



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 Summer Edition

June 9th, 2022

Table of Contents

- 1) Message from the Conference
- 2) Latest News
- 3) Prayer Concerns

- 4) Around the Conference
- 5) Save the Date & Cont. Ed Resources
- 6) VTCUCC Classifieds

Message from the Conference



Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

In a few hours I will begin my Sabbatical. I am excited for these next weeks of rest, creative pursuits (like fly fishing, dulcimer festivals and use of watercolor in card making) and the space and opportunity to explore innovative options to strengthen the ministry of our small churches and to continue our work with Members in Discernment who are pursuing nontraditional paths to ordained ministry.

As you know by now, Paul is covering for my Sabbatical and both Elise and Jackie will continue to keep the ministries of our Conference strong.

This is also a reminder that many resources for ONA and LGBTQ+ can be found on our website. If you missed Annual Meeting several of the workshops were recorded and are available for watching. It's Pride Month so please check your local events listings for activities, speakers, parades and just plain fun!

As we continue to contend with gun violence, the killing of Black and brown people, violence against our queer siblings, climate

injustice, gas prices that hit low wage workers the hardest, may summer also offer us some respite and renewal. May we remember that there is also beauty in this world and kindness and that justice does happen if only in small ways. May we have eyes and ears to experience the Spirit's presence in all things.

In hope and peace,
Lynn

Latest News





VIA is Calling All Clergy!

Please show your support for the campaign to pass Prop 2, “Abolish Slavery VT.”

Passing Prop 2 means we will amend the Vermont Constitution to abolish slavery, no exceptions. The campaign will give you ways to further the **resolution** that we passed at Annual Meeting earlier this year. As a start, Vermont Interfaith Action requests that you set aside Sunday, June 19 (the Juneteenth holiday) as “Abolitionist Sabbath” during your worship service. To help you plan the service, and to obtain pledge cards so folks can commit to voting in favor of Prop 2, please see our online **Abolitionist Sabbath Tool Kit**. If you need assistance, contact debbie@viavt.org or (802) 310-4625.

2022
CLERGY
CONVOCAATION
IS COMING

Oct. 3rd- 5th
Craftsbury Outdoor Center
SAVE THE DATE!!!



**Welcome Rev. Andrew Ponder
Williams!!**

United Community Church UCC, (St
Johnsbury) welcome our new settled pastor
Rev. Andrew Ponder Williams and his
husband Ashton Beebe!!!

VCC Seeking a Church Musician!!!!

The Vergennes Congregational Church, United Church Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation of 135 members that is seeking a Church Musician. We are a vibrant, Christian community—full of life, music, and laughter. We have a long history of deeply appreciating the gifts of our staff in supporting an inclusive, loving, and compassionate ministry in the heart of our small city. We seek a skilled musician that is comfortable with the classics and new pieces that grow our appreciation of the diverse ways to worship God through music. The successful applicant will be a team player, eager to collaborate with other musicians inside and outside of our community to enrich our music ministry.



Read More Here!!



Introducing the **Rev. Andi Lloyd!**

Andi was ordained Sunday, June 5th, at The Congregational Church of Middlebury (see video below!), and we are all glowing from the holiness of that service.

Congratulations!

"By the grace of God, she is worthy! Let us ordain her. Come, Holy Spirit, come!"





ALL IN!

A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ABOUT
WATER QUALITY IN ADDISON COUNTY

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

5:00-6:30 PM

LAKESIDE PAVILION
DAR STATE PARK

DAVID MEARS, FORMER COMMISSIONER OF THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT
OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

SEN. CHRIS BRAY, CHAIR, SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENERGY COMMITTEE

REP. AMY SHELDON, CHAIR, HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES, FISH
AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

JON GROVEMAN, DIRECTOR, POLICY AND WATER PROGRAM, VERMONT NATURAL
RESOURCES COUNCIL

SPECIAL GUESTS

SEN. RUTH HARDY, ADDISON DISTRICT

REP. DIANE LANPHER, ADDISON-3

REP. MATT BIRONG, ADDISON-3

REP. SARAH COPELAND HANZAS, ORANGE-2, CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

REFRESHMENTS AND LIVE MUSIC

RSVP: SKIP.MASBACK@GMAIL.COM

SPONSORED BY THE CHAMPLAIN BASIN WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE
OF THE ADDISON COUNTY AND PANTON DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEES



One of our pastors, Rev. Sara Rossigg in Brandon, is looking for some temporary rental housing. If your church has a parsonage or some other rental housing that could be available, please be in touch with Paul Sangree at sangreepucc@gmail.com.

Thanks!!

[Resources for Speaking to](#)

Dear children of the world

It's not supposed
to be like this.



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.

Rev. Caryne Eskridge, Pastor of the Weybridge Congregational Church has also provided an extensive and incredibly comprehensive resource to help children at this deeply troublesome time. We thank them immensely for sharing it with us.

You can find it [HERE](#).

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 more ways to get involved**

<http://www.gunsensevt.org/>



A gathering for spiritual directors and spiritual companions with Rev. Dan Wolpert, Rev. Eileen Gebbie, and Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert

Thursday, June 23 • 1.00 – 4.30pm Eastern • Online

\$25 per person (scholarships are available – please contact ash@thebtscenter.org to inquire

[Learn More!!](#)

[Register Here!!](#)

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.

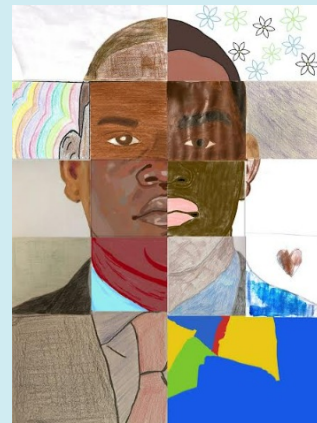
For more information use links above or go here:

<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 Tendo

First Congregational Church of St. Albans
27 Church St



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.



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.

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

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!

June 9th
John Bixby

June 13th
Sally May
Evelyn Coupe

June 15th
Evelyn Coupe

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

June 9th
Charlie Purinton

June 10th
Jane Wilson

June 13th
David Kraus
Ivy Merrill

June 14th
Susan Kitteredge

June 15th
Katelyn Macrae
Dale Hindmarsh



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.



WEYBRIDGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HAS BEEN HONORED AS THE

GREEN CONGREGATION OF THE YEAR

BY

VERMONT INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT!!!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



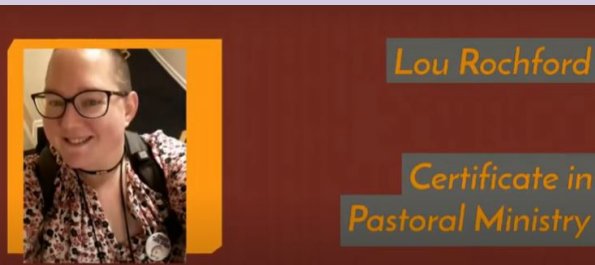
Summer Lunch Grants Available Again This Year!!!

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!!!



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!!!

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.

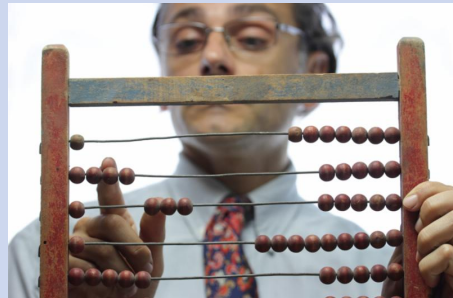
We will begin reviewing applications on May 1, 2022. Candidates should send a cover letter and resume to Rev. Andy Nagy-Benson: andy@midducc.org

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

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



SAVE THE DATE!



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

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

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/>