



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 Spring Edition

June 17, 2021

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Message from the Conference



There was quite a bit of “buzz” at our Conference Clergy Call this week about our upcoming Clergy Convocation! As one pastor said, it will be so wonderful to gather in person again! We are doing Convocation in a different location this year, at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, which has wonderful facilities and great food. And we will be doing it a little later than other years, from Monday afternoon Oct. 4th to Wed. Oct. 6th Lunch, as we listened to some pastors who said it would be easier for them to come if Convocation was not competing with their restarting of the church year.

Our speaker is Rev. Karen Rohr, who is the Director of the Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry at Pittsburgh Seminary (and a personal friend of Mark Blank, pastor in Bennington!) Our Convocation planning team had a chance to meet Karen via Zoom last week, and found her to be so wonderfully engaging. She will be leading us in conversation, and as always, there will be plenty of time for just being together and having fun and time to also just take a break from the normal routines of ministry. We should also be able to enjoy the first signs of foliage as we take our walks!

Please look for the brochure PDF in Ekit, and seek to register as soon as you can, as we do have a limited capacity for our group. There are also some singles or doubles-so make sure you sign up for whichever you prefer. I am really looking forward to it, and I hope you are too! (And if you are a lay person reading this-encourage your pastor to come-it will be good for them and for your congregation!)

With Thanksgiving,

Paul



New News!!!



2021 Clergy Convocation Registration is OPEN!!!

Monday, Oct 4th – Wednesday, Oct 6th
At The Craftsbury Outdoor Center
(****note the NEW location****)

**Theme: “Leaning Into Change When We Don’t Know
Where We Might Land”**

Just like riding a bike, when the roads ahead of our communities shift, we need to both turn and lean into the turn to keep our balance. In this post-Covid season, we know we need to turn, but knowing how and which way to lean is both essential and hard to imagine when we can’t see the path ahead. This convocation is about learning how to lean into a turn in community, discerning the path together and building the muscles and practices to stay balanced and agile in the face of turns.

You can currently register at **Early Bird** prices, however these will go up by the end of the summer.

Read 2021 Clergy Convocation brochure [here!!!](#)

REGISTER HERE!!!

Remembering Rev. Hal Harrison

"Our Sunday School at 2d CC, UCC, Hyde Park, was thriving w 30 kids on Sunday mornings in the mid 90s, but the teachers liked David Cook curriculum - easy to use, nice illustrations, etc. I was horrified when I got there to see this because of the conservative evangelical aspect. I called Hal. What to do? We set up a Saturday morning workshop in HP. By the end of the morning, Hal had demonstrated the ease and appropriateness of one of the new UCC or ecumenical curriculums. The teachers fell in love with it, fell in love with Hal. The Sunday School continued to thrive, but w much more theologically appropriate teaching. I thank God for you, dearly departed Hal! "

-Michael Caldwell

"In addition to being my main teacher for VAST, Hal always went out of his way to encouragement me. Classes were filled with both important information & interesting questions to ponder. Unsure of my direction, he reassured me that the way would become clear in God's time. So wise & true. He also presented the sermon at my installation as pastor at Tyson Congregational church. "

-Margo

Do you have a favorite story about Rev. Hal Harrison?

Though he may no longer be with us, we can still share his joy, wisdom, and inspiration.

We are looking for your fondest memories to share with the rest of the Vermont Conference to further the already enormous reach he had.

Please help us celebrate his remarkable life by sharing your story [here](#).



[How to attend Rev. Hal Harrison's Service](#)

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at First Congregational Church (UCC), Springfield, Vermont on Sunday, June 20 at 3 p.m. The service will also be livestreamed via

facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/fccuccspringfield/> It can also be accessed from the church website homepage at <https://fccuccspfdvt.org>.

You can also find driving directions [here](#).



[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!!!](#)

[Boundary Training 101!](#)

SAVE THE DATE: September 1st, 2021

The Vermont Conference will be offering an in-person boundary training on Wednesday, September 1st, during the day - details to follow.

Please note that all clergy - licensed and ordained - need regular Boundary Training, so Save the Date!



Peacemakers Pulpit- June 2021

Rev. Marjorie MacNeill

In mid-winter of 2019 and 2020, my daughter joined me in Arizona for wonderful birding and for visits to Arizona-Mexico border missions where we brought needed supplies

donated by Vermonters. We had to postpone travel this year but have kept up with changing situations/needs there, nevertheless.



We worshipped at The Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita AZ

(<https://thegoodshepherducc.org>) whose pastor/people have long been concerned about just treatment for those crossing the border. We brought supplies and generous donations from Vermont.

In Cochise County we visited a Presbyterian mission in Douglas AZ. In 2019, we brought supplies for their cross-border children's programs. By 2020, their focus was on families forced to wait for asylum in Mexico. We made a substantial donation from Vermont churches toward that outreach. This spring, Border Patrol was suddenly able to release large numbers of asylum seekers into Douglas where the whole town rallied in amazing ways to "welcome the stranger" and (<http://fronteradecristo.org>) shifted their focus once again.

In Tucson, the Casa Alitas Catholic Community Services shelter assisted hundreds of asylum seekers in 2019, reached across the border of necessity in 2020, but welcomed many this spring at their beautiful Tucson shelter. (<https://www.ccs-soaz.org>) We brought needed basic clothing in 2019, generous checks in 2020, and continue to support their efforts.

In 2020, Episcopalians, the UCC, and ELCA Lutherans – began Cruzando Fronteras (<https://fronteras.azdiocese.org>) at St. Andrews, Nogales AZ, to create safe shelter in Nogales MX for waiting asylum seekers. With your support, we provided backpacks, sleeping bags, clothing, and toiletries for their cross-border outreach. Now, the program assists folks from that

shelter who are finally allowed to join family here.

Political decisions created changing situations for asylum-seekers. Border programs have been adaptive as needs have shifted even since 2019. Support, education, and prayer are needed. AZ programs are grateful to Vermonters for our concern and long-distance help.



Jean Daley's Celebration of Life

Jean Daley's Celebration of Life will be at Malletts Bay UCC on Saturday, July 10th at 10 a.m.

We request that anyone who is not fully vaccinated to wear a mask.

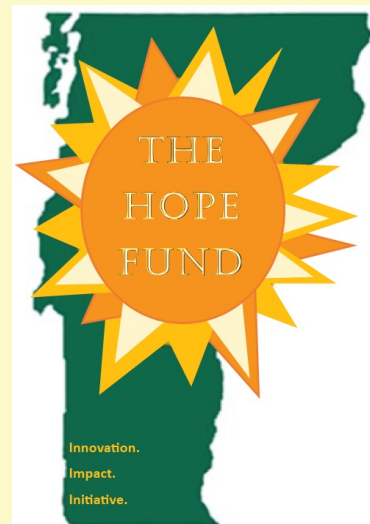
In 1978, Jean was a founding member of the new church start, Malletts Bay Congregational Church United Church of Christ in Colchester, VT and held numerous positions over the years.

You can read her full obituary [here](#).

Follow The Hope Fund!

The Hope Fund now has a live page on the Vermont Conference Website! It is a great place to find information about the Fund, as well as see what Churches within the Conference have done to make their communities a better place!

[You can read all about it here!](#)



Resources for The United Church of Christ World Refugee Day

June 20th, 2021

The world continues to face an increase in forced migration, with a

record 26 million refugees and 47 million internally displaced peoples in 2021. The UCC has a long history of supporting refugees and asylum seekers with many congregations serving as community sponsors for newly arriving refugees, accompanying asylum seekers and engaging in robust advocacy efforts.

Find resources [here!](#)

Resources Include:

Reflection on Lectionary Text
Call to Worship
Prayer of the People
World Refugee Day Events
Community Sponsorship
Advocacy

Seeking Church musician/music director for

North Pomfret Congregational Church, United Church of Christ



Music Director/church musician shall be responsible for organizing and directing church choirs and coordinating special music. Musician will also have the responsibility of providing the sources of music used in the worship services, working with the Minister in selecting the weekly music.

Send resumé and inquires to Npomfretcc@gmail.com or North Pomfret Church, PO Box 308, North Pomfret, VT 05053

Gorgeous FREE Pulpit!

Laurie Krooss (Minister of Second Congregational Church in Londonderry) was recently given a handmade pulpit. It is made of Aspen! Sadly, they do not have room in Londonderry for it, so she would love to pass it on to someone who can use it. She is also happy to assist with transporting it to its new home. If you or your church are interested in this marvelous piece, please contact Laurie [here!](#)





A Call to all Racial Justice and Environmental Justice Advocates:

Action on Line 3 Pipeline in Northern Minnesota

Recently, a group of activists in Minnesota, including both Indigenous and Faith Leaders, have put out a call for people of faith to join in opposing the Line 3 Pipeline that Enbridge Corp. is already in the process of building. This Pipeline is expected to carry tar sands oil across sacred Indigenous lands, as well as numerous bodies of water including the headwaters of the Mississippi. While we celebrate the cancelling of the Keystone XL Pipeline, it's time now to step up to oppose this equally destructive project. Both the Minnesota and National offices of Interfaith Power and Light are very much engaged with this issue, as is our own UCC Environmental Justice Ministries office.

They are eager for our support, so I encourage you to check out the materials with these links, and lift up your voice in faithful witness on behalf of our sacred Earth and our Indigenous brothers and sisters:

Interfaith Power and Light info, including suggested email to President Biden:

[Line 3 actions June 2021.pdf - Google Drive](#)

Article in the NYTimes Magazine by noted Indigenous writer Louise Erdrich:

[Opinion | Not Just Another Pipeline - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

Read the entire article [here!](#)

Service for Martin "Charlie" Hanley

Martin "Charlie" Hanley, father of Terry Hanley (former Assistant Pastor of the Federated Church of Castleton) passed into the next phase of his journey on May 8, 2021, some 15 years after receiving a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. His service will be held at Grace Congregational Church UCC in Rutland on Sunday, June 27th at 1:30 PM.

His full obituary can be found [here](#).



In Need of Your Prayers



Please continue praying for Marisa Laviola's brother who remains gravely ill.

Robin Hoag's son Matthew, just 22 years old, is being treated for Ewing's Sarcoma. This is a recurrence after a year of chemotherapy and radiation to the tumors in his pelvic/abdominal area , lungs, and bones. Robin is the Office Administrator for Second Congregational Church in Bennington.



EVENTS AROUND THE CONFERENCE

(Please let us know what your Congregation is up to by sending an email to VermontConference@gmail.com .

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



WANTED: PART-TIME OFFICE COORDINATOR

Greensboro United Church of Christ is seeking a multi-skilled individual to manage the office of a small, progressive, socially engaged church.

[You can find more information and apply here!](#)

Lunch Grants for your Summer Programs!!

The Department of Justice and Witness Ministries, through the Vermont Conference of the UCC, will again be giving grants for Summer Lunch operations. Please check with your local school district to find out what they already have planned. Please have your application in by June 10th. Applications can be mailed to Mary Lou DeCosta, 353 Prim Road, Colchester, VT 05446; or emailed to colchsummerlunch@aol.com.



[Fill out an application HERE!](#)

[The Racial Justice Task
Force Needs You!!](#)



"I joined this group because I've come to realize that all the issues of justice are interconnected, in the spirit of Traci Blackmon's keynote on Crossroads. My own passion is the environment, and you can't separate a healthy environment out from racial justice, since unhealthy environments have disproportionate impacts on

communities of color, causing immense suffering. In the group, I appreciate the way we've explored many facets of activism around this issue, ranging from self-examination and book study, to political witness, to community collaborations, and as an activist myself, I've gained insight into the ways these different forms of racial justice advocacy all work together." - Fred Taylor

You can learn more (including how to join!!!) [here!](#)

Mourning and prayers follow find of remains at Canada Indigenous school



United Church of Christ leaders are reaching out to colleagues at The **United Church of Canada** in prayer and support after the remains of hundreds of Indigenous children were found buried on the grounds of Canada's largest residential school.

Chief Rosanne Casimir of the Tk'emlups te Secwépemc First Nation said in a news release that the remains **were discovered last weekend** — at a school for Indigenous children taken from their families, run by the Roman Catholic Church — with the help of ground-penetrating radar.

[Continue Reading Here](#)



Outdoor Ministry Camp

Register online for a week at Horton Center this summer!

www.hortoncenter.org

Watch this! <https://youtu.be/rLZm8fzCV2Y>

Join us for... **VT Takes a Hike to the Mtn**

Deans: Laurie Chipman & Diane Tinkham

for those going into 5th – 8th in the fall

July 18-24, 2021

VT @ the Lake is taking a hiatus from the lake at Rock Point and hiking to the Mountain! Come join us up at Pine Mountain and unite with middle schoolers from the Green (VT) and White (NH) Mountains. God's spirit will be in all we do at camp this week as we hike, play, pray, sing, rock climb, do some arts and crafts, and discover our own courage through games, challenges, and much more!

We have 2 awesome counselors lined up so far!

Pastor Ed Sunday-Winters (Greensboro Congregational) & Jeffrey Tuper-Giles (Barre Congregational)!

These are two fun guys who have a big heart and a love for God, youth & nature!

Are you 18yrs or older? Love the outdoors and spending time helping young youth? Watch this one! <https://youtu.be/gecZ0v3BGZk> Then reach out to Laurie Chipman lchipman@fccej.org Counselors get a reduction in cost for their own child/youth to attend a camp this summer. No cost for counselors. Volunteering will be the most fun you've had in a real long time. You'll be exhausted every night and will sleep deep, breathing in the fresh mountain air, not to mention worship on Chapel Rock! Click on 'volunteer' on their website for more information. (College youth – this looks great on your resume!)



NEWS UPDATE from Horton Center

NOTE: We are ready to go for in-person camp this summer! However, if any camp session must be cancelled, you can get a full refund.

Check out the latest Camp COVID19 Info at: <https://hortoncenter.org/COVID>

IMPORTANT NOTICE of changes:

1. Our Spring Workdays Weekend will happen one week later than planned on the schedule. It will now be May 21-23. No registration needed but let us know if you're coming so we have enough food! No charge, donations welcome.
2. Open House will NOT be happening in-person after all, due to preparations for in-person camp sessions We will be doing a virtual Live Open House from camp June 19th so be on the lookout for how to attend from home!

ALSO if you're 18 or older you could:

- Be a Counselor for a week and change the lives of our young people at camp. Check out the [video](#) to find out why "We Need You!"
- Be part of the Summer Staff! Get more info and details [Here!](#)

Churches: We have provided two 'Virtual Bulletin Inserts' ([Come to your camp](#) and [Come to your camp2](#)) for you to add to your church e-news letter, your Sunday bulletin, or your Sunday worship videos to help us get more campers to camp!

See you on the mountain.

As always you can contact Tim Hughes with any questions at: thughes@nhucc.org or 603-545-9660.

COVID-19 NEWS



FEMA

COVID 19 FUNERAL ASSISTANCE

As part of the federal funds allocated for COVID relief, there are monies for funeral assistance for the families anyone who dies of COVID. The number of those filing a claim is much less than the number eligible, and because of privacy rules, the state can't just email a list of families. We need help getting word out there to clergy and funeral homes that this assistance is available, (and retroactive). Please share the attached document with anyone that seems appropriate to help raise awareness about this.

Please read more about this [here!](#)

Self-Care in a Pandemic



[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](#).

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?

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](#).



SAVE THE DATE!

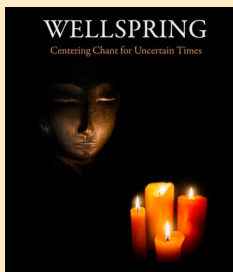
**UCCMA Conference 2021 -
Registration is now open!**

Join the UCCMA online for workshops, worship services, a wonderful concert, vendors and networking. We will be virtually hosted by the First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC in the historic town of Glastonbury, Connecticut. From Thursday evening through the Saturday 4 pm closing worship service, we provide a plethora of activities that will enhance your music skills and give you resources and ideas for new ways of expressing God's Spirit in these pandemic times. We also provide glimpses of the historic scenery around the church in Glastonbury, which you would have enjoyed if you had come in person as originally planned. Join us instead online for a mental reset and spiritual refreshment with a taste of Connecticut.



[Find out more and register HERE!](#)

RESOURCES FOR ONLINE MINISTRY!



WELLSPRING CHANTS are Published!

Kathy Wonson Eddy's collection of 25 chants has been published by Subito Music Corporation, just in time for when churches are making plans to gather in person!

You can order copies of WELLSPRING: Centering Chant for Uncertain Times for your church, choir, or for gifts at store.subitomusic.com (Type "Kathy Wonson Eddy" into the search bar.) The cost is \$13.95 each.

As you know, the chants may be heard on Kathy's website: kathywonsoneddy.com (click on "chant"), and these recordings may be used by churches for free.

**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 !



How to Contact Conference Staff

We are having some TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES with the email servers, so until further notice the only emails that are working at the conference are:

Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak llbvtc@gmail.com
Associate Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangree sangreepucc@gmail.com
Office Administrator: Elise Foster vermontconference@gmail.com
Ministries Coordinator: Rev. Jackie Lingelbach vtconmincoor@gmail.com
Bookkeeper: Tanya Frazier vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com

DEADLINE for E-Kit News must be received by **Tuesday of each week.**
Please send any and all information to Elise at vermontconference@gmail.com.

Thank You for Your Support!

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

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