



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 11th, 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

Friends of the Vermont Conference,

We have an important election coming up in November, and I know that many of us are interested in many aspects of it. In addition to the important races for elective office, we in Vermont have several proposals to vote on. Two that we have particularly focused on as a Conference are #2 and #5, and our friends at Vermont Interfaith Action have worked with us to raise our awareness of the importance of passing these proposals.

Two years ago, in 2020, we had another important election as a country, and we came together as a Conference to do a Prayer Guide. In the midst of our divisiveness as a nation, Paul Eyer, pastor of our Williston church, suggested that we have 20 days of prayer before the election, and invited us in the Conference to write short prayer guides that were shared with all of us before that important election. It was a wonderful reminder to us of the power of prayer together, and of the importance of the issues being voted on in that election.

For this election, we are once again soliciting short prayer guides of two or three paragraphs for 20 days before the election. We invite both pastors and lay people to participate. You can write about the importance of Proposals #2 or #5, or of anything else up in for discussion in this election cycle, though please don't endorse particular candidates. You can also write more broadly about our nation and God's call to us. Please send what you write to Jackie at vtconmincoor@gmail.com, and we will be sure to include them in our collective prayers as a Conference that will be shared with everyone starting 20 days before the election.

Gratefully yours,
Paul

Latest News

Paul Speaks on the Channel 3 News!!

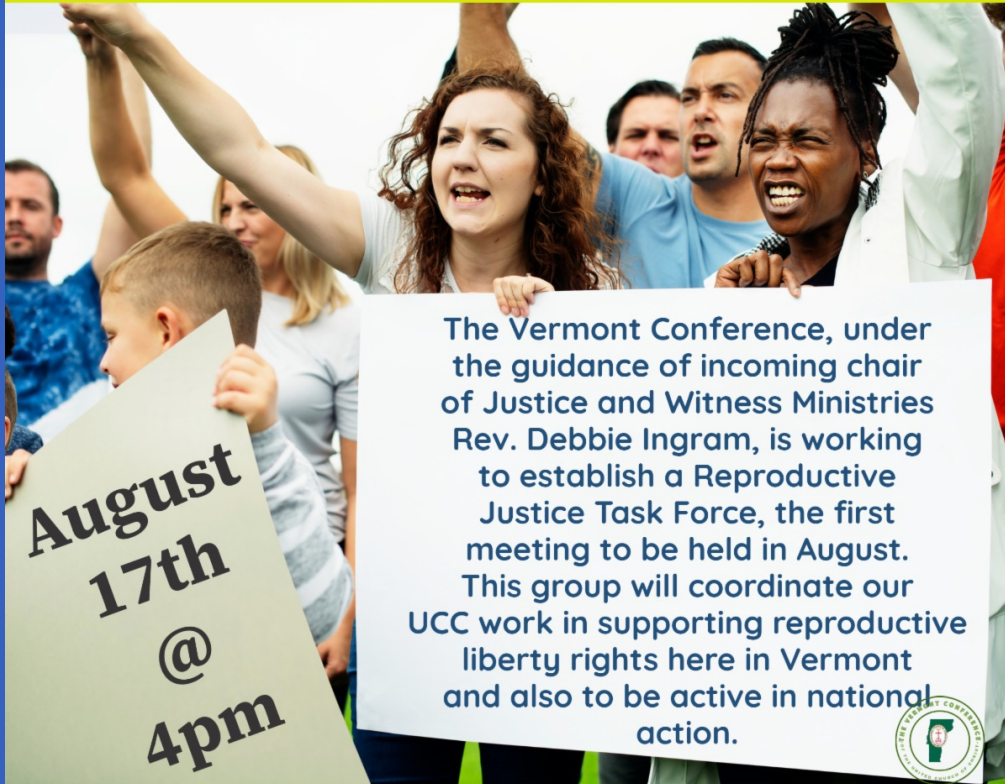
Religious leaders speak out on Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision



By Cam Smith

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

Reproductive Justice Task Force



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!*

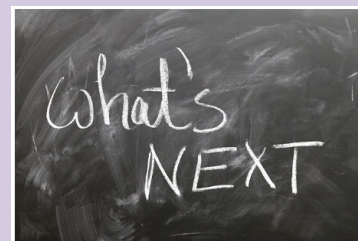
PRC - Practical Resources for Churches
Everyone Has a Calling - Ours Is Helping You!

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 PATHWAYS Theological Education Board of Directors invites all questioning, curious people of faith to join us for our 6-week courses beginning Fall I (mid-August) and Fall II (beginning late September) ([see website for details and registration links](#)). The 12-week UCC Polity course runs three times a year beginning September 7, January 11 and May 17.

Enroll now at [PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc.](#)

It can be very difficult for people to pick up their lives and go to seminary these days, especially if they're just beginning to sense a call. [PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc.](#), offers people the opportunity to start at the beginning of the education journey for substantially less money and time investment per course than seminary courses.

In six weeks, participants can learn basic theological principles of Progressive

Christianity or encounter the lives of important figures in Christian history, from their own computers on their weekly schedule in the comfort of their own homes. They'll work with participants from all over the country and skilled facilitators with expertise and passion for the subject matter.

For \$325 per 6-week course, PATHWAYS is affordable, flexible, and convenient—and PATHWAYS courses are designed to help participants build confidence and competence each step of the way. The 12-week UCC Polity course is a bargain at \$625.

PATHWAYS Website Addresses:

Website: <https://www.pathwaystheological.org/>

Course Calendar: <https://www.pathwaystheological.org/calendar/>

Our Stories: <https://www.pathwaystheological.org/our-stories/>



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](#).

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!



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.

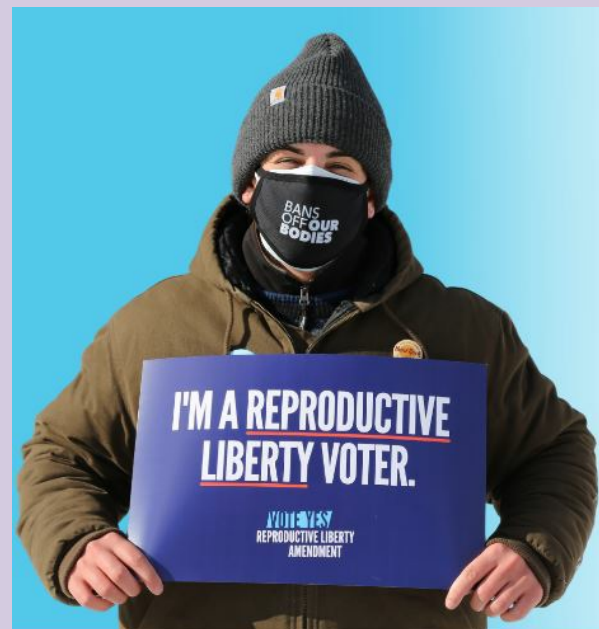
[**READ MORE HERE!!!**](#)

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**](#)



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 .

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](#)

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

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!



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

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 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](#)

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

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



Christina Del Piero

August 31st
Charlie Purinton



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 SOC. 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!!

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

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)

The image features a vibrant orange background with a subtle pattern of orange slices and a white starburst graphic in the top right corner. A white rectangular text box is positioned at the top center, containing the following text:

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!"