

UNITED CHURCH *of* UNDERHILL

*in covenant and connection with the people of the
United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church*

50th Anniversary History



November 5, 2023



The History of the United Church of Underhill

Celebrating 50 Years of Being United

by Gary Irish
2023

Although the history of the United Church of Underhill technically starts with its formation by the union of the Underhill Congregational Church and the Underhill Methodist Church in 1973, this was not something that happened overnight, but was rather the culmination of years of one form or another of association between the two churches. Both were small congregations, and often were not able to afford to do things on their own.

As far back as May 25, 1897, Methodist minister Rev. S.S. Brigham assisted Congregational minister Rev. R.H. White at the Memorial Day services held in the beautifully decorated Congregational church, with excellent music provided by the choir. And the week of September 26 of that year, Rev. Mrs. Johnson was holding evangelistic meetings at the Methodist church, with union services with the Congregational church being held on Sunday. From 1911 to 1941, during the vicissitudes of the First World War and the Great Depression, The Congregational Church of Underhill was served by Reverend Dr. William Cashmore, who was both a doctor of divinity and a doctor of veterinary medicine. He not only served his constituents' spiritual needs, but he also took care of their cows as well. The railroad had closed in 1938, many families had been displaced by the Federal purchase of the Range, and by 1941 the Town of Underhill was in serious economic decline. The population was barely 700. In June 1941 at a special meeting where he announced his need for retirement Dr. Cashmore spoke eloquently about the serious situation confronting all the Protestant churches. "In this narrow bit of a valley several churches are having a hard time because of the expanding of the Range and people being obliged to move away. Jericho Center Church is in a more serious condition than any others and must cease to exist unless a solution to the problem is found. Officers of the Conference say there are no funds to support it. Six separate churches in this locality are trying to exist." He suggested that the churches consolidate and meet the situation together.

The directors of the Conference suggested that there be two worship centers, one in Underhill and one in Jericho, served by two ministers working together. If such an arrangement could be worked out, Dr. Cashmore agreed to stay on as interim pastor if an associate pastor could be engaged to help. In October 1941, an agreement was made between the First Congregational Church of Jericho and the First Congregational Church of Underhill to form the Jericho - Underhill Larger Parish. Miss Louise Rodgers from Albany, NY was called as associate pastor to Dr. Cashmore. She was not yet ordained, so a special Council of Ordination was called to take care of the problem. After one year she left for Bridport. The Jericho-Underhill Larger Parish was left with one minister, and he could no longer carry on. Dr. Cashmore suggested that the Congregational and Methodist churches in both communities should join together for united church services. The idea was explored but no agreement could be found and the matter was dropped. In 1942, in the midst of the war, there was a shortage of ministers. There were 25 vacancies just in the Vermont Congregational Churches. In desperation the Larger Parish engaged a Harvard divinity student for the summer of 1943. That November Reverend George

Beach came to serve the three churches, living in the Jericho Center parsonage. Dr. William Cashmore finally became Pastor Emeritus, although he continued as an active member of the Underhill congregation. In January 1946 Dr. Beach tendered his resignation. He was worn out and simply needed a rest. He was offered a year's leave of absence, but he reconsidered his resignation, provided that his wife, who was licensed to perform some official church functions, could be engaged as associate pastor.

In the summer of 1946, the Larger Parish and the Methodist Fellowship agreed to hold union services in July and August in alternate churches in Underhill Flats. Then in March 1947 Dr. Beach announced his decision to resign by May first. A meeting was called attended by the Methodist District Superintendent, the Congregational Executive Minister and representatives from area churches of both denominations. There were six churches to be considered, three Congregational churches and three Methodist. The Methodist Churches in Underhill Flats, Jericho, and Essex shared a minister as members of the Mansfield Circuit (formerly the Underhill Circuit). It was under the oversight of the Mansfield Parish Council. The Vermont United Methodist churches were members of the Troy Conference, part of the overarching United Methodist Church organization. Individual Methodist churches receive considerable support and backing from the parent organization which throughout the years has helped to carry parishes through vicissitudes.

Somehow the First and Second Congregational Churches in Jericho managed to consolidate and went their own direction. By the time Dr. Beach left in May, a yoke agreement had been arranged by the Underhill Congregational and Methodist parishes. Under the special relationship the two churches would share the worship services and Sunday School. Each church would be used for six months of the year. The salary of the pastor, \$2400, was to be shared along with the Mansfield Circuit (which then included the Methodist churches in Jericho Corners and Essex Center). The details of other expenses were worked out. Each church would retain and maintain its own properties and would retain its own cash resources and endowment; each church would continue to pay its own denominational apportionments. New members would join either church, but the union services were to be held under Methodist leadership. Signing for the Congregationalists were Eugene Metcalf, Elwood Clark, Edna Pollard, Marion Mead and Lillian Cross; for the Methodists, Charles Thompson, J.E. Foster, P.J. Kinsley, W.A. Wetherbee and H.W. Austin. The original agreement, dated May 1, 1947, was for one year, but the trial arrangement, although never officially renewed, lasted almost twenty-five years. The First Congregational Church of Underhill became a member of The Mansfield Circuit.

In 1960, they shared a minister, Pastor Paul LeFevre, who actually served four congregations and was responsible for 700 souls. After preaching for the worship in Essex Center at 9:30, where he resided in the parsonage, he preached in Jericho Corners at 10:30 and then in Underhill at 11:30. It was a formidable task to minister effectively to three communities, with separate churches, officers and programs. Pastor LeFevre suggested that the two Underhill churches would be better served by a pastor living in the community, ministering to the two congregations.

In 1962 a serious study of the Underhill Church situation was initiated. In 1964 the Mansfield Parish Council decided to dissolve the three-point charge within three years. In 1966 the Reverend John Peterson reported "There is no more important mission for our church than to

present a united witness in the community. The progress the Congregational and Methodist people have made toward reaching a united church is encouraging. The United Church Study Committee has met four times since May and drawn up a tentative constitution. It is searching to find a way to support a resident minister and plans to undertake a canvas of the community to ascertain the Protestant potential."

In 1967 the Underhill Women's Guild and the Methodist Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) agreed to form the United Women's Fellowship, which became a pillar of the church for many years. By the late '60s the population decline in Chittenden County had been reversed to such an extent that in 1968 the Essex Methodist Church was able to offer a full-time position to Reverend James Clark, who was then serving the entire Mansfield Circuit. The pressure was on for the remaining churches of the Mansfield Circuit to find a resident minister of their own. The congregations rose to the challenge and in June 1968 engaged United Methodist minister, Reverend Marcheta (Pebbles) Townsend (later District Superintendent), to serve the joint congregation in Underhill and the Methodist congregation in Jericho Corners. She took up residence in the Methodist parsonage in Underhill Flats and began a ministry which nurtured the spirit of growth toward a more lasting union. Two services were held each Sunday, the first in Underhill, and a little later in Jericho.

During the years of joint worship, it came to be customary to use the Congregational Church in the cold months because it had a better furnace. It also had a kitchen, but since there was no basement, the water lines were above ground and could not be used in the winter. The Methodist building was used in the summer. When the time came to change churches, the congregation would carry the hymnals from one building to the other, singing together "Blessed Be The Tie That Binds". It was a project for some of the men to move the small, but heavy, organ back and forth for the seasons.

There was a need in the town for a building to serve as a meeting house for the Senior Citizens. The small parish house next to the Methodist Church was available and with the help of some of the tradesmen in the community and the church youth group, the building was modified to include a kitchen, meeting room and toilet facilities, and heated to be useful throughout the year. In 1976, the contract between the church and the seniors was renewed and they continued using the building.

In 1972 the Prudential Committee of the Underhill Congregational Church notified the Underhill Methodist Church (and presumably the Jericho Methodist Church) that the Underhill Congregational Church wanted to hire its own minister and go its own way. The response from the Trustees of the Underhill Methodist Church was basically "Let's talk about this; we want to partner." It appears that the Jericho Methodist Church was never part of any discussions.

And so, in early 1973, negotiations began. First, each congregation had to decide whether they wanted to negotiate some sort of arrangement. The Methodists got a letter from a member detailing some local history and suggesting who could be trusted and who couldn't. The Methodists were half the size of the Congregationalists and had no hope (at least financially) of going on their own. Also, a circuit of the Underhill and Jericho Methodists was probably not viable. After a couple of special meetings, the Methodists were ready to negotiate. The

Congregationalists had a harder time; they had wanted to be on their own. At least one member of the Prudential Committee resigned (or left).

One of the biggest challenges was the emotional one of giving up control, compromising, and changing the way things had been done (there were tears at some meetings). The two congregations had to agree with each other on a vision of what they needed and wanted: Pastor residing locally, alternating the denomination of the pastor, mainstream Protestant (not fundamentalist), simplified committee organization, Executive Committee responsible for finances and maintenance (to allow pastor to concentrate on ministry), controlling all the property (Methodist deeds were held at Conference), disallowing third party members, exit/divorce clause, to name a few. One thing not addressed which has come up from time to time since is hiring, supervising and evaluating personnel (other than the pastor). At the time of the negotiations every task was done by volunteers, so the issue did not come up.

Negotiating the details was an intense and grueling six-month process. As a reference, the group had copies of examples of various types of agreements but wrote most of it themselves. Representatives met every Sunday afternoon for 3 or 4 hours for 5 or 6 months (January through June 1973). After each weekly meeting a representative from the Methodists, Peter Mitchell, would draft what had been decided. The draft was then reviewed with a representative from the Congregationalists (Ed Moore) and revised as needed. This was then typed by Kate Mitchell and then would be discussed and agreed on or revised at the following Sunday afternoon meeting.

It was necessary to keep the hierarchy of each denomination informed. The Rev. Donald Brushett, United Methodist District Superintendent and Rev. Edward Treat, Executive Minister of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, were the denominational representatives in the process. (Nationally, the Congregational Christian Churches had merged with the Evangelical and Reformed Church to form the United Church of Christ (UCC) in 1957.) The hierarchy of each denomination supported our efforts to work together. Several churches in rural Vermont were struggling. This was seen as a way to maintain denominational presence in small communities. Both representatives warned against allowing a person to become a member of the united church who was not a member of one of the two denominations.

The United Church committee consisted of Marion Fay, Edwin Moore, Harold Moss, Tom Woodward, and Marianne Worden for the Congregationalists; Doug Keith, Leroy Keith, Ken Mitchell, Peter Mitchell, Mable Priest, Harold Sargent, and Glenn Towle for the Methodists. The Articles of Agreement were adopted by vote of the congregations on July 25, 1973. They were signed for the Underhill United Methodist Church on September 28, 1973, by Leroy Keith, Harold Sargent, Hazel Wetherbee, Mable Priest, Kathleen Lamphere, Peter Mitchell, Kenneth Mitchell, Emily Mitchell, Kenneth Keith, Arthur Haselton and Rev. Donald Brushett. They were signed for the First Congregational Church of Underhill on October 2, 1973, by Rev. Edward Treat and on December 10, 1973, by Edwin Moore, Thomas Woodard, Merrill Canedy, George Bradbee, Genevieve King and Marianne Worden.

The document was reviewed at least once by an attorney.

On September 30, 1973, the Reverend Richard B. Crocker from the United Church of Christ ministry was called to serve the United Church of Underhill and a new era was launched.

Both congregations had memorial and other funds which had accumulated over the years; some were combined, some were kept separate. At the November 17, 1975, Church Council meeting, it was decided that the church would establish a Memorial Book in 1976, to create a permanent record of all memorial contributions to the church, to be maintained by the church secretary and the pastor. Harvey Bagshaw purchased the book and built a case to hold it. Also, at the beginning of the union the Church owned two "meetinghouses", two parsonages and the small Senior Center. One of the difficult points of agreement had been the disposition of the properties. While the Congregational Church owned its buildings, the Methodist buildings were actually the property of the United Methodist Church Troy Conference with headquarters in Saratoga Springs, NY. It took much negotiation and much good faith on all parts to persuade the Conference to deed the Methodist buildings to the new United Church. In 1974, in a formal ceremony at the annual Troy conference in Poultney, Vermont, the Methodist property deeds were delivered to Ed Moore as representative of the United Church of Underhill. It was a momentous occasion.

During the early years of the United Church of Underhill, the Methodists at least would hold their own annual meeting to elect a Lay Leader, elect delegates to the Annual Conference, get a report of specific Methodist issues, and conduct any other business. This separate meeting eventually disappeared. Today the identity of whether a member is Methodist or Congregationalist is pretty much ignored. The two denominations remained separately incorporated from a legal point of view until 1978, when this was discontinued, and the United Church became one legal entity. On July 1, 2010, the Methodist affiliation changed so we were no longer part of the Troy Conference, but after nearly 200 years, affiliation was moved to the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church.

At times, the union struggled. In his 1977 Pastor's report, Rev. Crocker noted that worship attendance was down, special all church gatherings were fewer and youth programs were not as well attended, although that turned around the following year. But fortunately, financial support for the United Church was still strong, major maintenance projects were completed, and there was a high level of dependability and integrity in ministry and programs. By 1986, it was reported that worship attendance had increased.

Revisions of the Articles of Agreement were made in 1974, 1976, 1982, 1993, and 2001. These have usually been of a minor nature, such as changing the name of the Executive Committee to the Board of Trustees in 1993 and Every Member Canvas to Stewardship Committee, as well as clarifying their job in 2001. A work group was formed in 2018 to look at the committee structure required by the Articles of Agreement, and possible changes that might be made to them. The problem over the years was that it had become very difficult to find enough people to fill all of the required committee positions. The group's recommendations were approved at the 2019 annual meeting. Throughout the years the United Church has been guided by a Statement of Purpose which was formally adopted in 1986: "The purpose of the United Church of Underhill is to be a Christian community that offers spiritual growth to all and responds to the needs of people according to the teachings of Christ." In the year 2000 the church adopted a

Vision Statement: Welcoming, Worshiping, Working for God, and a church web site was established at that time as well.

Just as the Articles of Agreement were about to be approved, the disposition of the property was complicated by the opportunity to purchase a home and about 2 acres (Gallup property) adjacent to the Congregational Church property. The church members had decided to use the Congregational church building for the United Church. In 1973 David Gallup, who owned the land behind the church with a large house thereon, was in a convalescent home and his property was for sale. Church members recognized that the house would be a fine parsonage and that the ell could be modified for Sunday School rooms, very much needed. In addition, the extra acreage would provide driveway and parking space and expansion potential. Marion Fay, Leroy Keith, and Ed Moore visited Mr. Gallup to discuss the possible purchase of his property by the church. It was an act of faith, for the Articles of Agreement had not yet been voted on, but on May 13, 1973, the church membership voted unanimously to sell the two existing parsonages and purchase the Gallup property. As part of this process a special Methodist meeting was held where they approved by a vote of 13 to 2 that if the two churches did unite, the Methodists would sell their parsonage, with the proceeds to be loaned to the United Church to buy or build another parsonage. Mr. Gallup was pleased to make the arrangement. The deed was transferred on June 20, 1973, and Mr. Gallup died on July 10. The former Congregational parsonage was sold in June of that year and the Methodist parsonage in December. Attempts were made in 1978 and 1979 to sell the former United Methodist Church building but were unsuccessful at that time. A decision was made in 1981 to not use the Methodist building for services in the summer, due to the poor foundation (an amendment to the Articles of Agreement was passed at the 1982 annual meeting removing the requirement that services be held there at least two months of the year), and it was offered for sale under bid. A bid was accepted from the Jericho Methodist Church under Tim Anderson to use it for a youth-oriented work project, but that fell through. The building was finally sold to the United Christian Assembly in May, 1982, fulfilling a hope that the building could be maintained as a place of worship, which it did until 1997, when the United Christian Assembly built a new church on the Raceway in Jericho, and the building was sold to Green Thumb Gardening. Leroy Keith handled all the real estate transactions for the church without commission.

As soon as the church received the deed for the Gallup property, work began to renovate the house to provide a parsonage, conference room and church school classrooms. Church members worked diligently for five months to complete the project and it was ready to receive the Crocker family in early December 1974. On New Year's Day 1975 the open house was attended by more than 100 visitors. Starting in January 1976, Bob Greenia began rewiring the church building, as the existing wiring was failing to meet current needs. On October 15, 1978, the church membership voted to borrow \$10,000 from the United Church of Christ Board for Homeland Ministries for energy conservation and building improvement.

In 1847 the Congregational building had been erected without a foundation and the facilities were primitive. There was no basement under the building; the huge sills were set on stones laid on the ground, which fortunately was well-drained sand. In all the 130 years the wooden structure had maintained its integrity. A hole excavated under the sanctuary held a hot air furnace with one grill for heating the church. The kitchen facility could not be used in the cold

weather because the water lines were above ground and the only sanitary facility was a "privy" (truly, in 1979!) off of the front vestibule. As far back as the 1890s, local merchant E.S. Whitcomb had felt that the church building stood too low, having no cellar or proper foundation, and he offered to have it raised at his own expense, and to give bonds that it should be safely done, but the church committee objected, and the building remained as it was until 1979. At the annual meeting on January 18th, members voted to undertake a project to excavate a basement under the church and built a proper foundation. Groundbreaking for the project took place after the Easter service. With experts to raise the building and excavate the earth beneath it, the project proceeded. It was a queasy summer with the church perched high on huge timbers. On September 16, 1979, the cornerstone was symbolically dedicated by members of the Masonic Lodge and celebrated by the church membership. The church building now had a fully weatherized basement with windows, a large kitchen facility, meeting room and classrooms. There were toilet facilities front and back on the main floor, each with its own septic system, and the entire church was heated with a comfortable hot water system. In addition, new walks, a driveway and parking area were created. The first supper in the new basement was held in December of that year. In 1981, 150 metal chairs and five tables were purchased, and the wooden chairs were sold.

In 1976 the church tried to resolve a dispute over the property line between the church and the former Towers & Oaks store, at that time owned by Walter Blanchard, but were unable to due to Mr. Blanchard's illness. It was thought the issue was finally resolved by a ruling from Judge E.W. Gibson on December 15, 1978, but even that did not settle the issue. When the adjacent property was sold in September 1979, there was still ambiguity with the location of the boundary and a verbal agreement was reached with the new owners, Jarvis & McBride. Deeds were to be drawn up by attorney Gilbert Meyers, and the church property was for the first time surveyed. Once again, it was thought this settled the issue, but it came up again in 2013 and 2017, requiring more work.

Various other improvements to the church property have taken place over the years. In 1979, work was underway to repair the steeple, but weakness caused by rot was found, and work was halted until 1982 when the steeple was repaired and strengthened and was covered with copper. In 1990 the church roof was replaced, the rear entrance was covered, and the front and rear stairs were carpeted. In 2007 new lightning rods were installed on the church roof, as well as repairing the one on the steeple, which had broken off. Starting in 1984 the church parlors were completely renovated. Closets were created for music and choir robes, new lights were added, a kitchenette was added to facilitate such things as coffee making and the ceiling and walls were insulated. On May 26, 1985, the renovated space was dedicated, and re-named the "Fellowship Room". In 1994, the kitchenette had hot water plumbed to it by Ferdinand Comtois, paid for by the Women's Fellowship. In 1984 the Missions Committee held a rummage sale to help raise funds for a handicap ramp at the front entrance of the church, which was completed that year.

Members helped with painting projects on the buildings. In 1986 the sanctuary was painted, including two coats on the ceiling, and the large chancel cross was made by Tom Moore, and finished by Laura Nassau. Along with the cross, mounts were installed to enable the hanging of decorative banners on the walls. Also that year, the communionware cabinet in the fellowship room was completed. At the parsonage in 1986, the parsonage barn was completely renovated,

including restoring the foundation and sills, corner and center posts, clapboards, new concrete floor, new roof, upstairs restored and new wiring upstairs and down. In addition, the pigeon coop behind the parsonage was disassembled and removed, and the chicken coop beside the barn was picked up and trailered off by the Underhill Water District for their use. Movable partitions had been in use in the basement to divide the Sunday School classes, and in 1989 the youth painted scenes of Noah's Ark on them. New Methodist hymnals were purchased in 1990, and four years later new UCC hymnals were purchased as well. In 1992, shelves were built in the room above the narthex, to better organize the items stored there. In 1993 a sound system was installed in the sanctuary to improve the ability of all to hear, and in 1997 services were recorded on cassette tapes so that shut-ins would be able to hear them. In 1994 a telephone was installed in the office of Kirk Thompson, the Christian Education Director, the first time there had ever been a phone in the church. In 1995 one was also installed in the church kitchen. Improvements were made to the sound system in 2004, and a new audio system was installed in 2009. A wireless microphone was added to the system in 2011, giving more flexibility. In 2016 a projector was connected to the audio system.

The front doors of the church were deteriorating, and in 1995 the Women's Fellowship had them rebuilt with funds they had raised at the Harvest Market Soup Bowl, as well as memorial donations given in memory of Mary Balch and Marion Walker. Further improvements were made to them by Tom Moore in 2017. Also that year, the basement windows were replaced. In 1997 a new carpet was installed in the sanctuary, the cost being covered by the Women's Fellowship, along with new paraments, and they also covered the cost of the re-upholstering of the alter chairs which was done by Gael Boardman. Also that year, track lighting was installed for the choir. In 2013 a new fire alarm system was installed in the church, which meets state code and not only would allow ample time for all occupants to exit the building in case of a fire but would automatically notify the fire department to assure a rapid response. As well, the parking lot was expanded back to its original size, as grass had grown over a large part of it. New paraments for the sanctuary were made in 2022 by Michele Boomhower and Ginger McDowell.

In 1999 a new commercial gas stove was installed in the church kitchen, also funded by the Women's Fellowship, and in 2007 three stainless steel topped tables were purchased for the kitchen. A major upgrade to the church kitchen was done in 2013, with the electrical system upgraded, allowing a new electrical convection oven, a commercial exhaust hood and on demand hot water to be installed. In addition, a new commercial gas stove was installed along with a new natural gas connection. In 2001, the Women's Fellowship replaced the floor in the parsonage kitchen and put new drapes in the fellowship room, and in 2003 provided \$1300 towards the repair of a leak in the church steeple. Further repairs were done on the steeple in 2019, and that year also saw the installation of a new high efficiency boiler in the church heating system. On March 3, 2021, a basement window blew open, causing a pipe to freeze and burst, and before it was discovered by a technician coming to check on the new boiler, the basement had between 1 ½ and 2 inches of water on the floor. This was cleaned up and the basement dried out by Servpro, Yankee Plumbing and Heating repaired the pipe, most of the baseboard heating units were replaced, and the basement was cleaned and painted. Fortunately much of the expense was covered by insurance. In 2016 the windows in the fellowship room were replaced. In the summer of 2021, the town of Underhill replaced the sidewalk along Park Street in front of

the church, and the church took the opportunity to hire the contractor doing the work to replace the sidewalk leading from that to the front steps of the church, making a nice level walkway that was raised enough such that water no longer formed ponds on it during rainstorms.

In 1996, the United Church was notified that the building adjacent to the church, originally the Knights of Pythias Hall, but which had served for a time as a grange hall, and later as a funeral home for many years, first operated by Harold Brown and later by George Gifford (leading to its now often being known as the Gifford Building), would be placed on the market. There was much discussion as to whether the church should buy the property, culminating in a special meeting of the congregation on December 8, 1996, where it was approved by a vote of 35 yes to 3 no for the church to purchase the building. The cost was covered by fundraising, and by Mr. Gifford agreeing to hold a mortgage for part of the cost, as well as his making a substantial donation of part of the amount. The final payment on the building was made in 2007. There was much discussion as to what use the church might make of the property. Part of the church driveway and parking lot was actually on the Gifford property, but the building itself needed much work to make it useable. This work proceeded over the next few years, including a new foundation and a new fire escape for the second floor, both done in 2001; new wiring in 2002, the first floor done by Sherwin Electric and the second floor done by Al Simard; new interior stairs, repairs to the windows and much more. By 2001, a use for the building was found – the new home of the Clutter Barn. There was a desire to make the parsonage more of a private home for the pastor and his/her family. Work proceeded on moving the church office from the parsonage to the church building and moving the Clutter Barn was part of this process as well. At the annual meeting in 2021, a resolution was passed to investigate putting solar panels on either the church or the Gifford building, which was done by United for Justice, but it was determined this to not be feasible at present. The roof of the church potentially would need reinforcement to support the panels and a new roof might be needed during the life of the panels. Also, the state incentive for installing solar was gone.

In January 1998 a long-range planning committee was created to develop a five-year plan for the church. There was much discussion in 1999 about some sort of addition to the church, as at that time average attendance at worship was between 100 and 120 people, in a room which had a capacity of 128. Guidelines said that if attendance was over 80% of capacity, the church would not seem as welcoming. Ideas included adding seating in the room above the narthex and opening the wall to create a balcony, having two services or perhaps adding on to the back of the church. But before anything concrete could be done, attendance dropped to where the extra space was no longer necessary. By 2014 average attendance at worship was 84. Other things that were considered were installing an elevator to allow handicap access to the basement, upgrading the furnace and even looking at elderly housing. While it took more than five years, the furnace was replaced with a high efficiency boiler in 2019. The furnaces in both the church and parsonage had been switched from oil to natural gas in 2009, and the old oil tanks were removed. Handicap access to the basement was accomplished in 2007, when a lift was installed. That year, Cloverdale Construction tore apart the entryway to the church, adding a handicap accessible bathroom and a shaft for a lift to the basement, which was installed by Accessibility Systems.

In May 2014, the church engaged with Partners in Sacred Places in a two-year program to look at the church facilities, to calculate their public value and see if they were being utilized the best they could be, and if not, what improvements could be made. In 2015 training in the process was underway, and by listening to consultants, community members and one another, community needs, and how the church facilities might best be used to fill them, was explored. Also, the church buildings were looked at, to assess their condition (which was found to be good) and utilization. In particular, an architectural firm, G4 Design Studios, looked at the Gifford building to assess its potential, and what would be required to fully use it. This showed that to fully use the building would require insulation, double pane windows, heat, a covered entrance, toilet, perhaps a kitchen, and ADA access to at least the first floor. It was recommended that a perc test be done, and that was completed by Lamoureux and Dickinson, showing that there was sufficient area to support a septic system for the building. Such things as possibly moving it closer to the church and attaching the two buildings were also assessed.

A church newsletter, "News of the Church" had been started at some point, presumably by Rev. Crocker, as the 1976 church annual report was contained in Volume 5, No. 1. In 1986 it was taken over by others, believed to be someone on the church council, to relieve the pastor of that duty. In 1988 Pat Richmond was hired as a part-time secretary for the church to take over some of the administrative duties. In the early 1990s, Dianne Sisson took over the secretary's job from Pat, and later in the '90s, Ellen Billado served as secretary for a time. Sue Bahr became the part time secretary in 2009 and has continued in that role to date. As mentioned above, in 2001 the church office had been moved from the parsonage annex to new quarters in the basement of the church, then in 2008 it was moved up to its present location on the first floor of the church. The parsonage annex was renovated and acquired new life as a study for the pastor. Dr. Cooper now could have regular visiting hours for parishioners in an inviting environment. In 1998 a Peace Pole was erected in front of the church, reading, "May Peace Prevail on Earth." After the devastating tragedy of September 11, 2001, when peace was so drastically threatened, the Peace Pole took on a new significance. Among the changes that these events have wrought on everyday life, a new addition was also made to the liturgy. Since that time the worship service has incorporated the lighting of a 'Peace Candle', the "passing of the peace" among those attending, silent prayer, and the hymn 'Let There Be Peace on Earth' has been sung.

In the succeeding years, the United Church of Underhill has become a major influence in the communities of Underhill and Jericho, and in the world beyond. In 1990, the church established a partnership with a church in Ndola, Zambia. Like the meetinghouse of yesteryear, locally the church building has become a center for citizens to meet, both for worship and for other important functions of the community. On May 18 & 19, 1897, the Congregational Church hosted the 17th annual convention of the Chittenden County W.C.T.U., and this has been carried on more recently by hosting Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for many years. Other groups that have used the church for their meetings include Overeaters Anonymous, Adult Children of Alcoholics, Senior Citizens, the Jericho-Underhill Water Board and the Lions Club. Starting in 1979, the church started sponsoring blood drawings jointly with the Red Cross and the Lions Club, and these carried on for over 20 years. In 1991 the church started a prayer chain which has been active for many years. In 1979 Boy Scout Troup 7 (now Troop 627) asked to hold their meetings in the church basement. The church has also sponsored Cub Scout Pack 620 since December 1986, and provided meeting space for the pack as needed. Sadly, within the national

Scout organization allegations of misconduct by adult leaders have led to many lawsuits, bankruptcies, etc. Due to that situation, for the time being The United Methodist Church no longer charters Scout troops but allows for their use of church buildings through a facilities use agreement, and this is the path our church has taken with Pack 620. We will no longer be able to charter them. The church has also been used by a square dance group and another group uses it for Tai Chi. With Church activities several times a week, it is hard to find any evening when the Church is not used.

In 1989 a Covenant for the Integrity of Creation, Peace and Justice, based on a similar document drafted by the Cornwall Congregational Church was printed on the back cover of the annual report, and this was to be voted on at the 1990 annual meeting, but it is unclear if this was adopted or not. More recently the United Church started a discussion of same sex marriage. This continued at the 2010 annual meeting and culminated at a special congregational meeting on March 7 that year to permit same-sex marriages to be performed in the sanctuary or on church property by the pastor of the church "according to his/her faith, conscience, and/or denominational tradition."

In 2016 a group from the church had formed United for Justice in response to a rise in hostility locally to marginalized people as well as injustices nationally and internationally. Over the next 3 years this committee played a large part in formulating the Open and Affirming/Reconciling Covenant that was adopted by the church. After much discussion and prayer, at the January 27, 2019, annual meeting the church voted 53 to 2 for the United Church of Underhill to become an open and affirming/reconciling church, welcoming everyone, wherever they might be in life's journey. In 2020 the group continued identifying what justice looks like and finding tangible ways to put that into action to make a more equitable society. One of their activities was to bring Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity into the Harvest Crossing project.

Another way the church has provided service to the larger community for many years is offering food to everyone in some form. By the late 1880's, the Ladies Industrial Society was active at the Congregational Church, often doing fundraisers of one sort or another. For example, on March 15, 1889, they put on a sociable and supper at the church parlors, advertising in the local newspaper inviting everyone to attend. And on June 7th that year they held a strawberry and ice cream festival. Similar dinners and socials, or entertainments, were held periodically in other years as well. For example, in February 1895, the Ladies Industrial Society hosted an interesting event, giving a "Poverty Soshul at the Congregashunel Vestry". The rules were that "every woman who kums must ware a kaliker dress & apurn or sumthing ekely appropriate, and awl men must hay on their old close & flanul shurtz", and attendees were "fined" if their dress did not conform to the rules. Fines ranged from 1 cent for wearing a gold pin or earrings, up to 5 cents for "tellin secrits" and 10 cents for wearing a silk dress. "Extry gud vittels were et durin the nite from 6 erklok on, with admishun & supper all together 9 sense each." It was reported that everyone was fined to their satisfaction.

This tradition has been continued more recently with the start, in September 2011, of the community dinners by Edna Anair, Rachel Burroughs, Sharon Damkot, Marge Douglass and Sandy Gillim. They were held on the second Thursday of each month, often serving over 100 people from both the local community and the wider community beyond, until being suspended

in March 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. One meal served in June 2019 was a “Cowboy Dinner”, cooked outside over charcoal by Harland Blodgett and the Boy Scouts. The meals were free, although donations were accepted to help cover the cost. The primary purpose was to enable everyone in the community to get together for a time of fellowship, but donations exceeded the cost of providing the meal, and excess funds were used for various purposes, including purchasing new items for the church kitchen such as a microwave, water pitchers, and pots and pans; also helping to provide heating fuel for two local families, summer camperships, Hurricane Sandy relief, the food shelf and providing pots and pans to a young mother through the PINS program.

There have been several other food-related events offered by the Church through the years. These have included a Men's Roast Beef Dinner on the eve of Mother's Day, started in 1974 by the Membership and Evangelism Committee as a means of bringing together the men of the Church as well as giving recognition to the moms. In 1977, they hosted over 175 people. The roast beef dinner was still being held in 1999. The One Great Hour of Sharing breakfast to benefit that cause was started in 1977 by Dave Kelley and Kim Worden. In 1981 approval was given for the youth group to operate an Ice Cream Parlor in the summer months, which was run successfully for over 20 years. Starting in 1990, its direction was under the Christian Education committee, and that summer 19 youths from 5th to 8th grade ran the operation, and between this and their plant shop at Harvest Market, they raised \$300 toward buying a new freezer for their use. In 1997, the operation barely made a profit, so the youth brainstormed ideas to help the bottom line, such as “buy five, get one free” coupons and discounts for groups of five or more. In 2000, 14 youths participated in its operation.

Another somewhat food related way the United Church has carried out the theme of service to the wider community over the years is by hosting some sort of fall festival. As far back as the 1890's, the church was hosting a harvest festival. One was planned for the fall of 1894, and another was held October 26, 1897. In January 1975, this tradition was revived when at the annual meeting it was found that the budget, even with pledges and collections, was about \$1000 short of expected expenses. So, the meeting decided to have a summer fundraising event. From that motion came plans for the First Old Fashioned Harvest Market. That was held October 11 and 12, 1975, but due to cold weather it was soon moved to the last full weekend in September. The weather is always something to worry about. In 1977, there was one day of sun, and one day of snow. And in 2017, while it was a sunny weekend, temperatures were in the 90s, and attendance was down, with the only venue doing really well was the lemonade stand, who sold over 2500 glasses of lemonade! The original intent was to fulfill three purposes: (1) to provide a “fun” way for everyone in the church to become involved, get better acquainted, and work together; (2) to unite the community; and (3) to supplement the financial income to meet general, current expenses of the Church. This was a weekend conducted by the United Church, starting with a fun run on Saturday morning, followed soon after by a parade from the Brown's River Middle School parking lot up River Road and along Park Street to the church. In 1976, the parade included the Vermont Bicentennial Conestoga wagon, and for many years has included the lawnmower brigade.

The weekend includes a country store (started in 1975), soup kitchen (1984), book nook, refreshment tent (1975), flea market (1975), cookie factory (1978), lemonade stand, cider tent

(1976), French fry booth and crafts. At first, the French fries were part of the refreshment tent (which was located beside the parsonage), but soon moved to their own tent, and then to a temporary building built by Bill Frank. In 2002, the present French fry building was built by Bill and Dave Kelley. In recent years, they sell up to 1 ½ tons of potatoes. The soup kitchen was in a tent in front of the parsonage, but after the refreshment tent moved to the park, the venue, renamed the Soup Bowl, took over their spot beside the parsonage. The Soup Bowl operates by having people make some variety of soup at home, and then bringing it to the Soup Bowl to be sold. For many years this operated both days, but in 2017 Vermont Health Department regulations changed, so that you can no longer source food for a two-day event from uncertified kitchens, so since that time, the Soup Bowl has only operated on Saturdays. The cider tent did not appear until the second Harvest Market. Doug Keith and his father Ken had started an apple business in the 1940s, and revived it for Harvest Market, using Macintosh apples and pressing them in a hand operated cider press. They soon added hot cider as well, and later cider donuts. This has grown to where they sell as many as 650 dozen donuts during the weekend (yes, that is really 7800 donuts!). The lemonade stand is operated by the Senior Youth group as a fund raiser to support their activities. And something that many people look forward to each year is Harvest Market's own Town Crier. For many years James Morse has spent the weekend strolling the grounds announcing in a voice loud enough for all to hear all of the good things for people to eat.

To give a snapshot of the food provided by the church on Harvest Market weekend, in 2013 the French fry booth used 2150 pounds of potatoes, the lemonade stand used 1600 lemons to make 2150 glasses of lemonade, the Soup Bowl sold 866 containers of soup, the cider tent pressed 325 bushels of apples to make cider and also sold 6000 cider donuts and the country store sold 104 apple pies! The refreshment tent sold out of hamburgers on Saturday, and even after a Costco run to replenish their stock, they sold out again on Sunday. Even though the Cookie Factory could turn out cookies in half the time with the new oven, they still sold out.

There are also hayrides, which started in 1990, children's games and musical entertainment throughout the weekend. But no games of chance are allowed. The children's games were oriented toward old fashioned ones, such as a greased pole to climb, a sawdust pile with at first coins, and later candy mixed in for the kids to find. The "greased" pole returned for the 2010 Harvest Market, after an absence of several years, although this time it was not greased. There was also the giant zucchini contest, with prizes for the largest and best decorated ones, and a cross cut sawing contest. At least one year the Discovery Museum had a petting zoo. The musical entertainment has been provided by a wonderful mix of people over the years, but one that must be mentioned in particular is Ed Moore. He performed at every Harvest Market until his passing, starting out with he and his family playing on the parsonage porch. Later he played with a mix of his family and the Matt Parisi family, and about 1999, when Rick and Linda Presson joined the group, they became known as Mr. Ed.

One part of the weekend was the "Clutter Barn" held in the parsonage garage, where folks in the community could drop off used household items that would be sold at affordable prices during the weekend. In the beginning, Harvest Market continued due largely to the consistent support and promotion from the Dave Kelley family. But as the years went on, Harvest Market weekend became not just a church festival, but an institution, and grew to encompass the entire community. Lawn sales, food booths, craft sales, and a variety of other activities now are to be

found through the village and beyond on that weekend, and some years the festival has drawn crowds of over 10,000. Due to the expansion of Harvest Market into a community wide celebration, in 2003 an effort was made by the church to identify that even so, it was put on by the church, and church venues had new signage created identifying them as being operated by the church. And as Harvest Market does dominate the village for a weekend, to reach out to the neighbors that might be inconvenienced by the gathering, in 2006 the church hosted the first annual ice cream social for community members. This was also held in 2009 and 2019. In 2009, with the 35th anniversary of Harvest Market, a DVD was made documenting the event, with interviews with many of the people who had made it happen through the years.

One of the most amazing parts of Harvest Market has been the growth and popularity of the Clutter Barn. This started as an idea of Pastor Richard Crocker to collect gently used items in the parsonage barn and sell them during the weekend. It was dubbed "Crocker's Clutter". As the years went by, the volume of items donated increased vastly. For a time, the use of a tractor trailer truck was donated by David Villeneuve for storing the overflow from the barn. On Sunday items were sold for half price, and at the end of the day, the remaining items were auctioned off, with Peter Allendorf acting as auctioneer. In 1988 Gretchen Becker and Dorothy Blodgett took over the management of the Clutter Barn, later passing the job on to Kathy Williamson, with Helen Gregg assisting with pricing duties. After Helen's passing in 2008, Dave and Irene Kelley took over as the main pricing team. At about this same time Kathy Williamson was incapacitated with a broken ankle, and Sharon Damkot came to fill in for her. Fortunately, she has remained a Clutter Barn stalwart to this day. They have all been assisted by countless other volunteers who have helped to sort and price items and help with the sales through the years. Starting in 2004, the members of the various church committees began helping Saturday mornings in the Clutter Barn on a rotating schedule.

In 2001, the Gifford Building, which the church had purchased in 1998, was made useable, and its first application was to move the Clutter Barn for the Harvest Market there from the parsonage barn, which it had outgrown. This gave much more space, but it was soon found that the community was so generous with donations to the Clutter Barn that even with this extra space, it was overflowing long before Harvest Market weekend. The Stewardship Ministry had opened the Clutter Barn for donations on Saturdays beginning on April 15, 2006, with a one-time sale on May 13th, raising about \$2100 to cover a projected church budget shortfall. With this precedent, the regular Clutter Barn operation has evolved to where, since 2008, donations are accepted from May through September on two or three Saturdays, with the last Saturday of each month hosting an eagerly anticipated sale. This keeps the "clutter" within manageable bounds, and allows both donators and buyers more opportunity, as well as raising more funds for the church. Proceeds from the sales go to support programs of the church, but over the years another amazing thing has developed. Some of the donated items have been in turn donated by the Clutter Barn to other organizations in need. Some local groups which benefit include PINS, Burlington Food Shelf, VT Refugee Resettlement program, Habitat Restore, Humane Society, JUMP, Good Will, Transitional Services for Youth and Families, Planet Aid, Area Agency on Aging, Project Graduation, and programs of the United Church, such as the UCU quilting group (which makes quilts and blankets for newborns), community dinner and vacation bible school. Other items donated by the Clutter Barn have had an even wider reach, with children's books

going to a school in Africa and to the Pine Ridge SD Indian Reservation and toys and clothing being sent to an orphanage in Ukraine.

For many years, the women of the church held a rummage sale each year as a fund raiser. The ladies would make various craft items, such as pillowcases that were embroidered and had crocheted edges, along with other donated items. Even with the coming of Harvest Market, their rummage sales continued for a time, as well as having a sale of craft items during Harvest Market weekend. For many years starting in 1984, the Women's Fellowship ran the Soup Bowl at Harvest Market. In 1986 they also made and froze 100 pies to sell that weekend. As a result of their operation of the Soup Bowl, in 1994 they issued a cookbook of soup recipes, which went through three printings of 500 copies. A second cookbook was issued in 2001 with recipes for casseroles added to that edition. They sold 150 copies that year at Harvest Market alone. They also continued to hold their Christmas Tea and bake sale each year. For many years, the Women's Fellowship supported the Remembrance Project at the Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury, providing items to the patients there. In 2002, they purchased *The Faith We Sing* song books. In 2003, Irene Kelley, who had led the United Women's Fellowship for many years, was unable to continue, and when no one stepped in to take over the leadership, the group officially disbanded in 2005, with the Membership and Evangelism Committee taking over hosting funeral receptions.

The United Women's Fellowship was actively involved in service projects for the church and outreach, and in fund raising activities to support these projects. They would sometimes cater a luncheon for an outside group, such as for the Underhill High School reunion in 1979. In October 1995 they started the ABC Quilts for children at risk for HIV/AIDS, that activity being continued jointly by the Women's Fellowship and the Quilting Group, a part of the Missions Committee starting in 1999. Money is donated by people each month to the Birthday Bank, in honor of someone having a birthday that month. This money is used by the Quilting Group to create quilts, blankets, afghans and hat and bootie sets for newborns and others in transition and needing some comfort. In just the first three years, over 300 quilts were made. In 1998 alone, they made 128 quilts, 51 knitted blankets and 81 hat and bootie sets. By 2001, this was 103 quilts, 57 knitted blankets and 173 hat and bootie sets and in 2013 121 quilts, 17 blankets/afghans, 4 adult afghans, 28 blanket/hat/bootie sets, and 81 hat/bootie sets were made. These are displayed in the sanctuary each year on Mother's Day, before being distributed to those who need them, both locally and some even going as far away as Mozambique.

There have also been several men's groups in the church at various times. The Men's Cornerstone Club first met on May 7, 1983. Micah's Men was formed in 2004 for fellowship, faith and occasionally helping others with service projects, and were meeting monthly in 2010. The Lunch Bunch came into being when two members of the congregation, Howard Herr and Don Balch, who both had lost their wives, started to get together at one of their homes for lunch and companionship. Gradually, other men joined them, some of whom still had their wives, and when they met at one of those homes, it was a treat to have a woman get the lunch for the group. This carried on for several years until they moved their get-togethers to a restaurant. The group also organized several evening concerts in the church, often featuring the restored Mason & Hamlin organ, over a period of about 10 years.

Over the years the Membership and Evangelism committee has published an updated church directory from time to time, including photo directories in 1992, 2001 and 2017. Another activity of this committee is to reach out to elderly, sick and lonely members, either with personal visits or cards for such things as holidays and birthdays. They also oversee the Loving Spoonfuls program, which provides meals to people in times of need and helps with funeral receptions.

Throughout the years, mission support has been an important part of the church's work. The United Church has supported many local missions, as well as supporting both the United Methodist and United Church of Christ denominations, extending their work beyond the Underhill and Jericho communities. Activities supported have included Kurn Hattin Homes, the Vermont Achievement Center in Rutland, Church World Service Clothing and Blanket appeal, Shelter for Battered Women, the winter coat drive and CROP Walk. In 1997, support was first given to the COTS Walk and PINS (Partners In Service). PINS support has included creature comforts drives, where such items as diapers and clothing have been collected, as well as Thanksgiving meals and Christmas meals and presents for families in need. Other projects supported include Bread for The World, Our Community Cares Camp, Steps to End Domestic Violence, Vermont Interfaith Action, Jenna's Promise, Mt. Mansfield Villages, Asylum Seekers Assistance, Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, Pride Center of Vermont, Outright Vermont, and Vermont Cares. Church members have given of their talents in building houses in the Habitat for Humanity project and in 2010 eleven adults from the United Church joined four people from Michigan to spend a week in Gary, Indiana doing flood relief work. Members have participated in, and donations have been made to, Penguin Plunge, The Heifer Project, OGHS, Spectrum, Neighbors in Need, Dismas House, Essex Rescue, Champlain Valley Agency on Aging, Meals on Wheels, and the area Food Shelf programs. A groups of 10 volunteers from the United Church and Jericho United Methodist Church participated in a Volunteer in Mission United Methodist program in Limestone, ME in 2008. They painted, installed a bathroom and built a ramp. A group from the church had gone on a mission trip to help the Lakota people on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, and following that, support was continued by donations to their Re-Member project. In January 2001, the church held the first Souper Bowl Sunday, where a collection was taken up to support the local food shelf. In conjunction with this, for several years, at least through 2015, the Senior High youth group made subs and cookies to sell that day as a fund raiser to support youth group programs. In 2015 they made 100 subs and 135 cookies. In 2021, missions sent money to the Williamstown United Federated Church to aid in restoring their church, which had been severely damaged in a fire. For many years, the Missions Committee has provided camperships, coordinated by Janet Grant. A permanent campership fund of \$1000, named the Youth Learning Opportunities Fund, was established in 1991. The Travis Canedy Fund also supports camperships as well. Some camperships were to enable church youth to attend summer camp, often at Covenant Hills camp in Cabot (although when we were shifted from the Troy Conference to the New England Conference in 2010, it was found that Covenant Hills was not supported by the new district). Others were to enable community youth to attend the Jericho Recreation summer program.

The church became aware in 2019 that Phil Jacobs, who owned the meadow behind the church, was planning on putting it on the market. At the 2020 annual meeting the church approved pursuing the purchase of the 9-acre parcel and the Jacobs Property Team was formed to look at

the possibilities of doing this. At a special church meeting on August 9, 2000, it was voted to go forward with the purchase of the land. As the process evolved, and a study of the capabilities of the land was conducted, it was decided the best option would be for the church to purchase the land, and in conjunction with Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, to build several affordable houses on the northern part of the meadow, leaving some common land in the middle, and keeping the southern portion for use by the church for Harvest Market and other activities. For a time, as the project progressed, the team working on it was known as the New Underhill Village Neighborhood Team, but as it continued, the group felt it was time for it to have a better name for the project, and in 2021 Harvest Crossing was chosen, from its proximity to the field currently used for the Harvest Market flea market, and the history of the meadow, which for 62 years had the B&L railroad tracks crossing it on their way from Burlington to Cambridge. A new logo was also developed at that time to go with the new name. Funding was received from many sources, including donations, grants, loans and other sources, and the land was finally purchased in July 2023. Much engineering work has been completed, including a wetland assessment, an archeological assessment, and the establishment of the best location for housing, which will be six single family homes plus one duplex. Further permitting and engineering work continues along with fundraising, and hopefully new houses will be appearing in the near future.

In early 2020 the world was hit with the Covid19 pandemic, and the church was not immune from this tragedy. On March 15, worship services were suspended and were conducted only online, as were some other activities of the church. Sunday School was held via Zoom and KOWS managed to meet two times per month by holding their meetings outside. Because of Covid, there was no Harvest Market in 2020, but the Clutter Barn did manage to find a safe way to hold sales in July and September that summer. The September sale also included Cookie Factory and Soup Bowl sales, raising a total of over \$12,000, and so far, as is known, no one contracted Covid from this or any other church activities. The Clutter Barn returned to more normal operations in 2021, with donations now being accepted every other Saturday, with sorting and pricing being done on the alternative weekends. The proceeds from the Clutter Barn summer sales that year were \$11,365.14, and when added to their sales at Harvest Market gave a total for the year of \$21,135.57!

A re-entry team was formed that monitored the best advice on how best to proceed with all activities, especially when and how it might be safe to resume worship services in the sanctuary. July 11, 2021, saw the first return to in person worship services. Such things as having a shorter service, opening some of the church windows (which had not been opened within the memory of anyone in the congregation!) and installing fans in them, leaving the doors open when the weather permitted, everyone wearing masks and music being limited to instrumental only, and even then, to non-wind instruments, made this possible. Fellowship time, when held, was outside under a tent. Even the 2022 annual meeting was held via Zoom, although the sanctuary was available as well. Things had improved by the fall of 2021, so that Harvest Market could once again be safely held! One feature added that year was a Covid-19 vaccination clinic. By the summer of 2022, things related to Covid had returned close enough to normal where the re-entry team felt it was safe for them to disband, although remaining ready to get back together should the need arise.

Not directly caused by Covid, but more as a new way of looking at how we do things, in 2022 worship services during the month of July were held outside under a tent, and this continued in the summer of 2023.

From the beginning the United Church has supported ecumenical programs. There has been a commitment to unity in whatever means it has been possible to share in worship or mission. As far back as 1976, the church was part of the ecumenical Lenten Services, and also that year was part of the 4th of July Bicentennial celebration. The All Faiths Thanksgiving Service, special Lenten worship services, Holy Week early morning worship, ecumenical Maundy Thursday worship, a Good Friday walk and early morning Easter Service are among some of the activities. For many years, there has been an outdoor ecumenical service celebrated each summer in June or July, with Good Shepherd Lutheran, Jericho United Methodist, Calvary Episcopal and Covenant Community Churches participating. Most years the United Church has hosted this service, but at least one year it was hosted by Good Shepherd. In 2010 an outdoor worship service was held with Jericho United Methodist Church and Covenant Community Church at Mills Riverside Park.

In 1983 the Underhill Jericho Ecumenical Ministry was founded when Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Jericho sent a letter inviting other area churches to meet to explore needs for community outreach that they could do together. This invitation was prompted by a meaningful experience during Holy Week of 1983 when the first Good Friday Walk took place: adults and children from local churches walked together following a processional cross along Route 15, stopping at several of the churches for meditation. This ministry included St. Thomas Catholic Church and most of the Protestant Churches in Underhill and Jericho. Local churches have come together to express unity in Christ and work together in a mission that would be impossible or impractical for the congregations to do separately. Together these churches engage in a broader mission to serve the local community while maintaining their individual traditions. The organization is completely volunteer, comprised of members of the participating Christian churches and other committed individuals from the towns they serve.

The first community need that the group discerned was a means for local communication, and so the first ministry was to begin a monthly newsletter. Rev. Richard Crocker did the printing at the United Church of Underhill, and the newsletter was mailed to all Jericho and Underhill postal patrons. An annual Community Talent Show was a key fundraiser for this and later outreach efforts. The "Community News" continued until 1989 when a local newspaper began.

In 1985 the group became incorporated and obtained status as a non-profit 501c(3) organization. The first officers were President: Jan Steinbauer (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church); Secretary: Rev. Richard Crocker (United Church of Underhill); Treasurer: Nancy Pierce (St. Thomas Roman Catholic Church). By 1996, churches from Essex Center also actively supported the food shelf, and so the organization is now referred to as Essex-Jericho-Underhill Ecumenical Ministry.

In the 1980s the Ecumenical Ministry sponsored various other activities such as a joint Vacation Bible School; an Ecumenical Library; a weekly Bible study group; educational and spiritual growth workshops and retreat days; and Welcome Packets for newcomers to Jericho and

Underhill. The group offered a community All Faiths Thanksgiving service. During Holy Week the Ecumenical Ministry coordinated early morning meditations, the Good Friday Walk between Noon and 3pm, and an Easter sunrise service (these experiences are now organized by the local clergy).

Since the formation of the Ecumenical Ministry, the local food shelf has been available for our community members in need. The food shelf -- initially called "The Christian Sharing Project" -- was begun in 1983 by Calvary Episcopal Church in Underhill as an outreach especially for senior citizens. Beryl Martinek was one of the driving forces behind its creation, in response to reduced State assistance for seniors. This emergency food ministry grew and was soon too much for one church to coordinate, so in 1984 the fledgling Ecumenical Ministry adopted it as one of its ministries. Seniors along with families with children were served, and a clothing ministry was added, so that people could select needed clothing -- and even furniture and household items -- when they came for food. At Christmas there was a Toyshare for children. Later, the food shelf was housed in the Joy-Hall building at the Congregational Church on Route 15 in Jericho Corners (currently the United Pentecostal Church).

Since 1994 the food shelf has been located at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Jericho. It is now the most recognized service, with monthly food distribution on the third Saturday of each month. An average of 50 families, including many senior citizen households, or about 170 people receive food each month. The food shelf receives strong support from residents, school groups, service organizations, small businesses and churches of our towns. This support comes in the form of food items and fresh vegetables in season, as well as monetary donations. In addition, the towns of Jericho and Underhill have contributed financial support each year. Scholarships have been given to help local children attend summer camps where they would not otherwise be able. Emergency Aid is available for families in special need in the form of limited payments of utility or household operations bills. Distribution of these funds for these purposes is carefully monitored by our advisory board members.

Currently participating churches include:

Calvary Episcopal Church, Route 15, Jericho

Covenant Community Church, Route 15, Essex

Essex Center United Methodist Church, Route 15, Essex Center

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Route 15, Jericho

Jericho Congregational Church, On the Green, Jericho Center

Jericho United Methodist Church, Route 15, Jericho

St. Pius X Roman Catholic Church, Route 15, Essex Center

St. Thomas Roman Catholic Church, Green Street, Underhill Center

United Christian Assembly, Raceway, Jericho

United Church of Underhill, Park Street, Underhill

Throughout the years music has filled the United Church. A talented Choir was first under the directorship of the outstanding organist, Howard Wilson. The next director was Ruth Lewis, who was hired to both direct the choir and be organist in September 1977, and then Lois Nassau directed the choir and managed the music for the service for 14 years, starting in 1979. In 1976 Janet Gallagher was asked to be the organist and accompanist for the choir. By at least 1986, Janet had become the regular organist, playing every other Sunday, alternating with St. Pius X church in Essex Center. When Lois retired July 1, 1993, Janet became music director as well as organist. With her promotion, Sharon Damkot and Trish Pierce shared the duties of accompanists for the 20-member choir. In 1994, new teal green choir robes were purchased with proceeds from the Harvest Market Silent Auction and the Memorial Fund. In 2000 a special vocal choir anthem, A Place in the Valley, by Nancy Price and Don Besig, was commissioned to celebrate the long-standing music ministry of the church and Janet's dedicated service. In 2014, the choir was active and participated in the annual Festival of Choirs for the 11th year, although by then they were struggling to find new members. Amy Dandurand was hired in August 2015 as the Director of Music Coordination and Development. Janet left her post as choir director in June 2016, and with her departure the choir disbanded as well, which caused much distress among many members of the congregation. More recently, accompanists have included Sharon Damkot, Rachel Burroughs, Bev Golish, Claire Black, Patrick Drake, Peter Krag, Abigail Sperry and Kristie Kapusta.

A youth choir was started in 1979 by Lois Nassau and Trish Pierce. Nancy Roskam took over the youth choir in November 1986, consisting of youth from grades 2 to 12 and its direction was then taken over in 1991 by Roberta Courtney. They at first only provided music at Christmas and Easter, but in 1997 this expanded to other times of the year. In 2008, Janet Gallagher mentioned that she would like to see the youth choir started again, so apparently it had languished by that time. That year it was revitalized under the direction of Katherine Hobart and Amanda Munson. By 1999 the adult choir had a membership of 16, and this now included both women and men. A Youth Praise Band, under the leadership of Sandy Wilmot began in 2004, and in 2005 she formed an Adult Praise Band.

In 2015 a group was established which played recorders, and was named Bird Song Recorder Ensemble, playing often during worship services. Other instruments played during worship have included guitar, violin, cello, harp, psaltery, saxophone, clarinet, flute, drum, trumpet and French horn. A series of six concerts was organized by Curt Belton in 2008 and these continued in 2009. In 2015 the 1st annual Christmas concert was held. These were live concerts held the second Sunday in December until 2020, when, due to Covid, the Christmas concert was held via Zoom only for that year and 2021. In 2022, the concert returned to live music in the sanctuary.

Two hand bell choirs have added special musical contributions and make holiday times particularly festive in the life of the church. In 1986, a two-octave set of Schulmerich hand bells was donated to the church by Sandy Niles, and a hand bell choir was formed in late fall and rang

at the Christmas Sunday service. A third octave was purchased in 1989 using money donated in memory of Ethel Alexander. These were delivered in March 1990 and at that time a second bell choir was formed. Lois Nassau directed one and Trish Pierce directed the other. In 1993, these were named the Sanctuary Bells and the Steeple Bells. Besides playing in worship, they sometimes played at other churches, blood drawings and for shut-ins. By 1996, Laura Nassau was directing the Sanctuary Bells, which had 12 members, as did the Steeple Bells. In June 1997, Sally Yankee took over direction of the Steeple Bells from Trish Pierce, who then directed the Sanctuary Bells. When Trish resigned in September 1999, Sally took over the Sanctuary Bells and Bob Melfy took over the direction of the Steeple Bells. Sally moved away in 2007, so the Sanctuary Bells were on pause for a time until being taken up in 2008 by Roger Gillim. In 1999 the bells were refurbished. In the late 1990s, a youth bell choir was started by Liz Audet with 8 members. The Steeple Bells had been directed by Bob Melfy for a time before he moved away in 2000, at which time they suspended playing until his return in 2002. He left for good in mid-2004, and Roger Gillim became the director of the Steeple Bells. At least by this time, this group was a community group sponsored by the United Church. In 2002, a 3-octave set of Malmark hand chimes was purchased by the Ministry of Inspirational Worship. For a number of years, the Sanctuary Bells participated in the annual Spring Ring, held at various venues around the state. In 2010 they had enough members, so they were up to three octaves, and once again played in the Spring Ring. In 2013 Amy Dandurand was co-directing the bell choir with Roger Gillim, and she took over the entire job in September 2015. By 2016, the bell choir was named the Mansfield Bells, and played in the Spring Ring in West Rutland, as well as a concert at St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington for their "Tuesday Noon-to-One" music series.

A used fine quality Allen electronic church organ was purchased for \$1602 with memorial funds given in memory of Leighton Keith and Winifred Foster, and first used for the Easter service in 1981. In 1986 a solid-state amplifier for the organ was donated by Dave and Cheryl Richardson. Even after a "tune up" in 1999, by 2003, this organ was showing its age, and research had begun on a new organ. A new organ was purchased from Arnold Clough in Rutland in 2005, which was dedicated on May 22. The Mason and Hamlin reed organ, purchased in 1894 by the dedicated ladies of the church who each had earned a dollar toward the cost (and memorialized their efforts in the 'Dollar Poems') languished for many years during the periods of church renovation. Then in early 1999, through the generosity of the family of Mary Lou Herr, the instrument was completely rebuilt and dedicated to her memory. The work was done by Bruce Stevens of 1001 Keys in Wells River, VT. The organ returned to the sanctuary shortly after Easter, and a dedication concert paid tribute to the ladies of the 'Women's Industrial Society' and their book of 'Dollar Poems' was reprinted for all to enjoy. In 1985 a fund was set up in hopes of purchasing a new piano for the sanctuary, and at Harvest Market that year, the old pump organ was sold. In the fall of 1986, a new Yamaha Studio piano was donated to the church in memory of Connie Bagshaw by her husband Harvey and the Bagshaw family.

Another important theme in the United Church is Christian Education. One of the earliest undertakings was a church school established by Rev. Dodge in 1818. Although programs have varied through the years, this activity has continued in our church for over 200 years. In addition to weekly Sunday school, mention is found in the late 1800's of church school picnics, including a union picnic of the Sunday schools in town at the grove in Underhill Center in June, 1894, and by the 1950's the youth fellowship group held various outings such as skiing at the Underhill Ski

Bowl or picnics at Sand Bar State Park. In 1894 it was announced that Children's Day would not be observed that spring as it had been, so that tradition dates back nearly 130 years. In 1999, Children's Sunday was held in June, followed by a family picnic, and something similar was done many other years. For many years, the church has organized a Vacation Bible School for one week each summer and that tradition has continued, some years in partnership with some mix of Essex United Methodist Church, Jericho United Methodist Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and St. Thomas Catholic Church. It was reported in 1994 that VBS was reinstated, so apparently it had not been held for a time. In 2010, VBS was held with the Jericho and Essex Center United Methodist Churches, along with some collaboration with the Shelburne United Methodist Church and 54 children attended. In 2014 it was held at the Jericho United Methodist Church and in 2015 attendance was 25.

Today there are youth groups for both middle and high school age students, again at times in partnership with Jericho UMC and Covenant Community Church. The middle school group is now known as KOWS – Kind Outstanding Wonderful Students. In 1979 the Junior Youth Group was active, with monthly outings. Apparently, the Youth Groups had languished, as it was reported in 1985 that the High School Youth Group had been revived and in 1986 a program for youth grade 7 and above was established under Peggy Dorta. Among the highlights were exchanges with the Norwood, MA Congregational Church in the 1980s. In 1994 it was reported that both Junior and Senior Youth Groups were active, and three camperships to Covenant Hills were given.

The middle school youth group continues to be known as KOWS and has most recently been under the leadership of Bonnie Belfield. In 2008, KOWS had an ecumenical program with Good Shepherd Lutheran, and Jericho and Essex Center United Methodist Churches. In 2022, KOWS participated in the Spectrum sleep-out fundraiser, raising \$2145!

In 1999 Anne and Dave Clift took over leadership of the Senior High youth group. Over the next 18 years, various adults participated with Anne including Norman Rohrer, Sharon Damkot, Dianne Sisson, Sally Yankee, Sally Baldwin, Hannah Robertson, and many, many others. Activities ranged from cooking and baking, lots of eating!, ice cream tasting, sledding down the hill behind the church, camping, bowling, preparing meals for COTS and Ronald McDonald House, pumpkin carving, car washes, overnights at the church, 30-hour Famine, youth rallies, annual Christmas party, and many other fun events.

In 2002, the senior high youth group went on the first of many mission trips, this one to Albany, NY to work with the Albany United Methodist Society. Between 2004 and 2017, the group went on twelve other mission trips to various places including New York City, Boston, Providence, Staten Island, and Burlington (VT). The work generally involved preparing and serving food at soup kitchens, going out on the streets to hand food out to those in need, leading worship, painting walls, sorting clothes and food for donations, moving furniture, playing games and doing crafts at a senior center, playing with kids at a family shelter, learning about homelessness, and so many other things.

One of the favorite things in the youth group year was the Dinner for Senior Citizens, later renamed the Generations Together Dinner. It ran from 2000 to 2017. Youth would plan, cook,

and serve dinner for 20 to 30 older members from the United Church of Underhill, Jericho Methodist Church, and Covenant Community Church. Guessing games after dinner always spurred on interesting conversations.

In February 2007, the Senior High Youth Group started a new monthly praise service which they named Night Light. This included a live band, upbeat music, a short message, decorations for the church, and refreshments. Later a pizza dinner was added before the service. Most messages were given by outside speakers, but often the youth would prepare the message. By the end of 2007 this had grown from 10 to 40 participants, coming from not just United Church of Underhill, but also Williston Federated Church, Essex UMC, Richmond Congregational Church, Jericho UMC, Grace UMC, and Shelburne UMC. By the next year, attendance was between 25 and 80, but by 2011 the number of participating churches had dwindled and meetings were reduced to quarterly, then abandoned.

In 2010 and 2011 the Senior Youth Groups from our church and the Covenant Community Church joined together to “haunt” Damkot’s barn for Halloween, inviting the Sunday School groups from both churches plus those from Jericho and Essex Center United Methodist churches to come and be scared.

In 2022, a joint middle and high school youth program was initiated under the leadership of Pastor Jen Mihok of UCU and Pastor Katelyn Macrae of the Richmond Congregational Church. The month-long program culminated in a trip to Boston so the youth could see how other churches practice justice, mercy and walking humbly with God.

Christian Education grew continually throughout the years with larger Sunday School classes, and the development of a coordinated program. Although attendance was reported down in 1977, the next year, Sunday School was going strong, with an average of 54 students and 11 teachers. Facilities were inadequate, and the senior center was used for a time. In 1979 Sunday School was up to 75 children, with 14 teachers, and as well a nursery for 3 & 4 year olds was started. By 1988 attendance was down a bit, to an average of 40 students, but in 1990 it was up to 58. After several years of discussion among the congregation as to whether we needed a Christian Education Director, and whether we could afford one, at a special meeting on August 2, 1992, it was decided to hire Rev. Kirk Thompson to become Christian Education Director. The agreement provided that he would also be the part-time pastor of the Jericho United Methodist Church. To accommodate this, it was necessary to change the United Church’s worship service time from 10:00 am to 10:30. [Worship time remained at 10:30, except for two months in the summer when it changed to 9:30, until July 2020, when it was changed back to 10:00 year round.] Under his leadership, Sunday School grew rapidly, with 75 enrolled and an average attendance of 50 to 60 each week. There was a struggle to provide the necessary staff. Among his other contributions was the organization of youth fellowship activities, which continued after he moved on to a new career in June 1997. There was much discussion of hiring another Christian Education Director, but the position remained open until September 1998, when Pat Richmond took over the position. At that time there were about 70 youth in Sunday School, but by 1999 attendance was about 35-40 and in 2006 the number was down to 20, with an average attendance of 12 to 16. In 2003, the youth group fixed up a room in the church basement where they could hold their meetings. Pat continued as C.E. Director until January

2006. In May 2008 Julianne Nickerson became the Christian Education Director and served until July 2013. At that time, average Sunday School attendance was down to 13. Kristin Humbarger served as interim until Bonnie Belfield became Christian Education Director in January 2014, serving through 2017. By 2015 attendance was back up to an average of 12 to 13. Starting in 2008, in early December a Kids Night Out has been held, where youth would be dropped off at the church to participate in a gift making workshop, while freeing the parents to have a chance to do some Christmas shopping without their children tagging along.

June 15, 1986, was the first graduate recognition Sunday, where members of the church family who had recently graduated from either high school or college were recognized. For a number of years, Scout Sunday was also celebrated.

Also in 1998, the church adopted a Safe Church Policy, which was implemented in 1999. A Safe Sanctuary Policy was put in place in 2008 and re-adopted in 2010.

In addition, Bible study programs are also available for adults. A women's Bible study group was started in September, 1976, and after Easter 1977 the group began a journey through the Bible starting at Genesis 1:1. By September 1983 they had advanced to Acts 1:1. A women's Bible study group was active in 2004, and a newly formed women's group was meeting on Saturday mornings in 2009 and monthly in 2010.

In September 2013, Tracie Wright started a Wednesday morning study based on Cokesbury Alive Now! devotional materials. Over the next several years, this group became Women in the Word who have faithfully met in person, outside and via Zoom as health conditions dictated. Women in the Word connects members far and wide via Zoom and study a mix of faith-based books, secular works, and diligent Bible study.

In a bit of a different vein, in early 2022 an education series was held with the Williston Federated Church and the United Community Church of Morrisville on the benefits and challenges of being a federated church. It was determined that the model has much to offer. In 2022 the United Church was part of an ecumenical parenting education group.

It was with profound regret that on February 5, 1989, the United Church bid farewell to Reverend Richard Crocker, who had served the congregation for 15+ years of exciting growth. The pastor selection committee was used for the first time, and in keeping with the Articles of Agreement, the ministry called a Methodist pastor, Cheryl Heater, to serve. The church was served by Susan Hager-Smith as interim from February 19 through June 1, and Cheryl arrived on June 25, 1989. Before her arrival, the parsonage received a complete renovation. Her pastorate saw much growth in Christian Education. Then in 1996 she was called to serve in White River Junction. The United Church established a search committee for a new pastor, served in the interim by Diana Scholl from August 1996 to August 1997. The Congregational minister, Reverend Alden Launer, was called in August 1997. In 1997, a church handbook was created, with information from committees, the pastor and the congregation. The Launer family had privacy issues, with the parsonage also having the church office located there and the parsonage barn being used for the Clutter Barn, and there were issues with neighbors. Special church meetings were held to decide the best path to take, perhaps that being giving the pastor a housing

allowance and renting the parsonage. The second such meeting was held July 13, 1999, and at that time it was announced that Rev. Launer had submitted his resignation two days earlier. He left September 11, moving on to service in the Waterbury Church and another search committee was formed. Retired minister, Reverend Clifford Field served with distinction as interim pastor from September 13, 1999, until June 18, 2000. The church welcomed Methodist minister, Reverend Dr. Rich Cooper, on June 25, 2000, to serve an ever-growing congregation.

A big effort was undertaken to both move the church office and the Clutter Barn away from the parsonage. Doing so took some time, and Rev. Cooper and his wife Elaine were very understanding of the situation. The Clutter Barn moved to the renovated Gifford Building for the 2001 Harvest Market, and the church office was moved to the basement of the church, also in 2001. When the nursery had been established, it was located in a room just inside the back door of the church but there were problems with this location. In cold weather, being near the outside door, it was cold, and also there was fear that if someone wanted to kidnap a child, being near the outside door would make this much easier. So, in the fall of 2008, the nursery and the church office swapped spaces, so that the nursery was in the basement, where it was comfortable and secure.

Rev. Cooper retired on June 30, 2006, and on September 17 Rev. Len Rowell came to serve as interim minister while a new permanent pastor was selected. That was Congregational minister Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen, who officially came to the church in January 2008, although he led worship on December 23 and 24, 2007. During his time here, the church continued to grow. In the summer of 2014, Pastor Kevin took a three-month sabbatical, with Rev. Len Rowell filling in during that time. One thing that Kevin did during that time was to build a new communion table for the church. This is actually three tables that fit together for normal use but can also be used separately if needed. It was first used on November 2, 2014. In May 2017, Rev. Goldenbogen announced his intent to leave the church at the end of August, and starting in September, Rev. Adrienne Carr came as interim pastor. She served until June 2018, when Rev. Jennifer Mihok from The United Methodist Church was called to serve as our next permanent pastor. From November 2019 through January 2020, Pastor Mihok took maternity leave when her son Aran was born, and Rev. Carr came back to fill in during that time, and from May through July 2023, during her second maternity leave when her daughter Mira was born, Rev. Barbara Purinton served as interim. Pastor Jen was ordained on June 11, 2022.

An interesting feature of the United Church building is the room above the entry. This room was finished off when the building was built in 1847 but has been used only for storage. It is also where you go to ring the bell in the steeple above. As happened in other local buildings, such as the Chittenden Mills grist mill elevator tower in Jericho Corners, the small room above the entry in Memorial Hall in Essex Center and even the dome of the Vermont State House in Montpelier, through the years people who have gone up there have written on the walls, and while the story of each individual inscription has largely been lost in the mists of time, taken collectively this room documents the history of those who have been a part of our church in some fashion through the years. In recent years, parts of the plaster walls have started to deteriorate, and so in 2009 all of the inscriptions that could be read, about 365, were transcribed before parts of the wall were lost. The largest part are names, many with dates; some are just initials, some are comments of one sort or another and some commemorate some event, usually involving ringing of the bell.

The earliest dated name is that of Homer Rockwood, who signed his name in two places on November 17, 1878. He lived across the park from the church, in the house where Kintner Chiropractic is now located, and was a druggist who worked in the Underhill Drug Store at one time. He also played in the Underhill Citizens Band and played in a concert the band held in the church in February 1889.

On December 2, 2001, the church celebrated the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Underhill Congregational Church and looked back at something written for the 100th anniversary celebration. In 1901, in his dissertation for that centennial celebration of the founding of the first Church of Christ in Underhill on December 29, 1801, the Reverend S. L. Bates challenged the congregation. Having entered a new century, his charge could address us all today. "As we turn from the past we must face the present and look down through the future. Our backward look today suggests important lessons for you. Remember you are acting in the line of those who have gone before and for the welfare of those who shall come after. You stand in a goodly line. Others have labored and you are entered into their labor. The work committed to you is the Lord's work, and the Lord is your Leader. Dare you, then, in view of your responsibility to Him and to generations to come, hesitate for a moment in doubt and discouragement, or expect anything less than success and victory? Your trust is surely a sacred one. It is yours to carry forward towards completion the work the fathers begun, to give greater vigor and efficiency through your lives to the truth upon which they builded, and, in your measure, to hasten the coming of our Lord's kingdom here and throughout the world."

United Church of Underhill Pastors:

Richard Crocker September 1973 - February 1989
 Susan Hager-Smith (Interim) February 1989 – June 1989
 Cheryl Heater June 1989 – May 1996
 Diana Scholl (Interim) August 1996 – August 1997
 Alden Launer August 1997 - September 1999
 Clifford Field (Interim) 1999 - June 2000
 Richard Cooper June 2000 – June 2006
 Len Rowell (Interim) September 2006 – December 2007, 2014
 Kevin Goldenbogen January 2008 – August 2017
 Adrienne Carr (Interim) September 2017 – June 2018
 Jennifer Mihok July 2018 to date
 Adrienne Carr (Interim during maternity leave) November 2019 – January 2020
 Barbara Purinton (Interim during maternity leave) May – July 2023

UCU Membership:

| Year | Methodist | Congregationalist | Total |
|-------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1973 | | | 203 |
| 1976 | 99 | 115 | 214 |
| 1977 | 99 | 117 | 216 |
| 1978 | 85 | 124 | 209 |
| 1979 | 91 | 120 | 211 |

| | | | |
|------|----|-----|-----------|
| 1981 | 93 | 121 | 214 |
| 1983 | | | 235 |
| 1984 | 95 | 146 | 241 |
| 1985 | 93 | 145 | 238 |
| 1986 | 98 | 148 | 246 |
| 1987 | 96 | 152 | 248 |
| 1988 | 92 | 160 | 252 |
| 1989 | 94 | 160 | 251 (sic) |
| 1990 | 83 | 151 | 234 |
| 1991 | 78 | 152 | 230 |
| 1992 | 76 | 139 | 215 |
| 1993 | 76 | 141 | 217 |
| 1994 | 76 | 145 | 221 |
| 1995 | 74 | 149 | 223 |
| 1996 | 72 | 149 | 221 |
| 1997 | 70 | 137 | 207 |
| 1998 | 70 | 137 | 207 |
| 1999 | 67 | 112 | 179 |
| 2000 | 70 | 108 | 178 |
| 2001 | 76 | 111 | 187 |
| 2002 | 78 | 114 | 192 |
| 2003 | 76 | 114 | 190 |
| 2004 | 78 | 119 | 197 |
| 2005 | 72 | 112 | 184 |
| 2006 | 72 | 114 | 186 |
| 2007 | 69 | 112 | 181 |
| 2008 | 65 | 105 | 170 |
| 2009 | 67 | 104 | 171 |
| 2010 | 68 | 105 | 173 |
| 2011 | 69 | 111 | 180 |
| 2012 | 71 | 115 | 186 |
| 2013 | 61 | 122 | 183 |
| 2014 | 65 | 121 | 186 |
| 2015 | 65 | 123 | 188 |
| 2016 | 66 | 119 | 185 |
| 2017 | 62 | 110 | 172 |
| 2018 | 52 | 108 | 160 |
| 2019 | 52 | 114 | 166 |
| 2020 | 54 | 116 | 170 |
| 2021 | 54 | 113 | 167 |
| 2022 | 50 | 114 | 164 |

Church Budget

1973 – Methodist = \$7650, Congregational = \$10,053, total = \$17703
 1975 - \$16,031 (equal to \$91,713 in 2023 dollars)

| | | |
|--------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 1976 - | \$18,979 | (equal to \$102,663 in 2023 dollars) |
| 1985 - | \$45,237 | (equal to \$129,400 in 2023 dollars) |
| 1995 - | \$80,181 | (equal to \$161,935 in 2023 dollars) |
| 2005 - | \$126,208 | (equal to \$198,901 in 2023 dollars) |
| 2015 - | \$175,074 | (equal to \$227,350 in 2023 dollars) |
| 2023 - | \$176,135 | |

Harvest Market income

| | Gross | Net |
|------|--------------|-------------|
| 1975 | ? | \$2,042.78 |
| 1980 | \$1,880.95 | \$1,185.73 |
| 1981 | ? | \$6,244.00 |
| 1984 | \$12,988.07 | \$7,189.33 |
| 1985 | \$16,287.33 | \$10,038.10 |
| 1986 | \$22,209.85 | \$12,735.13 |
| 1994 | \$28,750.09 | \$17,347.44 |
| 2002 | \$39,783.01 | \$31,075.55 |
| 2003 | \$36,858.19 | \$32,304.19 |
| 2004 | \$42,852.13 | \$26,423.13 |
| 2013 | \$53,392.89 | \$43,632.21 |
| 2015 | \$54,014.77 | \$44,742.45 |
| 2016 | \$56,373.18 | \$46,620.68 |
| 2017 | \$50,894.65 | \$36,454.53 |
| 2018 | \$54,675.26 | \$42,192.54 |
| 2019 | \$61,458.54 | \$46,149.48 |
| 2022 | \$57,637.53 | \$52,870.46 |

Harvest Market *by* Roberta Courtney

What's Harvest Market and when did it start
Where do I go if I want to take part

Underhill, Vermont, that's the place to be
It's really a blast- just wait and see

Every September the town comes to life
With a parade and harvest, music & fife

Jams and jellies, rows of sweet pies
Veggies, and a pumpkin huge in size

There's corn on the cob, sticky cotton candy
Cheese from big wheels is really quite dandy

Ride in the hay wagon pulled by a horse
Games to play and face painting of course

Homemade soups and bread for sale
Thick whoopie pies, you just can't fail

All kinds of vendors and art on display
You can't get it done, all in one day

Cider donuts and cider to drink
Apples so crisp your eyes will wink

French fries, onion rings, sausage and more
Here come the dancers, what else is in store

The clutter barn is open, let's go inside
Treasures galore there, really can hide

All the stuff that people don't want
Donated here to repurpose and daunt

Neighbors greet neighbors - 'long time no see'
Let's sit a spell by the old oak tree

Harvest Market started long ago
Bringing us together-a community rainbow

Enjoy the fall, enjoy the foray
Come back tomorrow for another day