

# The Star



PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF GRACE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, RUTLAND, VERMONT

## Summer Worship at Grace

**Pre-Service Hymn Sing!** Throughout the summer, we begin the morning with a hymn sing at 9:50 a.m., responding to requests from the congregation.

Come join in singing and bring your requests!



**July 7** John Weatherhogg, preaching  
*Communion Sunday*  
*Food Shelf Sunday*

**July 14** John Weatherhogg, preaching

**July 21** John Weatherhogg, preaching  
Jazz duo

**July 28** John Weatherhogg, preaching  
Summer Choir Sunday

## Harry Potter and the Life of Faith

An Intergenerational Vacation Bible School Opportunity  
**Tuesday to Thursday, July 11-13, 5:30-8 p.m.**

Come join us for *Harry Potter and the Life of Faith*: a three-day adventure with activities, songs, worship and food! We will gather each night in the Sanctuary then make our way to Fellowship Hall for dinner, followed by activities and fun...all while exploring themes found in the Harry Potter stories! Plan to be with us! Registration forms will be available soon in the Office, on literature tables, and on our website.



### **Vacation Bible School needs your help!**

If you are interested in helping in one of the following ways, we would love to hear from you! Contact Kelly Thompson (438.2230/kelser52379@yahoo.com) or Tracy Weatherhogg (775.4301).

- Sign-in & registration
- Dinners - preparations, serving, or clean-up
- Helping with activities



**As Contemporary as Today's News:  
Thoughts from the 32nd General  
Synod, 2019**  
Milwaukee, WI

*We ground ourselves in love, and we call ourselves to justice, and love without justice can be reduced to mere sentimentality, and justice without love can be nothing but self-righteous anger that changes nobody's heart and mind, but when you put the two together, you get a United Church of Christ inspired by the Holy Spirit to send the Good News to all the ends of the earth...* John Dorhauer, the General Minister and President of the denomination, spoke these fiery words to the assembly of several thousand delegates, who re-elected him to another 4-year term on Monday. John is passionate about the movement of the Holy Spirit in and through the church to continue to change lives around the world. He firmly believes that the movement of the Spirit will transform lives and keep us relevant in a world of change. His passion was prominent in his words and movement as he moved with precision across the stage addressing the crowded Wisconsin Center in downtown Milwaukee.

All attending delegates are assigned to a Proposal Committee to review, revise and formally vote to forward to the larger assembly for vote and ratification one or two Resolutions brought to the Synod by Conferences and Associations across the country. Vermont proposed a Resolution on supporting the Green New Deal (see page 5). I was assigned to the Resolution to *Abolish the Growth and Existence of Private Prisons in America*. This is a Resolution of Witness and comes from the *Chicago Metropolitan Association* and the *Illinois Conference*. We spent the better part of three days hearing from experts in the field, spending time in detailed conversation about the proposal and then caucusing on the specifics

of the meaning and language of the Resolution. We expanded the resolution to include private jails and detention centers, which boldly speaks to the incarceration of immigrants along our Southern borders. The problem with the privatization of incarceration is that greed decreases the standards of care, saving money with fewer, less trained guards, little to no health care, poor and minimal food choices and sub-standard health conditions inside the prison walls. The very same is true in jails and detention centers. Because private incarceration is less expensive to the taxpayer, it becomes a political issue of greed over adequate care for incarcerated individuals. Because private facilities are sub-standard in all of the above categories, they also experience 50% more inmate violence over state-run incarceration centers. Guards are paid less and therefore care less about prisoner safety, often letting prisoners fight to establish rule and order.

Our motion to forward this to the larger assembly passed unanimously as amended. I am proud of the work we did to support the Resolution and make it even stronger than first presented. It will be up to our national leadership to determine how to educate and stimulate support for our resolution, which includes bold measures of financial divestments of all facilities supporting corporations and financial firms which continue to invest in the private prison industry. There is big money in publicly traded prison corporations, which rake in billions of dollars in profit while prisoners are being subjected to inhumane conditions inside falsely marketed "rehabilitation" centers. How do we stand up against the greed behind such terrible practices to harbor vulnerable human beings, many of whom have been incarcerated to maintain negotiated contractual census numbers! It's quite outrageous the more you learn about the issue.

Twenty three total resolutions will come before the Synod for vote and ratification. It isn't denominational "law"; however, it does present churches across our nation with profound statements on how to live and follow Jesus in our public and private lives. I am proud to serve the United Church of Christ in witness to such a bold and profound movement of the Holy Spirit among us! John Dorhauer is right to suggest that the coming together of Love and Justice creates a powerful force for the transformation of our world! How will we respond?

It's as contemporary as today's news...Ask me how it all turned out when I get home!

John



## Healing Ministry with the Reverend Robert Boutwell

Last year at the Ignite 2018 Conference of Christian Healing Ministries, Lee Grady spoke about the need to heal loneliness and alienation. There are many lonely people in the church and community. Some are lonely because their husband or wife or lover has died. Some are lonely because of a divorce, or alienation from their family, or retirement from an important job. Some people need healing of the hurt of rejection. Some people need a human touch, a hug, a hand on their shoulder. Lee's mother died when he was two years old and it felt like she had left him. His father was too busy at work to express the love Lee needed, and he felt abandoned. Fortunately Jesus came into his life with the love he had been missing, and he was surrounded by the love and prayers of his church. There are some ways we can bring healing to these lonely persons. Bring a lonely person to church with you to worship and participate in activities. Invite someone to come to the Healing Prayer Service with you. Share a meal with someone. Visit someone who is alone in a nursing home. Offer to share the pew with someone at church who is sitting alone. Perhaps we could place soft warm lap blankets and soft pillows in the pews. Let's be aware of the people who are alone, who need a visit, a ride, or a hug.

Grace Church offers a Healing Prayer Service on the second Sunday of each month, with the next one in the Chapel on **Sunday, July 14 at 11:25 a.m.** Those who need healing are invited to come and receive the healing love of Jesus with the laying on of hands by the Deacons of the church. We offer the cleansing and healing of prayer by the gathered congregation, the anointing with oil by the pastor and the healing power of the Holy Spirit. In prayer you may ask Jesus for repair of physical damage that you have suffered, healing from illness, emotional pain, psychological disorders, or inner healing of hurtful memories. You may ask the Holy Spirit for healing of genetic and inherited disorders that have come down through your family. You may ask Jesus to extend healing to your family members and friends and others about whom you are concerned. Members of the congregation are also urged to come to praise God for healings they have received or have heard about and to offer prayers for those who have come seeking healing.

Every Wednesday I am in my office at the church from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and am available at other times for healing prayers and consultations. You may contact me by phone at 802.773.3057. or by email at [revrbtwl@myfairpoint.net](mailto:revrbtwl@myfairpoint.net).

**My heart, O God, is steadfast; I will sing and make music.**

### **New Zealand Travelogue & Potluck Dinner: July 3, 6 PM in Fellowship Hall**

Ben Green will share his recent travels through the north and south islands of New Zealand. We will explore the beautiful landscapes, learn about the local traditions, and even attempt to perform the Haka, a traditional Maori war dance! Before the presentation, we will enjoy a potluck dinner - please bring a dish to share.

6 p.m. Potluck dinner

6:45 p.m.—8 p.m. Travelogue

### **Jazz Duo: July 21 at 10 AM**

The stellar jazz duo of Peter H. Bloom, flute, and John Funkhouser, piano, will mark the 120th birthday of the great Duke Ellington (1899-1974) during Sunday morning worship. Peter and John have performed together for more than 20 years. Both are veterans of the legendary Aardvark Jazz Orchestra (46th season), and each has impressive credentials performing both nationally and internationally. They play with style and verve, and will offer music from Duke Ellington's sacred concerts, including his *Come Sunday, Heaven, and Almighty God Has His Angels*. The Ellington music is joyful and thought-provoking, as we remember his devotion to social justice, freedom and equality in these challenging times.



### **Ryan Mangan: Vocal Recital, Songs of Summer Love - August 25 at 4 PM**

Local tenor Ryan Mangan will offer a recital of songs exploring the theme of summer love! Come and hear this wonderfully gifted singer before he returns to the Hartt School of Music for his senior year.

### **Summer Musical Highlights**

June 30: Choir Sunday at 10 a.m.; Cabaret at 7 p.m.

July 28: Choir Sunday

August 18: Flute Duet

July 21: Jazz Duo

August 25: Choir Sunday

### **Need Help? YouthWorks Accepting Applications for Projects**

The YouthWorks program “connects middle and high school students to God, each other, and communities through meaningful Christ-centered mission trips”. The Rutland group is seeking organizations or individuals who may need help this summer with yard work, simple building projects, painting, and home maintenance that could be done by a group of teen service learners and their adult leader. You may pick up an application for your project in the office. The teens are staying at First Baptist Church just down the street from Grace. From Pastor Patti Stratton: *Don't be shy! Apply now.*

## News from the UCC Synod: Green New Deal Resolution

This resolution is sponsored by the Vermont Conference! It encourages churches to better understand the broad impacts upon communities of poor, racial, and other social minorities. It highlights that Climate Change will deeply affect those like the extremely poor people in India who will have to migrate out of their homelands to live in a more habitable climate to the north. The Green New Deal hopes to create a global vision for maintaining a 1.5 degree change permanently. Excerpted from the resolution .. Be it resolved:

- ◆ that the (Synod) ... recognizes the scale and immediacy of the climate crisis, the urgent need to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, and the moral obligation to embrace the unprecedented socio-economic changes that we must effect and engage as opportunities to create fair paying jobs, secure clean air and water, redress manifestations of environmental racism, and pursue a just transition to clean and renewable energy.
- ◆ that the (Synod) ... endorses the Green New Deal released by Congress on February 7, 2019.
- ◆ that the (Synod) calls upon the whole of the church to accept the moral responsibility that comes with living “at such a time as this” (Esther 4:14) by:
  1. **Standing up for the critical role science must play** in understanding the challenges that now pose an existential threat to life as we have known it on this planet;
  2. **Continuing to learn from scientifically informed sources** about the new realities and new 169 solutions that are emerging every day;
  3. **Discussing climate change with increasing frequency** at church, at home, at work, and in our social encounters, emphasizing how it threatens things we all value while noting that we already have all the technology we need to achieve the goals of the Green New Deal;
  4. **Incorporating into our worship life and community leadership an awareness of climate change**, its consequences (especially for vulnerable, frontline communities), and the opportunities we still have to make the changes science says we must and technology says we can;
  5. **Helping our communities to be more prepared** for extreme weather events and more resilient to a changing climate in the long term;
  6. **Lifting up the reality that many people**, regardless of their political affiliation or allegiance, **support the Green New Deal** because it addresses not only climate change but also numerous forms of injustice;
  7. **Paying attention** as federal, state, and local agencies develop and propose new policies that impact our environment and engaging those agencies as advocates for policies and legislation that advance the goals of the Green New Deal, including its commitment to address the “systemic injustices” that disproportionately affect “frontline and vulnerable communities”;
  8. **Maintaining a commitment to compassion and fairness** by advocating for a just transition for those workers and communities most dependent on fossil fuel energy so that they, too, have opportunities for clean, healthful and family-supporting jobs that heal our planet.
- ◆ that the (Synod) calls upon the whole of the church to accept that it is up to us to pour ourselves out to bend the moral arc of the universe towards justice, with joy in our hearts, beauty in our sights, and hope for the children.

## On-Going Weekly Events

### SUNDAY

8:30 Chapel Service  
 9:50 Pre-service hymn sing  
 10:00 Sanctuary Service  
 11:15 A Time of Fellowship

### MONDAY

8:00 AA  
 5:30 AA

### TUESDAY

12:00 Staff Meeting  
 5:00 AA Women's Group  
 6:00 Bereavement Support  
 6:30 Wit's End  
 7:00 AA  
 7:00 GA

### WEDNESDAY

7:00 Prayer Group  
 8:00 AA  
 11:30 Men's Lunch  
 12:00 AA

### THURSDAY

12:00 AA

### FRIDAY

8:00 AA

**AA - Alcoholics Anonymous**

**GA - Gamblers Anonymous**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	<b>7.1</b> 10:00 Foodbank volunteering	<b>7.2</b>  7:00 Compassionate Friend
<b>7.7 Communion Sunday</b> <b>Food Shelf Sunday</b> <b>Pre-Service Hymn Sing</b>	<b>7.8</b> 10:00 Foodbank volunteering	<b>7.9</b>  5:30 Intergenerational Vacation Bible School
<b>7.14</b> <b>Pre-Service Hymn Sing</b> <b>Equal Exchange Sales</b> <b>Pre-Service Hymn Sing</b>  11:25 Healing Prayer Service	<b>7.15</b> 10:00 Foodbank volunteering	<b>7.16</b>
<b>7.21</b> <b>Pre-Service Hymn Sing</b> <b>Jazz Duo during worship</b>	<b>7.22</b> 10:00 Foodbank volunteering	<b>7.23</b>
<b>7.28</b> <b>Pre-Service Hymn Sing</b> <b>Summer Choir Sunday</b> 9:00 Summer Choir Rehearsal  5:30 Welcome Table Dinner	<b>7.29</b> 10:00 Foodbank volunteering	<b>7.30</b>

	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
	<b>7.3</b> 7:00 Prayer Group 9:00 Healing Ministry Office Open 9:30 Bible Study  6:00 New Zealand Travelogue and Potluck	<b>7.4 Independence Day</b>  <i>Church Office closed</i>  	<b>7.5</b>  	<b>7.6</b>
	<b>7.10</b> 9:00 Healing Ministry Office Open 9:30 Bible Study 9:30 Prayer Shawl Ministry  5:30 Intergenerational Vacation Bible School	<b>7.11</b>  5:30 Intergenerational Vacation Bible School	<b>7.12</b>    <b>STAR DEADLINE</b>	<b>7.13</b>
	<b>7.17</b> 9:00 Healing Ministry Office Open 9:30 Bible Study	<b>7.18</b>	<b>7.19</b>	<b>7.20</b>  
	<b>7.24</b> 9:00 Healing Ministry Office Open 9:30 Bible Study	<b>7.25</b>	<b>7.26</b>	<b>7.27</b>
	<b>7.31</b> 9:00 Healing Ministry Office Open 9:30 Bible Study			

# FOOD. GLORIOUS FOOD!



## 4TH SUNDAY WELCOME TABLE DINNER

Sundays, July 28 and August 25, 5:30 p.m.

The *Welcome Table* Dinner is a free meal offered the 4th Sunday of each month here at Grace Church thanks to the help of many volunteers.

Volunteers are needed each month to:

- ◆ help serve
- ◆ help with clean-up
- ◆ help to prepare food
- ◆ be a table host
- ◆ prepare a dessert

Please complete the SOS in the Sunday bulletin, look for the sign-up during Fellowship Time, or contact Sara Pulcer for the July dinner (775.8861/sehenry2001@yahoo.com).

## TABLE OF ABUNDANCE

If you are a gardener and would like to share your harvest with friends at Grace, please bring produce or flowers on Sunday mornings and add them to the *Table of Abundance* at Fellowship Time. Produce is available free to all, although cash donations are welcome. Remaining produce plus cash contributions are given to The Community Cupboard.

## FOOD SHELF SUNDAY IS JULY 7

Food donations are also welcome every summer Sunday.

The summer months are always a more challenging time for The Community Cupboard to meet the needs in the community and that is especially true this summer with a record number of families in need of assistance. Items particularly needed at this time include:

- Baby products
- Paper products
- Baked beans
- Fresh produce (*always appreciated!*)
- Stuffing mix
- Mashed potato mix
- Canned Fruit
- Canned soups (*the larger the better*)
- Dairy products
- Baking products
- Cereal

## A THANK YOU TO GRACE CHURCH

We recently received the following thank you note from Church World Service for our 2018 (!) contribution from our blanket offering:

*Dear Friends of Grace Congregational,,*

*Thank you for your recent gift of \$692 to CWS Kits! We are grateful to partner with you and put your gift to work. In 2018, CWS distributed 174,041 kits and blankets. Your donation will continue to create a hope-filled tomorrow. Thank you! In peace.*

## Family Ministry Activities

### *Opportunities to share your gifts ... through Christian Education!*

Over the next weeks and months, committees will be getting ready for activities this summer and fall. Many volunteers are needed! If you would be interested in being involved in one of the following areas, we would love to hear from you. Any questions can be directed to Kelly Thompson (438.2230/kelser52379@yahoo.com) or Tracy (775.4301/tracy@gracechurchvt.org).

**Intergenerational Vacation Bible School:** July 9-11. See front page.

#### **Child Care**

If you would be willing to help Sunday morning during worship to nurture and care for our youngest visitors or for special occasions, we would love to hear from you.

#### **Summer Whole Church School Program**

We are offering a broadly-graded summer whole church school program for children preschool and up. Curriculum provided. Volunteers are needed to lead and assist throughout the summer.

#### **Fall Whole Church School Program**

Volunteers are needed to help each Sunday morning in providing a fun, spiritually nurturing opportunity for our children! Watch for more information about our plans for something new this fall!



### ***Bethany Birches Camping Weekend,***

**August 30-September 2**

Everyone is invited to join with others from Grace Church for a camping weekend filled with fun, fellowship, and food! All ages are welcome and expected. Call the Office to learn more (775.4301).

### **THE FORTNIGHTLY SEPTEMBER 2018 TO MAY 2019**

This year we successfully celebrated the 140th year of The Fortnightly at Grace Church. Six programs were enjoyed by women and men, culminating in our Fete Day luncheon and Calypso Connection program. Thank you to Carolyn Hazen, Vice President; Sue Ellis, Treasurer; and Carol Freeman, Secretary. We welcome ideas for future programs.

Bonnie Kelly, President



**Bonnie Kelly** with long-time members **Mary Johnson** and **Pat Tucker**, two women who have contributed greatly to congregational life over many years.

## Grace Church in the Wider Community

### Southwest Association Local Mission Week ... July 22-26

#### Rutland Opportunities



- ◆ Monday, July 22
  - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Vermont Foodbank
  - 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Bridging the Gap Summer Meals Program at BROCC (2 volunteers)
  - 11 a.m. -12 p.m. Bridging the Gap Summer Meals Program at Rutland Library (2 volunteers)
- ◆ Tuesday, July 23
  - 9-11 a.m. Smokey House Center
  - 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Bridging the Gap Summer Meals Program at BROCC (2 volunteers)
- ◆ Wednesday, July 24
  - 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Bridging the Gap Summer Meals Program at BROCC (2 volunteers)
  - 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Habitat for Humanity ... Crescent Street in Rutland
- ◆ Thursday, July 25
  - 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Bridging the Gap Summer Meals Program at BROCC (2 volunteers)
- ◆ Friday, July 26
  - 9:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Bridging the Gap Summer Meals Program at BROCC (2 volunteers)

We have committed to providing volunteers to help with the summer meals program so will need 2 people for each of those dates. Please consider participating in some way throughout the week! Contact Tracy (775.4301/ [tracy@gracechurchvt.org](mailto:tracy@gracechurchvt.org)) if you are interested and to sign-up!

*Watch for information about more opportunities throughout the SWA!*

### CARE Fund



Ever wonder what happens to the monthly Communion Offerings? They are put into the CARE Fund, so that we are able to help those who are hurting, hungry, or homeless ... people who comprise a frighteningly large percent of Rutland County. So far in 2019, we have been able to give out an average of \$1,045 a month (!), but we almost always run out of funds before the end of the month. We have assisted with: security deposits, emergency housing, new boots necessary for a job, back rent, electric bills, bus tickets home, gas, coats, prescription co-pays, food, heating fuel, diapers & baby wipes, winter tires, laundromat fees, car batteries, and a Pocket Talker for a profoundly hard of hearing older man of Slavic descent who could not hear well enough to communicate in English with his Council for Aging case manager. There is a master spreadsheet kept of all who are helped. Have more questions? Contact Beth (775-4301/[beth@gracechurchvt.org](mailto:beth@gracechurchvt.org)) Thank you for all you do!!

## Grace Church in the Wider Community

### “... when did I see you hungry” Food Justice Opportunities

**Vermont Foodbank—Mondays, 10 a.m. to noon** for food sorting

**Vermont Farmers Food Center—Health Care Share Program** volunteers needed soon

**Gleaning Opportunities—Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.** at Dutchess Farm in Castleton. **Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.** at the Farmers Market. Sign up for alerts for other gleaning opportunities through The Vermont Foodbank!

**The Community Cupboard—**volunteer with them or bring food items to Grace, particularly the first Sunday of each month.

**Smokey House Center—Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m.** Volunteers are welcome to help with the great work that Smokey House is doing to help feed their community.



### Another Volunteer Opportunity ...

**Habitat for Humanity** hopes to begin work on a new home on Crescent Street! Volunteers are needed Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Come for a few hours or the whole time! See their Facebook page for more details (<https://www.facebook.com/HabitatForHumanityRutlandVT>).

### PLAY GUITAR!

Would you like to learn to play guitar or improve your playing? Ron Pulcer will be teaching private guitar lessons at Grace, with a portion of the proceeds going back to the church. To learn more or to schedule, contact Ron (775.8861/ron@ronpulcer.com) or visit his website: [ronpulcer.com/music](http://ronpulcer.com/music).



### Weekly Bible Study Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge

We continue to gather each Wednesday in the Lounge for Bible study, studying the text that will be included in worship on Sunday morning. Join with others for Bible study and discussion facilitated by John or Tracy Weatherhogg.

No preparation needed! Come each week or when you are able. All are welcome!

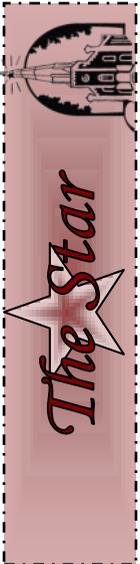
### Prayer Shawl Ministry

A Prayer Shawl is a gift to someone, to “wrap” them in prayers and bring them love, comfort, and strength. Many blessings and prayers are knitted and crocheted into each shawl, which are then blessed during worship.



We would love to have you join us in the Parlor on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. for an hour or so to knit, crochet & pray.

**Our summer gatherings: July 10 and August 14.**



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e-mail: [graceucc@gracechurchvt.org](mailto:graceucc@gracechurchvt.org)  
Tel. (802)775-4301 Fax. (802)747-3288



## Grace Church Memorials



### The Sanctuary and Chapel Flower Memorials

**July 7** to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **John Johnson** by his loving wife, Mary Johnson.

**July 14** to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Ethel Young Williams** by Norma Delfosse.

**July 21** to the Glory of God.

**July 28** to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Matthew Wingfield** by his family.

(To arrange for a flower memorial, please contact David Hazen - 483.2337/peren@aol.com.)

### The Church Spire will be illuminated

**July 7** to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Charles N. Lee** by Mary Lee Johnson.

**July 14** to the Glory of God and in loving memory of **Gladys and Harry Hart**.

**July 21 and July 28** to the Glory of God,

\*To have the Church Spire lit for a loved one, please contact the Church Office (775.4301). The cost for this is \$20.



### Welcome Baby Deaglan!

From proud grandparents  
Wendy and Dick Daley and Vy Swenson:

Deaglan was born May 25, 6 weeks early.  
He has done great from day one.

Parents: Kate Daley and Ryan Manovill  
4lbs 14oz, 19 inches - happy and healthy, and  
perfect in every way!

He only needed the NICU for a week.

### Summer Church Office Hours

(Memorial Day through Labor Day)

Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.