

United Church of Newport
63 Third Street
Newport, VT 05855

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Pulpit Supply:

Sep 4 9:30 James Merriam
Sep 11 10:00 James &Janet
@Magoon Park
Sep 18 10:00 James Merriam
Sep 25 10:00 Janet Wiseman
Oct 2 10:00 James Merriam
Blessing of the Animals
Oct 9 10:00 James Merriam

Practice the Pause:

When in doubt,
Pause.
When angry,
Pause.
When tired,
Pause.
When stressed,
Pause.
When you Pause,
Pray!

With your SUPORT the United Angels Against
Cancer was able to raised over \$2,000. That
double the goal set by the team captain.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR
SUPPORT! Thank you for coming out and
walking with us!



Bible Study: to begin the week of Sep 12th "Everything you wanted to know about the Old Testament but were afraid to ask"

Please select your first 3 choices for a bible study time slot. Then if you would prefer potluck (to bring something to share) or bag lunch/dinner (to bring a meal for yourself).

Monday	morning	afternoon	evening	potluck	bag lunch/dinner
Tuesday	morning	afternoon	evening	potluck	bag lunch/dinner
Wednesday	morning	afternoon	evening	potluck	bag lunch/dinner
Thursday	morning	afternoon	evening	potluck	bag lunch/dinner
Friday	morning	afternoon	evening	potluck	bag lunch/dinner
Saturday	morning	afternoon	evening	potluck	bag lunch/dinner

**Count your age by
friends not years.**

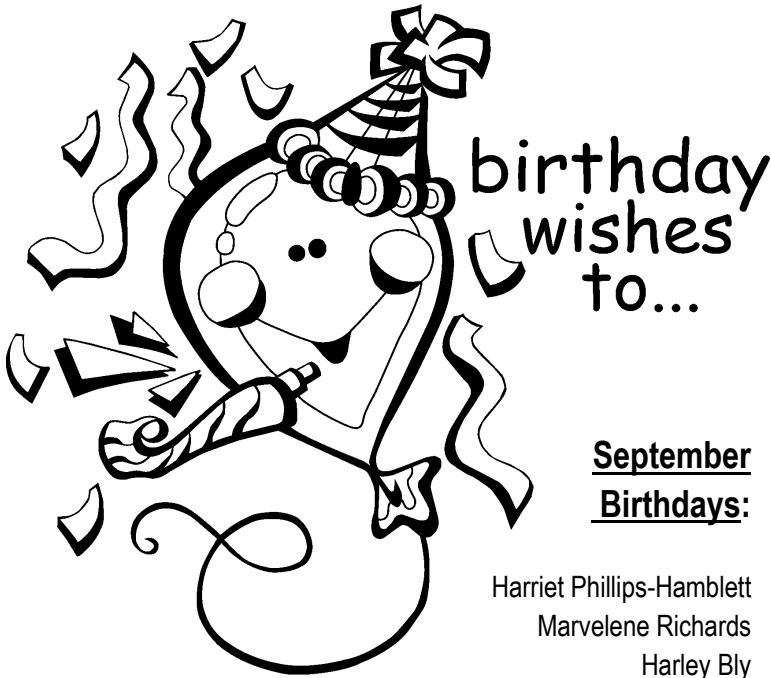
September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1 September	2	3
WL—Peg Jordan				Food Truck		Neighborhood Picnic 2-4pm
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
WL—James M	LABOR DAY Food Shelf	Food Shelf	B&G mtg 6pm Food Shelf			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
WL—James & Janet @ Magoon Park Picnic to follow			Finance mtg 6pm Exec Bd 7pm	Community Meal	Chicken Supper Setup	Neighborhood Picnic 2-4pm Chicken Supper 4-6 pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
WL—James Merriam CHOIR rehearsal begins 9AM M/H to meet after church		Sr Companion Mtg 9:30-11am				
25	26	27	28	29	30	1—OCTOBER
WL—Janet Wiseman		Friendship Circle 1:30 pm				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
WL— James Merriam Blessing of the Animals			B&G mtg 6 pm		Rummage Sale	Rummage Sale

A Big **THANK YOU** goes out to the Friendship Circle Ladies who were graciously voted to grant a scholarship sponsoring Rosie and I to take part in this years Camp Mechuwana "Grandcamp", an overnight camping experience for grandparents and their grandchildren. Rosie and I had a wonderful time getting to know these lovely people, swimming, boating, singing, lots of walking, talking, and crafts. Our Bible Study's were focused on Faith and Love through the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors.

It was a great experience for Rosie, so much so that she really, reallllly wants to return next year.

For those of you who are wondering; Rosie is our 10 year old granddaughter who spent two months with us this summer.



September Birthdays:

- Harriet Phillips-Hamblett
- Marvelene Richards
- Harley Bly
- Cary Ward
- Zoey Copp
- Irene Hodge
- John Ward
- Aubrey Boucher
- Michael Boucher
- Evan Vana
- Jennie Davis
- Sandra Parshalls
- Keith Richards
- Betty Vossers
- Sally Fraize
- Dean Palin
- Pat Vana
- David Barlow
- James Holcomb
- Wendy Franklin
- Jackie Hamblett
- Andrew Stenger
- Robert Fitts

Happy Birthday to You!
And you! And you!
The next party is
September 25th
Come join the fun!

Congratulations and Best Wishes
to our newlyweds

Bud & Bethany Vana

Chuck & Stacy Newton

Food for Thought:

Crossing Over
Matthew Laney

"Jesus asked them, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'" - Mark 13:2

Once a visitor to our church asked me, "What does this church teach about the end of the world?" I answered her in two words: "Not much."

Even Jesus didn't know when the end of the world was coming, perhaps because we live in a world without end, a universe without limits. Transition? Change? Adjustment? Yes, all the time. We are crossing over from one reality to the next.

In significant times of crossing over (graduation, childbirth, death) we might feel like things are coming unglued. That's how a lot of us feel when we look at the world today with its global warming, terrorism, fiscal cliffs, grid-locked government. We really are at a pivotal point in human history... which is where we have always been.

Church futurist, Phyllis Tickle, was famous for her thesis that every 500 years or so, the Church reinvents itself: Constantine in the late 4th century; the Great Schism of the 11th century; the Reformation in the 16th century; and right now in the 21st century, something new is emerging. Jesus looked at the religious structures of his day and predicted they will all come tumbling down because God was cleaning house for a new era.

Christianity (and life) is all about crossing over. As people of the cross, this is not only an obvious message but a hopeful one. Because resurrection is on the other side of the cross, we know that the end of one world is only the beginning of another.

In many places in your life, you are transitioning and crossing over. Embrace it and trust that Christ, who is the timeless Alpha and Omega, is with you every step of the way.

Prayer
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.



BUILDING & GROUND'S COMMITTEE

There are still some odd jobs yet to be done both inside and out. The Building and Grounds Committee is looking for volunteers who might have some time to help them whittle away at these jobs such as: painting inside & outside, washing windows, vacuuming under pew cushions, dusting and polishing pews. If you can give us one hour of time our several hours it is all greatly appreciated. Contact Vern or the office for more information.

Notes from the Church Office: **Thank you one and all!** As I put this newsletter together I am very thankful for the ease of which I can add artwork to the newsletter and bulletins. The speed in which it prints what I ask for and the clarity of the print. So yes, I truly appreciate the fact that so many people stepped up and supported the request for a new copier so quickly. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Good equipment makes life so much easier. ~Valerie

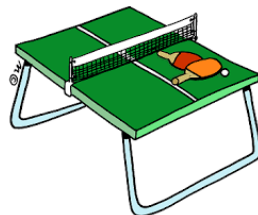
New WEBSITE is up! and running please check it out. www.unitedchurchnewport.org

We welcome feedback. It is still a work in progress so your comments will be helpful. Is everything correct? What should be there that is not? (There are some obvious missing pieces that we are working on.) You can even send a note to the office via the website. It does work, has been tested! However I do welcome you to send me a note.

THE CHRIS ED UMBRELLA
Amos and Anne Hamilton,

They donated a used ping-pong table along with a new net, paddles, and balls to the Youth Room. As youth leaders Andrew and Valerie are very excited. *We hope the youth will be too when they return after a summer of sports, family travels, and summer jobs. We are looking forward to a new season, new faces, new relationships, new challenges, and a new program. Join us!*

For a game.



The ChrisEd Team is excited about some of the new ideas they have come up with while brainstorming. The first is reaching out to the families with small children who might find it challenging to juggle two or more jobs plus nap schedule on Sunday mornings. The Idea is to relieve their stress by putting Sunday School material in their hands to use at a more convenient time during the week and still keep a connection with the family and our/their church.

The following letter went out to parents in July along with bulletins. The second batch will be following this newsletter. It is only a start and we hope to get feedback from the families the letter and material went out to soon.

September's ChrisEd meeting will be Wednesday 21st at 6:30. We are always open for others to join us with and lend ideas and feedback. Especially those that are outside the box. The 'box' doesn't fit today's world anymore.

Dear Parents

In these busy times with young families requiring two incomes we understand that is often very hard to give up the only quiet time a family has together, Sunday morning. The Christian Education Committee (affectionately called ChrisEd Team) of the United Church of Newport has been brainstorming creative ways to help parents teach their children the basic Bible stories, The Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments and other key elements to our Faith in God.

To begin this pilot program we are sending different age appropriate material to help you bring some Bible stories into your child's life. These Children's Bulletins are for you to share with your child (children) at a time that is convenient for you and them. The thought is to provide you with 4-5 bulletins each month through the summer. Giving you the choice to do them all at once or once a week. Some will be out of date bulletins by the time they arrive. Our hope is the children will enjoy them regardless. We feel it is more important that all children get familiar with the Bible stories in some way shape or form.

We now have the ability to produce bulletins from all the books of the Bible or to select from many of the popular Bible stories. If you ever find yourself wanting to work with your child(ren) on a specific Bible story or piece of scripture please feel free to contact Valerie in the office and ask her to print up material for you. Now that we have upgraded our subscription to *Children's Bulletins* we have open access to all the scripture and can print as many copies as we want.

This can also be a way to interact with us if you wish. Once your child has completed the bulletin, have him/her write their name on it and send it back to us or drop it off at the church (through the mail slot works). We will then post the bulletins on a board for all to see.

The Team will continue to brain storm creative ways to assist you in bringing the Bible Stories, 10 Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Bed time prayers, some well-loved 'Bible Camp' songs into your little ones life. Any ideas and or feedback from you is greatly welcomed and appreciated.

The role of the ChrisEd Team is to assist Parents with the task Moses gave all the Israelites after bringing down the 10 commandments: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

"O Israel, listen: Jehovah is our God, Jehovah alone. You must love him with all your heart, soul, and might. And you must think constantly about these commandments I am giving you today. You must teach them to your children and talk about them when you are at home or out for a walk; at bedtime and the first thing in the morning. Tie them on your finger, wear them on your forehead, and write them on the door post of you house!" ~The Way (The Living Bible)

"Attention, Israel! God, our God! God the one and only! Love God, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got!

Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street: talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night, Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates." ~The Massage

As I type out this scripture today and think of how the world is more broken than ever, it is easy to see why.

Loving God, may the power of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ bring healing to your broken world. Heal our hearts of the hatred that has built up around us and open our eyes and hearts to see and feel your love. Wrap us in your love that we may grow stronger and stronger to strengthen those weaker than ourselves. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen

Sincerely,

The Christian Education Team: Jill Chaffee, Connie Johnson, Nancy Newton, Amy Pickering, Valerie Rittershausen, Jeremiah Schuyler

The Good Samaritan ~

A family of three was going, not from Jerusalem to Jericho, as was the traveler in Luke 10:25-37, but from Angola as emigrants, to join family in Canada via Vermont. Having been turned back at the border until a technicality could be resolved, they found themselves with rapidly depleting resources, a motel for a home and no friends or family in the Northeast Kingdom.

Mothers Day, 2016 found that Angolan family, Lunga, the father, Helga, his very pregnant wife and Dulcia, their 18 month old daughter, all trying to celebrate Mothers Day as best they could, in that most American way, with a Happy Meal at McDonalds.

In all probability, neither a priest nor a Levite passed them by, as happened in Luke 10, but what we do know is that some Samaritans from Coventry/Newport, long-standing members of The United Church of Newport and well-schooled in the teaching, “love thy neighbor as thy self,” hardly had to ask themselves, “who really is our neighbor? Is this family our neighbor?” The teachings of Luke 10 were immediately clear to them. “They are our neighbors in the Biblical sense and if we are the kind of Christians that we believe we are, we will act as the Biblical Samaritan did.”

And so they did. Two of my dearest and most cherished friends, Kathy and Alan Aiken opened their hearts and their home to this Angolan family.

Thanks to the kindness of the Aiken family and their endless perseverance in helping to resolve legal/immigration matters, a family of three, recently become four, now appear to meet the Canadian immigration requirements and soon will flourish and enjoy the benefits of North America that most of us have enjoyed all our lives.

In an ironic turn of events, on Sunday July 10, Pastor James Merriam was preaching a sermon based on Luke chapter 10. He reminded his congregation,

A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

As Pastor Merriam was preaching this to his congregation, Helga went into Labor. Shortly thereafter a healthy baby girl was born.

On Sunday July 10 at The United Church of Newport, I learned much, first about loving my neighbor and secondly, about determining who my neighbor really is, something that is often difficult to do in these times of heightened suspicion towards anyone who does not appear to be one of “us”. These revelations came from Pastor Merriam’s sermon, from his Luke 10 references, but mostly from the real practitioners of these doctrines, Kathy and Alan Aiken. As Jesus said in Luke 10: verse 37, “Go and do likewise.”

~Brian Puddington

COMMUNITY MEAL

The Free Community Meal is served every month on the third Thursday at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We are in need of additional people to be the “Chair-Person” of the Meal. This involves selecting a Menu. Purchasing food and directing the able crew (10-12 people) in preparing the food on Wednesday and/or Thursday and serving Buffet Style (approximately 120 meals) The experienced crew does table set up on Tuesday, peels potatoes etc, helps with cooking, serves, washes dishes, kitchen clean up and puts tables and chairs away. The food shelf has charge of account at Vista and Derby Village Store, Faith Olsen helps with menu planning and co-ordinates all activities. Please consider helping as a “chair-person” so that we may continue this popular and worthwhile outreach to our friends and neighbors. We could also use additional help as part of the serving and clean-up crew. The next meal we could really use a “Chair-Person” for is November.



GREETERS AND USHERS

There has been an anonymous plea for greeters and ushers for Sunday morning. We know you are out there. Each Sunday morning, when in need people gladly step up to the plate. (no pun intended—☺). I would be so much nicer if we could be people to commit to a few Sundays each year. We tried have people commit to one month at a time, four Sundays and done for the year. That obviously did not work. Now it’s time to go back to signing up for a Sunday you can commit to being at the church 20 minutes early to greet people or hand out bulletins. The Sign-Up Sheets are at the Church Life Tables both upstairs and down. Please consider signing up for either positions for at least twice between now and New Years. THANK YOU!

The NEW Nametags are Here!

Please pick up your name tag so James and all can get better acquainted! The nametags will be at each door where you usually come in. They are magnetic so won’t harm clothing. You may choose to leave it at the door, or wear it home. Which ever works best for you and your memory!! The Friendship Circle

has generously provided these new nametags for our use. If you don’t see yours be sure to let Valerie or one of the Friendship Ladies know.



New Table Grace

*Be Present at Our Table, Lord
(tune: Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow)*

Be present at our table, Lord,
Be here and everywhere adored,
Thy mercies bless and grant
that we,
Be strengthened for Thy
service be.
Amen.



who might need help with a simple chore. It might be someone who needs a prescription picked up, needs their leaves raked, has a screen that needs to be fixed, or just about anything. The Mission/Hospitality Committee thinks forming a “Chore Core” from our church would be a great way to lend a hand in the community. If you think you could lend a hand once in a while, call the church and tell Valerie you want to join the “Chore Core” and let her know what kind of things you are willing to help out with. That way when the Agency calls looking for assistance she knows who might be willing to help.

BE A VOLUNTEER



The “Progressive Dinner” held in May was a big success. The Mission and Hospitality Committee is looking for a volunteer to help organize/plan/recruit for a fall dinner. If you are interested/willing contact Judy Hurd at 334-6111 or call the church office.

It was suggested that the next dinner be based solely on recipes

out of the UCN church cookbook. However, whoever is planning gets to make the choice.



UCN Bell Choir

Our United Church of Newport Bell Choir will be getting back in the “ring” of things toward the end of September. A few of us formed quartets over the summer to ring for our church service, at Craftsbury Community Care, and at the Littleton United Church of Christ for their service.

We will be starting rehearsals for our fall and holiday season of ringing soon. If you or anyone you know may be interested in trying to share music with our bell choir, please contact Ruth Marquette, the director at 334-6978 or raamarq@hotmail.com. We always welcome new ringers.

Looking ahead to 2017, the Vermont Spring Ring will be in the Northeast Kingdom April 29th! The exact location has not been confirmed, but we expect it will take place in the St. Johnsbury area. Ruth and Amy join other handbell directors in the NEK to plan, organize, and coordinate the 2017 Spring Ring called “Kingdom Ring.” There will be many things to help with, so when we ask for help, we hope we will have plenty of volunteers!



UCN CHOIR

Choir Rehearsals will begin again on Sunday September 18th at 9am. New voices are always welcome to join.

Newport Area Community Orchestra

NACO -Although the orchestra has been silent since our spring concert on Sunday, June 5th, I have been very busy getting things ready for the beginning of the fall rehearsals on Tuesday, September 13th. In addition to our fall concert, several other concerts are planned. On November 13th at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the orchestra and Now Playing Newport Concert Series are sponsoring a concert which will feature the NACO Woodwind Quintet and Friends. On December 3rd, the orchestra and Now Playing Newport Concert Series is sponsoring the Orchestra Members Recital. On December 10th, the orchestra will be playing it's 5th Annual Fall Concert at the United Church in Newport. As usual, we will be featuring soloists from the orchestra and also Molly Kelly conducting the strings of the orchestra in a special selection. Molly is the orchestras

assistant conductor and also plays cello in the orchestra. Please mark these dates on your calendars and check our webpage at your convenience to keep up with our latest developments. Thanks for your continued support of the orchestra.

www.newportareacommunityorchestra.org

Ken Michelli, Music Director, Executive Dir.

Village Harmony Concert

Village Harmony is a Vermont based program for the study and performance of authentic harmony singing traditions from throughout the world. The group that visited us had practiced for a week in a camp setting and then gone on tour throughout New England performing concerts for 12 consecutive days. They are a high energy group of about 20 teens from all over. They sing acapella and mostly from memory. They use rhythm, dancing, and occasionally instruments. The songs were a mixture of American Gospel and shape note, Macedonian songs and dances, South African songs and dances as well as original compositions.

In past years the majority of the youth were not from USA however this year about 50% of the youth and young adults were American students from as far away as the state of Washington and as close as our own back yard. There were

youth from Ireland and Macedonia. As well Africa and Asia. The age range was just as dramatic, twelve to twenty.

This has become an annual combined event for our church and St. Mark's for at least the last three years. The Friendship Circle provided a covered dish dinner for them on Monday, July 25th followed by a concert in our church at 7:30 pm. St Mark's Episcopal Church arranged housing for the group and provided breakfast the next morning.

Their harmonizing and voices are

amazing and worth enjoying at least once.

~Marvelene Richards

Note from Kathy Beals:

Here is my Mother's address if you'd like to put it in the newsletter. She would love to hear from anyone.:

Betty Butterwick
Rockingham County Nursing Home
Blaisdell 1 Rm. 148
117 North Road
Brentwood, NH 03833

Village Harmony

Teen World Music Ensemble

Led by Larry Gordon, John Harrison,
Zoe Christiansen

25 sparkling young singers and instrumentalists perform songs and dances from South Africa and Macedonia, American shape-note songs, quartet gospel and contemporary compositions, traditional songs from Corsica and renaissance works.

Monday, July 25, 7:30 pm

discussion focused to the interests of the attendees.

Please note that there is a BIBLE STUDY TIME SURVEY on the inside flap of this newsletter that is for anyone who has not been at church in the last few weeks due to summer travels and company. A Bible Study will be started in the next few weeks depending on the survey results. We are just trying to find out if there was a Bible Study during the week mid day or in the evening might you attend. No commitment is necessary.

Change is all around!

Summer is winding down, fall is near. Children and teachers head back to school, schedules change; life is busy. The trees will soon be adorning their beautiful colors, enhancing the beauty of the kingdom.

Mark your calendars:

Join us for a worship service and picnic at Magoon Park September 11th

Something new! Neighborhood picnic on the lawn with games, snacks, music and storytelling. (Sept. 3rd and 17th)

And a Service on the lawn – Blessing of the animals, October 2nd

Life has changed for many in our church family this summer: births, weddings and funerals. We celebrate the joys and we mourn the loss.

~Janet Wiseman

We are the church inside and outside these walls!

This church has a modest pastor’s discretionary fund available. If you need assistance or know of anyone who needs assistance, please let James or Janet know. On the flip side of that, if you would like to make a contribution to the pastor’s discretionary fund please mark your contribution as such and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. This fund is a great help to those in need.

Matthew 25:35-40

I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you took me into your home. I needed clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' "Then the people who have God's approval will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you as a

stranger and take you into our homes or see you in need of clothes and give you something to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' "The king will answer them, 'I can guarantee this truth: Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, you did for me.'

Memorial Gifts:

to Improve Church Technology

The Newton family has elected to utilize some of the funds given in memory of Edwin Newton to improve some of the technology at the church. We feel that these improvements will benefit the church as a whole and improve the worship experience.

The first item is a new portable, battery-powered PA system to be used at functions taking place outside of the sanctuary, such as at Magoon Park, the Fellowship Hall, or outside on the lawn. This system includes a wired hand-held microphone, a wireless lapel microphone, and a stand. The system also has inputs for musical instruments and media players, and can be connected to a second PA of the same model to create a larger system, should the need arise.

The second item is a new video camera and associated

components to record services and functions. The current system is failing and is in need of replacement. The new system will be High-Definition and portable, whereas the current system is standard definition and fixed, only be able to be used in the Sanctuary. High-Definition recording, coupled with NEK TV's coming change to High-Definition broadcast means a better experience for at-home viewers. Associated changes to the overall recording system will also mean post-service editing will be simpler and take less time. Portability will allow services held at Magoon Park to be recorded for broadcast, as well other functions.

Thank you to all who made a donation in memory of Edwin.

~The Newton Family



FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

The Annual Chicken Pie Supper is September 17. This is a **HUGE** project, co-sponsored by the Executive and Finance committees, but it requires the work of many people. We need kitchen prep workers on Friday, the

16th, and dining room and kitchen workers on the 17th, plus dish-washers and clean-up people. Also, we need approximately 45 dessert pies for the dinner on Saturday. Sign-up sheets will be distributed at the end of August, but please save that weekend for this important event. All proceeds go to the UCN general fund to aid in our on-going work.

On that same subject (Chicken Pie Supper), PLEASE HELP THE KITCHEN CREW OUT: It is very important that anyone using the kitchen between now and the chicken pie supper understand that Both refrigerators MUST BE EMPTY by Friday morning, Sept. 16. We will need every square inch of refrigerator space for Friday and Saturday. If you are hosting coffee hour, please give away or take home any leftovers. THANKS.

Rummage Sale

Clothing & items have already started piling up in the closet downstairs. Don't forget to go through your closets to see what has been gathering dust so to speak. I'm sure we all have clothing we haven't worn in years. Yes, maybe it will come back in style again but would you wear it if it did? Hmmmm. Don't forget to include shoes, belts, hats, and other accessories too.

That goes for children and youth clothing as well. You might not have any but please spread the word.

MISSION AND HOSPITALITY

Cooler temperatures have begun, winter will soon be upon us. Even though summer is not over the Mission/Hospitality Committee is planning ahead to make as many children and adults as warm as possible. Please bring any cold weather wear you no longer have use for to the church for the Rummage Sale. Just bring them in and leave them with Valerie or Bettie. Any winter coats not sold in the Rummage Sale will be given to The Community National Bank for their coat drive in October.

We will also be continuing our mitten, hats, socks, & underwear drive for area school children. **This year we are also asking for children's boots.** These can be used boots. The schools told us there is always a need for boots. So if you have some boots that someone has outgrown consider giving it to us to give to the schools.

The Chore Core

The Area Agency on Aging often gets calls from an elderly person

United Church Herald

Summer

September 2016

Special points of interest:

- ◇ Food For Thought
- ◇ Bible Study-Time Survey
- ◇ What's new
- ◇ September Calendar

Office Hours & Staffing

Normal office hours for the summer and through September are from 9-1 Mon, Wed, and Fri. with additional hours before or after dependent on scheduling requests.

802-334-6033 OFFICE
802-324-0659 CELL

Pastor Office Hours

James will be holding office hours in the upstairs office and sanctuary on Tues. and Wed. from 3 to 6 pm. Come by for conversation and a cup of tea, or to sit and enjoy the quiet and soft light of our beautiful sanctuary in the middle of the week.

In the Sad Times

As a community we've had a difficult few months. With those we've lost and the bright faces and warm personalities to whom we've said goodbye it's a time that can be taxing on a community, no matter how strong. With each of these losses we gain another responsibility as a community, the responsibility of remembering and sharing the lessons and stories of the lives they lived. Our dear brothers and sisters pass on to the eternal life with Christ, so we gather as a community each as time to pray and be together, the children of GOD. It is true that we have funerals for the living because it is for the need of the living that we can provide care, at least in this life. We gather to entrust their souls to GOD, not because he needs to be convinced to take them, but because we often need to be convinced to let them go. To make the transition from loving the living to remembering the dead is among the most difficult we have to make in life.

I lost someone else this summer, Father Michael Morris, a member of the Catholic Order of Preachers

(commonly known as the Dominicans). He was among the best teachers I've ever met. I had the great pleasure of taking a class in iconography from him and I owe my ability to interpret stained glass and tapestries entirely from him. My wife enjoyed challenging me in every church we visited in Europe to identify all the figures carved in wood and gold hundreds of years ago. With every one came a memory of a class with Father Morris, his turns of phrase, his expressions, and his clear love for teaching and the religious art he studied.

For Father Morris the act of grief and remembering has a distinct form and content, but for others we have to look to one another for their legacy. The brightness that comes into faces at even the mention of their names is something we can share, and know that we are honoring the memory of those we lost and sharing their love with those around us. So I ask you all to celebrate and remember, GOD asks nothing more of us in our grief.

-James

Sum.. Sum.. Summer time....

It's been an eventful summer at the United Church of Newport. We attempted an outdoor service in Magoon Park in June but were unfortunately rained out. If anything that made it all the better when, in August, we gathered for a service with chimes and communion under a perfect Vermont summer sky. This was followed by a cookout and lively socializing that our community knows so well.

In July we welcomed the Maple Leaf Seven Jazz band for a spectacular service of music and dancing. We also conducted not one but two yard-sales up in Derby Center and some unexpected generosity and salesmanship allowed us to dramatically exceed all fundraising expectations.

These special events went along as the community continued with the essential services we maintain in the community. The food shelf and community meals were just as busy and vivacious as ever, and many thanks to all those who come out each month to give their time and talents to these efforts. The fellowship and community of both the meals and the

preparation are something I highly recommend to anyone who can find the time to join us.

As summer turns to fall, some activities will change while others stay the same, we as a church will remain, a rock in the storm and a beacon to all those around. It is an honor to be a part of this with all of you as we move on to the next part in our year of ministry.

Autumn breeze... In the coming weeks we have a busy schedule here at the United Church. In addition to the regularly scheduled events we're hosting two free Neighborhood Picnics on the afternoons of Saturday September 3rd and 17th. We hope to welcome the families in the immediate church area to snacks, play, stories and songs, and welcome them to use our lawn as a safe place to play, as it is one of very few open green spaces in the Newport downtown area. The second event will dovetail into the big annual Chicken Pie Supper and make for an entire afternoon and evening of festivities and fellowship at the UCN.

On the first Sunday in October we'll mark the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi with a Blessing of the Animals service. Weather permitting we'll hold a service of communion and blessing with our

furry friends and companions on the church lawn (rain site: fellowship hall). You can expect snippets from St. Francis, along with singing/howling, and delicious treats for all those who attend. Those who do not wish to, or cannot, bring their animals are welcome to bring a picture or token to be blessed in their place.

These are just a few of the upcoming events at UCN, stay tuned for more events and information as the autumn progresses.

BIBLE STUDY

Autumn at UCN brings the return of bible study. The first six week series will be in the structure, outline, and history of the Old Testament, with a second six week Advent program to follow in November and December. All are welcome to join us a few times or every week, for reading, reflection, and learning about the sacred texts of Jesus own times, and the common origin stories we share with our Jewish and Muslim siblings in faith. Potential topics include the progress of Israel from a family to a kingdom, and the effect of exile on faith and identity. Please bring your questions, the study will be loosely structured with the

