



# 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

May 12th , 2022

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## Message from the Conference

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

This past week, the fifty-year history of a woman's right to an abortion, known as Roe v Wade was called into question when a draft opinion written by Justice Samuel Alito and signed by four other justices was leaked to the public. If the justices act according to the draft, Roe would be overturned and each state would be free to enact their own laws concerning abortion.

On Tuesday's clergy call, the Rev. Dr. Marvin Ellison, retired Professor of Christian Ethics at Bangor Theological Seminary joined us to talk about pastoral and theological responses to a potential ban on a woman's right to have autonomy over her own body. Among other things, Marvin introduced a paradigm shift that was first proposed by Rebecca Todd Peters in her book, Trust Women. Instead of the Church saying abortion is wrong, the woman has sinned and needs to acknowledge sin, feel guilt and seek forgiveness, a reframing insists that a woman's right to make decisions about her own body is a justice issue and women are sinned against when that right is taken away from them.

The vast majority of us know someone or many someone's who have had abortions. A majority of all women including women of faith are in favor of the choice to have an abortion remaining a viable option. This is both a pastoral and theological issue.

I am linking to two different ways of responding to the leaked Supreme Court decision, both from clergy of the Vermont Conference. First, [here is an Op Ed by Rev. Susie Webster Toleno, pastor of the UCC church in Westminster West](#). The second, written by [Rev. Susan Cooke Kittredge, Associate Pastor of Charlotte Congregational church, UCC, is a poem/prayer written for Mother's Day](#).

As our culture continues to shift around us, it is more important than ever that we make our Christian voices of welcome and inclusion and our vision of a just world for all heard and seen.

In hope and peace,  
Lynn

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## Latest News

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### Funding the Future of your Church: Tipplers to Tithers Event



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

Location: Zoom!

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 7 churches get a \$150 discount!!!**

(Email [VermontConference@gmail.com](mailto:VermontConference@gmail.com) for more details)

**REGISTER HERE!!!**

Please join the Vermont Conference in congratulating REV. JEREMY KIRK on his Ordination!

Rev. Kirk was ordained on May 1st, 2022 at West Dover Congregational Church.



Thank you to the Wyndham Union Association, Reverend Bert Marshall, Guilford Community Church West Dover Congregational Church and the Vermont Conference. I would also like to give a special thank you to Christine Boardman and Paul Sangree!

Thank you so much.  
Peace, Jeremy



A MASSIVE  
CONGRATULATIONS TO  
**ABIGAIL DIEHL NOBLE** ON HER  
ORDINATION!!!

Rev. Diehl Noble was ordained on  
May 1st, 2022, at the  
Congregational Church of  
Vergennes.

## **HONORING AND CELEBRATING ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES 2022**

Our apologies for any ordination anniversaries that were missed at this year's annual meeting! We were working from a list from the National Office that did not include several folks for some unknown reason even though they were listed in the database! To see the full list of those whose Anniversaries are being celebrated this year please click here: [to view video](#) . If you are not on the list please let us know so we can make sure your ordination is recognized!



## Reproductive Justice

**The United Church of Christ has supported reproductive justice issues since the 1960's.**

"There has been an objective gain in the quality of women's lives for those fortunate enough to have access to procreative choice. That millions upon millions of women as yet do not possess even the rudimentary conditions—moral or physical—for such choice is obvious. Our moral goal should be to struggle against those real barriers—poverty, racism, and anti-female cultural oppression—that prevent authentic choice from being a reality for every woman."

Beverly Harrison, Making the Connections

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



## [VTCUCC Featured on Vermont Digger!](#)

Last week, leaders at the Vermont Conference drafted a letter to denounce the recent acts of hatred surrounding our LGBTQ+ siblings. This letter has been published on the Vermont Digger website.

ger  
SHOP

V T D I G G E R

PRESS RELEASES

**Christian leaders respond to anti-LGBTQ+ violence**

Apr 29 2022, 5:18 PM

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Email

As Christian leaders in Vermont, we are deeply saddened and troubled by the murder of Fern Feather and the shattering of the door of the Pride Center in

[Read the story and letter here!](#)

[Sign the letter by sending an email here!](#)

## [Rev. Jessica Moore's Installation!!](#)

On Sunday, May 1st,

2022, Rev. Jessica Moore was installed at the First Congregational Church of St. Albans!



## Collection for Ukraine at Bethany Church, Randolph

Story by Rev. Kim McKerley

Myrhorod, Ukraine, and Randolph, Vermont have been sister cities for more than 20 years. Bethany Church is coordinating a community-wide effort to raise funds and gather medical / first aid supplies to ship to the hospital in Myrhorod as they build operating and treatment rooms in the basement of the facility to enable continued care for their wounded in a more protected space. Additional items suggested by our neighbors in Myrhorod - such as children's bike helmets to protect them from falling debris, diapers, blankets - are also being gathered.

Collection continues through **Sunday, May 8**. During worship that morning we will hear from the Randolph resident who helped found the relationship (and we may even have a word from Ukraine). We will pray, celebrate and bless the shipment on its long journey to Myrhorod.

You can also make a monetary donation here :

**[GO FUND ME!](#)**



**THE BTS CENTER**

# ECO PREACHER WORKSHOP

with Rev. Dr. Leah Schade  
and special guest Rabbi Yonatan Neril

Thursday, May 19 • 12.30 - 3pm EDT • Online

# Eco Preacher Workshop

Thursday, May 19, 2022  
12:30 - 3:00 pm (Eastern)

Registration fee: \$25/person  
Please contact [nicole@thebtscenter.org](mailto:nicole@thebtscenter.org) if you are in need of a scholarship.

[Learn More!!](#)

[Register Here!!](#)

I want to express my deep gratitude to all those of the Vermont Conference who were able to offer generous donations for those ministries on the Arizona/Mexico border that my daughter and I supported once again when we visited in Tucson and Cochise County, Arizona, in April.

Blessings, all

*Rev. Marjorie MacNeill*

**Here are links to the border missions that my daughter and I supported on our trip to southeast Arizona in April. Each website describes well what they do to support those who are seeking asylum here.**

[ccs-soaz.org](http://ccs-soaz.org)

for their Casa Alitas shelter in Tucson where those who have been welcomed to stay in the US are assisted with their transition to join family/sponsors across the country.

[fronteras.azdiocese.org](http://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)

[fronteradecristo.org](http://fronteradecristo.org).

**and the long-established cross-border ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Douglas AZ and Agua Prieta MX**



Only a few days remain to get super early bird pricing for our **Resilient Pastor Cohort**, a 6-month learning experience specifically for pastors.

It's a chance to:

- Discuss the fears, questions and uncertainties surrounding modern church ministry with fellow leaders who get where you're coming from.
- Explore the latest trends with timely Barna data, so you can better understand our changing world and lead with more clarity and confidence.
- Learn from an incredible panel of faculty who are facing similar ministry challenges and finding new ways to persevere and succeed.
- Form new and deeper friendships with other pastors—people who understand the unique challenges of church leadership and share your passion for the work.

Pastors Glenn Packiam, Sharon Hodde Miller, Rich Villodas, Ashlee Eiland and Scott Sauls have all agreed to serve as faculty members.

And while the cohort won't begin until September 8th, you can get a big discount if you join right now.

**Join today and get our super early bird pricing.**

Malletts Bay UCC has 8 choir robes, lots of NRSV Bibles (many brand new and some not even out of the box they arrived in), and lots of UCC hymnals, 9th printing, 1986, we want to offer to congregations and/or individuals.

Please email [infombucc@gmail.com](mailto:infombucc@gmail.com) if you are interested, or for further information.







Two years into a global pandemic, having lived through a season of tremendous disruption and uncertainty and loss, and facing the urgent crises of our world, many congregations are feeling a collective sense of weariness and disorientation. At nearly every level of society, change is stirring — accelerating change, traumatic change, complex change that requires transformative leadership\*\* — and faith communities are trying to find their bearings.

In times of dramatic change, small congregations can respond in two ways: they can become more rigid, holding tight to status quo — a path that often leads to burnout, decline, and death; or they can step into the changing realities with curiosity and faith, adopt practices that nurture resilience, and embrace imaginative possibilities.

[Read more and register HERE!!!](#)

## Richmond Congregational Church Offers Mental Health First Aid for Youth Training

*Part of a National Initiative to Increase Mental Health Literacy*

**Saturday, May 21, 2022**  
8:30 am to 4:30 pm (lunch provided)

**Richmond Congregational Church Fellowship Hall**  
(ground floor, side entrance – fully accessible)  
20 Church Street, Richmond

In response to our local (and national) mental health crisis, the Richmond Congregational Church will host Mental Health First Aid for Youth Training for any adult interested in learning how to support the youth in our community. This groundbreaking, skills-based course gives people the tools to identify, understand and respond to youth who might be struggling with a mental health or substance use challenge and connect them with appropriate support and resources.

To register, go to – <https://forms.gle/KYdmNqxZ7RJ7ec3f7>, or contact the church directly: (802) 434-2053, [church@rccucc.org](mailto:church@rccucc.org)

*If you're interested in a future MHFA offering (in-person or online), please let us know.*

To learn more about Mental Health First Aid USA, visit [MHFA.org](https://www.mhfa.org).



### **Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership**

Support for the spiritual heart of clergy of all denominations

**Class of 2023 – on Zoom – Enrolling Now**

*Are you looking for a new way to live and lead faithfully?*

Going Deeper: Clergy Spiritual Life & Leadership Program addresses the challenges of a life that ideally is centered in God

and committed to spiritual practice but is all too quickly overtaken by stress, isolation, burnout and time management issues. Going Deeper provides an opportunity for clergy of all denominations to focus intentionally on the inner work that can foster a transformation of heart and embody a Spirit-led practice of ministry. In the face of administrative and cultural pressures, clergy are invited to “center down,” as Howard Thurman describes, and listen for the Spirit’s guidance in challenging times.

[Apply Here!](#)

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**



Please keep the family, friends, and colleagues of Rev. Richard Bingham in your prayers.

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](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 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!**

May 13th

\*Elliot Munn\*  
\*Lucia Jackson\*  
\*Duane Brown\*

May 15th

\*Joan O’Gorman\*

May 18th

\*Marcia Dorey\*  
\*David Brown\*

### **Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!**

May 14th

\*Daniel Cooperrider\*

May 15th

\*Janice Chilek\*

May 16th

\*Paul Willard\*  
\*Margaret Wright\*



**WEYBRIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
HAS BEEN HONORED AS THE  
**GREEN CONGREGATION OF THE YEAR**  
BY  
VERMONT INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT!!!  
**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

**Annual Meeting 2022**

**Please fill out [this](#) survey to help us improve !!!**

**[First Plenary and Keynote](#)**

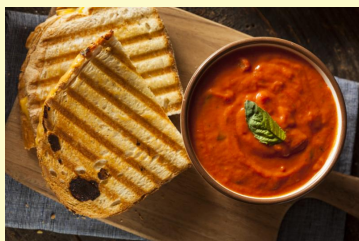
**[Second Plenary](#)**

**[Third Plenary and Worship](#)**

**[Peacemakers Gathering](#)**



**[Recorded Workshops found here!!!](#)**



**Summer Lunch Grants**  
**Available Again This Year!!!**

It's that time again...time to sit down with your Mission people and think/talk/plan how your church can help hungry kids in the summer months. All schools provide free or reduced priced lunches for qualified children and many also provide breakfast. This provides relief for the families of these children for most of the year. But summer time can be a stressful time on families' resources and many children go hungry. Is your congregation participating in a Summer Lunch Program in your town? If not, then do you want to help feed hungry children in your town in the summer

months?

All of your questions about summer lunch programs should first be directed to The Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger at [www.vtnohunger.org](http://www.vtnohunger.org). The staff members there are working with community and/or church members in most towns in Vermont to establish or maintain/augment summer lunch programs.

Secondly, contact the Vermont Conference, Department of Justice & Witness, Summer Lunch Grant Coordinator Mary Lou DeCosta ([colchsummerlunch@aol.com](mailto:colchsummerlunch@aol.com)) and she will give you advice and recommendations gleaned from 35 Vermont UCC congregations who participate in Summer Lunch Programs. Malletts Bay has begun fundraising by taking a special "Rice Bowl" offering. It seems that there are more people than ever that are in need of nutritious food in the summer. An application form for a summer lunch grant is attached. Forms must be received by May 30th.

## **FIND THE FORM HERE!!!**



*Do you love children and youth? Do you have good communication and organizational skills? Are you someone with a strong affinity for teamwork and collaboration? Are you craving a supportive work environment?*

The Congregational Church of Middlebury is searching for a part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries (DCYM).

This new staff member will carry on a rich tradition. Our congregation's Church School (est. 1815) was one of the first programs of its kind in New England, and it continues to serve and inspire children of all ages.

The DCYM has five main areas of responsibility:

- Administer Church School
- Engage children, youth, and families in the worship life of the church
- Lead Jr. Youth Group (6th-8th grades)
- Assist with Sr. Youth Group (9th-12th grades)
- Oversee Nursery

We encourage interested applicants to visit our **church website**, <https://www.midducc.org>, to learn more about our children and youth program offerings.

Hours:

30 hours a week on average. Flexible schedule.  
6 weeks off in the summer.

Compensation:

Negotiable. Commensurate with professional/life experience.

Projected start date:

The ideal candidate would be available for an initial orientation/training during a few weeks in the month of June, and then transition fully into their

role by August 15, 2022.

We will begin reviewing applications on May 1, 2022. Candidates should send a cover letter and resume to Rev. Andy Nagy-Benson: [andy@midducc.org](mailto:andy@midducc.org)

*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!

May 25th



**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 CLINICS***

**on Sundays April 24 & May 15, 2022**

**Volunteer Vermont attorneys will offer pro-bono  
FREE legal counsel by phone – call: 802-862-5010**

**Phone in between 12 and 1pm for an afternoon appointment.**

**A Legal Clinic volunteer will check you in by phone.**

*Due to the volume of calls we may not be able to offer all callers appointments.*

**We will be ready for your calls at noon - if you don't get thru –  
leave a message – we will call you back.**

**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)**



Stowe Community Church  
members and friends invite you to join us for a  
Service of Installation  
for our pastor,  
The Reverend Daniel Gary Haugh



Sunday, June 12, 2022 at 6:00PM  
Stowe Community Church  
137 Main Street  
Stowe, Vermont  
RSVP to [info@stowechurch.org](mailto:info@stowechurch.org)

### **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](#)

# 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](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 [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/>