

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

SEPTEMBER 2018 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:

“Five Years”

September 2018 marks the fifth year I've served as pastor of the United Church of Hinesburg. Goodness. Life is short, and it moves at breakneck speed sometimes. It feels like yesterday that I came to this community with Leah, my spouse, three year old Camille and six month old Simon. I was as green to parish ministry as Vermont's mountains.

Five years on, Camille enters 3rd grade, Simon, Kindergarten and Miles, now three, enters Preschool. Leah has made community, volunteering at Hinesburg Nursery School and town-wide playgroups while continuing her work at Human & Civil Rights Organizations of America.

As my family has grown and changed, so has our church. We have said goodbye to many long-time members of our faith community and have welcomed many more. We face the most wonderful crisis of any church – we have too many young people and, as we have grown, our outreach into the community has branched out to serve those in Hinesburg and other places to meet the most basic of needs – hunger – in many new ways.

I am thankful for your gracious handling of me as I have experienced a major learning curve. For the many long meetings and constant support, I am thankful. For sitting through the occasional (more or less) sermon that missed it's mark and returning the next Sunday, I am thankful and humbled. For showing the spirit of experimentation, searching for what it means to be a faithful community in the 21st century, I am thankful and humbled.

The United Church of Christ Book of worship has a beautiful liturgy for such occasions, a reminder of our shared path:

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings.

Pastor: I thank the United Church of Hinesburg, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last five years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I carry with me all that I have learned here.

People: We receive your thankfulness and offer forgiveness.

We express our gratitude for your time among us.

We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.

Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will always be with us.

Pastor: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together has been faithful.

While this liturgy is often used at the end of a pastorate, I think it's an important reminder of our shared work and perhaps should be read at the anniversary of every pastor's union with a local church. It focuses on gratitude and forgiveness on part of both parties, the truly necessary components of any relationship.

Five years is the average tenure for new pastors, but I hope that, God willing, I am here for years to come. I am thankful for all I have learned here and all the good work still to do while there is time.

After all, life is short. And we do not have long to gladden the hearts of those around us. So be quick to love. And do good to your neighbor. And allow God to journey with you all of your days.

Blessings,

Pastor Jared

The United Church of Hinesburg is host to the first **Little Free Pantry** in Vermont and we need your help to keep it stocked! The idea for Little Free Pantries arose from the growth of Little Free Libraries and works on a similar reciprocal arrangement – Take What You Need; Leave What You Can. They are designed to help neighbors who are food insecure and are available for food, toiletries and household items for those in need, no questions asked, 24 hours a day. If you need a little something, stop in and get it. If you can share a little something, stop by anytime and drop it in the pantry. If you have any questions about items that are appropriate to donate, please contact the church office.

Right now, we have a particular need for the following:

- Pasta
- Rice
- Macaroni & cheese
- Peanut Butter
- Canned tuna or chicken
- Hearty soups such as Progresso
- Vegetable oil

Donations can be dropped off in the boxes in the Parish Hall entryway during office hours or on Sundays.



The United Church of Hinesburg

P.O. Box 39

Hinesburg, VT 05461

Office: 802-482-3352 - unitedchurch@gmavt.net

Web-Address: ucofh.org

Church Members,

Back in June, I described our church as being in a transition. Last year, our Council developed a Visioning Committee to work with outside consultants in order to help us visualize and transition into the future. They are tasked with developing long-term strategic actions. This spring we also created a Steering Committee to make us more nimble and efficient. The Steering committee is focusing on how our church gets work done. The committee is asking, how can we support our active committees and how might we reorganize our operating structure to better reflect how we've changed and grown? We know change will require some investments, so we also wanted to make sure those decisions are expedient yet prudent.

Despite a busy summer were able to make progress in a couple of key areas:

- We are looking at improvements to our governing structure to reflect changes in our church.
- We are exploring ways to support our growing youth programs.
- We are considering changes to our committee structure. How can we better coordinate our work and how does the Church Council provide oversight? We want to make sure committees feel empowered and supported.
- We want to document our work by developing written processes that define what work we do and how we do it in order to be able to more easily share the work and bring more leadership into our organization.
- We are focused on supporting the Visioning Committee activities.
- We think committee chairs should have time to focus on their committee activity so we want to reduce Church Council meetings to 3x/year. The Council can focus on major church decisions like our yearly budget while leaving day-to-day decisions to staff and committees.

The Steering Committee is recommending a change in how Committees meet. We are encouraging all active committees to meet at the same time each month. We propose to start a standard monthly meeting on the second Sunday of each month. The meeting will follow Sunday service. We hope this will accomplish a number of things:

- Committees will have a set meeting schedule.
- Pastor Jared, the Council Chair and others will be available to support committees as necessary. Committee questions and decisions can happen more quickly.
- Intercommunication between committees will be more effective.
- Committee members and our staff can enjoy and share coffee hour on the three Sundays per month that remain open. Presently almost every Sunday includes committee activities which prevent us all from participating in our important coffee hour social interactions.

We will try this new meeting schedule on Sunday, Oct 14. More information will follow. To recap: Our Steering committee continues to work toward making our church structure more efficient and relevant in our dynamic organization. Our members are Yvonne Whitaker, Mary Eddy Stewart, Andy Seaton, Heather Roberts, Pastor Jared, and myself. If you have any specific questions or ideas, feel free to share them with any of the Steering Committee members.

Best,

Phil Pouech, Council Chair

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



Homecoming Sunday!

Join us Sunday, September 9th as we kick off our fall
Sunday School Program at the United Church of Hinesburg

❖
Worship with the choir and Sunday School begins at
10:00am with a full Brunch and Registration beginning at
11:00am

**All Are
Welcome!**

United Church of Hinesburg - 10570 Route 116 Hinesburg, Vermont 05461 - www.ucofh.org - (802) 482 - 3352

Sunday School Leaders needed

To continue to build on the growth and success of our Sunday School program, we need adults who are willing to lead one of our two Sunday School classrooms each Sunday morning beginning on September 16th. Heather circulates the *Faith Practices* lesson to the classroom leaders during the week and preps all materials needed in the classroom. Typically, leaders read through the lesson plan in advance and then come a little early on Sunday morning to review the classroom materials before the children arrive.

There is no particular experience necessary.....only a desire to help our young people grow in their Christian faith!

Heather will have paperwork available for prospective teachers at the brunch on Sunday, September 9th and will also be available to answer any questions you might have. Please consider helping to fill this vital role in our growing church community.

Youth

Middle School Trip Recap

The United Church of Hinesburg held its first Middle School Youth Trip August 24th through August 26. Eight young people and three chaperones travelled to Western Massachusetts for three days of adventure, team building and service. Youth participated in a number of adventure activities including a zip line, alpine tower, Gaga Ball, camp fires, low and high ropes courses and archery through the Berkshire Outdoor Center. On the 26th, we served dinner at the Pittsfield Salvation Army, plating over seventy servings of meatballs and pasta. Of course, we had to stop at King Kone for ice cream, a Pittsfield institution. The youth showed great courage and teamwork throughout the weekend, challenging themselves and the group to accomplish their goals and serve a wonderful dinner. The trip would not have been possible without the help of chaperones Drew Lepple and Amy Sayre, Captain Elliot of the Pittsfield Salvation Army and our BOC group leader Ben, a camp counselor from New Zealand.

Fall 2018 Middle and High School Groups

We continue to see unprecedented growth in our youth programs at the United Church of Hinesburg. This year is set to be our biggest yet. As we have done before, we will have Fall, Winter and Spring sessions with additional recreational and service projects and youth trip work. Our sessions will be divided into middle school (5-7 grades) and high school (8-12 grades) with middle school meetings on Sunday evening from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and the high school meeting 6:00pm to 7:30pm. An overlapping dinner from 6:00pm to 6:30pm designed to gather everyone for fellowship.

Middle School Group

Our fall 2018 Middle School Youth group session will begin Sunday, October 7th from 5:00pm to 6:30pm and will take place every Sunday evening until November 11th. This fall, we will work through "Eating the Bible" by Rena Rossner. Middle school youth will prepare meals for themselves and the high school youth group using recipes from the books that have Biblical significance. Gluten free and vegetarian options and meals will always be on the menu. If possible, bring \$5 each meeting to cover the cost of food supplies.

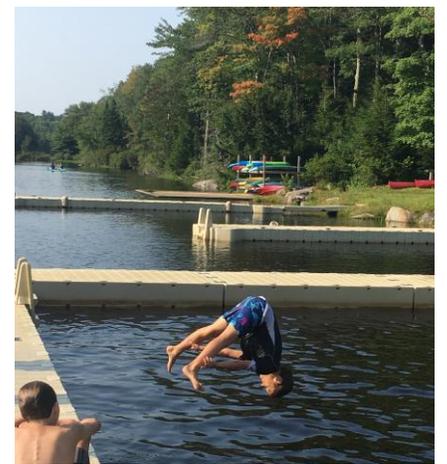
High School Group

Our fall 2018 High School Youth group sessions will begin Sunday, October 7th from 6:00pm to 7:30pm and will take place every Sunday evening until November 11th. We will be continuing our "Christian Faith and Practices" curriculum and will focus on faith communities as community builders. What does the Christian faith tradition share with other religions regarding issues of charity, service, education, and civil engagement? These are but a few questions we will explore. If possible, bring \$5 each meeting to cover the cost of food supplies.

Along with these opportunities, both groups will meet to discuss 2019 youth trips, and combined recreational and service projects.

If you have any questions about the youth programs at UCH or would like to help facilitate these meetings, please contact me at: revjared@gmavt.net.

Middle School Youth Trip to the Berkshire Outdoor Center



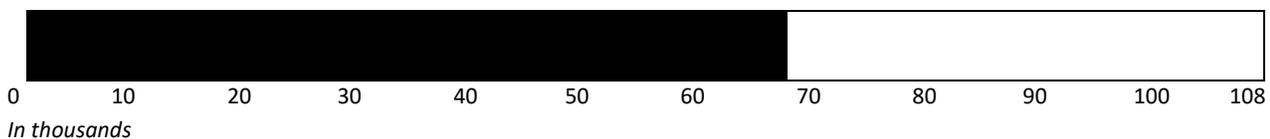
Finance Committee News

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

Our 2018 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 monthly to show how we are doing.

If you have any questions about our church finances, please contact me.

Plate offering received as of **July 31, 2018** (\$67,117 57% of offering budget)



Yvonne Whitaker, Treasurer

Trustees News

Trustees: Andy Seaton – Chair; Wes Ashe, Ken Cudney, Bob Forauer, Chip Foutz, JP Hong, Phil Pouech, Reggie Robinson, Matt Sayre, Art Thompson

The trustees are organizing a work day in September focused on the grounds around the church and Parish house. We have two possible dates in mind Saturday, September 22nd or Saturday, September 29th.



Listed below are the possible activities:

- Edge around the playground
- Haul off old swing set
- Fill in ruts by new playground
- Organize basement
- Organize plant sale shed (if needed)
- Fill in hole behind parish house
- Weed and deadhead church garden
- Edge and weed Parish House foundation planting
- Plant baptisia and replace hydrangea

Please contact Andy Seaton at aseaton@pconstruction.com or 482-4313 (email is preferable) and let him know the dates you are available.

September 2018 Happenings at UCH

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

2 nd Monday	8:00am-3:00pm	WIC
Mondays (except 2 nd)	9:00am-10:30am	Hinesburg Friends of Families baby playgroup
Monday nights	5:00pm-9:30pm	Parish House reserved by private group
Wednesday nights	6:30pm-9:00pm	Boy Scouts
Thursday mornings	10:00am-11:00am	Spanish speaking group
1 st Thursday night	7:30pm-8:30pm	Cub Scout parents meeting
Most Fridays	9:00am-1:00pm	Hinesburg Senior Meal site
Wednesday, September 5 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Sunday, September 9 th	10:00am	Homecoming Sunday service
Sunday, September 9 th	11:00am	Homecoming Sunday brunch & Sunday School registration
Sunday, September 9 th	5:00pm-8:00pm	High School Youth Trip recap meeting
Tuesday, September 11 th	10:30am	Membership Care Committee meeting
Friday, September 14 th	6:00pm-8:30pm	Cub Scout meeting
Wednesday, September 19 th	12:30pm-2:00pm	Knitting/crocheting group
Friday, September 21 st		October newsletter deadline
Sunday, September 23 rd	11:15am	Practicing God-talk
Friday, September 28 th	5:30pm-7:00pm	Open Table Diner free community meal hosted by HYP

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.

Knitters & Crocheters Needed!



We are looking for people who knit or crochet and might enjoy participating in our prayer shawl ministry. The shawls have been meeting a need in our church community and we need help to maintain a healthy supply. Basic shawl directions and yarn are available in the bottom of the cabinet inside the front door of the church. Any size or shape that will go around shoulders or cover a wheelchair-bound recipient will work.

Do you know someone who could use a shawl to comfort them during a difficult time? Shawls are available in the cabinet and you are free to take one (or more) at any time.

Seeking Help with Coffee Hour



If you are not currently serving on a monthly coffee hour committee but would be willing to help with this important aspect of our church fellowship, please call Sandy White 482-2629 or email sbwhite@gmavt.net.

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

September 2018

September 2nd

Greeters: The Grant family

Ushers: Grace Ciffo & Kate Schubart

Reader: Renate Parke

September 9th

Greeter: Paul Emmons

Ushers: Kristi Kilbride & Grace Ciffo

Reader: Judy Paker

September 16th

Greeters: The Johnson family

Ushers: Anne Castle & Kate Schubart

Reader: Yvonne Whitaker

September 23rd

Greeters: Mary Thompson & Sarah Hayes

Ushers: Melissa Loretan & Grace Farley

Reader: Julia Grant

September 30th

Greeters: The Reilly family

Ushers: Sherrie Simmons & Sandy Milbank

Reader: Thea Gaudette

*Coffee Hour hosts: 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!