



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 23rd, 2022

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Message from the Conference



This past Tuesday was the summer solstice, a time that marks the longest day of the year and the official beginning of summer. For me, summer has always been a time to break out my summer reading list. As a kid, whether it was the books from school that had been assigned to us or the ones I had chosen from our local library, summer always seemed to offer the extra time to read for pleasure and enjoyment. Whether at the beach, on the back porch, or even in the hammock, summer so easily offered up the opportunity to retreat into a good book and be taken somewhere else.

I know I am not the only one who still puts together a summer reading list as summer approaches. A few weeks ago, at our weekly Zoom call for Vermont

Conference clergy, we shared with one another what books we are reading currently and those that we are interested in reading. A few folks remarked how helpful it was to share so they could add some of these to their summer reading list.

In such a fast-paced, multitasking, demanding world, the ability to take time to enjoy reading as a much-needed retreat for my well-being often gets supplemented with technology. In this way, I can “read” (via audiobooks) while I am cooking, driving, or running errands. But this kind of reading doesn’t always offer me the time I need to really sit with a book and let it teach and nurture me. Summer offers me that extra time to do that without feeling like I am doing something selfish or taking time away from “more productive” physical things. Reading for me is a sacred act, much like prayer. It nurtures me, teaches me, changes me and connects me with God and my faith. It is vital for every aspect of my life, yet I often ponder why summer (or being in school or book clubs) is the only time I feel less guilty about taking the time to read. Perhaps it is because I associate reading so much with summer enjoyment and summer vacation. I hope not, but even so I try to remind myself that Jesus took time

away from it all to be alone with God. So whether it is in pray, or other nurturing ways, like reading, I hope this summer you will find time to be nurtured, restored, renewed and refreshed. May God help nurture us, change us, and restore us this summer!

Below you will find a list of books that Vermont Conference clergy have lifted up recently. I would also invite you to share with us what you have on your summer reading list if you would like to! Send an email to me at vtcomincoor@gmail.com and we will share it our E-kit!

Blessings to you all for a wonderful summer with sacred time to read!

Peace,
Jackie

Reading List Suggestions (with clickable links):

[Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again by Rachel Heald Evans](#)

[The Treeline: The Last Forest and the Future of Life on Earth by Ben Rawlence North by Brad Kessler](#)

[Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer](#)

[Anxious people by Fredrik Backman](#)

[Benediction by Kent Haruf](#)

[No Cure for Being Human: And Other Truths I Need To Hear by Kate Bowler](#)

[Kindred by Octavia Butler](#)

[The Stranger in the Lifeboat by Mitch Albom](#)

[How to Have an Enemy: Righteous Anger and the Work of Peace by Melissa Florer Bixler](#)

[A Mercy by Toni Morrison](#)

[A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Mass \(all the fairytale series\)](#)

[Digging to America by Anne Tyler \(also all of her books\)](#)

[Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right by Arlie Hochschild](#)

[Grounded: Finding God in the World. A Spiritual Revolution by Diana Butler Bass](#)

**[The Witness of Religion in an Age of Fear by Michael Kinnamon](#)
[One Nation Under God By Kevin Kruse](#)**

Latest News



Love Church



Just now ♥ Just you ♥ Just love

Please help us welcome Love Church to the Vermont Conference!

Love Church was welcomed into the Windsor Orange Association of the Vermont Conference on June 13th, 2022. The founder and pastor of this church is Rev. Lava Mueller. You can find Love Church in Randolph Center, Vermont. They feature services such as yoga church and dinner church!!!

[You can read more about them HERE!](#)

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.

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](#).



The Church in a Post-Pandemic World

Join us as we envision what a vibrant, healthy church looks like as it emerges from the pandemic.

[Learn More and Register 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/>



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.

PRAYER CONCERNS



All those dealing with the trauma of mass shootings
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](#)

**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!!!

Installation of Rev. Elliot Munn!!!

After two years of serving Vergennes
Congregational Church, Rev. Elliot Munn
was officially installed June 12th, 2022!!!
He is pictured here with his wife, Rev.
Elizabeth Gleich and their daughter
Lydia!!

Congratulations!!!



Installation of Rev. James P. Merriam!

Rev. James P. Merriam was installed at Wells River Congregational
Church on Sunday, June 12th!

Congratulations!



Installation of Rev. Dan Haugh!

Rev. Dan Haugh was
installed at Stowe
Community Church on June
12th, 2022! Our Associate
Conference Minister, Rev.
Paul Sangree, had the
opportunity to join him!!
Congratulations!!!

Installation of Mary Hoadley!!!

Rev. Mary Hoadley was installed at the
Brownington Village Congregational Church

on Sunday, June 12th. Clergy from 8 different UCC congregations were on hand to celebrate!!!

Congratulations!



The Rev. Andi Lloyd

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!"

[Ordination Service is available here](#)

Celebrate!!

Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

June 27th
Alyssa May
Donald Vincent

June 28th
Evelyn Lavelli

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

correction for last week with our sincerest apologies!!

June 16th
Linda Kulas

June 25th
David Travers



Lou Rochford
Graduated on May 21st



Lou Rochford

Certificate in
Pastoral Ministry

2022 with a **Certificate
in Pastoral
Ministry** through their
Center of Ministry and
Lay Training from
Phillips Seminary!

Congratulations from all of us!!!

VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS

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!!](#)

We are hiring.

If you have a passion for young people, outdoor recreation and building a community of faith, we should talk!

Stowe Community Church is seeking a Director of Youth Ministry who is ready to build on a solid foundation and bring new life to the growing ministries of SCC. Experience in education or leading a youth-based program is preferred, but a love of Christ and passion for our youth group is a must. Duties include developing an inspiring and engaging ministry for students 6th grades and up; including curriculum, programs, music and maybe a trip to the mountain every once in a while.

Any interested applicants should send a resume or a letter of interest to Marylou Dunett at info@stowechurch.org. The position is available for the right person to start immediately.



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

NURSERY

COORDINATOR NEEDED

Stowe Community Church is seeking a Nursery Coordinator, teen or adult, who will provide a dependable, safe, nurturing environment to infants and toddlers, ages three and under. Duties include being silly, giving big hugs, reading stories, cuddling and a diaper change or two.

Any interested applicants should send a resume or a letter of interest to Marylou Durett at info@stowechurch.org. The position is available for the right person to start immediately.

It takes a big heart to help shape little minds and we believe the nursery is the most important room in the Church building. Please help to keep this very important ministry growing!!

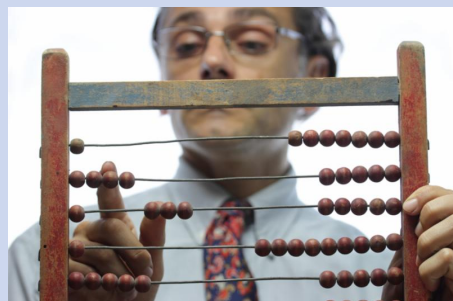
Bookkeeper Job Description May 2022

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

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

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



SAVE THE DATE!

2022
CLERGY
CONVOCAATION
IS COMING

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

[PRC's June 2022 Online Events!!!](#)

All webinars are recorded. Click the title to register or read the description.

Missional Confirmation
Thursday, Jun 23, 2022
2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern
Leader - Mark D. Hinds

[How to Recognize and Deal with Church Bullies](#)
Tuesday, July 26, 2022
7:00 - 8:00 PM
Leader - [David Woolverton](#)

[READ MORE HERE!!!](#)

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.

UCC | NEWS

[UCC among faith groups pushing Biden to form reparations commission](#)

[In Florida, 'Gun-Lock Safety Sunday' is one way to 'do something'](#)

[As 2023 Synod prep begins, resolution deadlines and other rules are announced](#)

[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/>
