

United Church Herald

Winter

December 2020

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- UMC
- CHRISTMAS
DISPLAY
- EXECUTIVE
BOARD

DEAR COMMUNITY,

There is a banner hanging in the sanctuary that reads as follows:

The Mission of the United Church of Newport is to celebrate the Love of God: By leaning and teaching the way of Christ, By encouraging one another in the sharing of our talents and resources, and By walking together in service with or neighbors, our community, and our world.

I see this banner almost every day: a reminder of who we are, why we do what

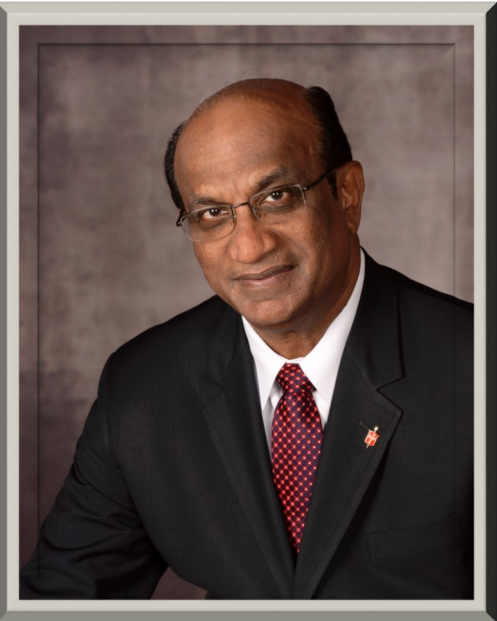
we do, and where are tasked with taking the church. I ask you to read it again now and in days to come and consider what it means to you and to your place within the wider ministry we share.

God Bless You All in this wonderful season of giving.

-James

MESSAGE FROM UMC BISHOP DEVADAR~~

This is a portion of the address given by UMC Bishop Devadar at the Annual Conference in October



"These past seven months have been enormously stressful for all of us, as we

have had to adapt and reinvent our mission and ministry. I recognize how weary our clergy and lay leaders are and am so very grateful to God for the creativity and resiliency given to do ministry in these anxious times. We are still functioning in crisis management...and you are working overtime. I pray that God provides you needed rest and relief workers to sustain you. How timely that our annual conference session's committee chose the theme of "Building Beloved Community" for this year's gathering. We have been living through two viral pandemics: COVID-19 and the ongoing pandemic, for more than 400 years in this country, of racism. This year's tragic murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, and Daniel Prude have brought worldwide attention to systemic injustice. We say their names. And, we acknowledge that there are so many more innocent African Americans, killed unjustly, whose names we do not know. For this, the church must repent. Black lives matter. Until we erase the sin of white supremacy and white privilege, we will not be able to move beyond the systematic injustices that tear away the fabric of our society. The social sin of racism has exposed how bereft our country and world are and how far we are from the vision of the early apostles articulated in our guiding scripture of Acts 2:42-47. The passage from Acts gives us a picture of the bold solidarity within the early Christian church. They were empowered by the Holy Spirit as they devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles and sharing together in the bread and the cup. They shared what they had with one another. They lived joyfully and were generous in their praise of God and their goodwill to all people. These early Christians were unafraid to live out their faith daily because they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Christians throughout the centuries have attempted to model their lives on

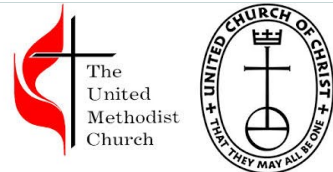
this testimony from the book of Acts. Christians have sought to model the sharing of possessions and the distribution of goods according to need."

The full address is available online or from the UCN office.

INSIDE THE CHURCH~~

As the days shorten and darken, our church has once more arrived at one of its more celebratory times of the year. This is the time when our faith, heralding the birth of Christ, brings light, both figuratively and literally, to us all. Throughout this season our church building, inside and out, will shine. Whether you are driving by or watching the services on TV or YouTube, the clear message we are sending is this: we are a church alive. A church alive with joy. A church alive with hope. A church alive with service. A living church that cherishes the inclusivity that Christ taught. A church that welcomes YOU.

In this time of pandemic, we are all struggling with the sadness that accompanies being cut off from the people we love and the things we love to do. It's our good fortune, however, that we're not cut off from worship. Thanks to our pastor James and his youthful technical expertise, we



Office Hours and Staffing

Jenna's office hours
Mon-Fri 10AM- 2PM

James Merriam -
Call for Appointment
Janet Wiseman -
Call for Appointment

802-334-6033

OFFICE@UNITEDCHURCHNEWPORT.ORG
WWW.UNITEDCHURCHNEWPORT.ORG



can join a church service every Sunday and a Bible study on Wednesday. We can celebrate communion, listen to wonderful music, hear a sermon of love and hope, and pray for one another. Not all congregations are so lucky, but we are. We are.

And now we have to figure out how to keep what we are so fortunate to have. Like everything else that COVID has touched, our budget has suffered. We have a serious shortfall at this point, and those of us on committees are trying to plan our way through this pandemic so that we can hold on to what we've got until we get to the other side. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, but although we can see it, we still have a ways to go, and we need help. Everyone's help, in one way or another. We are able, still, to give out food regularly (more, actually than we used to) and to meet some of our expenses. At risk are people's salaries, including our pastor's, and that shortfall places all the other things we do at risk. We have many willing volunteers, but it's the pastor who weaves those threads into whole cloth. And sometimes in interesting ways.

At the church today, where a couple of women were decorating, James was the man with the stepladder. The garlands needed somebody TALL to place them. Our pastor then lugged the large crèche up from the



basement. Our pastor moved the 9 ft. Christmas tree into the right position. Our pastor carried the awkward wreath rings down from the balcony. I personally remember a time a couple of years ago when I went to the church to collect some papers, that James was cleaning the bat guano out of the belfry. I spoke to someone recently who told me that James has often driven her to medical appointments. I cite examples of these things because it illustrates that our pastor is dedicated not only to the church, and involved not only in ecclesiastical endeavors, but is committed to the community as a whole. There are many, many more examples that I have witnessed.

Thank you for the help, in so many ways, that you have so generously given to further the work of this UCC church in our beautiful little city. When we're past this time and we feel safe to get together, our celebration will blow the doors off our traditional little church!

~Kathy Aiken

Executive Committee~~

Joint meeting of the Executive Board, Finance Committee, and Pastor/Staff

Charlie Kremer opened the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Present: Alan and Kathy Aiken, David Barlow, Kathy Beals, Wendy Franklin, Mary Hoadley, Vernon Hurd, Susan and Charlie Kremer,



Susan Kuzma, Dan Marquette, James Merriam, Ellie Primeau, Doug Spates, Keith Richards, Valerie Rittershausen, Pat Vana, Val and Lorraine Whipple, Janet Wiseman

Keith explained the 2020 budget shortfall and the projections for the end of the year. We got a hazard pay grant in the amount of \$6,000 which is \$2,000 each for James, Jenna, and Betty. Discussion about possible ways to save money. The sanctuary heat cannot be turned down too much because of the piano and organ. The parking lot needs to be plowed because traffic into the church is constant.

Keith mentioned that the choir director and the bell director could be laid off because they are not currently working. Charlie talked about saving money in salaries and deciding if we are a failing church or if we can re-examine and remake this church. He does not want to make any decisions cemented in stone for a year. He would like to take a year and figure out how we are going to go forward.

Charlie mentioned that there are no motions to come out of this meeting. He would like to rethink James' hours. Kathy Aiken talked about starting a committee that would work with someone from the outside to rethink the church. James feels that our church policy needs to be upfront and explicit about being open and welcoming to grow the congregation both physically and financially. Kathy believes that after COVID we will need James' expertise for those without

an anchor. Pat mentioned that things were worse in the 80's and we have much more money in investments now than then; also, that people need to know really how bad things are to be able to come together for the common good. Valerie said she believed we need someone to shepherd us now. Val Whipple is in favor of a committee to decide the future of the church. He would like to give James more power and not micro-manage his schedule.

December 14 Pastor/Staff and Finance have to agree on salaries so that the Executive Board can approve a budget for the December 16 Executive Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Vana, secretary, Executive Board



Upcoming Events~~

Join us on NEKTV for family favorite Christmas Stories throughout the month of December, 3x a week!

All Christmas stories will be aired on Christmas day, back-to-back.

You can also watch them on YouTube!

Our Christmas Eve Service will be broadcasted at 8pm & 11pm on Christmas eve night. Our Christmas service will be broadcasted at 8:30am on Christmas morning.



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE SO GENEROUSLY TO THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE'S "UNCOOKIE" VIRTUAL COOKIE FARE. THESE DONATIONS ENABLE US TO CONTINUE TO FUND THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY NEEDS THAT WE HAVE SUPPORTED ANNUALLY. WE WISH TO ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Light Up The Night! Celebrating Advent~~

We hope everyone has had a chance to see our display on the lawn celebrating Advent. 3 feet high signs of "Hope", "Joy", "Love", and "Peace" were created and are on display for all to see. There is also a large Christmas tree lit up to bring some joy and light to our neighborhood. Special thanks to Kathy & Alan Aiken,



Val & Lorraine Whipple, Valerie & Paul Rittershausen, and Vern & Judy Hurd for creating the display, to Judy and Carl Szych for donating the tree, and to Pick 'n Shovel for donating the plywood.



UP COMING EVENTS:

DEC 18	EVERYONE EATS	FRI 10:30-12PM
DEC 21	EVERYONE EATS EXTRA To-Go MEALS	MON 10:30-12PM
DEC 23	EVERYONE EATS EXTRA To-Go MEALS	WED 10:30-12PM
DEC 30	BLOOD DRIVE	WED 11-3:30PM



BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.
Give blood.

Wednesday, December 30, 2020
11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: united to schedule an appointment.

Blood Drive

Newport Community United Church of Newport

63 Third Street
 Newport, VT 05855

Hosted By: Newport United Church

Come to give Dec. 18–Jan. 4 for a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last!



STANDING IN NEED OF PRAYER:



- Susan Jewett
- Edith McNeal
- John Ward Sr.
- Robin Comstock
- Jim Ladue
- Brenda Hayden

FOR HEALTH:

- Nicole Atkins
- Kathy Miller
- Karen Jordan (Peg's Daughter in-law)
- Harriet Hall
- Alicia Knoll

- Sharon Card, for healing and recovery after breaking her femur.
- Those is the community having surgery
- Patty Thomas who has upcoming surgery

GIVING THANKS:

- Those recovering from surgery

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:

- The Family & Friends of Rev. Arnold Marshall Brown Former pastor of The Craftsbury Church



Coming to North Country Hospital

TUESDAY
Dec. 22nd, 9:30am- 11 am



FREE TO-GO MEALS

IS NOW **EVERY MONDAY & FRIDAY**, FROM 10:30AM-UNTIL WE RUN OUT. WE WILL HAVE FREE TO-GO MEALS FROM LOCAL RESTAURANTS AVAILABLE IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF NEWPORT, ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS.



Pastor Office Hours: Call for appointment or to speak with Pastor James

Office Hours: MON –FRI: 10AM-2PM

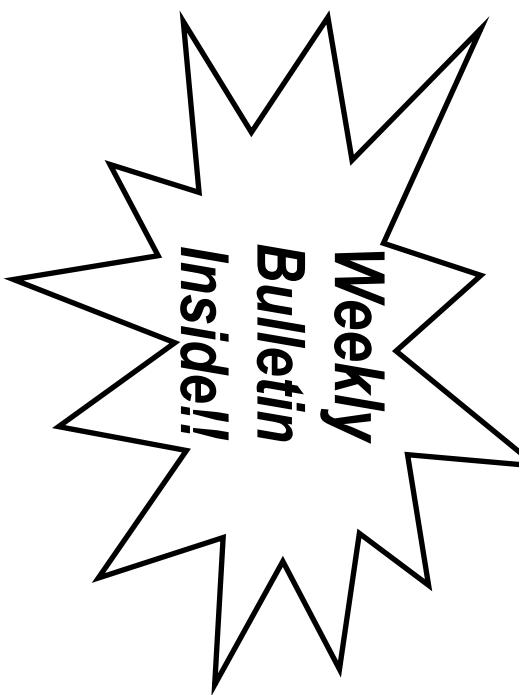
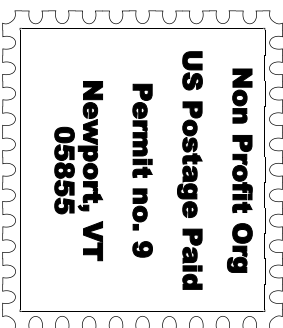
THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THE 24TH, 25TH AND 31ST OF DECEMBER & ALSO JAN. 1ST



United Church of Newport
63 Third Street
Newport, VT 05855



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
20 9:00 AM Worship — NEKTV CHANNEL 1088 OR Wednesday at 6pm & ON YOUTUBE: “THE UNITED CHURCH OF NEWPORT” 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	21 **FREE TO-GO MEALS** EXTRA MEALS 10:30AM-12PM	22	23 BIBLE STUDY ON YOUTUBE & NEKTV 5PM **FREE TO-GO MEALS** EXTRA MEALS 10:30AM-12PM	24	25 	26
27 9:00 AM Worship — NEKTV CHANNEL 1088 OR Wednesday at 6pm & ON YOUTUBE: “THE UNITED CHURCH OF NEWPORT” 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE	28 EVERYONE EATS— FREE TO-GO MEAL 10:30AM-12PM	29	30 BIBLE STUDY ON YOUTUBE & NEKTV 5PM BLOOD DRIVE 11AM-4PM	31 	JANUARY 1 	2
3 9:00 AM Worship — NEKTV CHANNEL 1088 OR Wednesday at 6pm & ON YOUTUBE: “THE UNITED CHURCH OF NEWPORT” 2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE	4	5	6 BIBLE STUDY ON YOUTUBE & NEKTV 5PM	7 FOOD TRUCK	8 EVERYONE EATS— FREE TO-GO MEAL 10:30AM-12PM	9
10 9:00 AM Worship — NEKTV CHANNEL 1088 OR Wednesday at 6pm & ON YOUTUBE: “THE UNITED CHURCH OF NEWPORT” 1ST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY	11 HOME DELIVERIES	12 FOOD SHELF	13 FOOD SHELF BIBLE STUDY ON YOUTUBE & NEKTV 5PM	14	15 EVERYONE EATS— FREE TO-GO MEAL 10:30AM-12PM	16
17 9:00 AM Worship — NEKTV CHANNEL 1088 OR Wednesday at 6pm & ON YOUTUBE: “THE UNITED CHURCH OF NEWPORT” 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY	18 HOME DELIVERIES	19 FOOD SHELF	20 FOOD SHELF BIBLE STUDY ON YOUTUBE & NEKTV 5PM	21	22 EVERYONE EATS— FREE TO-GO MEAL 10:30AM-12PM	23

