



# 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 30, 2021**

## Table of Contents

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Message from the Conference | 4) Around the Conference |
| 2) New News!!!                 | 5) Save the Date!        |
| 3) Prayers                     | 6) VTCUCC Classifieds    |

## Message from the Conference

Recently, Methodist pastor and speaker Barbara Lemmel shared with me a story that sums up so well our current situation with Covid. She said that there was a scientific study in which three groups of people were to walk 25 miles. The first group was told from the beginning that they were to walk 25 miles. The second group was told that they were to walk 30 miles, but then after 25 they were told they could stop. And the third group was told that they were to walk 20 miles, but then when they reached that point, they were told to walk 5 more miles.

Now which group do you think was in the worst shape mentally when they reached the end of the 25 miles? Obviously, the third group, right? They got themselves mentally prepared to walk 20 miles, and reached the end of that walk feeling good about having done that after exerting themselves so much, and then they were told to walk 5 more miles! In some ways, that is how a lot of us feel about Covid. We got through last spring, so many of us got vaccinated, and many of us thought we were close to the end of our Covid journey. And then this fall, we have found that we and our congregations still need to deal with so many Covid issues, that we still have 5 more miles (at least) to walk. We have realized that we are not going to come to the "end" of Covid, but that we have to think together about how to live with Covid.

We need Hope! In this Ekit, you will see materials for pastors and delegates for our upcoming Conference special meeting on Saturday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM on Zoom. We will be voting on two different items: 1. A revision of our Conference bylaws, and 2. The establishment of a Hope Fund, for innovation, societal impact, and new ministry among us in the Vermont Conference. I will be speaking more to the Hope Fund vote in a future Ekit before the Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> vote, but encourage you to take a look at materials for both items, and to register yourself and others from your church for the meeting on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing you there!

Hopefully yours,

Paul

Rev. Paul Sangree, Associate Conference Minister  
Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ

[New News!!!](#)

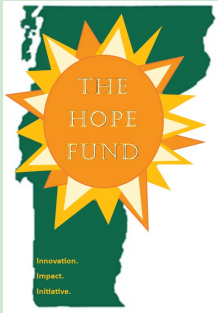
## Special Meeting of the Vermont Conference

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

For more information click [here](#).

[Register Here!](#)

*(YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND)*



### The HOPE FUND

The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ at their Conference meeting on Saturday, Nov. 13th will be voting on a resolution to establish and raise money for a HOPE fund to encourage innovation, societal impact and new ministry in our midst. As we continue to deal with the effects of this pandemic and look to the future of a post-pandemic world, our churches need help to imagine new ways to be the church in this new landscape.

[For documentation and more info click here](#)

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

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

[click here for article](#)



## WE ARE SEEKING YOUR VOICE AND OPINION!



The Racial Justice Taskforce of the VT UCC Conference is seeking your voice and opinion on matters of racial justice within the conference. This [anonymous survey](#) will help us to better understand the current experiences of those who participate in our congregations and provide information on how we can best move forward the work of racial justice.

We anticipate [this survey](#) taking about 15 minutes to complete.

## 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](mailto:rtaylor@antioch.edu).

## Love. Earth. Justice. A Multi-faith Service of Prayer, Celebration, and Resolve

Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light is sponsoring a multi-faith worship service this Sunday, Oct. 3 at 3 PM, available to Livestream. The sermon will be given by none other than our own Rev. Traci Blackmon. Other worship leaders include a variety of faith leaders and musicians that look like quite a rich and inspiring group. Here's the link for more information and registration.

[REGISTER HERE FOR LIVESTREAM!](#)

## Vermont Interfaith Action

*Transforming People and Communities*



### VIA Sixth Annual Statewide Convention

Everyone is welcome to attend VIA's statewide social justice gathering, which will be held in person at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, 43 Hebard Hill Rd, Randolph, on **Thurs, Oct. 7 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm**. We request that you be vaccinated and that you wear a mask indoors. The primary emphasis this year is to engage in a brief, focused, strategic visioning exercise around VIA's future. We will also hear reports about the accomplishments of our organizing committees on our issues, engage in one-to-one conversations with new friends, share a meal together, and worship together. There will be a virtual option available as well. For more information, contact Debbie, [debbie@viavt.org](mailto:debbie@viavt.org) or (802) 651-8889. Cost is \$20 per person, but no one will be turned away from lack of payment. To register in-person or virtually, please [register here](#).

### 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@uscrivt.org](mailto:vrrp@uscrivt.org).

Monetary contributions can be made to [refugees.org](#) and then scroll to Refugees and Immigrants in Vermont.

**Training for UCC Churches: Serving Afghan Refugee**  
A 90-minute presentation, ["Training for UCC Churches: Serving Afghan Refugees"](#) can be viewed at the UCC YouTube channel.

### Please Remember in Your Prayers

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 Hoag 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](#).

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](mailto:VermontConference@gmail.com) .

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



### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY HUNTER!**

Congratulations to Elise and George O'Grady on the birth of their gorgeous daughter! Hunter Deborah Dylan O'Grady was welcomed into the world by her loving parents, Elise Foster O'Grady and George O'Grady on September 24, 2021 at 12:33 am weighing 6 lbs. 5 oz.

Elise Foster O'Grady is our Administrative Assistant at the Vermont Conference.

### **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.



The First Congregational Church of Berlin is pleased to announce that Rev. Alison Young has been approved as our settled part-time pastor, beginning her tenure on October 1, 2021.

Pastor Alison holds a degree in A.B. English (cum laude) from Oberlin College (Ohio), and has full standing with the United Church of Christ, being ordained in 1993 after graduating from Andover Newton Theological School with a M. Div. (with Honors). She has served several New England churches as pastor or transitional minister, and has built a strong portfolio

of working with local communities and wider church organizations in her ministrations. Pastor Alison and her husband Denis have returned to Vermont in their retirement and will live in the Montpelier area until they complete plans to build their new home. The First Congregational Church of Berlin is inclusive, open and welcoming; Sunday worship is at 9:30 am every Sunday (in person or on Zoom). 1808 Scott Hill Road, Berlin, VT 802-229-0338

**The Champlain Association Fall Business Meeting is  
Sunday October 24 at 1 pm by Zoom  
contact Rev. Barbara Purinton at [revbarbarapurinton@gmail.com](mailto:revbarbarapurinton@gmail.com) for link**

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

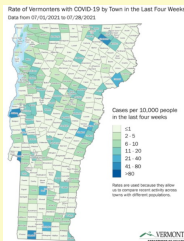


At this point, the ceiling has been repaired, the kitchen walls still need to be replaced, and the floor needs to be repainted. Gradually the kitchen is being restored.

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!](#)

## **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](http://WWW.VTCUCC.ORG)



**SAVE THE DATE!**



## Not-Your-Average Boundaries Training

NOVEMBER 17 & NOVEMBER 18  
(10:00 AM TO 12:30 PM CENTRAL BOTH DAYS)

Online via Zoom

\$75

[Register here](#)

LeaderWise's online boundaries training workshop is lively and interactive, full of reflection and conversation. This live online boundaries training is 5 total hours split over 2 consecutive days (2.5 hours each day). Following the first session, participants are asked to engage in a bit of reflection work in preparation for the second session. This online boundaries training will be conducted via secure Zoom video conferencing. This will cover level 1 and level 2.

# PRC - Practical Resources for Churches

## PRC's October Webinars

All webinars are recorded. Click the title to register or read the description.

### [Small Church Series: Rural Ministry](#)

**NEW DATE** Thursday, October 7, 2021

2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern

**Leader:** Allen T. Stanton

As rural America continues to undergo massive economic and demographic shifts, rural churches are uniquely positioned to provide community leadership. Leading a rural congregation requires a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing these communities, as well as a strong theological and community-focused identity. Allen T. Stanton describes how in establishing this identity, rural leaders build a meaningful and vital ministry.

### [Finding Intentional Community Online: The Story Of Queeranteen Camp](#)

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern

**Leaders:** Drew Stever, Hazel Salazar Davidson

The internet has a lot to offer - both good and bad. In the last couple decades, many communities have had to negotiate how they incorporate and leave out technology from their spaces. How can it enhance the experience? How can it take away? What many faith communities have forgotten is that faith is bigger than a building, or specific location. It expands beyond our own borders and meets us where we are at - whether we are in our bedroom, living room, or garage office, on our screens, in our hands, on our desks.

### [Getting and Keeping Talented, Engaged Volunteers](#)

Tuesday October 19, 2021

2:00 - 3:00 PM

**Leader -** Judy Urban

Learn about the challenges of getting volunteers to use their talents in your faith community and how you can create an effective system model. We'll cover ways to help people identify their gifts, collecting and using the data, and the importance of position descriptions for each ministry. Ms. Urban will outline an annual recruitment plan and suggest ways to involve the entire congregation in a celebration of ministries.

### [Narrative Budgets](#)

Thursday, Oct 21, 2021

2:00 - 3:00 PM

**Leader:** Cesie Delve Scheuermann

### [Sustaining Faith Online](#)

Thursday, October 28

2:00 - 3:00 PM

**Leader -** Natalie Perkins

Join us for strategies to help you sustain a consistent and life-giving presence online. We'll look at ways to simplify and target your online content, but we'll also be considering how to integrate your online work into your life and that of your community of faith.

### **FREE ONLINE TRAINING AND INFORMATION FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP.**

Church extends beyond any four walls. From human resources concerns to legal questions and property maintenance, Insurance Board offers a variety of resources to protect the church and its ministries. [Click here](#) for interactive webcasts that address a wide variety of topics essential to keeping churches and ministries safe; these trainings are led by industry experts from Insurance Board and its partners, including our denominational partners.

## VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS



### 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!](#)

## 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](mailto:unitedchurch@gmavt.net)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:Npomfretcc@gmail.com) or North Pomfret Church, PO Box 308, North Pomfret, VT 05053

## First Congregational Church, Burlington 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!](#)



## 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](mailto:Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org)**

## **RESOURCES FOR ONLINE MINISTRY!**

[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) !

**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!](#)



## 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](mailto:llbvtc@gmail.com)

Associate Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangree [sangreepucc@gmail.com](mailto:sangreepucc@gmail.com)

Office Administrator: Elise Foster [vermontconference@gmail.com](mailto:vermontconference@gmail.com)

Ministries Coordinator: Rev. Jackie Lingelbach [vtconmincoor@gmail.com](mailto:vtconmincoor@gmail.com)

Bookkeeper: Tanya Frazier [vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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/>