



# 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 30th, 2022

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## Message from the Conference

Friends of the Vermont Conference,

I write to you with a heavy heart this week. As we are all aware, the Supreme Court last week overturned the Roe vs. Wade decision that protected the constitutional right of a woman to get an abortion in our country within certain parameters. On Tuesday morning this week, we had a gathering of both lay people and clergy from across our Conference, and they shared their pain over the elimination of this constitutional right. We then had our usual weekly Conference clergy call where the clergy who gathered also shared their pain as well.

Our first morning gathering focused not only on sharing our reaction to the decision, but also on how the Vermont Conference might respond to it. We will be releasing a statement shortly from the Conference that we will invite both lay people and clergy from our churches to sign on to in an Ekit blast. We will then share that statement with the general public in many ways so that people understand that there are pro-choice Christians who trust women to make their own decisions for their own lives.

There was also great interest in our gathering in thinking more long term. How can we support and help those from across the country who may come to Vermont seeking help because of an unwanted pregnancy? How can we be there for Vermonters in a similar situation? What can we do to support reproductive rights in our state? One item that was mentioned was the importance of supporting Proposition 5 that would amend the Constitution of the state of Vermont to ensure that every Vermonter is afforded personal reproductive liberty. The Board of the Directors of the Conference in consultation with the Department of Justice and Witness will take up these issues, and very possibly support the formation of a new team

or task force to help us as a Conference to stay abreast of this important issue for the future.

It is important that we do not lose heart. We have each other in our churches, and in the Vermont Conference as a whole. Jesus says to us in John 16:33b: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Faithfully yours,  
Paul

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### Latest News

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## **‘We will stand with you in protest’: National officers speak out after SC overturns Roe v. Wade**

by **UCC Leadership** | published on Jun 24, 2022

The national officers of the United Church of Christ are speaking out against the U.S. Supreme Court decision **eliminating, after almost 50 years, the constitutional right to an abortion.**

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

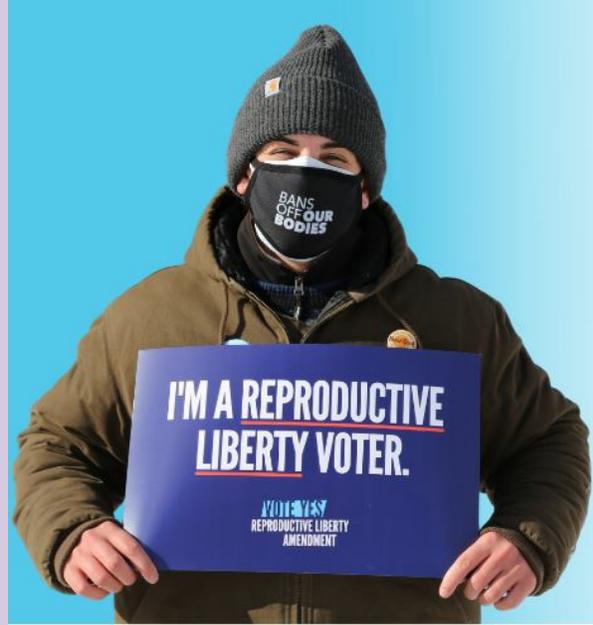
## **VERMONT'S REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY AMENDMENT**



A ballot measure amending Vermont's constitution to protect every person's right to make their own reproductive decisions.

The Reproductive Liberty Amendment, previously Prop 5, will be a ballot measure in Vermont's 2022 General Election. If passed, it would amend Vermont's constitution to protect every person's right to make their own reproductive decisions, like whether and

when to become pregnant, use temporary or permanent birth control, or seek abortion care.



[Read More HERE](#)



We have a church in the Vermont Conference who is thinking of issuing a mortgage to their pastor.

If your church has had experience with doing this, please be in touch with [Paul Sangree](#). Thanks!



A SIMPLE TUNE SUNG SO SWEET



July 17  
Sunday  
Service  
10 AM

SPECIAL GUEST  
MUSICIAN

**Kate Campbell**



WWW.GUCCVT.ORG  
FOR MORE INFO

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!](#)

## GREENSBORO UCC READ WITH US 2022!

**Unsettling Truths:  
The Ongoing Dehumanizing  
Legacy of the Doctrine of  
Discovery**

by Mark Charles & Soong-Chan Rah

Discussion on Thursdays  
**July 14- August 4** at 10:30 am  
in Fellowship Hall

**Learning to Walk  
in the Dark**

by Barbara Brown Taylor

Discussion on  
Thursdays  
**October 6- October 27**  
at 7 pm in Fellowship  
Hall



**Sign Up and Join Us! Email [greensborochurch@gmail.com](mailto:greensborochurch@gmail.com)**

If you are covering the cost of a COVID-19 funeral, FEMA may be able to help. You may qualify for up to \$9,000 per funeral for expenses.



[Read more 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!!!](#)

**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](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](#)



### **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!

July 2nd  
\*Robert Noble\*  
\*Edward Hults\*

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!



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!!!**

**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/>

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

[How to Recognize and Deal with Church Bullies](#)

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Leader - [David Woolverton](#)

[How Broad Based Community Organizing Might Transform the Church](#)

Thursday, Jul 28, 2022

2:00 - 3:00 PM EDT

Leaders: Chris Dela Cruz, Shani McIlwain, Katrina Pekich-Bundy

[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](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/>