



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

November 11, 2021

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Message from the Conference

In the midst of our challenging times, let me share with you this week the Scripture that was once described to me as "Vermont's Psalm", Psalm 121:

"I look up to the mountains-where does my strength come from?
My strength comes from God, who made heaven, and earth, and mountains.
God won't let you stumble, your Guardian God won't fall asleep.
Not on your life! Israel's Guardian will never doze or sleep.
God's your Guardian, right at your side to protect you-
Shielding you from sunstroke, sheltering you from moonstroke.
God guards you from every evil, God guards your life.
God guards you when you leave and when you return,
God guards you now, God guards you always."
Amen.

Faithfully yours,
Paul

Latest News

LAST CHANCE

TO REGISTER FOR SPECIAL MEETING
THIS SATURDAY!!!

Special Meeting of the Vermont Conference

REGISTER HERE!



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](#)

Housing Crisis in Vermont: The Emergency Housing for the Homeless- Deadline (Dec. 31) is looming!



CALL TO ACTION

Please Call the Governor TODAY
802 828 3333

Right now advocates have taken to the State House steps to demand action and they need your help!

- ➔ Fully reinstate and extend the motel program through the winter, and for as long as the federal government will reimburse & until we can transition people to long term safe housing.
- ➔ End the 84 day benefit limit that is dangerous & outdated.
- ➔ Stop asking Vermonters to trade their shelter for money. If we have the resources, we should do both
- ➔ The Governor must create a cohesive and safe longer-term plan. He must provide notice to the public and to those experiencing homelessness that clearly explains their options and their rights.

Mon. Nov. 15

Press Conference in person at Christ Episcopal Church in Montpelier, time TBA

Global H.O.P.E. Volunteer Ministries Booster Grant

Application Deadline: November 17, 2021 at 08:00 PM EST

Dear Colleagues in Ministry to Young Adults,

An update on this fall's United Church of Christ Volunteer Ministries Booster Grant~ United Church of Christ Volunteer Ministries, a member of Wider Church Ministries' Global H.O.P.E. Team, is offering eight (8) one-time booster grants to revive Service-Learning ministries with Young Adults. This is a quick-moving application process, designed to award grants this fall for 2022-23 implementation by the grantees. Ideal applicants are pastors or UCC instrumentality leaders who want to launch young adult service fellowships in 2022-23 (campus ministry, humanitarian/service and justice, Outdoor Ministries organizations, for example).

The application link is here: <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/76950-United-Church-Of-Christ> and full information is below, under my signature.

If you are interested in applying and have questions, please join me for a casual Q&A webinar:
Booster Grant Q&A on Zoom
Wednesday November 10th
4 p.m.-5 p.m. Eastern, and as follows:
10 a.m.-11a.m. Hawaii
1 p.m. Pacific
2 p.m. Mountain
3 p.m. Central

RSVP to me for the link: LarssenE@ucc.org or email me any questions.
Due date is a firm 11/17, as this is quick-moving process.

Shalom,
Elena Larssen

The Rev. Elena Larssen (She/Hers)
Minister for Volunteer Engagement
Global H.O.P.E. – *Humanitarian. Opportunities. Progress. Empowerment.*
United Church of Christ, National Ministries
700 Prospect Ave East | Cleveland, OH 44115-1100
216.736.2162 | LarssenE@ucc.org | UCC.org

[2021 Volunteer Ministries Booster Grant Application](#)



Practical Resources for Churches has put out a plethora of resources for [Advent and Christmas!](#)

You can find them all [HERE!](#)

[Children's Ministry Post Vaccine](#)

November 18, 2021

2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern

Leaders: Elizabeth Christie, Brittany Sky McRay

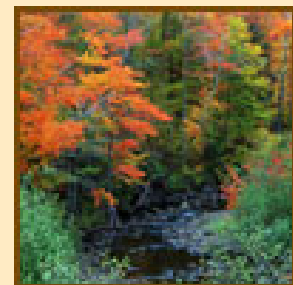
What will our children's ministry look like in the Spring and beyond? How can we continue to serve families who crave in person interaction and/or online ease? Join us to learn about current trends in curriculum, programming, and family support.

Elizabeth Christie has worked in children's and family ministries for over two decades, consulting with churches of all sizes and in many different settings. She is currently serving as the Director of Children and Family Ministries at Fritz United Methodist Church in Bethlehem, PA. In addition, she is a special education teacher and enjoys finding ways to make all ministries accessible and engaging for all.

Brittany Sky McRay is the Director of Children's and Family Ministries at Los Altos United Methodist Church. Formerly the Senior Editor for Children's Resources at the United Methodist Publishing House, Brittany is the author of several books including "Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook" and "Bible Basics Storybook."

Update from Fred Taylor, Environmental Justice Rep.

As we enter the dark times of November, with much news on the climate change front, I wanted to share these two resources that I think you'll find inspirational.



The first is a very moving speech that renowned naturalist/filmmaker David Attenborough gave at the first week of the COP 26 conference in Glasgow: [Sir David Attenborough address to world leaders at COP26 – speech in full - Bing video.](#)

The second is one of a series from Harvard Divinity School, with Terry Tempest

Williams interviewing a series of specialists in the environmental field. *Next Monday, Nov. 15, at 7 PM*, she will be interviewing noted environmental writer Elizabeth Kolbert - the conversation between the two should be phenomenal. Note that Pre-registration is required to view this online interview. [Weather Reports | Harvard Divinity School \(HDS\)](#)

ATTENTION CLERGY

To: All Authorized Ministers (ordained, licensed, commissioned) with standing in the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ

The 2021 Information Review is now available for your updates. The information review is a part of the covenantal responsibilities for all authorized clergy in the United Church of Christ and updating it helps the Conference and associations keep in contact with you and your ministerial needs.

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

Deadline Dec. 15th



Not-Your-Average Boundaries Training NOVEMBER 17 & NOVEMBER 18 (10:00 AM TO 12:30 PM CENTRAL BOTH DAYS)

Online via Zoom
\$75

Register

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.

STEWARDSHIP THEME MATERIALS 2021 "ROOTED IN LOVE"

[click here](#)

Looking for more Stewardship Resources: [click here](#)



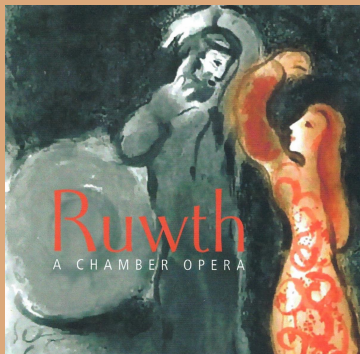
Please Remember in Your Prayers

Please keep our *Conference Minister Lynn Bunjak*, her spouse, Peg and their family in prayers as Peg continues to recover from emergency surgery.

It is with deep condolences that we share with you that our bookkeeper, *Tanya Frazier* lost her Mother early last week. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

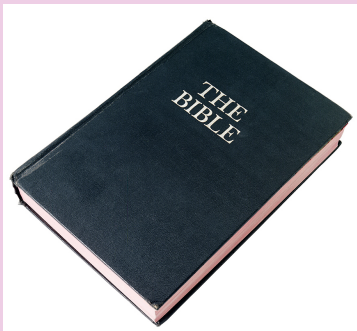
(Please let us know what your Congregation is up to by sending an email to



Live Re-Broadcast of Ruwth: A Chamber Opera by Lotta Suter and Rob Griffin

Please join us on Sunday afternoon November 14th at 4 pm for a Zoom re-broadcast of the premiere performance of Ruwth, a chamber opera with libretto by Lotta Suter and music by Rob Griffin. Premiered at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge MA in October 2014, Ruwth tells the biblical story of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz from the perspective of the community that must overcome their mistrust of foreigners and learn to welcome strangers from another land. Lotta and Rob will host the re-broadcast of the video recording of the premiere performance, directed by Mark Latham with soloists Maria Ferrante, Jayne West and Donald Wilkinson. The 90-minute Zoom event, offered jointly with FCCB, is free and open to all. Please contact Rob and Lotta at griffinsuter@hotmail.com to register and get the Zoom link for the event. For more information on Ruwth, see the article by Lotta Suter in this Corner Chronicle.

Don't forget to click below in your email to view the entire newsletter



Windam Congregational Church offering Hymnals/Bibles to a church/churches:

19 New Century Hymnals + 2 Musician Hymnals
12 Pilgrim Hymnals + 1 Musician Hymnal
31 Chalice Hymnals + 2 Musician Hymnals
21 NRSV Bibles Regular Print
26 NRSV Bibles Small Print, Brand New
Contact Virginia Crittenden at 802-874-4049 or email at gcrit@hotmail.com

Farewell, Welcome and Blessings

Pastoral Transitions since the 2021 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting

[For the most up to date information click here](#)



SAVE THE DATE!



TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR ONA AND NOT-YET ONA CHURCHES

This webinar explores how and why congregations can become ONA—in ways that do not divide, but unite the church. Applying the basic ONA principles of “graceful engagement” and “covenant,” ONA 101 has helped hundreds of congregations successfully navigate through an ONA process.

REGISTER

TAKE THE ONA SURVEY! HOW DOES YOUR CHURCH COMPARE?

Complete this survey, and see how your congregation compares with other ONA churches! If you answer “NO” to some of the questions, don’t worry! Your honest answer just means there are exciting

opportunities awaiting your church! Use our **Self-Evaluation Tool for ONA Churches** and other resources throughout our website to discover new ways to strengthen your ONA commitment! Our goal: a church that's 100% Open and Affirming! [click here for survey](#)

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.

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.

For pre-recorded video webinar click here
additional resource click here

The Massachusetts Convention of Congregationalist Ministers will be hosting its annual **Fall Book Seminar** on Monday, November 15th, 2021, via Zoom from 10 am to 12 pm. This year's featured speaker will be the author and translator **Dr. Sarah Ruden** who will be discussing her most recent work *The Gospels - a new translation*. Her work has received much popular coverage and numerous positive reviews in a variety of publications, including The New Yorker and Christian Science Monitor.

About the Speaker:

Sarah Ruden is an author of poetry, essays, translations of classic literature, and popular works on Biblical philology, religious criticism, and interpretation. She has translated a number of ancient literary works, among them Vergil's *Aeneid* and Augustine's *Confessions*, and is the author of *Paul Among the People: The Apostle Reinterpreted and Reimagined in His Own Time* and *The Face of Water: A Translator on Beauty and Meaning in the Bible*. She is a past recipient of the Guggenheim and Whiting awards. Formerly a scholar-in-residence at Yale Divinity School, she is currently a visiting researcher at the University of Pennsylvania.

About Us:

The Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers (MCCM) is the oldest professional body currently meeting in the United States. It has met almost continually since 1691 and gathers Trinitarian and Unitarian ministers and laypeople in Massachusetts and beyond. This event is free and open to the public. However, a small donation is suggested.

Registration is required. If you plan to attend, please register here:

<https://forms.gle/esj1tmfBAYHw861X6>

VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS

VT CONFERENCE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Christian Education:

Christian Education Coordinator- United Church of Hinesburg

Faith Formation Coordinator- Barre Congregational

Administration & Finance:

Office Coordinator- Greensboro UCC

Music & Other Lay Ministries:

Music Director - Bethany UCC, Montpelier

Music Director- North Pomfret Congregational

Church Musician- Tunbridge Church

Music Director- First Congregational, Burlington

Music Director- Charlotte Congregational Church

UCC | NEWS

[Signs, symbols abound at interfaith call for bold U.S. social programs](#)
[Join the Movement 'griot' will collect anti-racist stories from across the UCC](#)
[Report to the church from the United Church of Christ Board, October 2021](#)
[UCC will say goodbye to Church House and Amistad Chapel — online — on Dec. 4](#)

[For more news click here](#)

<https://frontline-faith.teachable.com/>

How to Contact Vermont Conference Staff

Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak llbvtc@gmail.com

Associate Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangree sangreepucc@gmail.com

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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 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/>