



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 Autumn
Edition**

September 23, 2021

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Message from the Conference



Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

As I write this, I await the news of the birth of Hunter Foster O'Grady. Elise Foster, our Conference Office Administrator, is about to give birth to her daughter. Last week, Lydia Gleich Munn, daughter of Elizabeth Gleich, Associate Pastor in Middlebury and Elliott Munn, pastor of our church in Vergennes was born. Within the past 2-3 years, five babies have been born to clergy (plus Elise) in the Vermont Conference and there are rumors that a sixth might add to our numbers.

Within the past 3-5 years, eight of our pastors have retired and a few others have taken new calls elsewhere. Within the past 1-2 years, ten new pastors have been called to churches in our Conference and two more new pastors will soon join us. All of this has me thinking about new life and the cycle of endings and new beginnings that renew our faith and our lives. I am profoundly grateful for the pastors who have not only provided excellent leadership with their churches but also in the Conference.

There is also a loss, a grief when they are called to move on to other ventures. AND, the new pastors in our midst are bringing their energy, ideas, experiences and deep faith to our congregations and Conference. This is an exciting time to build on the firm foundation laid by long-term leaders and lean in with our new leaders to dream and act together facing into the future with hope. God is doing a new thing in our midst. May we be granted the grace to see!

In peace and hope,
Lynn



New News!!!

Special Meeting of the Vermont Conference

Saturday, November 13th
at 10:00 a.m.
on Zoom

At the last Board of Director's meeting, they approved the final draft of the proposed new VTC UCC Constitution and Bylaws.

This must be shared with your church clerk!!!

[Vermont Conference Bylaws \(revised\)](#)

You can find all supporting documentation on our website [here](#).

Supporting documentation:

[Bylaw Rationale Statement](#)

[Bylaw FAQ](#)

[Proposed Bylaws vs. Current Bylaws](#)

[Register Here!](#)

[\(YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND\)](#)



Together We THRIVE

[Fall 2021 Affinity Group Offerings](#)

Becoming More Racially Conscious: A Learning Journey for White Ministers

These cohort-based sessions create a trusting and confidential environment where white ministers can deepen their understanding of how race shows up at the personal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural levels and how they are called to recognize and interrupt racism within their congregations and beyond.

Tempered Resilience - How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change

Ask any leader and they will tell you that leading change is hard work. But the hardest part of all? It's the part that almost none of us expect. Find the flyer [here!](#)

Find more information on both of these groups [here!](#)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LYDIA!

Congratulations to Elliot and Elizabeth on the birth of their gorgeous daughter!

Lydia Gleich Munn was welcomed into the world



by her loving parents, Rev. Elizabeth Gleich and Rev. Elliot Munn on September 17th, 2021 at 8:01 pm weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz.

Elizabeth is the Associate Pastor of the Congregational Church of Middlebury. Elliot is the Pastor of Vergennes Congregational Church.

Let's Help the United Community Church!!

I'm reaching out on behalf of the congregation of the United Community Church of St. Johnsbury Vermont.



As best as anyone can tell, at about 3:30 in the morning of February 2nd 2021, a pipe burst above the kitchen area of our church's Fellowship Hall. Fortunately, a neighbor walking their dog heard the noise of running water and called the fire department. However, the damage was done. The floor was flooded, walls and ceilings in the kitchen were ruined, as well as some equipment and furniture.

At this point, the ceiling has been repaired, the kitchen walls still need to be replaced, and the floor needs to be repainted. Gradually the kitchen is being restored.

We, the church congregation, also realize that this is the best time to replace a very old stove. The Garland stove has served well but is now difficult to maintain because parts are virtually unavailable. Now, while the kitchen is still in the process of repair, is the time to replace the old stove. (Check out the photos of the kitchen area and stove above.)

[Read More Here!](#)



Reduce Harm, Create Hope: A Faith Introduction to Harm Reduction

In 2020, 93,000 people in the United States died from a drug overdose. It doesn't have to be this way. Much of the harm traditionally associated with drug use isn't because of the drugs themselves, but how we have decided to treat people who use drugs. Harm Reduction is a philosophy and a strategy firmly rooted in a belief in the fundamental dignity and worth of every person. While Harm Reduction isn't a religious practice, many of the underlying beliefs and commitments are deeply resonant with the foundational beliefs of the Christian tradition as well all major religions.

Join this training to learn more about how the values of Harm Reduction and faith traditions go hand in hand. You'll hear from expert practitioners as well as those whose lives have been saved and changed by this important work. This event is hosted by

[Register here!](#)

**The First Congregational Church of Walpole, NH
United Church of Christ**
Cordially Invites You
to the

**Installation of Our Pastor
The Reverend Richard E. Malmberg**

3 pm, Sunday, September 26, 2021
15 Washington Street, Walpole, NH 03608
RSVP – 603-756-4075 or Walpolechurch@Yahoo.com

Clergy are invited to robe and process wearing red stoles.

Anyone interested in participating in the mass choir, please contact us for details.

Only persons taking part in leading the service will be physically present in the sanctuary (including robed clergy and choir). Masks are required for everyone while inside the building. We want everyone to feel and be safe. We are grateful for your kind cooperation.

To attend the installation by Zoom, use the link below:

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87236977806?
pwd=YkxyK2FwY1oyTCt5cXYzREZwL1lxdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87236977806?pwd=YkxyK2FwY1oyTCt5cXYzREZwL1lxdz09)**



Shidaa Projects Inc.

with Special Guest

Akwaaba Ensemble

Present an afternoon of
West African Drumming & Dance
Celebrating Community & Diversity

Saturday September 25th from 3-5 pm

At the First Congregational Church of Berlin, 1808 Scott Hill Road
For more information email: shidaaprojects@gmail.com
call 498-5987 or find us on Facebook!

Bring Chairs or Blankets for this

**Free Outdoor
Performance!**



Rain Date: September 26th

3-5 pm



Thanks to

Our Sponsors:



This performance is supported in part by the Vermont Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Vermont Community Foundation.

One Man's View of Pacifism- Peacemakers Pulpit September, 2021

Rev. David E. L. Brown (ret.), observing the 60th anniversary of ordination



David Dellinger was a self-sacrificial pacifist; he was willing to suffer for his convictions by being convicted, going to jail upon occasion. He emphasized this part of his story by calling his autobiography, *From Yale to Jail*.

Most famously, he was jailed as one of the Chicago Seven.

Readers might like to know that David Dellinger lived his later years in Peacham, Vermont. He was a member of the Peacham Congregational Church. His memorial service in Montpelier's Peace Park in 2004 was attended by Just Peace Advocates of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ. He was a peace activist on the national stage with local connections.

Pacifism is both time-honored and timely. It has roots in the Bible and yet it may be applied to current issues such as non-violent activism in Israel/Palestine, or gun violence prevention in Vermont. We can learn from David Dellinger that pacifism and conflict are not mutually exclusive. It would be in error to dismiss pacifism as idealistic, too impractical for another look.

A parable is circulating on the Internet:

An old man says to his grandson,
“There’s a fight going on inside me. It’s terrible fight between two wolves. One is evil-
angry, violent, and greedy. The other is good- Peaceful, loving, and generous. These
two wolves are also fighting within you and every other person, too.”

After a moment, the boy asks, “Which wolf will win?”

The old man smiles.

“The one you feed.”

What would it take to make pacifism “the world we feed”?



The banner features a dark background with a red bar at the top right containing the Generis and Barna logos. A red bar in the center reads "BEGINS OCT 19TH". Below that, the text "Barna CoLab | Accelerating Generosity" is displayed in white, with "Barna" in a red box. Underneath, it says "A 6-Week Program to Grow Your Church's Impact by Inspiring Generosity". At the bottom, a red bar reads "EARLY BIRD PRICING ENDS SEPTEMBER 24TH".

Are you tired of seeing money limit your church's impact?
Do you want to better prepare your church for a healthy financial future?

Talking about church finances isn't always comfortable, but it is important.

That's why we created **Barna CoLab | Accelerating Generosity**, an interactive learning experience where we'll help you change the conversation around giving in your church.

Over the course of six weeks, we'll explore how to:

- Develop a data-driven perspective of your church's giving habits
- Establish and nurture a core team of givers to create stability
- Preach and communicate generosity in an effective way
- Activate non-givers to grow your opportunities for impact
- Instill a passion for generosity in younger generations to better prepare your church for a healthy financial future

Since this is a real-time, interactive experience (beginning October 19th), seating is limited.

If you'd like to participate, you can enroll in this 6-week program as an individual for just \$249 (\$199 early bird).

Or, you can participate with your team and get everyone on the same page for just \$399 (\$329 early bird). With this package, you can bring up to 5 people, plus \$49 for each additional person.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

Help Afghan
Refugees coming to



Vermont!

Vermont will likely receive close to 100 Afghan refugees, mostly in the Burlington Area to start but possibly in Middlebury/Barre and Rutland.

If churches express interest in helping with this effort, folks with housing to offer can contact Vermont Refugee Resettlement directly at vrrp@uscrvt.org.

Monetary contributions can be made to refugees.org and then scroll to Refugees and Immigrants in Vermont.



First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington

38 S. Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT –
the host site for *JUMP* and *Small Potatoes* is offering a:

PHONE IN FREE LEGAL CLINIC on Sundays Sept. 26, Oct. 17 and Nov. 21, 2021 Phone in from 1 to 3 pm

Volunteer Vermont attorneys will offer pro-bono **FREE** legal counsel to anyone in the community by phone – call: 802-862-5010

A Legal Clinic volunteer will check you in by phone and will arrange for one of our lawyers to call you back that afternoon.

We will be ready for your calls at 1:00pm - if you don't get thru – leave a message – we will call you back.

All LEGAL CONCERNS including Family Law.

All are welcome to access this service with any legal questions.
Confidentiality is (of course) guaranteed.

Questions? Want to learn more? Contact Communications Coordinator,
Lucy Samara at the First Congregational Church UCC of BTV:
Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org

2021 Clergy Convocation Registration is OPEN!

Monday, Oct 4th – Wednesday, Oct 6th
At The Craftsbury Outdoor Center

(**note the NEW location**)



Masks will be required indoors!!!

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.

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

The room block at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center has sold out.
If you hope to stay on campus, please [join the waitlist](#) when you register below.

YOU MUST BE VACCINATED TO ATTEND IN PERSON!!!
Due to this, we now have a *hybrid option*.

REGISTER HERE!!!



Matthew Hoag

It is with great sadness we report that after a long and valiant effort to conquer Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare and aggressive form of cancer, Matthew passed away Sept. 8th at Albany Medical Center surrounded by family. His passing was swift and relatively painless. He died with the same brave dignity that he lived. Matthew is the most amazing person we have ever known, and he will be missed by many. He was loved always and will continue to be loved forever... From his birth on May 8, 1999, Matthew David Asher Hoag brought a gentle sweetness, mild humor, great joy, and abundant love to our world.

His mother, Robin, is the Office Administrator for Second Congregational Church in Bennington.

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

In Need of Our Prayer

Please pray for for Sherry Baer's grandson, Lev who is undergoing treatment for a neural blastoma cancer. Lev is one year old. Please pray for him and his family. Sherry is the retired pastor of the United Church of Northfield.



Please add Susanna and Michael Griefen your prayers. Michael is living with a progressive illness and this is a particularly bad time for them. Susanna is a retired Pastor who served Dummerston Congregational Church for many years.



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!



First Congregational of Burlington



Rev. Joshua Simon, Associate Pastor, First Cong., Essex Junction



College Street Congregational Church



Naomi aka Bob Driver of Williston Federated Church Rev. Paul Eyer

Burlington Pride 2021!!!!

First Congregational of Essex Junction paused to watch a proposal...



...As did Rev. Sally May of Malletts Bay



Spoiler Alert: He said "Yes!"





Rev. Sally May of Malletts Bay Congregational Church

Charlotte Congregational Church

First Congregational Church, Essex Junction



Rev. Kurt Herber letting everyone know with his tee shirt that "This Pastor Loves You"!



Members of the United Community Church, St. Johnsbury.

Be Aware!

There are many different scams currently circulating whether via email, text message, or phone call.



Here are some of the best tricks (courtesy of Yahoo.com) to make sure you are not scammed!

- Hang up immediately if you hear a recording when you answer the phone.
- Avoid picking up calls from unknown numbers, even if they appear to be local. (This can be applied to emails, as well. Make sure you check the return address to make sure matches the contact information you have even if it appears the sender is a pal, family member, coworker, etc.)
- Reporting spam text messages can help cut down on another major technological annoyance.

You can read more [here!](#)

Resources from the Justice Workshop from Annual Meeting Available Now!

Would you like some resources to help your congregation explore issues of climate change and climate justice? Fred Taylor from Justice and Witness Ministries, with the help of Pam Piper from Norwich UCC, have put together a set of resources - books, films, organizations to connect with, etc. These have been shared with participants from the Climate Justice workshop of this year's Annual Meeting, and are available now for anyone interested. Fred is also eager to assist any churches in the conference who are looking for guidance in starting or developing their ministry around environmental/climate justice issues.



Contact Fred at rtaylor@antioch.edu.



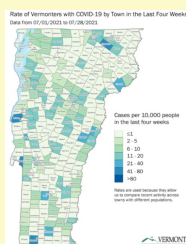
The Racial Justice Task Force Ongoing Work!

Next meeting: **Wednesday, Sept 29 at 3 pm via Zoom**

"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

To learn more (including how to join) click [here!](#)

VTC UCC Covid 19 Update



With respect to everyone the Vermont Conference holds dear, the Conference office will be reopening **Oct. 1, 2021** at the absolute earliest. We do understand that this may be disappointing to some, however our main goal is to make sure we play our part in maintaining the health and safety of all who look forward to stepping through our doors. We understand there are quite a few congregations in our conference struggling with what is best for their church. With that, we hope you find the next few articles as helpful as we did.

Nine VT Counties Enter CDC Masking Guidance

CDC Guidance for Those Fully Vaccinated

Covid-19 in Vermont Communities

HAL & BETTSY
KNEW THE JOYS & COSTS OF SEMINARY.

THEY MET AT ANDOVER NEWTON; WERE ORDAINED;
AND THEN MENTORED, COUNSELED & ENCOURAGED
GENERATIONS OF CLERGY.

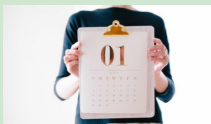


TO HONOR HAL & BETTSY,
WE ARE ESTABLISHING A FUND IN THEIR NAME
THROUGH THE VERMONT CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.

*"A scholarship in my parents' name... would be the height of immodesty.
And the family's great joy." - Jeremy Harrison*

ONCE FUNDED TO SIZE, THESE GIFTS WILL BE TRANSFERRED
TO ANDOVER NEWTON SEMINARY AT YALE
WITH THE INTENT OF FUNDING AN ENDOWED
HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP.

YOU MAY SEND GIFTS TO: HARRISON FUND
c/o VTCUCC, 36 NORTH MAIN STREET, RANDOLPH, VT 05060 OR WWW.VTCUCC.ORG



SAVE THE DATE!

New York School of Ministry

Fall 2021 Course Schedule

Fall Short Courses

Religious Fundraising – Past and Present

Rev. David Cleaver-Bartholomew, Ph.D., instructor Saturday, September 25, 2021:
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Continuing Education for Ministers, Stewardship Teams, and Everyone

“What does it mean to be both progressive and Christian?”

Rev. David Kaden, Ph.D., inst. Tuesday Evenings, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2021: 7:00 PM –
8:30 PM

Continuing Education for All. Registration Opens August 18.

[Register here!](#)



MESOM FALL 2021 CLASSES

Join the Maine School of Ministry this fall for continuing education classes on Zoom-

Two Courses Are Being Offered This Fall 2021 Semester and Registration is Now Open!

***Biblical Storytelling for Advent and Christmas
&
Christian Theology for the Twenty-First Century***

[Register Here!!!](#)



Copyright Concerns For Ministries

During these challenging times, ministries rely heavily on the virtual environment and various electronic

mediums to share the printed forms of inspiring poetry, quotes from prayer books and daily affirmations, as well as words from songs during worship and through other forms of ministry.

As a result, some ministries have been shocked to discover they are actually in violation of copyright infringement; join us as Heather Kimmell General Counsel, United Church of Christ, offers valuable information on how to help your ministry avoid this situation.

Join us on September 29th at 2:00 p.m. EST

[Click Here to Register!](#)

VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS

Christian Education Coordinator Needed

The United Church of Hinesburg is looking for a Christian



Education Coordinator to work 8 hours/week, mid-August 2021 to mid-June 2022 (42 weeks/336 hours). The CE Coordinator would be responsible for coordinating the Christian Education programs, facilitating the recruitment and training of Sunday School leaders, welcoming new families and assisting with Sunday School registration, and assisting with teaching classes when required. Hours include three Sunday mornings per month from 9:45-11:30am. The individual may work from home for the additional hours. \$16-\$18/hr. For a complete job description, go to: <https://www.ucofh.org/employment-opportunities.html>

If interested, send resume to unitedchurch@gmavt.net



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!](#)

Tunbridge Church seeks Church Musician!

Do you know anyone who plays piano? Organ? Keyboard? The Tunbridge Church seeks one or several people to provide Sunday and religious holiday and contemporary worship music. If you are interested in this paid position, please send a letter of interest to the tunbridgechurch@gmail.com.



Barre Congregational is looking for a Faith Formation Coordinator!!!

The role of the Faith Formation Coordinator (FFC) will be to build relationships with families with children in Central Vermont, both those who are members of the church, and those without a connection with the church. Out of the insights gained from those relationships, the FFC will resource program planning to serve families and promote Christian Education within Central Vermont.



[Click here for more information!](#)

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

First Congregational Church seeks a Director of Music!!!

We seek a creative and spirit-filled Music Director to lead a vibrant music program that contributes to the ministry and growth of our church. With a strong foundation in classical sacred music, our congregation now hopes to evolve our music program to include a greater diversity of musical expression. The successful applicant will be skilled at creating sacred space through music, cultivating the musical gifts of our congregation, inviting participation from the wider community, and collaborating as a full member of the ministerial team.



[Learn more or apply here!](#)

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 !

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 lbvtc@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.

Donate

Connect with us



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