

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

SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER



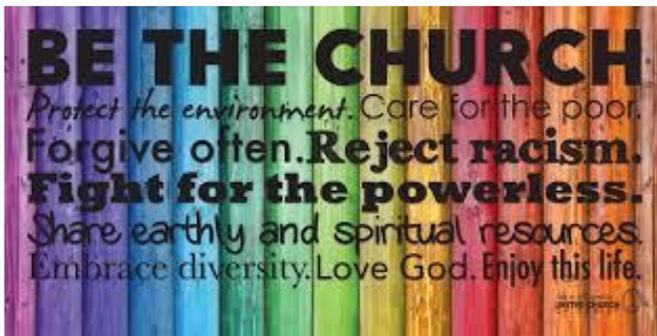
TO:

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:

“Being and Becoming the Church”



“Everything flows; nothing stands still.
- Heraclitus c. 6th century BCE

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and
mind. Also, love your neighbor as yourself.”
-Jesus (from the gospel of Matthew 22.37-39 adapted)

I feel that there is a speed to parenting that I am not entirely comfortable with. Parenting is hectic and fast paced – we know this. I am talking about the speed with which our little children grow up. Lessons in walking quickly move to lessons in reading. Children grow in stature and maturity and begin asking questions that are really difficult for us to answer. And it's scary to watch this – and also marvelous because we get to see children as they are becoming whatever they might be.

We are all becoming – something. The 6th century BCE philosopher Heraclitus tells us that, “Everything flows; nothing stands still.” The Christian writer C.S. Lewis offers a more difficult thought: “Each day we are becoming a creature of splendid glory or one of unthinkable horror.” We are becoming a new thing each and every day by what we do or do not do, by our attitudes and actions, by our convictions and prejudices and by our ever-changing environment.

If “everything flows” and nothing stays the same, then the church is no different. Often churches are characterized as a place where change is nonexistent – a beauty to some and bane to others. Yet, churches are always becoming – something. And it is up to the faithful to insure that the church – our church – continues to proclaim the good news, love our neighbors as ourselves, and fight for the powerless. So how do we go about doing this?

On Homecoming Sunday, September 10th, we will begin a nine-week series on what it means to “Be the Church” in 21st century America. The church *loves God, protects the environment, cares for the poor, forgives often, rejects racism, embraces diversity, shares earthly and spiritual resources, and fights for the powerless.* Our nine week series will follow these themes.

Is this all the church does? No. But it’s a good place to start. And my hope is that by exploring what it means to “be the church” we will have a better understanding of what our church is becoming. This series also integrates church life with the Sunday school schedule and everyday life. Kids will explore these issues during Sunday School and we will have opportunities to serve, share and pray throughout each week.

May God bless you this fall with a renewed spirit and lively faith.

Blessings,

Pastor Jared

Hunger Action Month at UCH



Alleviating hunger is one of the key missions of the United Church of Hinesburg. Through free monthly community meals, gifts of food and money to the Hinesburg Food Shelf and direct assistance for folks who are food insecure, we help those in our local community. Our Hearts for Hunger 5k raised over \$7,500 this year for the Vermont Food Bank Backpack Program – a statewide program that helps to feed hungry children throughout the state. Yet, in Vermont 1 in 4 folks remain food insecure.

September is National Hunger Action Month – a time to take action in the fight against hunger. Here are three ways you can help:

- **A Food Drive** - Bring nonperishable food items to church or drop food off in the Parish Hall during the month of September. Donations will go to the **Hinesburg Food Shelf**. Boxes will be placed at the back of the sanctuary and in the Parish Hall. We will also make a one-week “Fill-a-Bag” push September 17th - 24th. The Food Shelf is looking specifically for the following items: juice, cereal, soup, canned fruit, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and mouthwash.
- **Direct Service** - Volunteer to assist with the **New Community Project’s** food distribution program on Sunday afternoons in Starksboro. Every Sunday the New Community Project runs a food program at the First Baptist Church in Starksboro. This program provides food for as many as 80 families a week. Work includes organizing food, working with families and cleanup. Approximate times are 1:30pm to 4:00pm every Sunday. Contact Pete Antos-Ketcham at 802-434-2333 or pantosketcham@newcommunityproject.org.
- **Pick for your Neighbor** – Consider visiting a participating orchard and pick fresh apples as a donation to the Vermont Food Bank. The Food Bank will distribute these apples throughout Vermont to our neighbors in need of food assistance. Check out the VT Food Bank website for a list of participating orchards and how to get involved: <https://www.vtfoodbank.org/event/pickforyourneighbor>.

Christian Education Committee News

Christian Education Committee: Eileen Ashe, Chair; Heather Roberts, CE Coordinator; Leah Hamilton, Mary Hong, Theron Main, Renate Parke, Howdy Russell and Sharonlee Trefry



I hope you have all enjoyed a fun and relaxing summer with family and friends. It's hard to believe that it's time for the program year to get underway again already! Please join us for a **Homecoming Sunday** breakfast on Sunday, September 10th at 9am. It will be a great opportunity to reconnect with your friends at UCH and to register your children for our programs in the coming year. If you are able to help with the breakfast, please sign up at: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0C49ADAA29AAF49-homecoming2.

We plan to continue using the Faith Practices **curriculum** that we implemented last year. However, this fall we will be doing some home-grown lessons connected with the sermon series that Pastor Jared will be presenting each Sunday called "Be the Church". We will explore a new topic each week: Protect the Environment, Care for the Poor, Forgive Often, Reject Racism, Fight for the Powerless, Share Earthly and Spiritual Resources, Embrace Diversity, Love God, and Enjoy this Life. It should be a great way for children and their parents to connect over ideas that are important in our life of faith.

A **calendar of activities** planned for this program year will be distributed at the Homecoming Sunday breakfast. We plan to continue many of the most popular activities from last year's Sunday School program including our monthly movie or game nights, Children's Choir, yoga with Ashley Williams-Wenschhof, just-for-fun music, and mission projects.

If you have any questions about the upcoming program year, please feel free to contact Heather in the church office.

Our **Small Wonders Nature Camp** was a great success. We had 14 children aged 5-10 who explored

many ways that we can protect our environment. Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped things to run smoothly. Special thanks goes to Drew Lepple for giving us an amazing tour at NRG, Andrea Morgante for taking us out to explore the trails on the Russell Farm, Rhonda Mace from CSWD for teaching us about composting and recycling, and Peggy Farabaugh of Forests for Monarchs for helping us learn more about monarch butterflies and their habitat. The kids created reusable shopping bags from old T shirts and made wildflower seed balls to plant at home to provide homes for varieties of butterflies. They also created some amazing artwork which you will see in and around the Parish Hall this fall. Check it out!



Finally, as a fun, inter-generational way of kicking off the program year, our church has been challenged to a **wiffle ball game** by the Charlotte Congregational Church. It will be held at the Charlotte Berry Farm on Sunday, September 17th from noon-2pm. No gloves or mitts are required. Charlotte will provide bats, balls and lemonade. We hope you can join us to demonstrate your skills and good sportsmanship while meeting new friends from Charlotte!

Youth Trip Fundraiser



Tuesday, September 5th ~ 5pm – 9pm ~ This month's community supper at the **Hinesburgh Public House** supports the Summer Youth Trip program at the United Church of Hinesburgh. 15% of HPH's evening sales will be donated to this growing program of the church. Make reservations by calling 802-482-5500.

The youth met on Thursday, August 31st to recap their experiences on this summer's service trip. They had received a generous \$1,000 donation from an anonymous donor and were tasked with deciding which organization(s) they wanted to support with that money. The group has decided that they would like the funds to go to charities in the hard-hit areas of Houston which focus on the topics they explored during their trip – animal protection, environmental issues, LGBTQ rights and urban poverty. They are currently researching organizations in the Houston area and will be sending the donations out next week.

Spiritual Formation Committee News

Spiritual Formation Committee: Sue Barden, Anne Carter Mahaffey, Danielle Pezzimenti, Rev. A. Wayne Schwab and David Sterrett

Practicing God-talk will meet during coffee hour on Sunday, September 24th to discuss “Who Needs Charters When You Have Public Schools Like These?” by David L. Kirp, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley and a senior fellow at the Learning Policy Institute in The Sunday Review of the *New York Times* (4/1/17). “Let me show you my notebook where I wrote the algorithm. An algorithm is like a recipe,” said Leila, a second-grader in the Union Public schools district of Tulsa, OK. A related biblical theme: “. . . and a little child shall lead them” (Isaiah 11:6). Read it at <https://nyti.ms/2on9Lfp>. Copies will also be available on the back table in the sanctuary as you leave on September 17th & September 24th.

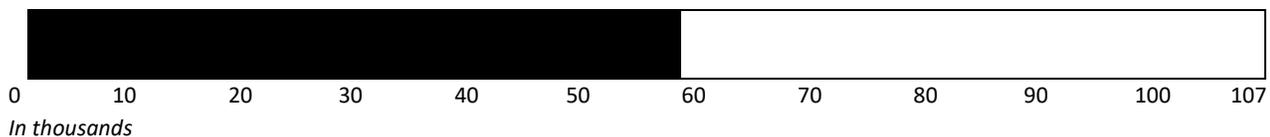
Finance Committee News

Finance Committee: Yvonne Whitaker (Treasurer), Sandy Milbank (Financial Secretary), JP Hong, Phil Pouech, Keith Roberts, Mary Eddy Stewart

Financial Update

Our 2017 budget includes an offering goal of \$107,000. It is important that we achieve our goal in order to cover our expenses this year. The progress bar below will be published monthly to show how we are doing. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Plate offering received as of **July 31, 2017** (\$57,752 **54%** 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.

Trustees News

The Trustees are having a Church-wide Work Day **from 8am to 12pm on Saturday, September 9th**. Below is a list of jobs we've identified at the church, parish house and parsonage that we would love to begin chipping away at. There are many different jobs for all ages and abilities. To help us plan for the size of our workforce, please RSVP at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c49adaa29aaf49-churchwide> if you are able to help and let us know if you have a particular preference (painting, plumbing etc.). Can't make the 9th but want to help? Contact Andy Seaton at aseaton@pcconstruction.com and let him know what task you want to tackle and he will set you up with the materials.

Church:

- Paint walls in choir room
- Un-stick window behind organ
- Optimize space in basement
- Remove 2 cabinets in church balcony
- Paint column in church balcony with water damage
- Clean up hedge and eliminate invasive plants
- Repair stone to the left of basement door
- Repair basement window trim north side
- Mount dehumidifier so it drains properly
- Hang "Be the Church" banner on church sanctuary



Parish House:

- Paint classrooms
- Clean windows
- Mend classroom rug
- Hang new curtain rods
- Organize youth room/library
- Remove water softener
- Post signs to lock classroom windows
- Reinsulate hot water heater
- Fix shed doors that bind when closing
- Repair kitchen window to the right of the stove - will not stay up and does not lock
- Hang bottle cap artwork outside church office

Parsonage:

- Paint gas pipe white
- Paint wood in window where furnace pipe exits
- Remove water softener
- Paint garage trim
- Strip and paint street side exterior door
- Remove dead tree limbs near sidewalk
- Install new water filter

Worship in the Home – September 2017

This month's worship in the home focuses on the role of Church in our lives, focusing on the upcoming "Be the Church" series. This series will focus on how the Church can be the church when it: *loves God, protects the environment, cares for the poor, forgives often, rejects racism, embraces diversity, shares earthly and spiritual resources, and fights for the powerless*. These Scriptures, questions and prayers can be used as a resource throughout the month for private reflection.

Opening Prayer

May the meditations of my heart and the words of my lips be pleasing to the Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into God's amazing light. Once you weren't a people, but now you are God's people. Once you hadn't received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Prayer for the Month

Book of Common Worship

Almighty and ever-living God,
ruler of all things in heaven and earth,
hear our prayers for our church and every church.
Strengthen the faithful,
arouse the careless,
and restore those who feel guilt.
Grant us all things necessary for our common life,
and bring us all to be of one heart and mind
with your holy church;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father (Mother/Creator/God) who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be
done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you
are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the
household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles
and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,
in whom the whole structure, being joined together,

grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are
being built together into a dwelling place for God by the
Spirit.

Questions to Consider

What are the ways our church lives into the different "Be the Church" themes? What ways do we not live into these themes? What's missing from this list that you would add to the "Be the Church" banner?

Silence and Personal Prayers

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
It is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

A Prayer for Mealtime

Thank you for teaching me gratitude with this delicious
bread and meat.

Thank you for teaching me patience while waiting 'til time
to eat.

Thank you for teaching me faith, expecting food and
never having doubts.

Thank you for teaching me suffering by providing these
Brussels sprouts. Amen.

September 2017 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 night	6:30pm-8:00pm	4-H meeting
Most Wednesday nights	6:30pm-9:00pm	Boy Scouts
Thursday mornings	10:00am-11:30am	Hinesburg Friends of Families baby playgroup
Most Fridays	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Monday, September 4 th		Church office closed in observance of Labor Day
Tuesday, September 5 th	5:00pm-9:00pm	Youth trip fundraiser at the Hinesburgh Public House
Wednesday, September 6 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Saturday, September 9 th	8:00am-12:00pm	Church-wide work day
Sunday, September 10 th	9:00am-10:00am	Homecoming Sunday breakfast & Sunday School registration
Sunday, September 10 th	10:00am	Homecoming Sunday service with choir
Tuesday, September 12 th	7:00pm	Sunday School leader training
Wednesday, September 13 th	6:00pm	Visioning team videoconference with Paul Nickerson
Thursday, September 14 th	12:30pm-6:00pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Saturday, September 16 th	9:00am-12:30pm	Church Council retreat at Phil Pouech's house
Sunday, September 17 th	12:00pm-2:00pm	Wiffle ball game vs. Charlotte UCC at Charlotte Berry Farm
Tuesday, September 19 th	8:00am-6:00pm	Hinesburg HUB co-working event
Wednesday, September 20 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/Crocheting group
Saturday, September 23 rd	10:00am	No Strings Marionette Company performance of "Nick of Time"
Saturday, September 23 rd	6:00pm	Hinesburg Fall Festival's Stone Soup Supper
Sunday, September 24 th	8:30am	Staff Parish Relations Committee meeting
Sunday, September 24 th	11:15am	Practicing God-talk meets during coffee hour
Monday, September 25 th		October newsletter deadline
Friday, September 29 th	5:30pm-7:00pm	Open Table Diner free community meal

Give blood.

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

American Red Cross



Blood Drive **United Church of Hinesburg**

Parish Hall
Route 116
Hinesburg, VT 05461

Thursday, September 14, 2017
12:30 PM to 6:00 PM

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.



Hinesburg Fall Festival **Saturday, September 23rd**

10am No Strings Marionette Company will present their show "Nick of Time", a story about an astronaut who accidentally returns to the time of the dinosaurs, in the Parish Hall. Admission is free.

6pm The Stone Soup Supper benefitting the Hinesburg Land Trust will be held in the Parish Hall. For tickets, contact the Hinesburg Recreation Department at 802-482-2281 x230 or hinesburgrec@gmavt.net.

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

02	<i>Michelle & Steve Fischer</i>
02	Kate Schubart
03	<i>Gerald & Lana Benoit Ouimet</i>
03	Tom Lyman
03	Arthur Thompson
04	<i>Douglas & Betty Lantman</i>
06	J.P. Hong
07	Jacob Lepple
07	Jan Rahelich
08	Holly Russell
08	Matt Sayre
09	<i>David & Sharlene Palmer</i>
10	Kathryn Ciffo
10	Inez French
10	George Munson
11	Grace Farley
12	Peter Mead
12	<i>Bruce & Judy Parker</i>
13	Roderick Isham
15	Grace Ciffo
16	Sue Barden
16	Cathy Foutz
16	<i>Casey & Penny Grant</i>
19	John Lyman
19	Abigail Trutor Mead
20	<i>Richard & Kay Hildebrand</i>
21	Donna Pezzimenti
22	Bruce Parker
23	<i>George & Linda Palmer</i>
23	Tessa Sayre
24	George Palmer
24	Heather Roberts
25	Katie Dooley
25	Cindy Dunshee
25	Kristi Johnson
28	Alice Cobb
28	<i>John & Cindy Dunshee</i>
28	Rhonda Ploof
28	Tom Roberts
29	John Dunshee
31	<i>Kate & Bill Schubart</i>
29	Brian Simkins

September 2017

September 3rd

Greeter: Mary Hong

Ushers: Melissa Loretan & Grace Farley

Reader: Mary Eddy Stewart

September 10th

Greeters: The Ciffo family

Ushers: TBD

Reader: Renate Parke

September 17th

Greeter: Dianne Hall

Ushers: Mary Eddy Stewart & TBD

Reader: Dianne Hall

September 24th

Greeter: TBD

Ushers: Sandy Milbank & Kate Schubart

Reader: Judy Parker

September Coffee Hour Hosts —

Chair – Mabel Young; Melanie Bishop, Anne Castle, Renate Parke, Donna Pezzimenti, Martha Severance

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!