

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 26th, 2022

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Message from the Conference

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference:

A voice is heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; She refuses to be comforted, Because they are no more. Jeremiah 31:15

Not another shooting. Not another school where children learned and laughed and played ... and died. Perhaps you like me see the pictures in your head of beloved children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, friends' children who are the same age as those who were killed.

On Facebook the Rev John Weatherhogg had posted the names of schools where there has been gun violence. It's long and I hope you read every single one. I hope along with me you will commit to working for common sense gun control so there will never be another school added to this list. God requires our prayers and our actions. As my colleague Rev. Phil Hodson, Conference Minister in South Central Conference wrote, "... sometimes, when we are waiting on a miracle, we forget the miracle is us."

In mourning and hope, Lynn

Thurston High School. Columbine High School. Heritage High School. Deming Middle School. Fort Gibson Middle School. Buell Elementary School. Lake Worth Middle School. University of Arkansas. Junipero Serra High School. Santana High School. Bishop Neumann High School. Pacific Lutheran University. Granite Hills High School. Lew Wallace High School. Martin Luther King, Jr. High School. Appalachian School of Law. Washington High School. Conception Abbey. Benjamin Tasker Middle School. University of Arizona. Lincoln High School. John McDonogh High School. Red Lion Area Junior High School. Case Western Reserve University. Rocori High School. Ballou High School. Randallstown High School. Bowen High School. Red Lake Senior High School. Harlan Community Academy High School. Campbell County High School. Milwee Middle School. Roseburg High School. Pine Middle School. Essex Elementary School. Duquesne University. Platte Canyon High School. Weston High School. West Nickel Mines School. Joplin Memorial Middle School. Henry Foss High School. Compton Centennial High School. Virginia Tech. Success Tech Academy. Miami Carol City Senior High School. Hamilton High School. Louisiana Technical College. Mitchell High School. E.O. Green Junior High School. Northern Illinois University. Lakota Middle School. Knoxville Central High School. Willoughby South High School.

Henry Ford High School. University of Central Arkansas. Dillard High School. Dunbar High School.

Hampton University. Harvard College. Larose-Cut Off Middle School. International Studies Academy. Skyline College. Discovery Middle School. University of Alabama. DeKalb School. Deer Creek Middle School. Ohio State University. Mumford High School. University of Texas. Kelly Elementary School. Marinette High School. Aurora Central High School. Millard South High School. Martinsville West Middle School. Worthing High School. Millard South High School. Highlands Intermediate School. Cape Fear High School. Chardon High School. Episcopal School of Jacksonville. Oikos University. Hamilton High School. Perry Hall School. Normal Community High School. University of South Alabama. Banner Academy South. University of Southern California. Sandy Hook Elementary School. Apostolic Revival Center Christian School. Taft Union High School. Osborn High School. Stevens Institute of Business and Arts. Hazard Community and Technical College. Chicago State University. Lone Star College-North. Cesar Chavez High School. Price Middle School. University of Central Florida. New River Community College. Grambling State University. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Ossie Ware Mitchell Middle School. Ronald E. McNair Discovery Academy. North Panola High School. Carver High School. Agape Christian Academy. Sparks Middle School. North Carolina A&T State University. Stephenson High School.

Brashear High School. West Orange High School.

Arapahoe High School. Edison High School. Liberty Technology Magnet High School. Hillhouse High School. Berrendo Middle School. Purdue University. South Carolina State University. Los Angeles Valley College. Charles F. Brush High School. University of Southern California. Georgia Regents University. Academy of Knowledge Preschool. Benjamin Banneker High School. D. H. Conley High School. East English Village Preparatory Academy. Paine College. Georgia Gwinnett College. John F. Kennedy High School. Seattle Pacific University. Reynolds High School. Indiana State University. Albemarle High School. Fern Creek Traditional High School. Langston Hughes High School. Marysville Pilchuck High School. Florida State University. Miami Carol City High School. Rogers State University. Rosemary Anderson High School. Wisconsin Lutheran High School. Frederick High School. Tenaya Middle School. Bethune-Cookman University. Pershing Elementary School. Wayne Community College. J.B. Martin Middle School. Southwestern Classical Academy. Savannah State University. Harrisburg High School. Umpqua Community College. Northern Arizona University. Texas Southern University. Tennessee State University. Winston-Salem State University. Mojave High School. Lawrence Central High School. Franklin High School. Muskegon Heights High School. Independence High School. Madison High School.

Antigo High School.

Alpine High School.

University of California-Los Angeles.

Jeremiah Burke High School.

Townville Elementary School. Vigor High School. Linden McKinley STEM Academy. June Jordan High School for Equity. Union Middle School. Mueller Park Junior High School. West Liberty-Salem High School. University of Washington. King City High School. North Park Elementary School. North Lake College. Freeman High School. Mattoon High School. Rancho Tehama Elementary School. Aztec High School. Wake Forest University. Italy High School. NET Charter High School. Marshall County High School. Sal Castro Middle School. Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Great Mills High School Central Michigan University Huffman High School Frederick Douglass High School Forest High School Highland High School Dixon High School Santa Fe High School Noblesville West Middle School University of North Carolina Charlotte STEM School Highlands Ranch **Edgewood High School** Palm Beach Central High School Providence Career & Technical Academy Fairley High School (school bus) Canyon Springs High School **Dennis Intermediate School** Florida International University Central Elementary School Cascade Middle School **Davidson High School** Prairie View A & M University Altascocita High School Central Academy of Excellence Cleveland High School Robert E. Lee High School Cheyenne South High School **Grambling State University** Blountsville Elementary School Holmes County, Mississippi (school bus) Prescott High School College of the Mainland

Wynbrooke Elementary School

UNC Charlotte Riverview Florida (school bus) Second Chance High School Carman-Ainsworth High School Williwaw Elementary School Monroe Clark Middle School Central Catholic High School Jeanette High School Eastern Hills High School DeAnza High School Ridgway High School Reginald F. Lewis High School Saugus High School Pleasantville High School Waukesha South High School Oshkosh High School Catholic Academy of New Haven Bellaire High School North Crowley High School McAuliffe Elementary School South Oak Cliff High School Texas A&M University-Commerce Sonora High School Western Illinois University Oxford High School Robb Elementary School

via Meredith Durham Bretz

Latest News

Dear children of the world

It's not supposed to be like this.

Resources for Speaking to Children about the School Shooting in Texas

A Personal Note in Response to Uvalde's School Shooting - Fred Meade



After hearing the news of the mass murder of students and teachers in Texas, many of us will experience a range of reactions. This is especially true for children.

Reactions may include emotions (sadness, anger, shock, fear, etc.), changes in thoughts (difficulty concentrating, repetitive thoughts of the situation), physical reactions (feeling sick, headaches, not sleeping well, etc.) and behaviors (returning to older behaviors such as bedwetting, needing physical closeness with parents, fighting more, etc.).

Traumatic events often lead people to feel they have lost control of their sense of safety.

Here are resources on how to help children cope with the frightening news and their reactions:

- Talking with Children About Traumatic Events
- Talking to Children About a Shooting (from nctsn.org)
- Children and Trauma

We hope these resources provide a source of comfort and support during this difficult time.

STATEMENT FROM GUNSENSE VERMONT ON THE ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Today we mourn the deaths of 19 children and 2 teachers in Uvalde, Texas. It was the deadliest school



shooting in the state's history, nearly the worst in U.S. history, and it was the second mass shooting in America this week. Our deepest sympathies go out to the families that lost their children yesterday and to the communities reeling from senseless and unfathomable loss.

A horror like yesterday's massacre brings the reality of gun violence to our hearts and minds in technicolor. But it is not just yesterday or last week. Our hearts break for the 110 people who lost their lives to gun violence each day in 2020- the majority of them Black and Brown young men. We grieve for those families and neighborhoods as well.

In our gun-obsessed culture, we have prioritized the right to have unfettered access to firearms over the lives of our own children. We no longer live in a free country - freedom is the expectation that you can send your kids to school, or the store or down the block and know that they'll return home safely each day. Today, no parent in America has that certainty.

This is not normal. It does not have to be this way. No other developed country comes close to this level of gun violence. And no other country comes close to allowing guns to be purchased and carried with as few restrictions as this country does.

What will be the result of 19 more innocent children shot dead in their classrooms? The answer will be not nearly enough unless we finally hold our elected leaders accountable and demand change. Each and every one of us has a part to play in ending gun violence and the only way to honor these victims is through actions, not words.

Robb Elementary School could be any school in Vermont. Tops Friendly Markets in Buffalo could be your local grocery store. The time for passive activism is over. All of us are responsible for taking action and demanding change.

What You Can Do:

- Volunteer
- Contact lawmakers and demand action
- Educate yourself on the issues
- Raise awareness and engage others to speak out
- Contact us and other gun violence prevention organizations for

http://www.gunsensevt.org/



An open,
honest,
constructive
conversation
about Ministerial
Compensation
and how it
can be improved!

June 2nd, 2022

10 am On Zoom

Email <u>VermontConference@gmail.com</u> for the Zoom link or with any further questions!!!

Our Neighbors in Western New York

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, a gunman entered a Tops Supermarket in Buffalo, New York, killed 10 people and wounded 3 others. Eleven of the thirteen victims were black. The store is closed while authorities investigate the crime, leaving the predominantly black community around it without easy access to healthy and affordable food. The area has now become a "food desert."

In the wake of Saturday's mass shooting, the **Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo** has created two funds to support the community financially.

To provide aid to those directly impacted by the massacre, donate to the **Buffalo 5/14 Survivors Fund**.

To address immediate community needs, long-term rebuilding, and systemic issues that have marginalized communities of color, donate to the **Buffalo Together Community Response Fund**

This information came to us from the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York.

PLEASE consider making a donation to one of these funds.
For more information use links above or go here:
https://episcopalpartnership.org/community-foundation-funds-to-support-buffalo/

Thank you.

Margaret Campbell

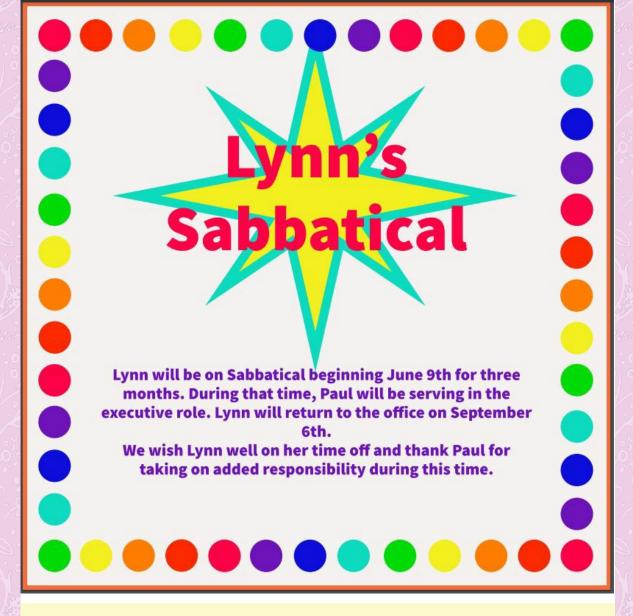
Special Speaker in St. Albans!

Sunday, June 12 at 11:30 am (Free)
Steven Tendo, a Ugandan pastor now living in
Vermont, will share his story of defending human
rights, being held in the U.S. detention and
deportation system, and seeking freedom. Pastor
Steven will also share his new vision for ELOI
Ministries, the youth focused ministry he created in
Uganda and hopes to continue here in Vermont.
You can read about Steven's journey:



Mother Jones Article: The (Almost) Unbelievable Tortures of Steven <u>Tendo</u>

First Congregational Church of St. Albans 27 Church St St. Albans 802-524-4555



The East Coast Inspirational Singers are coming to Greensboro!

The East Coast Inspirational Singers will be celebrating and performing on Juneteenth with us at the Greensboro United Church of Christ June 19th at 10 am, as well as performing outdoors at the Highland Center for the Arts on June 18th. The East Coast Inspirational Singers hail from Harlem and use gospel, R&B, jazz and the blues as their medium, sharing their passion for raising awareness about Black history with audiences. We are excited to welcome them back to our church and invite the community to join us in this celebration.



Lou Rochford
Graduated on May 21st
2022 with a Certificate
in Pastoral
Ministry through their
Center of Ministry and

Lay Training from Phillips Seminary!

Congratulations from all of us!!!

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.

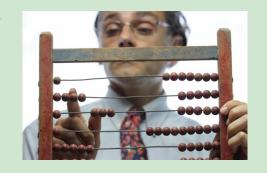
"A New Turn: Hybrid Faith Formation" will take place online Wednesday, June 8, and Thursday, June 9. Its sponsor is the <u>Association of United Church</u> <u>Educators</u>. People can register <u>here</u>.

"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.

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





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.

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 <u>VermontConference@gmail.com</u>.

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

<u>Happy Ordination</u> <u>Anniversary to our Clergy!</u>

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 <u>infombucc@gmail.com</u> 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.



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

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



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

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



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

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DEADLINE for E-Kit News must be received by **Tuesday of each week**. Please send any and all information to **vermontconference@gmail.com**.

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/