



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

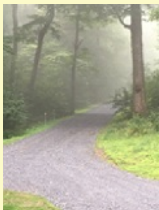
Weekly E-News Winter Edition

March 31st, 2022

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Message from the Conference



Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference:

This week I have found myself reflecting on the incivility that seems endemic to our contemporary society. In particular, I have been reflecting on my surprise (growing less each day) and bewildered shock at the hurtful things those who proudly proclaim themselves to be followers of Jesus the Christ feel free to say about other human beings.

My devotional time led me to these words about the "fruits of the spirit." -Galatians 5:22-23 (NRSV):

"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things."

When we meet someone who is in tune with the Divine, in tune with Love, we know it almost immediately. These gifts grow in us as we live our lives day by day, experience by experience in the presence of God. We certainly do not always live and act from this place, but more and more we know and see the small signs that our lives are being transformed, that we begin with even small steps to see others the way God sees them, as beloved children of God.

My prayer is that we will live into that image a little more each day. I really do believe "they will know we are Christian by our love."

With you on this Lenten journey,
Lynn

Latest News

ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT UNTIL ANNUAL MEETING!!!

ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT TO REGISTER!!!

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.

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**



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!!!



Workshop Announcement!

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) with Dr. Edith Guffey

"PFLAG is the first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies."



Terminology 101 with V from Outright VT!

V Pearson (they/them), Director of Organizing, at Outright Vermont-- the statewide LGBTQ+ youth serving organization whose mission is to build hope, equity, and power with LGBTQ+ youth across the state. They have a passion for building community, skill, and power with all folks who are seeking to make the world a better place.

Their studies in Philosophy and Feminist Liberation Theologies inform that passion. Cornel West's words guide them: "Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public." When not training youth and adults, organizing with youth, or planning school based change processes, they enjoy time with family, acting, and art of all types.

PEACEMAKERS GATHERING 2022

at Annual Meeting

Friday, April 22nd, at 4pm

Meeting via Zoom makes attendance possible for EVERYONE who has a story to tell! What kind of story? We want you to share about a project, program, initiative or action your church is involved in that increases peace with justice in our world. Have you recently been working on or learning about: climate change, global ministry, food insecurity, advocating for marginalized groups, housing issues, racial justice, gun violence or the violence of war, human trafficking, migrant or refugee ministries, or just bringing people together to promote peace and love in your community?

These are examples – the sky's the limit! Your brief presentation will inspire others to consider how they and their churches might get involved in some form of peacemaking.

We will also pay tribute to the late Betty Edson, advocate and activist for peace with justice who was the Peacemakers Gathering #1 cheerleader.

Please email [Theresa Lever](#) with your idea for a presentation!!!

Thank you!

Funding the Future of your Church: Tippers to Tithers Event

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. This 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

But the first 10 churches get a \$100 discount!!!

(Email VermontConference@gmail.com for more details)

REGISTER HERE!!!



John Lewis Speaks on The Every Child Deserves a Family Act

[Every Child Deserves a Family!](#)

My name is Amanda and I work with Family Equality, an organization advocating to end discrimination against LGBTQ+ parents and youth. We believe that faith leaders like yourself are key to winning the support of policymakers for our children and families.

We are asking you to sign on in support of the Every Child Deserves a Family Act. This Act promotes the best interests of all children in the foster care and adoption system by ending discrimination against LGBTQ+ and religious minority youth, foster parents, and families. By doing so, it increases the access of all children to affirming, loving and stable homes. Currently, LGBTQ+ parents are four times more likely to have our children removed by the state, simply due to discrimination. And, one in three foster children identify as LGBTQ+, but have much worse experience in care, with fewer family placements and higher rates of residential facility placement, homelessness, being trafficked, and aging out of care without a family. John Lewis was the lead sponsor of the Act for eight years and you can see a video of him speaking about it [here](#). You can read more about the bill [here](#).

Please join fellow faith leaders and sign on to our letter (which you can read here <https://fmeq.co/faith>) in support of the Every Child Deserves a Family Act here <https://forms.gle/mxkhNqk61VvQZUS29>>. We will provide the sign on letter to your Representative and Senators.

Youth Minister, Star Island United Church of Christ



The Star Island United Church of Christ (SIUCC) Board of Directors seeks a Youth Minister to lead the Star Gathering Youth Conference during the week of July 31st-August 7th, 2022. Star Island, off the New Hampshire coast, is home to a retreat center with a faithful community of summer attendees. SIUCC organizes four conferences each year. Star Gathering Youth Conference shares the island with Star Gathering I Family Conference, and others. By way of compensation, SIUCC will provide full room and board, boat transport to and from the island on scheduled days, parking for one car, and a \$1000 stipend.

The Youth Minister will design and implement the program for the Star Gathering Youth Conference. Before the conference, the minister will work with the Youth Committee of the Board in recruiting Youth Program Leaders. In partnership with Family Conference leaders, the Youth Minister creates a program that focuses on **relationship-building, renewal, and spiritual growth** for up to 20 vacationing high school students. On the island, the minister leads worship, works with the Youth Program Leaders to implement the program, and is on-call for pastoral care and youth issues that emerge. They should expect occasional on-call responsibilities during the evenings and night-time hours. The theme of the SIUCC conferences this year is "Nourishment", which the Youth Minister can take in the direction of their choosing (the purpose of the conference is not primarily didactic but rather relationship- and faith-building). The minister is also asked to collaborate with leaders from the family program and island staff to carry forward Star Island traditions as appropriate.

The successful candidate should be:

- Ordained in the United Church of Christ or a related tradition (or MID close to finishing);
- Experienced in youth work, including mission trips and/or other programs *in loco parentis*;
- Able to commit to the entire week;
- Creatively inspired to design or adapt a relationship-building, renewing, and spiritual-growth promoting curriculum for youth.

SIUCC will receive applications immediately, and the search will continue until the appropriate candidate is identified. Applications should include a letter of interest and resume, and can be sent by email to:

Neil Simister, SIUCC Personnel and Nominating Committee

neil.simister@stargathering.org

Candidates interviewed will be asked to submit references and authorize a background check.



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.

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 donation to Global Ministries, that is always welcome! Learn more about the work of Global Ministries here: <https://www.globalministries.org>

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 for their Casa Alitas shelter in Tucson, 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS



All those experiencing war and violence
 All those dealing with illness and pain
 All who are grieving

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!)

The United Church of Ludlow held a fundraising dinner for the Ukraine!!



Pysanky at Guilford Church!!



"GUILFORD — During the Lenten season, Christians do different things to connect with their faith. Some give up meat on Fridays, some fast, and others create pysanky.

Amid the warmth of candles, laughter among group members and colors beaming from the eggs, a small group of people gathered at the Guilford Community Church to learn how to make the Ukrainian Easter egg. Robin Davis and Carole Crompton are hosting clinics at the church during the month of March to teach people how to make pysanky.



According to Ukrainian folk legend, the fate of the world depends upon the creation of pysanky. If this custom is forsaken, evil (characterized as a horrible serpent, chained for eternity) will overrun the world. The making of Pysanky is said to strengthen the serpent's chains, keeping evil in check for yet another year."

[Read More Here!](#)

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!](#)

[April 6th](#)
Mark Blank
Robert Hamm

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

[April 14th](#)
Robin K. Junker-Boyce



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



[SAVE THE DATE!](#)

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!

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.

VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS

VT CONFERENCE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Christian Education:

Christian Education Coordinator- United Church of Hinesburg

Faith Formation Coordinator- Barre Congregational

Administration & Finance:

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

Visibility matters at Texas church and in UCC push for transgender rights

Fair Food advocates target Wendy's in a march through Palm Beach

'Praising Plate,' now in Indiana, is first chapel item to find a new home

Climate summit speakers urge churches to act now — and act like a jazz band

[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
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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/>
