



# 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 18th, 2022

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## Message from the Conference

As Co-Chairs of the VT UCC Racial Justice Task Force we recognize that the road to racial justice and equity is long; it is fraught with complexity. Perhaps, our most important work is to help ourselves, others, and congregations within the Conference to acknowledge that as imperfect beings we must be open to the Spirit's lead in opening ourselves to a deeper understanding of the truth. The truth that racism, implicit and explicit biases have existed and do exist; the injustice and inequities that are a result of ignorance, fear, white privilege and white supremacy; and to acknowledge our history, seek grace and receive grace as we work to dismantle racism, white privilege and white supremacy as we do our part to make amends.

Thanks to all who have offered their voices to the conversations and work of the VT Conference UCC Racial Justice Task Force.

Any one person or congregation who is part of the Vermont Conference UCC is welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings and participate in our work "to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God." Below are three opportunities the task force would like to share with all who want to join in this work.

Sally & Sandy  
Co-chairs

Vermont Conference UCC Racial Justice Task Force

Nurturing Justice – A key component to being an activist/advocate/ally is to

understand how we got here in the first place, acknowledging the truth of our own history so that we can have honest and difficult conversations together and create pathways to healing. Kris Watson, Lead Facilitator and Founder of Nurturing Justice, shared the mission of Nurturing Justice at our May meeting and spoke about the programs offered. Through a trauma-informed care lens, Nurturing Justice seeks to help people to de-center whiteness, understanding that racism is a socio-political construct that continues to do harm to all. The programs offered are modeled after the UCC

Sacred Conversations to End Racism program developed by Velda Love. They are designed as intimate sessions with 20 people or less in an open, authentic, and vulnerable setting. Programs can be tailored to meet the needs of the participants from a 2-day intensive to a 6-month deep dive where curated resources are unpacked in 90-minute sessions every other week. Please check out the Nurturing Justice website for more information: <https://nurturingjustice.org/>

**Vermont Interfaith Action Prop Two Initiative** – Vermont’s constitution does not currently prohibit enslavement or slavery. Debbie Ingram, chair of Justice & Witness Ministries and Executive Director of Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA) spoke with VT UCC Racial Justice Task Force (VTRJTF) about Prop 2 – a ballot initiative to be decided by Vermont voters in November to end legal enslavement and slavery, no exceptions. The VTRJTF initiated a Conference Resolution that was approved at the VT Conference Annual Meeting this year supporting Proposition 2 and for congregations to educate themselves and those within their communities about Prop 2 as well as being witnesses to advocate for voting to end any and all legal forms of slavery in Vermont.

*Our Task Force is working to compile, create, and share Prayers and a worship service outline for congregational use before the November election. If you would like to submit a prayer, please email it to [vermontconference@gmail.com](mailto:vermontconference@gmail.com), attention Racial Justice Task Force Prop 2 prayers*

**Black Lives Matter Commissioning Project** - The Racial Justice Task force has been exploring this exciting program for church choirs that we encourage you to check out. Gospel music leader Kathy Bullock has been collaborating with others to develop this project to commission eight Black composers of choral music to create new works to be shared with choirs around the world. This is a way to honor and compensate Black Composers and musicians and, in a small way, to help make up for many centuries of appropriation of Black music. Follow this link to learn more, and be sure to check out the video, with an overview of the project, including an inspirational talk by Kathy. [BLMCommissioning |carolshortis.com](https://blmcommissioning.carolshortis.com).

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## **Latest News**

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**THE 106TH CLERGY CONVOCATION VERMONT  
CONFERENCE, UCC**

“Finding Joy in Social Justice”

You must test negative for Covid upon arrival. Tests will be provided.

Proof of vaccination is not required.

**[Register Here!](#)**

**[Find the Brochure Here!](#)**

**LEARN ABOUT THE  
REPRODUCTIVE  
LIBERTY AMENDMENT**

*AT THE  
GREENSBORO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST*

165 E CRAFTSBURY RD GREENSBORO, VT

**AUGUST 23rd, 7-8PM**

**VOTE YES  
REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY  
AMENDMENT  
Article 22**

**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!!!](#)



Celebration of Rev. Amy Pitton's 20 years as  
Minister of Bethany Montpelier  
Sunday – August 21<sup>st</sup>

For more information contact –  
[Lizbethmsr@gmail.com](mailto:Lizbethmsr@gmail.com)

Cards can be sent to  
Rev. Amy Pitton – Bethany Church, 115 Main St.,  
Montpelier, VT 05602

**The Waitsfield UCC** is blessed to host the artwork of Vermont artist Janet McKenzie - Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays Noon - 4 now through Labor Day Weekend. And yes, the original "Jesus of the People" is in the house!



## Courage, Justice, and Hope

The Inclusive Paintings of Janet McKenzie  
August 13–September 4

### FREE Community wide BBQ

Saturday, August 20, 12 noon - 2 pm

Danville Town Green

.Net donations will go to benefit the United Church of Christ's Ukraine Relief Fund.

- hamburgers/cheeseburgers,
- hotdogs, corn on the cob,
- macaroni/potato/coleslaw salads,
- iced tea and lemonade, and
- ice cream with toppings for dessert.

Menu Subject to change



Plan to bring a folding chair or picnic blanket!

Sponsored by Danvill Congregational Church Missions Committee

802-684-1151

[dcc@danville-ucc.org](mailto:dcc@danville-ucc.org)

87 Hill Street

PO Box 161

Danville, VT 05828

**Children's Ministry Cohort starts in  
September - Still 5 places left!**





## For Those New to Children's Ministry - a Cohort

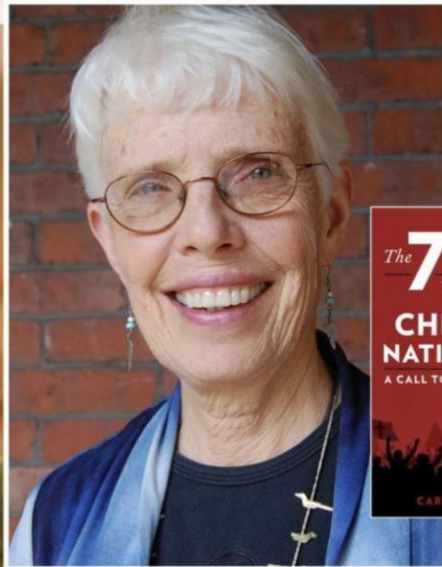
This fall we are offering this opportunity to 15 to 20 people who are New to Children's Ministry. This ecumenical cohort will be a place to learn, vision, and plan together.

The excitement, rigors, and challenges of children's ministries are improved when you have a

cohort to help you along. Here is your opportunity to access current research, best practices, and the new materials you need to help you launch your ministry in today's dynamic context that requires us to be more flexible than ever before. Beginning in September, we will gather once a month for four months on Zoom to examine:

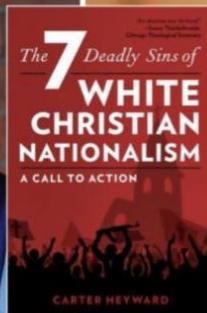
- § first things first: how to successfully launch your ministry
- § curriculum and resources
- § classroom management
- § living the liturgical year

Have questions email [elizabeth@prcli.org](mailto:elizabeth@prcli.org)



Author and Theologian

# CARTER HEYWARD



A public conversation discussing her book  
*The 7 Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism*

Wednesday, September 21  
4.00 – 5.30pm Eastern • Online



## ***The Seven Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism* book event**

**A conversation with author and theologian Carter Heyward**

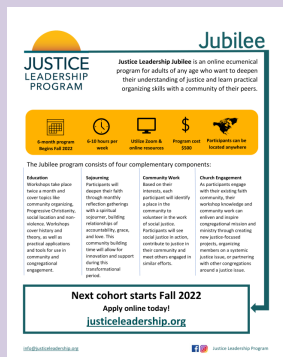
**Co-hosted by the Maine Council of Churches and The BTS Center**

**Wednesday, September 21, 2022**

4:00 pm-5:30 pm (Eastern) • Online






This book event is free, but we are accepting donations to go directly to **Faithful America** as they work to challenge Christian nationalism and white supremacy and to renew the church's prophetic role in building a more free and just society. You will have the opportunity to make a donation on the registration form.

**Register Here!**



**Jubilee**  
**JUSTICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

Justice Leadership Jubilee is an online ecumenical program for adults of any age who want to deepen their understanding of justice and learn practical organizing skills, with a community of their peers.

 **Enroll online**  
 **6-12 hours per week**  
 **Online Zoom 8**  
 **Program cost: \$0\***  
 **Participants from five PNW states**

The Jubilee program consists of four complementary components:

<b>Education</b> Readings and guided discussions will be held in small and large group settings. Participants will engage in self-reflection, journaling, and experiential learning. Participants will also receive practical skills and tools for use in congregational and community engagement.	<b>Supporting</b> Participants will discuss their faith through weekly reflection gatherings with spiritual leaders and theologians. Participants will also receive practical skills and tools for use in congregational and community engagement.	<b>Community Work</b> Based on their interests, each participant will identify a place in the community to serve. Participants will work together to identify and address a social justice issue. Participants will work together to identify and address a social justice issue.	<b>Church Engagement</b> An ecumenical dialogue will be held among faith communities. Participants will share their knowledge and experience with one another and explore opportunities for collaboration and support. Participants will also receive practical skills and tools for use in congregational and community engagement.
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Next cohort starts Fall 2022  
 Apply online today!  
[justiceleadership.org](http://justiceleadership.org)

©2022 Justice Leadership Program

## Justice Leadership Program

Fall application deadline September 23<sup>rd</sup>

Building on the success of the online spring Jubilee cohort, we're excited to be accepting applications for the fall Jubilee cohort that will run from October 2022 to May 2023. All participants from the spring cohort, hailing from five PNW congregations, agreed that the program was instrumental in their growth as justice leaders. Jubilee is an introductory justice course for adults of any age who want to deepen their understanding of justice and learn practical organizing skills. Program participants meet weekly for skill and knowledge building workshops, spiritual reflection, and group discussion and support.

**Apply now for Fall 2022**

[www.justiceleadership.org](http://www.justiceleadership.org)  
[info@justiceleadership.com](mailto:info@justiceleadership.com)

*Jubilee is a booster grant recipient of Volunteer Ministries of the National UCC, supported by GLOBAL H.O.P.E.*



## 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.





## **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.

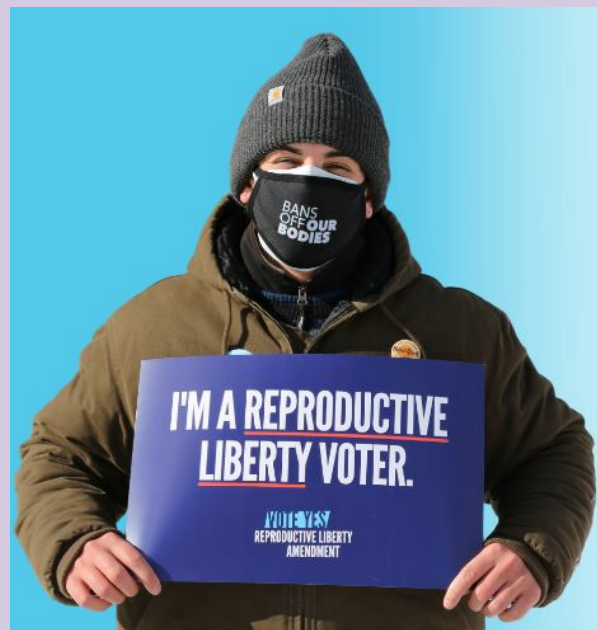
**[READ MORE HERE!!!](#)**

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

**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.







# 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](#)

## 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](#)

[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!](#)**



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](#).

## **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

### **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

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



## 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!

**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

 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

### **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](mailto:greensborochurch@gmail.com)**



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/>

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## 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](#)

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### **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!"