



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 Edition

March 10th, 2022

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Message from the Conference

To the Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference:

Like many of you, this week has brought renewed concern and alarm at several things unfolding in our world and our nation. The bombs continue to fall on Ukraine, killing, wounding and terrorizing the people who live there. The humanitarian crisis is enormous as neighboring countries open their borders to those seeking safety for their children and themselves. In at least three states the often life-saving gender affirming care for trans children and youth is under attack. In one state, a bill has been introduced that would require life in prison for any person, doctor, etc. who provided affirmation and care for these children and youth. These are just what is catching my heart and prayers and attention this week while the pandemic, racism, deep political divides and continued destruction of our planet are always present. It is so tempting to give in to despair and think there is nothing I can do about any of these things.

On Tuesday at the weekly clergy Zoom I asked the question: what gives you hope? There were many fine and faith-filled answers. Susie Webster-Toleno (pastor of Westminster West Church) said, "I have hope because my heart can still break." Oh yes. Being broken hearted happens when we love deeply, care deeply. As Susie writes: "It is the fragility of our hearts that leads to peacemaking. It is the tenderness of our hearts that brings forth compassion, and spurs us to feed our hungry neighbors, and protect the fragile environment, and courageously speak truth to power.

In this Sunday's gospel lesson, we hear God's cry of anguish on the lips of Jesus looking out over the city of Jerusalem. "Jerusalem. Jerusalem, how often I have I desired to to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing."

In these days of Lent, may we remember we follow a God whose love is so great she is willing to risk having her heart broken. May we risk having our hearts broken for the sake of all the hurting, broken people in God's world.

Joining you in hope and longing for peace,
Lynn



UCC officers share prayer for Ukraine

by [UCC Leadership](#) | published on Feb 24, 2022

“There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.” Proverbs 6:16-19

[Read more here](#)

Ukraine Emergency Appeal

Situation Report

On February 24, the Russian military attacked Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of persons have already sought refuge outside of Ukraine. Others have remained in the country but are displaced from their homes. The humanitarian crisis is accelerating in Ukraine and in neighboring countries as the violence escalates and the number of people on the move multiplies.

[Read More Here](#)

[**DONATE HERE**](#)

Helping Holy Joe's Café in Ukraine

This week, I had the opportunity to speak with Tom Jastermsky, founder of Holy Joe's Café. Holy Joe's was created in 2006 when Jastermsky learned of a chaplain who was paying to provide coffee to soldiers without reimbursement. He has been collecting donations ever since. “It's all about resiliency and helping to keep morale up... They give people coffee to chaplain to them in a real casual way.” said Jastermsky. He stated that many of his chaplains could currently be helping people in the Ukraine 24 hours a day for the need is so great. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

[**Read More Here!**](#)

Donate Here!



United Church of Christ
(UCC) Army Chaplain
Charlene Johnson-Sabedra!



Holy Joe's!



Chapel services in a tent!!

One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.



This year, national has put together all of the resources, activities, and inserts you can usually find, but this year they are also introducing a pre recorded sermon!!

Top 100 Giving Churches (Cont.) Based on 2020 per capita

Prisby Memorial-Three England Congregational Church Southport Springs, NY	Pacific Northwest Strain UCC, Redmond Riordan UCC, Hogeland UCC, Sedella, WA United Church of Christ-Cherryvale Place United-My Place UCC Northridge UCC Woodbridge UCC	Penn. Central Ireby UCC, PA East Haverhill UCC Christ Church UCC Easton UCC Eatonville UCC Harrison Park UCC Lancaster UCC Saint Pauls UCC West Salem PA	Pennsylvania-Southeast Glenstone United Church of Christ Glenstone PA Trinity Christian UCC Riverside PA United Church of Christ at Valley Forge Worce PA	Rocky Mountain First United Church of Ananda UCC Ananda, CO	Vista Grande Community UCC Colorado Springs, CO First NE Congregational UCC Fortran, CO South Central United Congregational Church of Lubbock Lubbock, TX	Southeast Covered Community Church UCC Birmingham, AL Peace Congregational Church Gainesville, FL Peace Hill Community Church UCC Birmingham, AL Southern Northwood UCC Merritt, NC Southern-New England Congregational Church Riverside, MA The First Church of Newton Newton, MA First Church of Christ Congregational, Blossbury, CT	Southeastern Highgate Congregational Church UCC Highgate, RI First Church of Christ New Haven, CT First Congregational UCC Verbalis, GA	First Congregational UCC Shawnee, GA Shawnee, GA Shawnee, GA Congregational Church of Harwell UCC Harwell, GA Highlander Congregational Church United Church of Christ Highland, GA Southwest United Church of Santa Fe UCC Santa Fe, NM Tennessee First Congregational Church of Newfane UCC Newfane, TN Wisconsin First Congregational UCC Burlington, WI First Congregational UCC Wausau, WI Finger UCC Finger, WI First Church UCC Oshkosh, WI United Church of Christ NE, Dodge, WI United Church of Christ Madison, WI United Church of Christ Madison, WI Congregational UCC Madison, WI First Congregational UCC Crosswaukee, WI First Congregational UCC Pell Lake, WI United Church of Christ Southwest	Top Giving Churches <small>(Based on total dollars)</small> First Church of Christ Congregational, Glastonbury Glastonbury, CT Southern New England Salem, MA First Congregational UCC Eatonville, WI Wisconsin First United Church of Ananda UCC Ananda, CO Rocky Mountain First Congregational UCC Barranco, WI Wisconsin United Congregational Church of Lubbock Lubbock, TX South Central First Congregational UCC Appleton, WI Wisconsin United Church of Santa Fe UCC Santa Fe, NM Southwest
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Congratulations to our own

First Congregational Church of
Newfane

for making the Top 100 OGHS
Churches for 2021 (based on per
capita)!!

Read about the other churches who
made the top 100 [here!](#)

Turning Tippers into Tithers!!!

IS YOUR CHURCH HAVING ANY FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES DURING THIS PANDEMIC TIME?

Would you like to know how to do Stewardship and talk about money as a church in a more effective way?

Then **SAVE THE DATE: On Saturday, May 21st**, **Paul Nickerson** will be offering his popular workshop, **“Turning Tippers into Tithers”** virtually from 9-2.

More information will be coming, but start recruiting a team of 3 lay people and your pastor to be part of it!

Welcome to the Table!

Celebrating 20 years of being Open and Affirming



April 22nd-23rd, 2022

The 227th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference

REGISTER HERE!!!!

The 227th Vermont Conference Annual Meeting is Virtual this year!

It will take place via Zoom April 22nd and 23rd and features Rev. Darrell Goodwin as our keynote and preacher.

Rev. Goodwin is the Executive Conference Minister for the Southern New England Conference.



Preacher, Teacher,
& Activist

**“God sees all of you, loves all of you,
and will withhold no good thing from
you. Walk in the TRUTH of how loved
and wonderfully created YOU are.”
~ Rev. Darrell Goodwin**

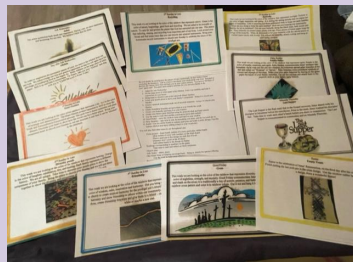
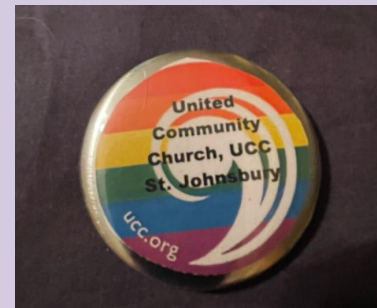
Fun on Ash Wednesday!



On Ash Wednesday, Rev. Scott Couper from Centre Congregational Church had his ashes ready to go right on the sidewalk!

Lent in a Bag!

United Community Church, UCC in St. Johnsbury distributed 100 lent bags to members and friends of the church!!



2022 Lenten and Easter Resources

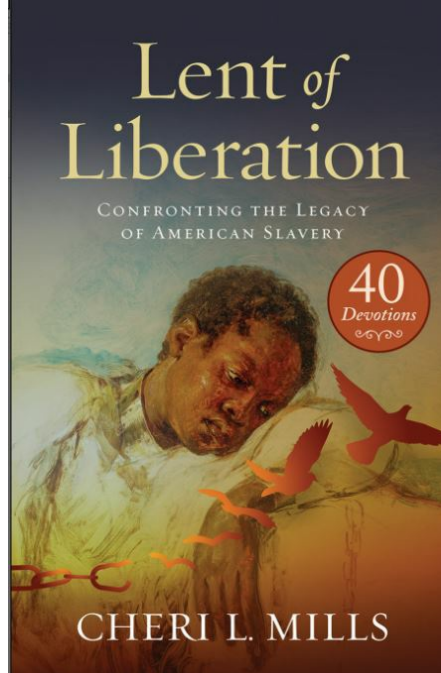
Lent of Liberation

Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery

[Grab a copy here!](#)


Pastors, preachers, and other faith leaders are invited to join us for an online bible study series in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Our guest presenter, Diana Butler Bass, will lead two sessions of study, reflection, and discussion of the lectionary texts and Holmes Camp & Retreat Center will facilitate a follow-up session for you and your peers to share ideas, resources, and conversation with each other while building a network of support for you and your ministry. Cost is \$50. Register at holmescamp.eventbrite.com.

Find Lent and Easter resources [here](#) from Practical Resources for Churches!!!



SERMON AND WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

AN ONLINE BIBLE STUDY SERIES WITH **DIANA BUTLER BASS**



ABOUT OUR PRESENTER

Diana Butler Bass is a popular speaker, inspiring preacher, and award winning Author. She holds a doctorate in religious studies from Duke University and is the author of eleven books. Her bylines include The New York Times, the Washington Post, Sojourners, and more. Her writing has received a number of awards, including two Wilbur Awards, the Illumination Book Award Silver medal, Books for a Better Life Award, Book of the Year of the Academy of Parish Clergy, the Frank S. and Elizabeth D. Brewer Prize for Church History, and Publishers Weekly's Best Religion Book of the Year. She and her husband live in Alexandria, Virginia, with their dog and their sometimes-successful back-yard garden.


ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Pastors, preachers, and other faith leaders are invited to join us for an online bible study series in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Our guest presenter, Diana Butler Bass, will lead two sessions of study, reflection, and discussion of the lectionary texts and Holmes Camp & Retreat Center will facilitate a follow-up session for you and your peers to share ideas, resources, and conversation with each other while building a network of support for you and your ministry. The Online Bible Studies with Diana Butler Bass will take place on March 9th and 16th at 2 PM. The follow-up session will be scheduled in consultation with all attendees during the last two weeks of March. Cost is \$50. Register at holmescamp.eventbrite.com. This program is offered by Holmes Camp & Retreat Center as part of our ongoing mission to provide professional development and continuing education to pastors, preachers, and lay-leaders. Please [sign up for our newsletter](#) to be kept informed of other professional support programs including Bible Study for Advent, Education Skills for Sunday School Teachers, Pastors' Retreats, and more.

ABOUT HOLMES

Holmes Camp & Retreat Center is a 550 acre camp and conference center located a short drive north of New York City. Holmes Camp hosts conferences and retreats year round in our three conference center buildings and three cabins. We host youth summer camp at one of our two seasonal summer camp facilities, while the second plays host to a number of summer camps from throughout the region. Holmes was founded by and continues to serve the local Presbyterian congregations, and is proud to also serve many other organizations who also do good in our world today.

Holmes Camp & Retreat Center is a ministry of the Presbyteries of Hudson River, Long Island, and New York City.





Lenten Resources with an Environmental and Indigenous/Racial Justice Focus

By Fred Taylor

I recently received notice of this intriguing looking set of resources for Lent from Janet Parker, a UCC Pastor from Oregon who has been working with Indigenous theologian and writer Randy Woodley and his Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice in Yamhill, OR. She describes these two resources as follows.

"The focus of this partnership right now is encouraging people to read and discuss his newest book, ***Becoming Rooted: One Hundred Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth***. It's a wonderful set of reflections that invite us to adopt a more Indigenous worldview and reconnect with the land and creatures around us. If you are interested in Randy's book, which some faith communities around Oregon are reading in the 100 days leading up to Earth Day, you can learn more about that and the whole EcoFaith/Eloheh project [here](#).

In addition, seven pastor/writers have put together a quite unusual Lenten devotional called, ***A Grounded Faith: Reconnecting with Creator and Creation in the Season of Lent***. It was written to be used as a companion resource to *Becoming Rooted* by Christians during Lent, but it CAN be used as a standalone resource. *It's unusual because it addresses white supremacy, destruction of Native American peoples, and ecological devastation head on, with attention to the classic themes of Lent AND an invitation to world-and-earth-healing practices*. And it's a great way to expose them to Randy's ideas and the beautiful Indigenous values and insights in his book even if they don't read it.

You can download a free preview of this book [here](#), and you can purchase the whole thing in downloadable electronic form for just \$3 from **Barclay Press**. Many churches are ordering the \$3 books to distribute to their congregations. The **print copy** costs \$12 for one but just \$9.00 if you order 10 or more. You can learn more about the devotional on the **[EcoFaith Recovery website](#)**."

I encourage you to check out the links to these two resources, as they look quite rich, for either individual or congregational study.



Please Remember in Your Prayers

Please pray for the friends and family of Betty Edson.

Please pray for Kathy Wonson Eddy, retired pastor of Bethany Church, Randolph and her husband, Bob, on the loss of Kathy's mother, Mary Sue Wonson who was 100 years old.

Please keep Rev. Paul Eyer, Pastor of Williston Federated Church and his wife Rev. Jackie Lingelbach in your prayers. Paul was diagnosed with Lymphoma and will be going through treatment in the next few weeks.

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!)

Farewell, Welcome and Blessings

Pastoral Transitions since the 2021 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting

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

On January 23, 2022 at an Ecclesiastical Council held by the Addison Association Abigail Diehl-Noble was approved for ordination.

On February 6, 2022 at an Ecclesiastical Council held by the Addison Association Andrea (Andi) Lloyd was approved for ordination pending call.

Celebrate!!

Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

March 13th
Kevin Goldenbogen

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!



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

Are you a Music Director?



FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH of Essex Junction
Love. Serve. Grow.

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, UCC, is seeking a part-time Music Director with a salary range of \$28-32k. Candidate should play both organ and piano and have choir directorial experience. For a complete job description and additional desired skills, please visit our website at www.fccej.org. If interested, please submit

resume and cover letter to welcome@fccej.org or mail to: FCCEJ, One Church Street, Essex Junction VT 05452.

The New York School of Ministry Spring 2022 Core Course Schedule



New Class Schedule for the New York School of Ministry is now available [HERE!!!](#)

Register at: <https://arena.nyucc.org/default.aspx?portal=4&page=3347>

A Warning from the Insurance Board!!



As we move into the heart of the winter season. Many churches are tempted to lower their thermostats to save on heating costs, *please be careful !!*

- Be sure to protect your property from Frozen Pipes!!!
- During these times of below normal temperatures make a habit of inspecting your buildings from attic to cellar on a regular basis.
- One day things may seem to be fine and the very next day you could have a broken pipe!
- Attached is a bulletin with tips and ideas about keeping your pipes from freezing.



SAVE THE DATE!

Basic Boundary Training to be Offered on March 26th

(This course is designed for those new to ministry and Boundary Awareness Training)

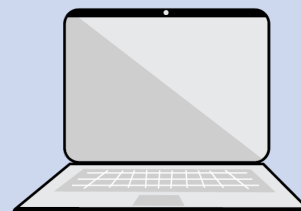
The Foundations of Understanding Boundaries

(A Basic Boundary Training Session) will be offered on Saturday
March 26, 2022, from 9 am to 1 pm, via Zoom.

This session will be facilitated by the Rev. Gordon Rankin and the Rev. Jonna Jensen.

Registration fee - \$25.

Save the Date: Registration to open soon!



Save the Date!!!

The Racial Justice Task Force is meeting this spring every fourth Wednesday of the month from 5 pm -6 pm via zoom. Mark your

calendars! If you are interested in joining the meeting and learning what is happening please email us to register. We invite you to join us in these ongoing efforts to combat racism and make the world a more just place!

March 23rd
April 27th
May 25th



Ethics of Helping - Boundaries and Relationships

Live Virtual Workshops:
May 19, 9am-4pm CDT

This workshop is designed to give individuals and organizations an opportunity to review common principles and standards for ethical practice that are relevant for their settings.

Some of the Topics Included:

- Confidentiality and Limits to Confidentiality
 - Helper and Client Boundaries
- An Ethical Decision-Making Process
 - Ethical Technology
- Cultural and Diversity Competence

[Learn More Here!](#)

[VIEW ALL WORKSHOPS HERE!!!](#)

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

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- North Pomfret Congregational

Church Musician- Tunbridge Church

Music Director- First Congregational, Burlington

Music Director- Charlotte Congregational Church

UCC | NEWS

UCC churches see reproductive justice as key ministry in 2022

UCC offers grants, check-ins, other tools to groups immersed in refugee resettlement

Greensboro, NC church takes in two refugee families

Deadline is Feb. 16 for consultants who want to assist in UCC executive search

[For more news click here](#)

[The Online Learning Platform of the United Church of Christ](#)

How to Contact Vermont Conference Staff

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 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/>