

# United Church Herald

Spring/Summer

May 2019

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◇ **UCC VT Conference**
- ◇ **Income vs Budget**
- ◇ **YARD SALE**
- ◇ **Food Shelf Special  
“Bag Drive” w/ Shaw’s**
- ◇ **CALENDAR**



Coventry Center. (Photo by Christopher Roy)

**Mark your calendars:** Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup> will be a special worship for UCN. It is our sacred duty to bring to a conclusion a long and inspiring ministry. In 1831 UCN had its origin in a group of parishioners from the Coventry Congregational Church, now we say goodbye to the community that gave us birth.

The Coventry Church hasn't been active in more than ten years so this doesn't come as a surprise. The church building now has a future as town property for special events and as a meeting hall so it's up to us as the local UCC to have the closing service to bring one era to a close and open another.

The service will be modeled on a celebration of life, as that is what

we will be doing. We'll begin at 9:30 at UCN to memorialize the decades of worship and service and then process over to the Coventry Church to say our final goodbyes at 10:30. All are welcome to join either or both pieces of this important service in the work of the wider church.

### Snapshot of the Vermont Conference Meeting

- *What is it that our church has and does, that the world needs?*
- *What is God already doing among us, and how can we joyfully join in?*
- *What do you love to do?*
- *How can you share that with others in God's name?*

These are some of the questions we were asked to ponder at the Vermont Conference UCC Annual meeting the last weekend of April. Our keynote speaker was Rev. Rob Voyle from the Center for Appreciative Inquiry. He asked us to imagine our church life, not as a story of decline, scarcity, and tired duty, but rather as a joyful exploration of God's call. He encouraged us to make an

inventory of the abundance of gifts that we already possess. By shifting the focus, we can engage in mission and ministry in new ways, with a listening ear for the Holy Spirit.

The Conference Annual Meeting is a time for worship, sharing ideas and fellowship with folks from other churches, and doing the business of the Conference. There was a surplus in the Conference budget this year, due to some staff vacancies. The Conference ministry staff has been reduced from 2 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  conference ministers, to two full time ministers: Lynn Bujnak and Paul Sangree. Paul brings gifts in the areas of church vitality and mentoring of new pastors. Lynn gives overall leadership to the conference. She spoke of the courage of our clergy in addressing hard issues, of the welcome our churches give to all, and the inspiring range of our mission activities—spanning the gambit from local to global efforts. Did you know that 80% of the income used to keep the Conference going comes from local churches? Like the local church, the Conference has a modest endowment, and draws money each year to balance the budget. Our contributions are greatly appreciated. How is our money spent? The Vermont

Conference provides assistance with securing new pastors, sponsors church vitality events and Ministers' Convocation, authorizes ministers and disciplines them when needed, and serves as pastor to the pastors. Speaking as a former pastor, the Conference is a place for renewal and connection with other clergy, reminding us of why we do what we do, and where God is still speaking.

We'll be hearing more about Appreciative Inquiry and its potential to help our churches grow. I'll leave you with thanks for sending me to conference as your delegate, and a few last words for you to ponder, as they relate to the United Church of Newport.

*Frame your goals and dreams positively. (It's impossible to achieve a negative goal)*

*Recognize the abundance that's already present in our life together.*

*People don't belong until their gift is recognized and being used.*  
Martha Peck

## MISSION AND HOSPITALITY

We are looking for input from church members for what you would like to see offered for activities both on the “hospitality” side (pot lucks, game night, progressive dinners, etc) and on the “Mission” side (book sale,

winter coat exchange, etc) We hope you will join us and give suggestions for events you would like to see in the coming year. There is a suggestion box in the Fellowship Hall / Kitchen where you can leave your suggestions.

**\*Next meeting will be on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> after worship.**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH SUNDAY, June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Our confirmation girls will be designing and leading worship that day with music, fun, and a message for all ages. Please join us and stay for the Sunday School “Craft Time” after worship with Coffee Hour.

## BUILDING & GROUNDS

Lighting Update Project

This committee has felt the need to upgrade our present lighting system to an LED system. There are a total of over 250 individual lights in our building. They would be converted gradually, on a priority basis, as well as funding availability. Currently *Efficiency Vermont* has a rebate that helps keep the cost down. Each individual conversion cost between \$12 & \$50 per unit. Chuck Newton, one of our B&G members, has suggested a neat idea of “Buy a Bulb”. Parishioners

## Office Hours & Staffing

Valerie's normal Summer office hours from **Mon 9-12, Thu and Fri. 9-2** with additional hours before or after dependent on scheduling requests.

**802-334-6033 office**  
**802-324-0659 cell**



would “take ownership” of lights and hopefully feel part of this project. As you know, this is a move for better lighting for all, and a much more economical effort at cost savings for the future. More information will be forthcoming.

Spring Clean-Up  
Turn out was small but we got a lot done on some specific tasks. There is a good chance another date will be selected (after the Yard Sale) to complete the necessary outdoor work. Stay tuned.

Thank You! ~B&G

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**

Our May Rummage Sale was another huge success, raising over \$800. What was also amazing is that we found a benefactor for all the clothes that did not sell. The Salvation Army of St. Johnsbury opened their arms and said “Bring it all”. They have also agreed to take the left overs from our October sale. — YEAH! On Saturday after the sale, and again on Monday, Bettie Soulier , Nancy Newton, Marvelene Richard & Merle Chilcot drove four carloads to the Salvation Army in St J.

*Next Event—Epsilon Dinner, Jun 5<sup>th</sup>*

**COOKING WITH A.J.**

“Cooking with A.J.” is an awesome six-week culinary learning experience. It is a collaborative effort by NEKLS’s Newport Learning Center, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the VT Department of Disabilities, Aging and

Independent Living, and NEKCA’s Parent Child Center. Our course is generously hosted by the United Church of Newport where Chef A. J. Nommik and his understudies are chef’n it up in style.

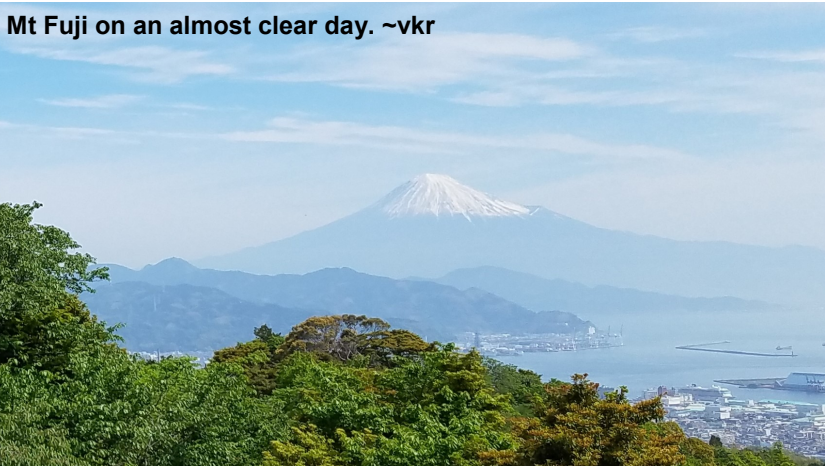
The goal of this first segment (of two) is to introduce participants to budget home cooking. While trying out easy but yummy recipes, students are also getting certified as ServSafe food handlers. A second segment is planned for later in the year to give interested students a flavor of what it’s like to work in a professional kitchen.

Each week, participants peruse fliers from a local grocery store, see what’s on sale, and decide on a menu for the following week. Under Chef A.J.’s tutelage, students learn to use knives safely, to follow recipes, and to appropriately handle food to prevent contamination. The industry recognized ServSafe certificate for food handlers is awarded to all students who pass the respective exam at the end of the course. The current group includes four VocRehab consumers and two High School Completion students. A third cohort will start their cooking adventures on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CHURCH SECRETARY ~~**

**Thank you** one and all for the much needed time off. **Extra BIG Thank You** to all the volunteers who covered the office while I was away. We had a great trip. The weather was good, warm with only two days of rain. Good food, friendly welcoming people, lots to see and experience. My favorite day was when we

were blessed with a clear day while visiting Shimizu and took in the sights of Mt Fuji. We were also in Tokyo on a historical day: Emperor Akihito of Japan abdicated his throne and passed the honor and responsibility on to his oldest son, Naruhito, on May 1st. The country was in the middle of a 10 day “Golden Week” vacation. It did change up our schedules a bit with the whole country on ‘holiday’.



Mt Fuji on an almost clear day. ~vkr



**F**OREVER  
**R**ELY  
**O**N  
**G**OD



**Yard Sale Invitation**

**Our 14th Annual ALL Church Yard Sale  
will be  
3 days this year:**

**Thu, May 30<sup>th</sup>—Fri, May 31<sup>st</sup>  
—Sat Jun 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Hours are: all day!**

Come and enjoy a “unique” experience of fun, socializing, meet new friends, & enjoy the chaos!! Help this fund raiser be a success.



ALLEN CUBIT

Presents

Robert Schumann's

DICHTERLIEBE

AND OTHER  
SELECTIONS

FEATURING

VIVIAN SPATES

Piano



**SATURDAY  
JUNE 1, 2019**

7:00PM

NEWPORT UNITED CHURCH  
63 3RD ST NEWPORT, VT

Free Admission

— Donations Accepted



Give blood.

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

American Red Cross



**Blood Drive**  
**Sponsored by:**  
**United Church of Newport**

63 Third Street  
Newport, VT 05855

**Friday, May 24, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



**The Red Cross is in an  
emergency need appeal  
and as a thank you all,  
presenting donors will  
receive an Amazon gift  
card and a t-shirt for  
coming in.**



**THANK  
YOU!**  
**UNITED  
STATES  
POSTAL  
SERVICE  
FOR YOUR  
FOOD  
DRIVE  
DONATION**

## Food Shelf News

We have some good news for the Food Shelf. Shaw's has chosen our Food Shelf to be the recipient of their "Give Back Where It Counts" Reusable Bag Program for the month of June. The program is simple: our Food Shelf will receive a \$1.00 donation every time a \$2.50 reusable bag is sold in June at Shaw's on the Derby Road. So — if you were planning on buying any reusable bags — please do so at Shaw's in June. If you desire — you could donate the bag(s) to our Food Shelf as we may need them if single purpose plastic and /or paper bags are banned by law. Every month we use about 216 large plastic and paper bags.

WE'VE BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE

## GIVE BACK WHERE IT COUNTS REUSABLE BAG PROGRAM

When you buy this bag, we will  
receive a \$1 donation.



**shaw's**



In addition to being selected by from Shaw's, the USPS of Newport selected our Food Shelf to give one half of their collection from the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, basically a pick up truck load of food.



Rev. Kurt Shaffert, the Interim Pastor at the United Church of Bellows Falls, is also a talented cartoonist. Rev Kurt is also the organizer of a clergy group that Pastor James is a part of and very much enjoyed. These Cartoons were made at the UCC Annual Meeting last month and do much to capture the spirit of this joyful event.





**NOTE:**  
**Peg Jordan's new**  
**MAILING address is:**  
**70 Birch Lane,**  
**Newport 05855**

**STANDING IN NEED OF PRAYER:**

FOR HEALTH:

Susan Jewitt  
Lisa & Mark Shelton  
Maurice Macie  
Kevin Shee (leukemia)  
Pastor Mike DeSena, Morgan Church  
Janice Santaw (brain cancer)



CELEBRATION

Doug Philips-Hamblett is doing well and getting stronger each day  
Andrew Franklin—graduation from UNH  
Brandon Szych Brown—graduation from Champlain College

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN:

The family of Holly Hoover Bullock

THE WIDER

COMMUNITY/NATION/WORLD:

—Those who were experience hate crimes  
—Those who were exposed to ‘burn-pits’

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>19 WL—JM</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
ORGANIST—VS WORSHIP AT 10 AM	Cooking w/AJ 11-3 PM	St Mark’s Souper Lunch NOON FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE 1:30 PM CONFIRMATION CLASS 5:30 PM	ChrisEd & Spiritual Leadership Pot Luck 6 PM		BLOOD DRIVE  Mark Shelton & Friends @ Elks Club 6-8 PM	
<b>26 WL- JM</b>	<b>27 MEMORIAL DAY</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1 JUNE</b>
ORGANIST—DB WORSHIP AT 10 AM						Allen Cubit w/ Vivian Spates Concert 7 PM
				YARD SALE—all day, each day		
<b>2 WL- JM</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
ORGANIST—VS PASTOR STAFF MTG 11:15	Newport PALS 10 AM		B & G 6 PM  FINANCE 6 PM	Food Truck		
<b>9 WL—JM</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
ORGANIST—VS MISSION & HOSPITALITY MTG 11:15	Food Shelf	Food Shelf	Food Shelf  Exec Board mtg 7 PM			
<b>16 WL—JM FATHER’S DAY</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
***WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM***  COVENTRY COMMUNITY CHURCH CLOSING SERVICE 10:30 AM				Community Meal—noon		

## UNITED CHURCH OF NEWPORT

### Income vs Budget

	Jan - April YTD	Jan - April Budget	2019 Annual Budget
Collections & Benevolence	\$31,067	\$35,000	\$105,000
Interest & Dividends	\$10,000	\$8,333	\$25,000
Fundraisers	\$100	\$2,000	\$6,000
Friendship Circle	\$1,250	\$1,667	\$5,000
ECC Fiduciary Fee	\$91	\$2,936	\$8,808
ECC Utility	\$2,064	\$2,064	\$6,192
Rents & Fees	\$845	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,417</b>	<b>\$52,000</b>	<b>\$156,000</b>

Average Sunday  
Collection

\$1,827

Average  
Collection  
needed: \$2,020

### FINANCIAL NEWS April 2019

The Finance Committee met on May 8.

A review of the Treasurer's Report showed first 4 months income of \$45,417 against expenses of \$55,630. \$10,000.00 has been transferred from the Trust Funds to cover the costs. The UCN Trust Funds did well in the first quarter with a net increase of \$15,631.71.

As we all know it was a long cold winter with lots of snow and ice making our winter expenses above budget. In the same note, our collections are below budget.

Yours in Christ,

Keith Richards, Finance Committee Chair



**United Church of Newport**  
**63 Third Street**  
**Newport, VT 05855**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

