



## The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ



### Purpose (from the Gospel of Matthew):

*To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves*

### Vision:

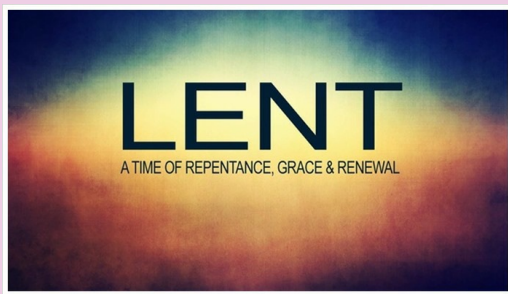
*United in Christ's love, a just world for all*

### Mission:

*United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all*

Weekly E-News Winter "

February 18, 2021



## *Message from the Conference*

This week on the Conference Clergy Zoom call, several interesting questions came up of how to be the church during this Pandemic. One pastor asked; Can you do a baptism on Zoom? He has an adult in his church who would like to be baptized, but how do you handle the water? Laying on of hands? Having the community present so that they can pledge their support? The group offered several suggestions.

Another pastor said that I have someone from Louisiana who has been regularly attending our virtual services, and now she says she would like to join the church. On the one hand, I am thrilled, but on the other hand I don't know how this is going to work when we return to in person worship in our building. Should I be encouraging her instead to find a local church of her own? Various pastors weighed in on that question. Then another pastor said that they had someone who was regularly coming to their worship and coffee hour from out of state, but she wondered, how is this going to work when we go back to having coffee hour in person in our building? Should we be setting up a screen in coffee hour for those who can't be there physically? No one seemed quite sure how to handle that.

Finally, another pastor asked about whether it would be a good idea to have their installation on Zoom. We have several pastors who have started in their churches since the Pandemic began, and an installation is often a real high point emotionally of the first year, but how do you do that when you can't gather in person? Someone suggested that maybe a few churches could collaborate to do a virtual installation, with in person installations to follow in each church. There is so much to think and pray about this Lent!

So as your church deals with issues during this Pandemic, please know that you are not alone! And as your church wades through issues like these, and other issues that are completely different, please know that Lynn and I and Jackie and Elise in your Conference office are always available to talk, and are actively seeking out with you the ways we can all be church into the future. May we do so with hope and courage, to the glory of God.

Faithfully yours,  
Paul



## 226th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference **REGISTRATION OPEN!!!**

[Find all the details and register HERE!!](#)

We absolutely cannot wait to see you!

Also, if you or someone you know is a youth who identifies as BIOPOC and/or LGBTQ and would like to take part in a panel at Annual Meeting, please get in touch with [Rev. Elisa Lucozzi](#).

She would love to speak with you!

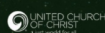
### **COVID Care Kits make UCC National Facebook Page!**

East Arlingtons own Kathy Clark has made the UCC Facebook page with her COVID Care Kits! The pastor of Federated Church of East Arlington heard there were some grants available to help their neighbors through the pandemic. In order to serve vulnerable adults 65+ and those with disabilities, they created \$10,000 worth of "Covid Community Support Kits" that can be picked up at a no-touch drive-thru. You can watch the video [here!](#)



## **CELEBRATE AFRICAN DESCENDED PEOPLE**

During Black History Month



**Black History Month and the UCC:**

## Looking back while moving forward

"It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten." That African proverb is summed up by the word "Sankofa." It is also a tip about Black History Month from the United Church of Christ. Using the theme "Celebrate African Descended People," the UCC is pointing to online resources for the annual February focus. The web links lift up the genius of African Americans today and throughout history — and their struggles, too.

You can read more [here!](#)



### Welcome to the UCC, Adelaide!

Adelaide Frances Merriam

Daughter of Pastor James Merriam and his wife Kendall Lambert

Born January 29, 2021

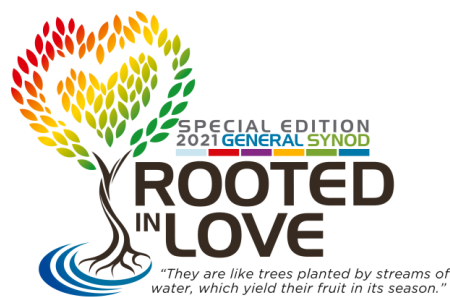
7lbs 6oz, 21 inches long

She loves sleeping, eating, and snuggling.

The dog is also adjusting well.

## GENERAL SYNOD 2021

Since 1957, when the first "uniting" General Synod gathered in 1957 in Cleveland, Ohio, to the meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 2019, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ has faithfully convened a meeting every two years in physical locations throughout the United States.



2021 will be different. We are moving through a pandemic that has taken many lives. This pandemic has disrupted our routines and many of our well-established practices as we adapt to the new demands for safety and social distancing. The meeting of the General Synod is no different, and the 2021 gathering of the General Synod will take place entirely online.

[You can find all the information you need here!!!](#)



### Spring Boundary Training Opportunities

Leave-Taking Boundaries

Thursday, March 11th, 9 am to 1 pm

Via Zoom

Facilitated by the Reverend Peter Ilgenfritz

Registration Fee: \$25

## The Foundations of Understanding Boundaries

*(This is the basic/initial boundary training and should be taken before engaging in other boundary training opportunities.)*

Saturday, May 1st, 9 am to 1 pm

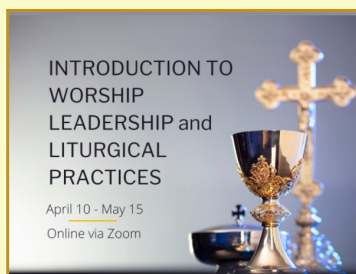
Via Zoom

Facilitated by the Reverend Gordon Rankin

Registration Fee: \$25

To register for either of these Boundary Training opportunities, please send an email to: [events@nhcucc.org](mailto:events@nhcucc.org). Instructions for making the registration payment will be provided.

## United Church of Christ Musicians Association (UCCMA) All-Virtual Conference this Year *Brave New World - July 2021*



### Introduction to Worship Leadership and Liturgical Practices

The Pennsylvania Academy of Ministry at Lancaster Theological Seminary is delighted to offer a new, six class series: **Introduction to Worship Leadership and Liturgical Practices**.

Taught by the Rev. Dr. Marty Kuchma, this class will prepare worship leaders to **plan, prepare, and practice** congregational worship, rites, and rituals, especially **baptisms, weddings, and funerals/memorial services**.

The six-week online class runs from **Saturday, April 10 through Saturday, May 15**. Five of the classes meet Saturdays from 10:00 am until noon. One class will be held on Thursday, May 6 from 6:00-8:00 pm.

You can find out more and register [here!](#)

**Beverly Anderson**

Beverly Anderson went into surgery last week. She is now doing better and back at home recovering.

Thank you so much for all of your prayers!

She is the retired Pastor of Sherburne United Church of Christ in Killington as well as Bridgewater Congregational Church, UCC.



## [Resources for resilience support clergy through COVID-19](#)

It's been almost a year since COVID-19 irrevocably changed United Church of Christ churches.

Members have become ill. Many never recovered. Countless buildings remain closed—some reopening, only to shut down again.

Congregations worship and gather virtually. Clergy have to find ways to cope and carry on. As Americans line up for vaccinations, health experts warn against darker days ahead.

Eleven months of uncertainty. The pandemic is taking an emotional toll on mental health and ministers are not immune.

Continue reading [here](#).

## **EVENTS AROUND THE CONFERENCE**

(Please let us know what your Congregation is up to by sending an email to

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

You may just see yourself or someone you love in the eKit or our Facebook page!)



[Summer Outdoor Ministry Camps](#)

Registration is OPEN!  
**Going into 5th – 8th in the fall?  
@ the Lake for 2021 is changing to ... VT Takes a Hike to the Mtn  
July 18-24, 2021**

Join Laurie Chipman (VT) and Diane Tinkham (NH) as they co-dean this fun week. Come see some familiar faces from @ the Lake and explore all the fun on top of Pine Mtn outside of Gorham, NH at Horton Center Camp!

VT @ the Lake is taking a hiatus from the lake at Rock Point and hiking to the Mountain! Come unite with middle schoolers from the Green and White Mountains (VT & NH).

God's spirit will be in all we do at camp this week as we hike, rock climb, go caving, pray, sing, arts and crafts, and discover our own courage through games, challenges, and much more!

*Three camps offered the week of July 18 :*

**[Information for Incoming 3rd, 4th, and 5th Graders!](#)**

**[Information for Incoming 5-8th Graders!](#)**

**[Information for Incoming 9th-12th Graders!](#)**

Like our *Vermont Outdoor Ministry UCC* Facebook page to help you connect more with God and camp before summer.

Recruiting counselors who are 18yrs or older. Email Laurie at **[lchipman@fccej.org](mailto:lchipman@fccej.org)** or **[find more information here!](#)** Due to COVID guidelines, more counselors are needed for 2021 summer!

## **To the Pastors and Voting Delegates for Annual Meeting:**

Over the past year the Board of Directors has been working on a revised set of Conference Bylaws. The major work was done by Dick Dale and Jeanne Zammataro. What arose out of the discussion was not a technical fix of a few lines, but an entirely different way to envision the work and ministry of the Conference. In order to give the proposed Bylaws the attention needed, the Board has decided to set aside a date in October for a special meeting. In this way, we can keep the focus of Annual Meeting on systemic issues of race and the intersection with other justice issues along with our keynote speaker, the Reverend Traci Blackmon. A small amendment to the current Bylaws is necessary to call a special meeting. The attached will be presented for a vote at Annual Meeting.

**[The Amendment can be found here.](#)**

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## **COVID-19 NEWS**

In light of: the growing number of Covid-19 infections in Vermont, increased hospitalizations, the onset of flu season, the potential spreading of the disease during holiday gatherings and the advice of our Governor and experts in infectious disease, we strongly urge that **worship not be held in person until criteria for safe in person**

gathers have been meet.

[For more info click here](#)

The Vermont Department of Health has provided new guidance specifically for Communities of Faith including holidays, services, and events. This includes (but is not limited to) precautions and actions for organizational leaders. It can be found [here](#).



## Need Extra Support During the Pandemic?

During these difficult times, could you use some emotional support and a listening ear? Are you looking for connections to community resources during the pandemic?

COVID Support VT is a statewide program offering free and confidential emotional support and connections to resources for anyone needing help. They offer a wide range of supports on their [website](#).

If you or someone you know could use some support coping with the pandemic, reach out to COVID Support VT. Call 2-1-1- to reach a Support Counselor. You can also access their [self-care tips and resources flyer](#), [daily stress management plan](#) and their online [Weekly Wellness Groups](#).



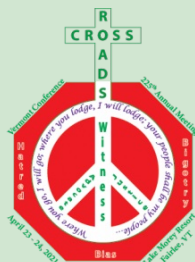
## UCC launches "Recovering Hope,"

### Emotional Care in COVID-19

[click here for more info](#)

## SAVE THE DATE!



### ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS!



The deadline for Annual Meeting resolutions is February 28th. Please put your resolution in the correct format and remember to number the lines. Resolutions should be submitted by email to both Lynn ([llbvct@gmail.com](mailto:llbvct@gmail.com)) and Board Chair, Doug Carter ([DCarter36@charter.net](mailto:DCarter36@charter.net)).

## The 50th Annual NEAUCE Conference!

The 50th Annual New England Association of United Church Educators Conference is Virtual this year! The Keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Gay Byron addressing "Racism in the Bible". You can find more information [here!](#)

New England Association of United Church Educators registration February 2021 auce-ucc.org	<b>SAVE THE DATE</b>
 <p>NEAUCE 2021 Tear down, Transform, <b>Transcend</b>, A Call To Action</p>	Friday <b>April 30</b> 6:30-9:00 pm & Saturday <b>May 1</b> 8:30am-1:30pm
	keynote Rev. Dr. Gay L. Byron  worship & plenary Rev. Dr. Jason Brian Santos  music Dan Brownell  workshop Rev. Suzi Townsley
<i>Virtual 50th Celebration!</i> Jeremiah 18:1-4 The Potter and the Clay	 AUCCE members \$50 non-AUCCE members \$55 Scholarship fee \$25

# RESOURCES FOR ONLINE MINISTRY!

Do you need help with getting your church services online?  
Find resources and help here:

[Click here for WorshipWell information and resources](#)

[Worship Resource Links for How to Live Stream- from the Southern New England Conference UCC](#)

[Free-Use, No-Licensing Music and Worship Materials here](#)

[Zoom Worship Laboratory Video Tutorial](#)

[How to prevent Zoom Bombing](#)

If you have additional resources to share please email the conference office at [VermontConference@gmail.com](mailto:VermontConference@gmail.com) !

## MISC. (But equally important!!!) NEWS!

### **New Deadline for eKit!**

Any information you would like to have in the eKit must be received by the **Tuesday prior to the eKits release by noon** at the latest! Please send any and all information to Elise at [vermontconference@gmail.com](mailto:vermontconference@gmail.com).

She looks forward to hearing from you!

### **North Dakota Conference Minister Keith Mills, 65, dies unexpectedly**

The Rev. Keith Mills, leader of the Northern Plains Conference of the United Church of Christ, died suddenly Monday, Feb. 1. He was 65. The unexpected death, of undetermined natural causes, occurred at his home near Streeter, N.D., said his wife, Denise Mills.



“His passion was for justice. He exhibited an inner strength and a fierce and dogged determinism for any soul beleaguered, ostracized or marginalized by those who wield power with malice. We saw him at Standing Rock fighting for indigenous rights, in D.C. fighting for immigrant rights, in Selma marching for racial equity.”

You can find the full article [here](#).



# Don't Forget!

Order your UCC Stewardship Theme materials.

Due to the increasing COVID-19 pandemic, the Vermont Conference Office will be closed beginning Monday, November 23rd, 2020. Staff will continue to work remotely.

Thank You for Your Support!

Our Churches Wider Mission Basic Support, Association Dues, and Friends of the Vermont Conference make this communication possible.

[Donate](#)

Connect with us



visit our website at <http://www.vtcucc.org/>