



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

July 21st, 2022

Table of Contents

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1) Message from the Conference | 4) Around the Conference |
| 2) Latest News | 5) Save the Date & Cont. Ed Resources |
| 3) Prayer Concerns | 6) VTCUCC Classifieds |

Message from the Conference

One of the many virtues of the United Church of Christ is our emphasis on justice, in keeping with the biblical witness and the best attributes of the Church (with a capital "C") through the ages. We will have a unique opportunity this November to take action in the public square to further the cause of justice and address one of the most pernicious forms of injustice – systemic racism.

Despite being told for decades that Vermont was the first to abolish slavery, we have come to understand that this assertion – like many aspects of the historical record we've all been taught – is not true. Our constitution contains exceptions to the abolition of slavery on three grounds: 1) for those under the age of 21, 2) for those bound by their own consent, and 3) for those bound for payment of debts, damages, fines, costs or "the like." In fact, these exceptions make Vermont the first state to constitutionalize the institution of slavery, which led to 25 other states following our example, as well as the U.S. Constitution, whose Thirteenth Amendment contains an exception for punishment of a crime.

The legacy of slavery in our country has led to a culture of dehumanizing black people and intentionally embedding policies and practices in systems including education, public safety, job opportunities, housing, and health care that greatly advantage white people over black people. The truth is that the experience of black people in America is vastly different, and has been for centuries, than the experience of white people in our country. This reality is in direct contradiction to the teachings of Jesus Christ, who preached and lived a gospel of love, of the value of all God's children, of the respect and dignity inherent in all relationships.

Join with your siblings of faith in Vermont Interfaith Action this November and vote "Yes!" on Prop 2 to prohibit "slavery and indentured servitude in any form." And join in the campaign that VIA is conducting in partnership with the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance to spread the word of the importance of this constitutional amendment to all voters. Visit our website, www.abolishslaveryvt.org, to sign our pledge, to volunteer, or to request a presentation for your congregation. Let's share the good news, that love, justice, and a new era of interracial relations is possible in Vermont and across

our country.

-Rev. Debbie Ingram

Latest News



NEAUCE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

NEAUCE: New England Association of United Church Educators

Request for Faith Innovators –

Panelists/Facilitators for May 4-5 2023

Conference: “Beyond Church Walls: Hearing New Voices”

Panelists will be selected by the members of the NEAUCE Coordinating Committee on the bases of local/regional/demographic applicability, diversity of practice, and contemporary trends in faith formation. This opportunity is open to coordinators of adult ministries, youth/teen ministries, intergenerational ministries, and specialized or professional ministries associated with faith bodies currently in covenant (full, partial, or union/federated churches) with the UCC.

[READ MORE HERE!!!](#)

A Press Release was sent out this week to local media:

"Christians in the Vermont Conference who oppose the Dobbs decision by the Supreme Court to overturn Roe vs. Wade"

[Read the statement here](#)

[READ WHERE IT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE VERMONT DIGGER HERE!!!](#)

Addison Independent wrote an article (though they incorrectly stated it was put together at our Annual Conference) but you can find it [here](#).

*You are invited to the Closing
Worship and Celebration of Life*

Christ's Church

Saxtons River, Vermont

July 31st, 2022



at 3PM

*24 Main Street,
Saxtons River, VT
05154*

Rev. Ponder Williams loves to Share!



"We have been gifted with more than 300 plush little dogs and cats that have shirts that say "I love Jesus." The donor has more to give and we are willing to share some of what we already received if churches would like these free little cute items to give away. All they have to do is to come up here to St. Johnsbury :)

They are good quality little items that someone had as a part of a nonprofit they are discontinuing because they are moving." -Rev. Andrew Ponder Williams



'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

VOTE YES
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](#)



Summer Arts Series

Listening to the World's Edge

Pre-Concert Panel Discussion

Tuesday, July 26

7:00-8:15pm (Eastern) • Online

In-Person Concert with Halcyon String Quartet

Thursday, July 28

**7:00-8:15pm (Eastern) • Williston-Immanuel United
Church
Portland, Maine**

[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)

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.

[You can read more about them 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 .

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 Johnsburry) 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!!!



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

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!

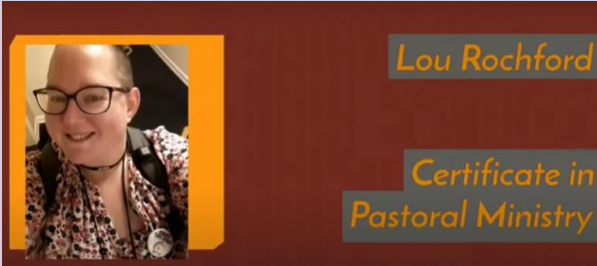


The Rev. Andi Lloyd
was ordained Sunday, June 5th, at The Congregational Church of Middlebury (see video)

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](#)



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!!!](#)

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!](#)

[Celebrate!!](#)

[Happy Birthday to our Clergy!](#)

July 2
Robert Noble
Edward Hults

July 7
Robert Ebling
Paul Eyer

July 8
William Nelson

July 11
David Traverse

July 12
Barbara Purinton

[Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!](#)

July
Edwin Hilbert Jr.

July 11
Diana Benjamin

July 16
Alden Launer
Peter Plagge

July 22
Laura Cadmus

July 25
Michael Caldwell

July 31
Amanda Swoyer

July 16
Marshall Hudson-Knapp

July 17
Martha Peck

July 19
John Sanborn

July 21
James Merriam

July 25
Robert Hundley

July 27
Jacquelyn Lingelbach



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



Stowe Community Church
Director of Youth Ministry Job Description

MINISTRY DESCRIPTION: The Director of Youth Ministry is responsible for developing and delivering a comprehensive program of Christian Education for youth (6th-12th grades). It is important that the Director inspires and excites the youth of SCC to learn and study the faith by communicating and demonstrating a personal passion for Jesus Christ.

[Read more \(including how to apply!\) HERE!](#)



**UNITED CHURCH
OF HINESBURG**

The Pastoral Assistant will be directly responsible to the pastor as a facilitator of the congregational ministry programs and communications. The Pastoral Assistant will coordinate and/or support work in the following areas: Christian Education (children and family faith formation, Adult small groups), Missions & Social Justice, and other areas of programming and communication as needed.

[Read more HERE!](#)

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 Durett at info@stowechurch.org. The position is available for the right person to start immediately.

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.

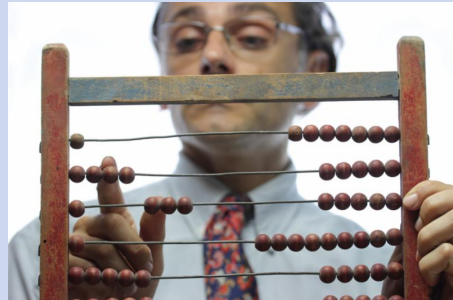
Candidates must have bookkeeping training and are experienced in Quick Books Online. This person reports to the

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:

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

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



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!!!



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!!!

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

UCC | NEWS

Reproductive justice advocate: Stop ignoring the cries of women

This commentary, the fourth in a series, was written two weeks before the United States...

UCC national offices again make regional list of 'top workplaces'

For a second straight year, the United Church of Christ's national ministries have made a list...

Next Synod, now a year away, will be in person; hybrid aspects being explored

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ will get back to business a year from now....

Memorial service July 13 for Jane Heckles, a leader in Conference and national ministries

A celebration of life will be held July 13 for the Rev. Jane Heckles, an influential...

[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/>

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"