

UNION  
MEETING  
HALL

# FUMH 2022 RECAP NEWSLETTER

## WORDS OF THANKS FROM THE FUMH BOARD

When the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall was formed in 2019, we never could have imagined how far we would come by the end of 2022. During the pandemic we had to pause offering programming and events to our community. Instead, we dug in our heels and focused our time and effort on fundraising. Fast forward to the end of 2022 and, thanks to the support of philanthropic donors and grantors, we have raised \$670,000 for the rehabilitation of the Union Meeting Hall! We are extremely grateful for the generous support of all the donors who have donated to support our fundraising efforts.

As the FUMH continues to raise money for the building rehabilitation, we have also been working with the Programming Committee to build a calendar of events and programming for our community in 2023. We have had the pleasure to form partnerships with local organizations to help us achieve this goal, including the FCS PTO, the Ferrisburgh Central School and the Bixby Library, and look forward to working with more organizations in the future. We are also exploring various funding and grant opportunities to bring additional programming opportunities to community members of all ages.

We would like to extend many thanks to Clark Hinsdale and Charlie Langworthy for being part of the Executive Campaign Committee, supporting the FUMH Board with fundraising and researching historical documents to identify living descendants of the original founders; the Ferrisburgh Building and Maintenance Committee for working with us hand in hand on planning and executing rehabilitation projects; Rick Kerschner and Jean Richardson for their help and input with grant work and applications; and last but certainly not least, the Ferrisburgh Select Board for supporting and believing in our organization from the beginning. Without the support of these wonderful volunteers, our dream of saving this historic building would never have become a reality.

Sincerely,

Ashley LaFlam, President

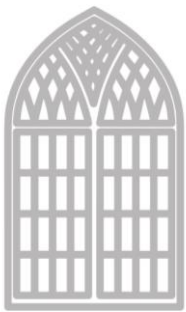
Kate Yarbrough, Vice President

Mary Neffinger, Treasurer/Secretary

Kristen Kuhns, Board Member

Lindsey Brown, Board Member





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## CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ALLOCATED TO SUPPORT THE FUMH!

The Friends of the Union Meeting are honored to be selected by Senator Patrick Leahy to receive a matching grant in the amount of \$250,000 to support rehabilitation projects at the Union Meeting Hall. Funding was obtained by Senator Leahy as one of his Congressionally Directed Spending requests in the fiscal year 2022 Omnibus Appropriations bill. Senator Leahy secured more than \$167 million in funding for specific projects across Vermont in the bill.



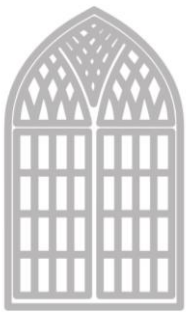
## 2022 Events

In 2022 we hosted a number of events for our community including our annual three-day “Taste of Summer” event, with vendors graciously donating a portion of their proceeds to our efforts and a UMH history lesson and popsicle treat with Ferrisburgh Central School students. We also hosted Ferrisburgh Day celebrations supporting local artists and guest organizations, including the Bixby Library and the Ferrisburgh Trails Committee. The FUMH also teamed up with the FCS PTO to host their annual trick-or-treat event “Monster Mash” as well as their “Make and Take” craft event for FCS students and their families. Our annual Thankful Tree display is back and better than ever, with messages of thanks from FCS students displayed on the Town Green.

Friends of the Union Meeting Hall

P.O. Box 115 Ferrisburgh, VT 05456 | unionmeetinghall@gmail.com | unionmeetinghall.org





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## SECOND EXIT, WINDOW WORK AND FUTURE PROJECTS

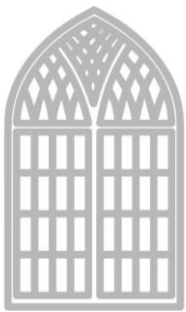
Fall 2022 kicked off with two major rehabilitation projects at the Union Meeting Hall. The first is the addition of a permanent ADA compliant second exit/entrance. Although the Town has installed a temporary ADA ramp, entry through the historic front doors is challenging as they are not wide enough for a wheelchair, which limits our ability to provide inclusive community programming. The addition of the new second entrance/exit will also allow us to increase the capacity of the building while also enabling the FUMH to host larger events, serving even more members of the community. In addition to private philanthropic support this project is supported in part by the Vermont Arts Council and the State of Vermont as well as the Walter Cerf Community Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation

The second project is the removal and restorations of the original 181-year-old windows. In addition, any rot on the exterior trim will be removed and painted and any damaged interior window stops will be repaired. Once the windows are replaced customer storm windows will be ordered and installed to protect the windows from the elements. This project was supported in part by the MK Taylor Foundation, The Millstone Foundation and private philanthropic support

Before any new rehabilitation projects begin, they must go through a review process with the National Park Service to ensure adherence to historic rehabilitation standards, which can take 4 months or more. 2023 projects will include structural repair of the rotted roof trusses, replacement of the failing metal snowbelt, repointing the historic chimneys and replacing any compromised slate roof tiles.

To learn more about planned restoration projects and proposed work timelines visit [unionmeetinghall.org/donate](http://unionmeetinghall.org/donate) and scroll down to our “UMH Facilities Plan.”





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## HOEHL MATCH CHALLENGE

*We are inching closer to our \$50,000 goal!*

Thanks to our generous community members the Friends of the Union Meeting Hall are well on our way to matching the \$50,000 donation made by the Hoehl Family Foundation. With each donation we get closer to fully matching our estimated Facilities Plan for rehabilitation projects, with just over \$30,000 left to raise. Donations will support various projects including structural repairs, safety code compliance, and updates to the electrical and mechanical systems.

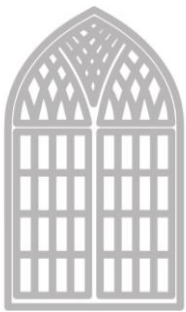
To support our efforts, we invite you to make a tax-deductible donation via credit/debit card by visiting [unionmeetinghall.org/donate](http://unionmeetinghall.org/donate). Checks may also be mailed to PO Box 115 Ferrisburgh, VT 05456 payable to "Friends of the Union Meeting Hall."



## PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

We are currently recruiting for the FUMH Programming Committee. The Committee, in partnership with the FUMH Board, has been working to form relationships with local artists and organizations in order to begin offering additional programming and event opportunities for community members of all ages. Their next meeting will be in January. Members generally meet one to two times a month in the mornings. If you are interested in joining the committee or are interested in partnering with the FUMH to offer programming or events, please contact us at [unionmeetinghall@gmail.com](mailto:unionmeetinghall@gmail.com).





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## WELCOME TO THE FUMH BOARD LINDSEY BROWN

Lindsey was raised in Mississippi with a love for historic buildings and a passion to support and uplift her community. She went on to study marketing and fell in love with photography, crafting and event planning. In 2005, Lindsey moved to New Jersey and began a career in construction project management, bookkeeping and real estate. Moving to Vermont in 2017, she was presented with the opportunity to pursue one of her passions, restoring historic buildings at a company where she also served as the project manager and bookkeeper. Lindsey now works as the Plan Administrator for the IBEW Local 300 Benefit Funds, giving her the opportunity to once again support people in her community. She also serves as the Secretary for the FCS PTO and enjoys living in an 1840's farmhouse in Ferrisburgh with her husband and 4 children.

## DESCENDANT OUTREACH

When the Union Meeting Society was originally formed in 1837, nineteen families came together and pooled their resources in order to build a shared worshipping space. Today, Friends of the Union Meeting Hall volunteer Clark Hinsdale is working to identify and make contact with living descendants of the original founders. Clark, a descendant of a founder, has been doing research through historical archival documents and genealogy databases. Founding members included:

*Collins and Phoebe Odel/Aurilia Cunningham; Ebenezer Burr Beach and Mary Butler Owen; Joseph Birkett and Mary Beers; Noah Wright Porter and Plooy Mary Panghorn; Ira Tupper and Polly Wilcox; Luther Carpenter and Lydia Ann Davis; Zuriel Walker and Mary Ann Johnson; Benjamin Ferris and Mary Polly Sherman; Henry Rogers and Susan Martin; Warren Bard and Mary Jane Webster; Nathan L. Keese and Ruth Rogers; Ethan Burroughs and Miranda Finney; Alonzo Kimball and Mary Ann Haight; George Guy Field and Sylvenia Walker; Asa Hawkins and Betsey Patch/Charlotte Palmer/Betsey Morgan; Thomas Marsh and Charlotte Huntington; Jonathan Cram and Fanny Tupper; Lewis Hurlburt and Philomelia S. Fuller; Deacon James Adams and Olive Champion.*

If you would like to learn more about Clark's efforts, believe you may be a descendant of an original founder or have information on identifying a living descendants we'd love to hear from you! You can contact Clark directly at [cshinsdale@gmavt.net](mailto:cshinsdale@gmavt.net).

