

# UNITED COMMUNITY CURRENT



NOVEMBER 2023

Email: [Unitedcommunitychurchucc@gmail.com](mailto:Unitedcommunitychurchucc@gmail.com)

Website: [UnitedCommunity.church](http://UnitedCommunity.church)



## Moving Forward Together:

I want to thank everyone who attended and participated in our time for Congregational Conversation on October 8. It was a time for processing the traumatic disruption in our congregational life and it was also a productive time for looking ahead and preparing to move forward together. I believe there is a Zoom recording of that session. If you missed the meeting and would like to review the recording, please let me know.

Our next meeting will be a “warned” Special Congregational meeting on Sunday, November 19 following worship. At that time the Council will present a slate of nominees for a new Search Committee. Hopefully the congregation will agree to elect the nominees and charge them to represent the congregation in the search for our next settled pastor. This will allow the committee to immediately begin work updating our Church Profile so that the position can be posted in early 2024.

In the meantime, Rev. Stephen Winkler and Rev. Jay Sprout will be alternating and cooperating to provide pulpit supply, at least through the end of the year. In addition, Steve will be leading an Advent Bible Study on Fridays starting December 1st. Jay and Steve are also willing to provide for pastoral care needs as they are available. Requests for pastoral care calls should be made through the church office whenever possible.



Looking forward, the Council has authorized Gail Warnaar to put together a small committee to organize, manage, and report on a series of small group conversations to occur in the spring. These conversations will allow members to articulate their understanding of our mission as a church and how we support that mission with our giving, investments, and physical assets. We hope all

members will accept an invitation to participate in one of these small group conversations when they are announced.

Ultimately, what we do as a congregation is more important than who we call as a pastor. As United Community Church we are the Body of Christ in St. Johnsbury. The more each of us participates in the life and mission of the church, the more we exercise the Body and the stronger we become as a congregation. Each of us generously offers what we are able and graciously accepts each other’s offerings to provides the means for building the Kin-dom of God here in our community.

Blessings for our ministry together,

Phil Brown, moderator

MODERATOR



\*\*\*\*\* WARNING: \*\*\*\*\*

## SPECIAL MEETING OF UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH November 19, 2023

The Members of United Community Church are hereby warned of a Special Meeting of the Congregation to be held immediately following worship on Sunday, November 19, 2023. The meeting will be held simultaneously in person and via Zoom. Each voting member attending via Zoom needs to attend on an individual computing device.

**Question 1:** Shall the members elect the nominees for Search Committee as presented by the Church Council and, if so elected, charge the Search Committee to represent the congregation in the search for a Settled Pastor.

**Question 2:** Shall the members consider any other business that may be presented at the meeting?

## Ministry Reports


### Worship & Care

This week was the 5th Sunday in October. Phil Brown led us in a shortened worship service and then we adjourned to do a few jobs around the church. The most immediately pressing was preparing for the Haunted Sanctuary planned for Halloween evening. But there are other jobs to be done around the church as well.

As we move into November, we will begin an Interim to the Interim period... I can understand if you wonder what in the world that means! Worship and Care was approached by the Reverends Steve Winkler and Jay Sprout with a proposal they had come up with – they offered to be our guest ministers through November and December. For the most part, they will alternate every other week (with one or two weeks where one or the other are away). In addition, they have offered to provide pastoral care (if you or family members need/want a visit from a pastor) during this period as well. We are happy to accept this wonderful offer. Please come join us for worship!

Especially during this time, there will be a need for participants for weekly worship – readers, greeters, acolytes. We want to make these months a time to join together and support each other. Please contact Karen Sayles, [kmsayles@yahoo.com](mailto:kmsayles@yahoo.com), if you want to volunteer (and don't be surprised to receive an email on occasion!) Thank you to everyone who makes worship meaningful!

### Outreach



As this is being written, the sanctuary is being transformed into a trail to the witch's house as seen in Hansel and Gretel. Using Beth's suggestion of this story, our visitors will be greeted in the front of the church and invited to travel through the "candyland". They can even go through the oven (without being made into a gingerbread child)! During their travels the opening music of Bach's Toccata in d minor will be playing. A photo booth will be available with proceeds split between the photographer and the roof fund.

As we go into November, we are looking forward to Thanksgiving. The Community Thanksgiving meal will be on November 23 from 11 am—1 pm. We will be looking for volunteers to help set up, put together



take out meals, and clean up. See either Beth Norris or Alice Kitchel if you can help. If you haven't contributed to the Neighbors in Need Special Offering, you can either put your donation in the special offering envelopes or just make your check out to United Community Church and put NIN in the memo line.

### Spiritual Formation & Nurture


With Advent quickly approaching we are looking at a study for the youth of the church that will take place during Sunday school time. We are also starting to look into a Christmas Pageant (more to come). We will be having an Adult Advent Bible Study. And we have Advent Devotionals in the office "Grace in The Manger" by Rev. John W. Stevens.





We are starting Sunday School classes on October 8th, like last year we will meet during service on the second and fourth Sundays. We are using a curriculum on Matthew and the Beatitudes. This is a 12 week curriculum.

The second Sunday of every month the Spiritual Formation Ministry will meet after church.

### Stewardship



As our name says, we are stewards of United Community Church and as such we are trying to be good stewards. One of the ways we can be better stewards is to be more efficient in our heating of our beautiful building. Working with grants and recommendations from experts we have been exploring the use of a heat pump hot water heater (so we don't have to run the boilers to heat water) and also the staging of the boilers so they respond to the outside temperature more efficiently. With the new technology, we are looking at the possibility of heat pumps for the office and parlor areas.



Along with grants for heating, we have been looking at the outside of our building and the need for pointing and masonry work. The tower in particular is in need of repair in some of the masonry. Have you noticed the floor downstairs? Except for the area by the stairs to the narthex, the floor is finished. The exercise group is back in their regular spot.

We continue to work with Garrett's Properties as they take over more of the administration of our apartments. They have made several recommendations that we are discussing.

*(continued on page 3)*



**Have you visited our Facebook page? [UnitedCommunityChurchUCC](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedCommunityChurchUCC)**

**Did you know you can check the website three different ways?**

**[UCCSTJ.com](http://UCCSTJ.com)    [UCCSTJ.org](http://UCCSTJ.org)    [Unitedcommunity.church](http://Unitedcommunity.church)**



## Ministry reports *(continued from page 2)*

### Reach Out



During October we gave out 3 gas cards, 2 COVID tests and 1 backpack. We have several pairs of cold weather socks but could use hats and mittens. As you sort out your cold weather clothes, check to see what you have that you don't use and we can add to our emergency supplies for those who come in for help.

### Archives

I have started to go through boxes of random stuff that has been placed in the archive room. It is interesting to see how the bulletins have stayed the same and also how they have changed over the years. We have several year-books that are also interesting to look at. Thanks to Betty Keller and Randall Northrop we now have extra file cabinets and can file away more North Church bulletins and South church memorabilia. The archive email is: [stjuccarchives@gmail.com](mailto:stjuccarchives@gmail.com)



### Meal Site



Wednesday and Friday lunches continue to grow in size. We thank all who brought in donation items for the meal site. Even though we ask for specific items each week, we'll take whatever you can give us. It's amazing what one can make. During the summer months we fed over 3000 people and we expect to feed more now that the temperatures are falling and the air is getting colder. During the month of October we served 973 meals and sent 212 bagged meals to the Salvation Army store.

## Projects from staff:

- Sunday morning services slide show
- Support Pulpit Supply pastors
- Build scarecrows
- Make flyers for fall brunch
- Clean parsonage, and pastor offices
- Help with haunted sanctuary
- Assist with worship planning
- Addressing current issues with building use
- Support members of congregation
- Worship and care
- Order supplies for meal site
- Lollipop Wednesday has started back
- Transition of management of apartments
- Gas cards
- Coordinate with NKHS on how to support mental health crisis
- Performed background checks
- Organized special music
- Coordinate maintenance request

**\*\*Please ministry chairs check your office mailbox\*\***

## Mission Statement

**As one body in communion with God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, we, the members of United Community Church covenant with one another to care for and love each other as Jesus Christ loves us, and to maintain, support, and foster a compassionate ministry in our community and throughout all God's creation**

## Church Council Members



Phil Brown, Moderator  
[stjmusic@sover.net](mailto:stjmusic@sover.net)

Alice Kitchel, Assistant Moderator  
[alicekitchel@gmail.com](mailto:alicekitchel@gmail.com)

Elisa Rowell, Treasurer  
[elisamay1978@gmail.com](mailto:elisamay1978@gmail.com)

Helene Millas, Assistant Treasurer  
[frenchcutie289@yahoo.com](mailto:frenchcutie289@yahoo.com)

Karen Sayles, Clerk  
[kmsayles@yahoo.com](mailto:kmsayles@yahoo.com)

Kathy Brown, Assistant Clerk  
[kbpb@together.net](mailto:kbpb@together.net)

Pam Dearborn, past Moderator,  
[pamelad@nchcvt.org](mailto:pamelad@nchcvt.org)

Pam Dearborn, Member at Large  
[pamelad@nchcvt.org](mailto:pamelad@nchcvt.org)

Gail Warnaar, Member at Large  
[gailw@theoldhomestead.com](mailto:gailw@theoldhomestead.com)

Karen Sayles, Worship & Care  
[kmsayles@yahoo.com](mailto:kmsayles@yahoo.com)

Kris Norris, Stewardship  
[KristanNorris312@gmail.com](mailto:KristanNorris312@gmail.com)

Vicki Scherer Spiritual Formation & Nurture  
[vickyscherer@gmail.com](mailto:vickyscherer@gmail.com)

Alice Kitchel, Outreach  
[alicekitchel@gmail.com](mailto:alicekitchel@gmail.com)

# YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART PAGE

Children's bulletins are available at our worship services as well as downloadable from the Constant Contact with the worship materials and on the website: [uccstj.com](http://uccstj.com).

# Puzzle!

**ACROSS**

- cause of Job's trouble
- twinkling, heavenly lights
- the Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
- creature of the deep (41:1)
- the Tamarite, a friend (2:11)
- sores
- Job had 7,000

**DOWN**

- the One who ever lives (19:25)
- affliction
- had seven sons
- ocean
- precipitation
- Job had 500
- the Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
- Job had 3,000
- Job's fourth friend (32:2)
- Job had 500 yoke

Answers: Across 2. Sore, 4. rain, 6. Babel, 8. Leviathan, 12. Egypt, 13. hole, 15. sheep; Down 1. Redeemer, 2. suffering, 3. Job, 4. sea, 5. rain, 7. donkeys, 9. Zophar, 10. camel, 11. Elhan, 12. oxen

# PUZZLE

## THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.

This becomes a plant  \_\_\_\_\_

Willing to give  \_\_\_\_\_

The result of planting seeds  \_\_\_\_\_

The act of gratitude  \_\_\_\_\_

Food made from wheat  \_\_\_\_\_

Now he who supplies \_\_\_\_\_ to the sower and \_\_\_\_\_ for food will also supply and increase your store of \_\_\_\_\_ and will enlarge the \_\_\_\_\_ of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be \_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV

Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving

# Woven WITH Gratitude

Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.

**What you need:**

- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

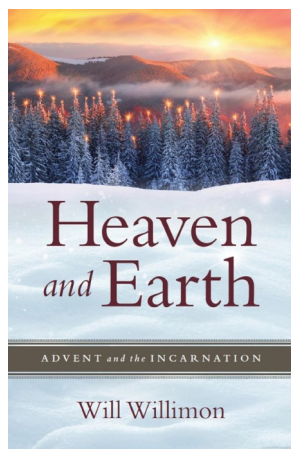
**What you do:**

1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the circle off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!



## Advent Bible Study Scheduled

It is not within our own power to make a fresh start. If we are to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our devising. What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a God who not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and do something with us, here, now.



*In Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*, Will Willimon, one of our country's most noted preachers, introduces us to the God who does just that, bringing heaven to earth and changing everything. In Advent we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way.

Join us on the first four Fridays of December, time to be announced later, as we journey through Advent, with the Rev. Dr. Willimon as our guide. We will explore the topics introduced in his book mentioned above. (*In Heaven and Earth* can be ordered through Boxcar & Caboose. Reading the book, while encouraged, is not a prerequisite for study participants.)

May we go and grow together!

## Thanksgiving Community Dinner

November 23

Eat in - 11 am—1 pm

Take out orders (NO delivery)

call the office: 802-748-2603 or email:

[Unitedcommunitychurchucc@gmail.com](mailto:Unitedcommunitychurchucc@gmail.com)



## Offerings

	Oct	July-Oct(YTD)
Offering	5,362.99	27,351.56
Other directed offerings	146.84	576.56
Roof Fund	25.69	1,315.61
Community meal	555.65	2,519.20
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>6,091.17</b>	<b>31,762.93</b>

Wider Mission	135.00	250.00
Local Mission	535.00	640.00
<b>Total Mission</b>	<b>670.00</b>	<b>890.00</b>

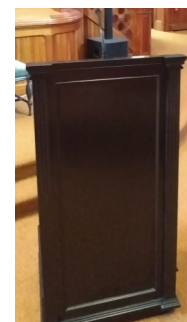
	Mission	Offering
<b>2023/2024</b>	\$4,780.00	\$70,000.00
<b>% of budgeted amt</b>	18.6%	45.8%

## VOLUNTEER READERS NEEDED



There are a couple ways to be a reader these days...we had started having one reader for the service in response to a request from a member of the congregation but that isn't set in stone. If you like that idea, and are

willing to be a single reader, that's fine. But if you would like to read but want to share duties we can make that work. Also, you can read from the pulpit (and sit "up above" if you like) or read from the lectern down on the floor. Both ways will work. See Karen Sayles (802-274-0986 or [kmsayles@yahoo.com](mailto:kmsayles@yahoo.com)) to volunteer for a Sunday. If reading scares you, we also need people to hand out bulletins and greet people as they come in. It's always welcoming to be greeted by a smiling face and a warm "Hello".



## Haunted Sanctuary Successful

Thanks to all the volunteers who made the Haunted Sanctuary a success. Over 800 ghouls and ghosts traveled the road through the Haunted forest to the witch's oven. Thanks for all who donated candy for our goblins to have as they left. Hot Chocolate was given out (in memory of Brent Beck who started the tradition) and photos were taken by Barry Hayes (he split the pot with us). Duane, Pam, Barbara, Karen, Jessica, Paula, Phil, Alice, Nancy, Erika, Eric, Damien, Kathy. Not pictured Kola, Randall, Lance, Elizabeth, Chloe.

## Christmas Flowers need to be ordered by November 19

Name- \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

Or

Given in Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Poinsettia Size	Color	Unit Price	QTY	Total
4.5" Pot (1 plant per pot)	_____	\$6.50	_____	\$ _____
6.5" Pot (1 plant per pot)	_____	\$12.50	_____	\$ _____
7" Pot (3 plants per pot)	_____	\$21.50	_____	\$ _____
8.5" Pot (4 plants per pot)	_____	\$28.50	_____	\$ _____
10" Pot (3 plant per pot) <i>Red and White only</i>	_____	\$38.00	_____	\$ _____
Donation to offset cost of Christmas flowers we give to homebound members			\$	_____
Total				\$ _____

Standard Colors are:

R = red, W = white, P = pink,

M = marble (pink and white), G = glitter (red/white spots)

## November Concerts at United Community Church

Veterans Day will be celebrated with the traditional St. Johnsbury Town Band concert. Patriotic music will be played on Saturday, November 11 at 6:30 pm. Proceeds via donations go to the St. Johnsbury History and Heritage Center.



Sunday, November 19, Jim Farmer will be performing a variety of organ music from the 16th century through to the twenty-first. Jim, son of Lenice and Dr. Howard Farmer, grew up in North Church and learned to play organ on our instrument. Following his retirement from being a federal prosecutor, he has returned to playing the organ and will be sharing his talent with us.

The St. Johnsbury Town Band returns to our sanctuary on Sunday, November 26. They will be opening the Holiday season with their traditional Holiday Concert. The Caledonia Children's Chorus will be sharing the spotlight. This Free Holiday Concert will begin at 3 pm and it is rumored that Santa Claus may make an appearance.







## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11/1 Amanda Ingram
- 11/2 Ben Sayles
- 11/3 Keith Norris
- 11/5 Laura Benoit
- 11/7 Deborah Thornton
- 11/8 Arlo Schweigert
- 11/10 Jim Kellogg  
Sarah Lynch  
Stephanie Rowe
- 11/12 Reagan Beck
- 11/16 Maggie Sayles-Kealy
- 11/23 Laura Tobin
- 11/26 Braeden Beck  
Bob Creaser  
Alexis Sanborn



## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 11/4 Bertie Koelewijn & Greg Brown
- 11/22 Jane & Bill Vinton
- 11/28 Debbie & Leo Merchant



## CHOIR REHEARSALS

**9 AM SUNDAYS**  
**11:30 AM—12:30 PM**  
**NOVEMBER 5**  
**NOVEMBER 26**



## UNITED COMMUNITY HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

**REHEARSALS**  
**6—7:30 PM WEDNESDAYS**



## THANKSGIVING DINNER

**11 AM —1 PM**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24**  
**UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**FELLOWSHIP HALL**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL PRE K—6TH GRADE

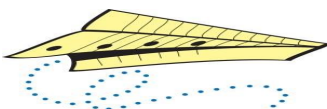
**2ND AND 4TH SUNDAYS**

**STUDENTS LEAVE SANCTUARY FOR  
CLASS FOLLOWING THE ANTHEM**



## In our Thoughts and Prayers

Julie Brisson		David Martin
Bob Chapman		Mulliken family
Mary Feron		Sandy & Donna Murray
Joan Knutsen		Warnaar family
Magnus family		



If we have missed your birthday or anniversary **please** let either Barbara or Erika know at 802-748-2603 or [UnitedCommunityChurchUCC@gmail.com](mailto:UnitedCommunityChurchUCC@gmail.com)

**United Community Church**

United Church of Christ  
1325 Main Street  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819



**Just a reminder:**



Although we don't require mask wearing we ask you respect one another's choices to stay safe



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES 10am**

In- person and

Facebook Live /Zoom

Zoom etiquette:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=saved&v=209599687060439>

**STAFF**

<i>Music Director /Organist</i>	Barbara Connelly
<i>Handbell Director</i>	Phil Brown
<i>Virtual Worship Director</i>	Phil Brown
<i>Virtual Technicians</i>	Sean Cavanaugh, Betty Keller
<i>Secretaries</i>	Barbara Connelly, Erika Thompson

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

<i>United Community Phone number</i>	748-2603
<i>Email</i>	UnitedCommunityChurchUCC@gmail.com
<i>Website</i>	UnitedCommunity.church

**November**  
**Lectionary Texts**

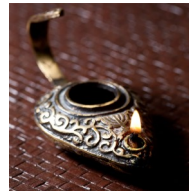
**November 5**

Joshua 3:7-17  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12



**November 12**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
Psalm 78:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13



**November 19**

Judges 4:1-7  
Psalm 123  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30



**November 26**

Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24  
Psalm 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Matthew 25:31-46

