



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 19th , 2022

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Message from the Conference

What is it that brings you hope? In the midst of our troubled times, that is a very important question for all of us. It is so easy to give in to the despair we see around us, and to allow our lives to be controlled by bitterness. But we are called as a people of God to be different. We are called to be hope givers, both for each other and for our world. As God says to us in Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

We as a Vermont Conference voted to establish a Hope Fund for the future of all of our churches at our Fall Meeting, and we entered the public phase of our campaign at our Annual Meeting in April. We now want to give all of the people in our churches the opportunity to give to the Hope Fund. You can do that personally by going to the Conference website, and your church on Pentecost Sunday on June 5th or any other Sunday in June can also take an offering for the Hope Fund. If you wish, your church can use the two minute or the seven minute video on our Conference website, and you can also find worship resources there to use on your Hope Fund Sunday. It should be a Sunday that is full of joy in your congregation!

I went to the ordination service of Jeremy Kirk at our church in West Dover recently. In place of a sermon for that service, Jeremy invited people in the congregation to get up and share their answer to this question: "Why is spreading the Gospel (or Christianity for that matter) important for our time and place?" He then told us that we had to answer in 3 minutes or less! Several people got up and spoke very powerfully and insightfully. It was a very hopeful service, as we all realized that we do have good news to share with the world around us. That is why I personally chose to give to the Hope Fund, and why I invite you to do so as well, as an act I promise that will bring hope into your own life!

Faithfully yours, Paul

Latest News

THIS SATURDAY!!!!

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

NEXT 2 CHURCHES

get a \$150 discount!!!

(Email VermontConference@gmail.com for more details)

REGISTER HERE!!!



Lynn's Sabbatical

Lynn will be on Sabbatical beginning June 9th for three months. During that time, Paul will be serving in the executive role. Lynn will return to the office on September 6th.

We wish Lynn well on her time off and thank Paul for taking on added responsibility during this time.

Vermont Interfaith Action

Transforming People and Communities



"Abolish Slavery: Educating Our Communities on Prop 2" presentations

Learn about a proposed amendment to the Vermont Constitution that you can vote on in November

Vermont Interfaith Action staff in collaboration with the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance will be available to conduct a presentation entitled "Abolish Slavery: Educating Our Communities on Prop 2" throughout February. The purpose of this presentation is to explain the Vermont constitution's current language regarding slavery and how it evolved; how this language has influenced the U.S. Constitution and many of our systems and practices; and the proposed amendment, which Vermont voters will have the chance to pass in November of 2022. Participants will also

learn of opportunities to take action to ensure passage of the amendment, and to address the larger question of how to dismantle systemic racism in many forms.

Greensboro UCC will host a presentation on Wednesday, June 1st beginning at 7PM. To register to participate online, sign up here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrceqtqjwqHdDwf_y8ms6F-V6KZDeYgthZI



Hybrid teaching and learning in local church to be focus of UCC event

by [Hans Holznagel](#) | published on May 18, 2022

The world of hybrid learning will be the focus of a two-day event for people who teach in local churches of the United Church of Christ.

“A New Turn: Hybrid Faith Formation” will take place online Wednesday, June 8, and Thursday, June 9. Its sponsor is the **Association of United Church Educators**. People can register [here](#).

“The pandemic has shaken up everything we once knew

about church ministry, and we are now facing a new turn,” said the event’s lead organizer, the Rev. Kim Nagy. She is minister of faith formation at **Kent (Ohio) UCC** and vice chair of AUCE’s **Board of Directors**. “This virtual conference will help leaders live into this new era of ministry.”

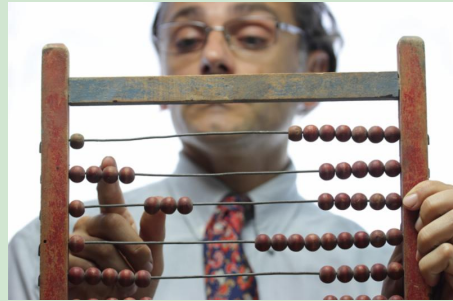
[Read More and Register HERE!](#)

Bookkeeper Job Description May 2022 United Church of Hardwick, VT

The bookkeeper position is part-time, approximately 10-15 hours per month.

Candidates must have bookkeeping training and are experienced in Quick Books Online. This person reports to the

Pastor and Financial Officer in maintaining the financial records of the United Church of Hardwick. The compensation will be paid at an hourly rate commensurate with experience.



The job entails the following:

- Record and post all receipts by class provided by the Financial volunteers
- Prepare checks for disbursement of funds by class with appropriate authorizations and post them to the appropriate accounts
 - Reconciliation of all bank and investment accounts
- Manage donor accounts and print biannual statements to donors
 - Print reports for Finance Team/Church Council when needed
- Attend Finance Team meetings when requested (usually a Wednesday evening).

Please send resume to Rev. Evelyn Lavelli: elavelli@comcast.net



West Dover Congregational Church LKG (Loose Knit Group) Tech Program

With many members of our congregation being “seniors” and feeling isolated during the coronavirus-19 pandemic, our Loose Knit Group (LKG) was able to take advantage of an offer by a part time resident in our community who has more technology skills than most of us! Our friend Connie has given a number of sessions to those in her hometown in Massachusetts to become more familiar with computers and cell phones.

We developed a questionnaire to determine what our seniors needed which was based on one that had been developed for Connie’s senior population. Questions like “Do you have/use Wi-Fi internet in your home?” and “Do you have/use a smart phone?”.

The first session focused on how technology could be helpful using the various devices such as smart phones, tablets and computers. The second focus was on using Google Docs.

All participants both church members and those from the community agreed that they learned a great deal and look forward to more sessions.

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](#)



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

On Sunday, May 1st, 2022, Rev. Jessica Moore was installed at the First Congregational Church of St. Albans!





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.

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

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 .

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 19th

Melissa O'Brien

May 21st

Leigh McCaffrey

May 24th

Elizabeth Gleich

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

May 23rd

Thomas Kinder

James Merriam

May 24th

Donald Ferrell



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 if you are interested, or for further information.

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!](#)

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. 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) 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

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



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

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
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/>