



# The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ



a just  
world  
for all  
ucc.org

## 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

August 4th, 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

Welcome to this glorious day in early August! As I write, the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the frogs in the pond are croaking, and it is a beautiful blue-sky day. For all you music fans, go ahead and listen to “Mr. Blue Sky” by Electronic Light Orchestra, because it feels like that, peppy, upbeat, and groovy. “Hey you with the pretty face, Welcome to the human race! A celebration, Mr. Blue Sky's up there waitin', and today is the day we've waited for, Oh oh oho!”

I think we treasure blue sky days in Vermont because we also know how quickly the weather can change. We also know there will be grey-sky days ahead in just a few months. (Don't worry, I won't say the dreaded W word). Knowing the cycles is important for nature and for the seasons of our spirit too. As it says in Ecclesiastes 8:15:

***“So I commend enjoyment because there's nothing better for people to do under the sun but to eat, drink, and be glad. This is what will accompany them in their hard work, during the lifetime that God gives under the sun.”***

We are called to enjoy our blue-sky days as a balance to the work and challenges we will also endure.

In disaster response work, they speak of Blue-sky days as the time we are called to prepare for the grey-sky days of crises and disasters. I think this is a model that fits well for a life of faith as well. Through preparing and building resilience, we can lessen the severity of the hard times to come and through that work love our neighbors.

As the Vermont conference re-starts our own crisis response ministry, we too want to know our helpers so we can prepare and plan. This ministry goes beyond natural disasters and can include environmental, technological, and social crises as well. Which churches already offer crisis preparation or responses in their communities? This could include *food pantries, warming stations, have a parish nurse, organize street/protest medics, register as an emergency shelter, or assemble kits for Church World Service*, just to name a few examples. Which individuals are active in disaster preparation or want to learn more and get involved? Please let the conference or I know. You can email me at [pastor.greg.briggs@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.greg.briggs@gmail.com) . In the coming months, we will be developing a planning team and setting our crisis response priorities and want your help.

Seeing the flooding in Kentucky, our hearts and prayers go out to the victims as well as to all the helpers. Though our skies are currently blue, theirs are grey. Our assistance is already going out to them, through the UCC Disaster Ministries, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Neighbors in Need. If you want to donate, you can do so at <https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/disaster-relief/> And as you enjoy your blue sky days, spend some time imagining how we can prepare to help our neighbors.

by Rev. Greg Briggs, Conference Disaster Coordinator

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### Latest News

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## Paul Speaks on the Channel 3 News!!

# Religious leaders speak out on Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision



**RELIGIOUS LEADERS DISCUSS ROE V. WADE**  
SCOTUS 5-4 DECISION TO OVERTURN CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO ABORTION

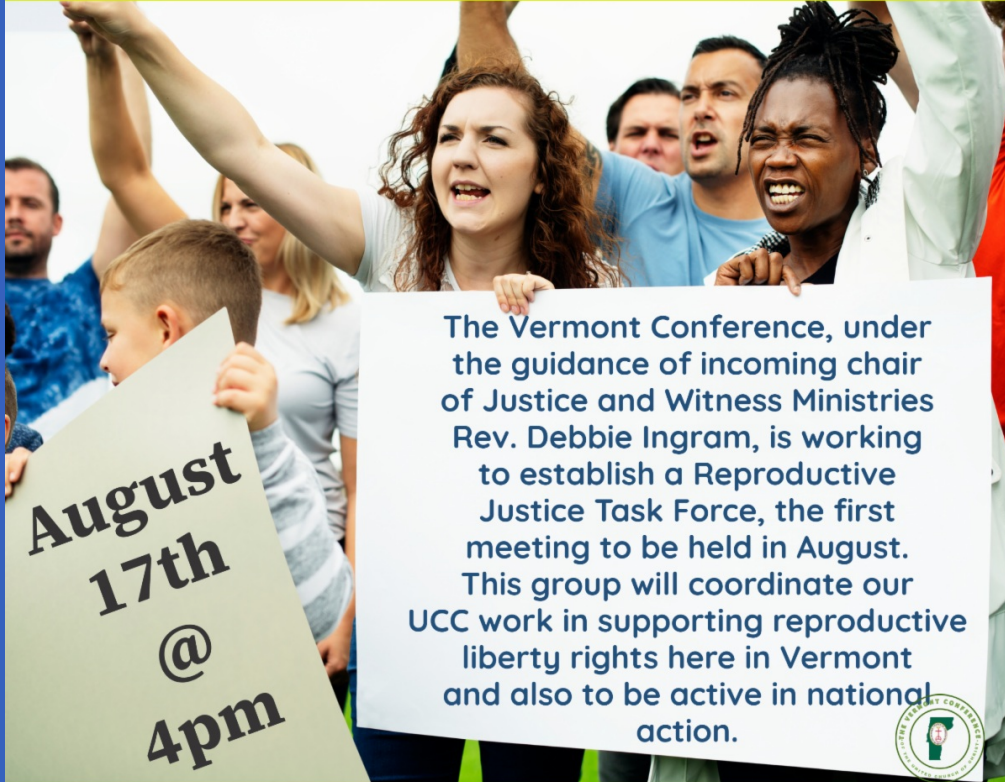
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xfinity WEATHER PLATTSBURGH, NY 65° CURRENT SUNNY 78° NOON M SUNNY 83° 4 PM P CLOUDY

By Cam Smith

[Click here to watch!!!](#)

# Reproductive Justice Task Force



**August  
17th  
@  
4pm**

The Vermont Conference, under the guidance of incoming chair of Justice and Witness Ministries Rev. Debbie Ingram, is working to establish a Reproductive Justice Task Force, the first meeting to be held in August. This group will coordinate our UCC work in supporting reproductive liberty rights here in Vermont and also to be active in national action.



## Register Here!!!



Plan now to attend:  
**Abolish Slavery VT Launch 2.0**  
Thursday, August 11, 2022, from 6 to 7:30 pm

Next Thursday, after the Primary elections are over, VIA and our partner Vermont Racial Justice Alliance will gear up our Prop 2 campaign to abolish slavery, no exceptions. Join us via Zoom on Thursday, August 11 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm.

This virtual event will feature a research report reminding us of the history of the Vermont constitution and slavery, testimonies from those who have pledged to vote in favor of Prop 2, and inspiration to motivate you to see this through to the finish line in November!

To register, [click here](#). You will then be emailed a unique Zoom link to join the event on August 11th. *For security purposes, please do not share this second link with others!*

**PRC - Practical Resources for Churches**  
Everyone Has a Calling - Ours Is Helping You!

### My Summer Vacation, Thinking

July is the beginning of our fiscal year a perfect time to think about new ideas and programs.

Lately I've thinking about small churches. What is the difference between a small church that is stable and a small church that going to close in a few years. How do we work with churches in each category?

Lucky for me other people have already thought about this. I remembered that we had done a webinar on this a number of years ago. Here is a link to the recording **Small Church Checkup: Assessing Your Church's Health and Creating a Treatment Plan** Leader: Kay Kotan



[Read more about subscriptions HERE!](#)



### [News from The BTS Center!](#)

[Religion News Service](#), an independent, nonprofit, award-winning source of global news on religion, spirituality, culture, and ethics, just published an article on The BTS Center written by journalist Marika Proctor. We are proud of the work we are doing and pleased that it's being recognized by an ever-widening audience.



The Reverend Arthur F. Cheney passed away on January 8, 2022 at the age of 86. He was the former minister in Wells River and McIndoe Falls.

Rev. Arthur Cheney will be buried on Saturday August 6, at the Mountainview Cemetery in Essex VT.

His full obituary can be found [HERE](#).

The Peru Congregational Church is mourning the loss of their former Pastor, **Margaret Dawedeit**. She passed away on July 20, 2022, in Silver Spring, Maryland where she had been living for the past year. Her family will let the community know when a memorial gathering is planned.



[You can read her full obituary here](#)

# LET THERE BE PUPPETS!!!

Paul Reed is a Christian puppeteer and has been writing and performing puppet shows for churches in VT for over twenty years. Recently, he started writing books of puppet scripts for different books of the Bible.

[You can read more here!!!](#)

"One of the things we are doing is inviting a puppeteer who specializes in puppet shows that talk about scripture. I have seen him about 6 or so times, he is funny and gets the message to kids and adults alike in a fun engaging manner!"  
-Federated Church of Bristol



Bristol is so excited to have him, they have him preform once a month!

[Guilford Community Church makes the Brattleboro Reformer for all of their great work!](#)

[Read here- "Community park taking shape in Guilford"](#)

See more photos below!



# Raising Funds for Reproductive Freedom

August 5 at 5 PM  
at the Fellowship Hall

## Indian Cuisine Dinner

120 Takeaway meals of chicken and tomato Balti, served over brown basmati rice. Dahl with squash and mixed vegetable raita  
Bring your appetite and your generous donation!

More details at [GUCCVT.org](http://GUCCVT.org)

Organized  
by



to benefit  
[www.girlup.org](http://www.girlup.org) and  
[www.vermontaccess.org](http://www.vermontaccess.org)



### **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!!!](#)**

## **Free Stuffed Animals from the United Community Church to You!!!!**



United Community Church was given dozens of stuffed animals with I love Jesus signs. The company that was selling them is moving to CA and it costs too much to ship them so they are free for anyone who wishes to take them. You can give them away, sell them, the company doesn't care. All we ask is that you pick them up from United Community Church in St. Johnsbury. Also available is a bendable "Jesus" and his carpenter's assistant, Izzy. The office is open Tues - Fri. 9 am - 2 pm. We are also available via phone 802-748-2603 or email: [Unitedcommunitychurchucc@gmail.com](mailto:Unitedcommunitychurchucc@gmail.com)

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!!!](#)**

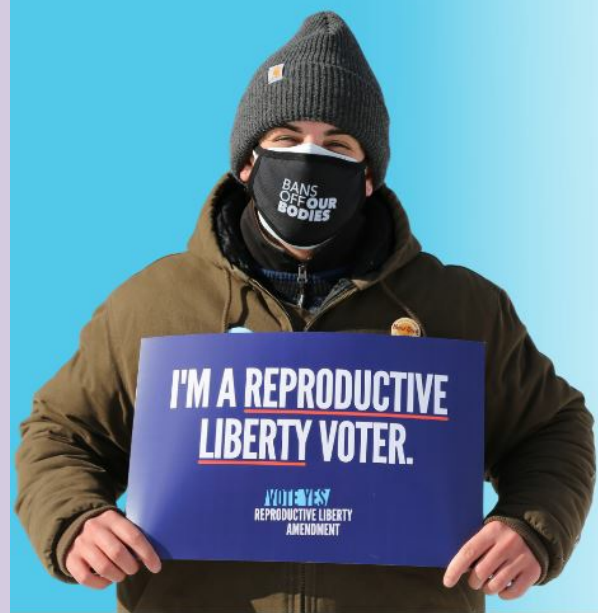
Addison Independent wrote an article (though they incorrectly stated it was put together at our Annual Conference) but you can find it [here](#).

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

**NO-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](#)

**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

The friends and family of Pastor Margaret Dawedeit.

## 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!!!**

*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!

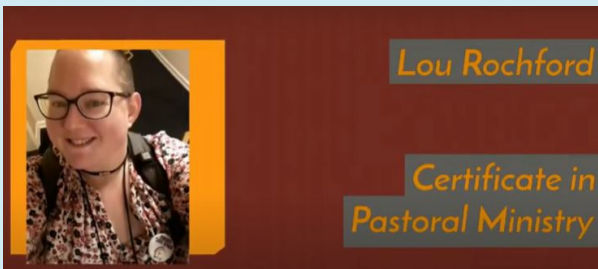


### **The Rev. Andi Lloyd**

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!

August 1st  
Mark Mendes

August 3rd  
William Neil

August 6th  
Richard White

August 9th  
Leonard Rowell

August 11  
Elissa Johnk  
Alison Young  
Anthony Acheson

August 15th  
Steven Berry  
Janet Langdon

August 22nd  
Paul Willard

August 23rd  
Donald Farrell

August 24th  
Theresa Lever  
Constance Moser  
Beverly Anderson

August 25th  
Bruce Comiskey  
Adrienne Carr

August 27th  
Devon Thomas

August 28th  
Christina Del Piero

August 31st  
Charlie Purinton

## Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

August 12th  
Catherine Cadieux

August 13th  
Duane Brown

August 17th  
Lise Sparrow

August 21st  
Lava Mueller

August 28th  
Cordelia Burpee  
Jordan Dickinson



## VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS



Stowe Community Church  
Director of Youth Ministry Job Description

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**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](mailto: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](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!!

# 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**

**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!!!

**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!!!](#)

# UCC SUMMIT

## 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.

### SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2022  
ONLINE - AND IN ST. LOUIS, MO



## 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)

# 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](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/>

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!"