds for developing programming in Kenya for students with special needs, following a service trip there.

India: Doctors Without Borders was given a \$300 donation to purchase COVID-19 vaccines in India.

Thank you all,

The Missions and Social Justice Committee: (Lori P. McKenna, Kristi Johnson, Katie Morris, Cathy Foutz, Meaghan McKenna, Sue Barden, Penny Grant, Karen Farnsworth, Barb Forauer)

*If you would like to be involved in any projects going forward, or have interest in serving on the Missions team, please contact the church office! We would love to have more hands on deck!*

## Property and Grounds

Thank you to all our faithful lawn mowers and gardeners who kept the grass cut and the gardens looking lovely this summer and fall!

### Snow Shovelers Needed

Want a good workout? Did you know that shoveling snow strengthens your shoulders, arms, back, core and legs? Plus, the experts at Harvard Medical School say it burns between 180 and 266 calories per half hour.

The Trustees are looking for volunteers to join our snow shoveling team this winter.

Volunteers are responsible for 1 or 2 weeks during the winter (unless you want more) to shovel snow and, if needed, sand the walks. Snow shovels, sand and snow are provided.

Please contact Andy Seaton at [aseaton@pcconstruction.com](mailto:aseaton@pcconstruction.com).

## Upcoming Events

### Chicken Pie Supper

Our annual Chicken Pie Supper returns on Saturday, October 30 as a take-out meal again this year. The response has been so positive that we have sold out a week early! We will be packaging 225 take-out meals of chicken and gravy, biscuit, squash, potatoes, cole slaw, cranberry sauce and either apple or pumpkin pie. Many thanks to all who have signed up to cook, bake, help in the kitchen, and/or package and deliver the meals as well as to everyone who has placed an order.

After many years of coordinating the supper, we are looking to pass the responsibility over to others. We have fine-tuned the process, kept good documentation, and will be available to fully support the individuals who take it over. If you are interested, or if you have a suggestion of someone who might, please contact one of us.

Many thanks for your support of this community event!

Phil Pouech ([ppouech@gmavt.net](mailto:ppouech@gmavt.net))

Andy Seaton ([aseaton@pcconstruction.com](mailto:aseaton@pcconstruction.com))

Yvonne Whitaker ([whitaker@gmavt.net](mailto:whitaker@gmavt.net); 802-482-4279)

### Holiday Bazaar

Our Holiday Bazaar will be held at the Parish House on **Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>** from 9 am – 1 pm.

We are now accepting donations for Grandmother's Attic and the Arts & Crafts sections of the bazaar – see the guidelines that follow. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish House during office hours (Monday through Thursday 9 am to noon) or on Sunday mornings from 9 am to noon. For alternate arrangements, please contact Mary Eddy Stewart at [maryeddystewart@gmavt.net](mailto:maryeddystewart@gmavt.net) to set-up a time that would work for you.

#### **Grandmother's Attic**

We have the following guidelines for donations this year:

- Please only donate items that are in very good and working condition. We can accept small electronic devices/kitchen appliances, again in very good and working condition.
- Please only donate items that you would "re-gift" to a family member or that you yourself would buy at this type of event.

- We are accepting jewelry donations at this time as well, although please don't donate jewelry boxes, scarves and other accessories as they usually do not sell.
- No books will be accepted this year.

Thank you in advance for your donations! The Grandmother's Attic Team - Sherrie Simmons, Kristi Kilbride & Melissa Loretan

### 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. It would be great if we could set up a section called "Gifts \$5.00 and under" for those looking for stocking stuffers or a little something for a co-worker, babysitter, bus driver, or friend.

**For the holiday 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 18<sup>th</sup> or dropped off at the church office during the hours listed above. Should you have any questions about donating to our arts and crafts area, please contact Barbara Forauer at 802-482-2511 or Mary Eddy Stewart at 802-777-8288.

Thank you in advance for your donations! The Arts & Crafts Team - Barbara Forauer & Susan Eddy Pratt

## Community News

### Red Cross Blood Drive

Give blood.  
Every 2 seconds someone  
in the U.S. needs blood.  
American Red Cross



The Red Cross is holding a blood drive in the Parish Hall on **Monday, November 1st** from 12:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter UNITED to schedule an appointment.

## SCHIP Volunteer Opportunity



SCHIP is one of many of our church's ministries. SCHIP stands for Shelburne, Charlotte, Hinesburg Interfaith Projects. They are a resale store, SCHIP's Treasure, located in the center of Shelburne village, that sells gently used goods: clothing, jewelry, artwork, home goods, shoes and accessories. They award our profits to other nonprofits. When it opened about 14 years ago, our church, among almost all others in our three communities, agreed to sponsor its inception. Many of our church members have served on the Board and volunteered over the years. It is because of their commitment and service that SCHIP has been able to grant more than \$750,000 to well over 100 nonprofits who serve those in need in our 3 communities.

SCHIP is always in need of volunteers who can give as little as a few hours a week to help in their mission. They are also in need of a *Treasurer* who would be a Board member. Check out their website at [www.schipstreasure.org](http://www.schipstreasure.org) to find out all about us. Please call Mary Candon at 802-985-3774 if you have some time to spare or would like more information.



### Are you interested in becoming a member of 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 802-482-3352 or [unitedchurch@gmavt.net](mailto:unitedchurch@gmavt.net). A New Member Sunday service will be planned for this Advent Season.

## Calendar

**October 30** - Chicken Pie Supper take-out

**October 31, noon** —Family Pumpkin Carving at the Parish House

**November 1** - Red Cross Blood Drive

**November 20, 9 am – 1 pm** – Holiday Bazaar

## Contact Information

### The United Church of Hinesburg

Pastor: Reverend Jared M. Hamilton

Pastor's Email: [revjared@gmavt.net](mailto:revjared@gmavt.net)

Administrative Assistant: Barbara Haggard

Office Email: [unitedchurch@gmavt.net](mailto:unitedchurch@gmavt.net)

Office Phone: 802-482-3352

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9 am to noon

Website: [www.ucofh.org](http://www.ucofh.org)



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TO:

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