



# 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 24th, 2022

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## Message from the Conference

The Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ, will take place on April 22-23 by ZOOM. While we are disappointed not to be gathering in person, at the time a decision needed to be made Covid infections and hospitalizations were increasing, and we chose to offer a ZOOM Annual Meeting. Your staff, planning committee and Board of Directors are excited about our upcoming meeting. This year's theme is **Welcome to the Table! Celebrating 20 years of being Open and Affirming.**

Our Keynote presenter and preacher will be **Rev. Darrell Goodwin**. Darrell is a preacher, teacher and activist. He is also the Executive Conference Minister for the Southern New England Conference. You can learn more about Darrell by visiting his website: [www.darrellgoodwin.com](http://www.darrellgoodwin.com)

Your Annual Meeting Planning Committee has been hard at work shaping our time together. Expect moving and innovative worship and music. We will have the Peacemaker's Gathering on Friday afternoon. Keep checking with the Annual Meeting page at [Annual Meeting \(vtcucc.org\)](http://vtcucc.org). Workshops will be listed for your choices very soon.

As of today, all business of the Annual Meeting requiring a vote is posted on the Annual Meeting page.

I look forward to seeing you on April 22-23!

Lynn Bujnak

## Latest News

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

Welcome to the Table!  
Celebrating 20 years of being Open and Affirming



April 22nd-23rd, 2022  
The 227th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference

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.

## REGISTER HERE!!!!

“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



Preacher, Teacher,  
& Activist



### Drag Queen Story Hour at Annual Meeting!!!

Please help us welcome the incomparable  
Emoji Nightmare for Drag Queen Story  
Hour, Saturday April 23rd!!!

[Read all about it here!!!](#)

### Funding the Future of your Church

Saturday, May 21st, 2022, From 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Sponsored by  
the Vermont UCC Conference

Location: TBA

After two years of pandemic, many churches are challenged to fund  
their ministry and mission. Thi workshop will give you the tools to plan your future  
finances.



## Topics will include:

- Latest trends in giving
- How to develop a year-round process of stewardship
- How to customize asking for pledges
- Alternative streams of funding including, capital campaigns, use of buildings, etc.

Each church should bring a Team of a Pastor and at least three lay people.

Every Church will come away with an Action Plan and will receive 6 months of group coaching.

Cost- \$395/ church



### Global Ministries Co-Workers Available to Visit Conference Churches

John and Karen Campbell-Nelson have served for more than 30 years in West Timor, Indonesia. They are retiring at the end of this month, and we are fortunate that they are ending their service to **Global Ministries by offering presentations at our Annual Meeting on April 22 and 23, followed by a week of visiting churches throughout the Conference.** We are also fortunate that they have settled in Montpelier for the beginning of their retirement time. This is your chance to welcome your new neighbors and invite them to come to your church!

A variety of options are available. The Campbell-Nelsons are happy to share with your church their Annual Meeting Workshop - a power point program entitled "Surviving a Pandemic/Cyclone Double Whammy: Voices of Faith from West Timor, Indonesia". In the presentation, John and Karen offer a profile of the Evangelical Christian Church of Timor in eastern Indonesia in the voices of and photos chosen by its own members, a presentation that lifts up both challenges and sources of pride among church members. They will share some history of the region and their work there, and you'll learn how partnership is understood and lived out between Global Ministries and our partners.

John and Karen are also open to informal conversation about their time in Indonesia. And they will be available for preaching on Sunday, May 1. (First come, first served on that one!)

They are willing to visit in person or via zoom for day or evening gatherings.

Contact Kim McKerley at Bethany Church in Randolph to inquire about having John and Karen come to your church between April 25 and May 1. You can reach Kim at [kmbethanyucc@gmail.com](mailto:kmbethanyucc@gmail.com).

John and Karen come to us on behalf of Global Ministries. There is no financial obligation to the churches for their time with you. Of course, if you would like to make a

## How the United Church of Newport gave back on Pi Day!

On March 14th (Pi Day) teachers and staff at the Newport Elementary School received pies, muffins, quiches, and cookies in recognition of their extraordinary service in the face of pandemic challenges. Thirty five bakers from The United Church of Newport and St. Mark's Episcopal Church provided batches of goodies for all eighty teachers and staff, with the following message:

*"We see your dedication, We applaud your stamina. For two years you have not stopped caring for every student, adapting and pivoting each day, keeping children safe and learning while supporting parents and each other. We are deeply grateful for all you have done."*

**Thank you for inspiring us, United Church of Newport!!**



## **Support for Asylum Seekers at the Arizona Border**



While our focus and giving these days is necessarily centered on the needs of refugees fleeing Ukraine in Europe, support for asylum seekers on both sides of the US/Mexico border is still very much needed. My daughter, Catherine, and I will again visit three missions along the border in southeastern Arizona

the first week in April bring needed supplies to each

as we were privileged to do in 2019 and 2020 with your support.

If you are able - and after assisting Ukrainian refugees - please consider support of these ministries either online or by sending a contribution to:

Rev. Marjorie MacNeill  
71 Drew Lane  
Shelburne VT 05482

**Here are links to the border missions that we will - once again - be supporting on our trip this year:** [ccs-soaz.org](https://ccs-soaz.org) for their Casa Alitas shelter in Tucson, [fronteras.azdiocese.org](https://fronteras.azdiocese.org)

a cross-border effort/shelter in Nogales, Sonora, for those having to "wait in Mexico" before seeking asylum (supported by the Episcopal Diocese of AZ, the regional ELCA Lutheran church, and the Southwest Conference of the UCC) and the long-established cross-border ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Douglas AZ and Agua Prieta Mexico, [fronteradecristo.org](https://fronteradecristo.org).

**UCC officers share  
prayer for Ukraine**

“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

Table listing various churches and their locations across the United States, categorized by region (Pacific Northwest, South Central, Southeast, Northeast, Wisconsin, Southern New England, Pennsylvania Southeast, Rocky Mountain, Midwest, and South).

Top Giving Churches (Based on total dollars)
List of churches: First Church of Christ Congregational, Glastonbury, Southern New England; First Congregational UCC, Edin, CO; First United Church of Christ, Anceles, CO; First Congregational UCC, Boulder, CO; United Congregational Church of Lubbock, TX; First Congregational UCC, South Central; United Church of Christ, Santa Fe UCC, Southwest.

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!

Fun on Ash Wednesday!

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

on the sidewalk!

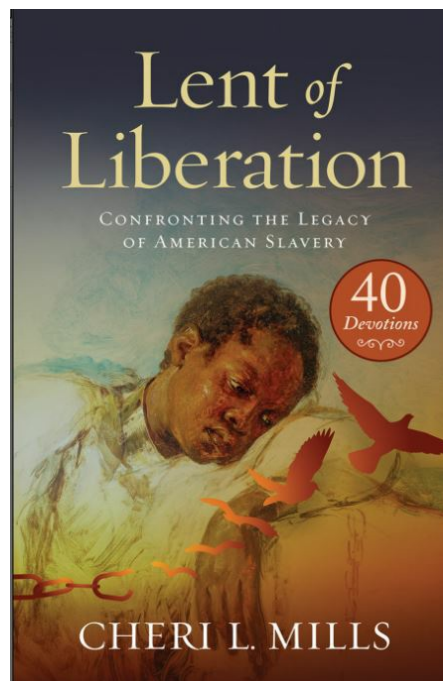


## 2022 Lenten and Easter Resources

### **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](http://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**

**HOLMES**

**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 by-lines 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](http://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](mailto: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 25th](#)

[Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!](#)

\*Katelyn Macrae\*  
\*Jeffrey Cornwell\*  
\*Kathy Eddy\*

March 26th  
\*Andi Lloyd\*



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



**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)

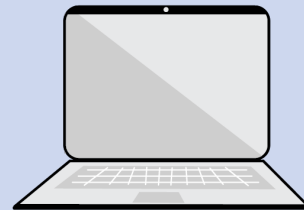
### The Foundations of Understanding Boundaries

(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



**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.

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## VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS

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## 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**

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# UCC | NEWS

**Final worship service helps church grieve and celebrate Cleveland building and chapel**

**General Synod 34 theme and logo affirmed by UCC Board**

**Two UCC churches take ‘Cool Congregations’ awards in 2022**

**In his 90th-birthday sermon, Andrew Young urges the world to ‘fear no evil’**

**General Synod Nominating Committee calling for candidates to serve on UCC Board**

**[For more news click here](#)**

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

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### **How to Contact Vermont Conference Staff**

Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak [ljbvtc@gmail.com](mailto:ljbvtc@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 [vermontconference@gmail.com](mailto:vermontconference@gmail.com).

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**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/>