



# 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 25th, 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,

A colleague recently recommended the book "Hope: A User's Manual" by MaryAnn McKibben Dana. In it, she writes that "Hope is not optimism. It is not toxic positivity. Real hope demands that we do something with it. That we live it out."

One way that we as a Conference will be living it out this Fall is to have a Hope Sunday, on Sunday, Oct. 16 th . Use this Sunday to talk about hopeful things in the life of your church, knowing that churches across the Conference will be doing the same thing on that Sunday. Take an offering if you haven't already done so for the Hope Fund for the Conference, which will go to support new and innovative and hopeful ministries in our midst over the next ten years. Celebrate together the power of hope as we look to the future!

In our Southwest Association, they are doing a "Tour de SWA!" (SWA=Southwest Association!) Bikers will be going from church to church in the Association on that Sunday (just like the Tour de France!). People in the churches of the Association will be pledging gifts to the Hope Fund on that Sunday and talking about the hope they see in their congregations. The Association will have their Fall Meeting that afternoon to celebrate the day!

There is so much to grieve in our churches because of the effects of the pandemic, and it is so easy to focus solely on that grief, to

the point that we ignore everything else. But we will remember as a Conference on Hope Sunday, Oct. 16th , that God is not done with us yet, and our story as churches and as a Conference will continue. We give God the glory and the praise,

Hopefully yours,  
Paul

PS I will be away on vacation from Friday, Aug. 26th to Monday, Sept. 5th . If you need anything from the Conference during this time, please be in touch with Jackie or Elise. Both Lynn and I will be back on Sept. 6th !


---

### Latest News

---

## **CLERGY CONVOCATION IS HERE!!!**

OCTOBER 3rd - 5th  
CRAFTSBURY OUTDOOR CENTER!



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

“Finding Joy in Social Justice”

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

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

The Installation of **[Pastor Michael Dwyer](#)** at Pittsford Congregational Church UCC that was celebrated on Sunday, August 14th.

**Congratulations!**



Installation Service For Pastor Michael F. Dwyer

The members of First Congregational Church of Berlin proudly invite you to join us as we celebrate the Installation of our new pastor,

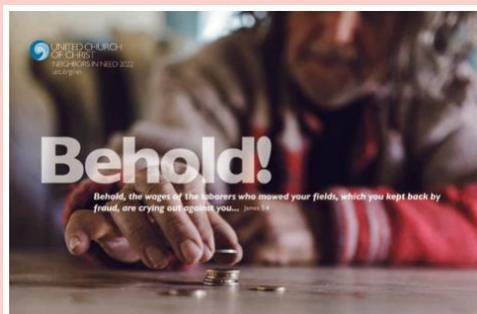
## **Rev. Alison Andrea Young.**

We will celebrate this blessed occasion through worship and with God's Word. Your presence will make this event a memorable experience for Pastor Alison and the congregation.

September 18, 2022 at 3:00 pm  
First Congregational Church of Berlin  
1808 Scott Hill Rd., Berlin, VT 05602  
802-229-0338

Reception will be held immediately following the service.  
Clergy are invited to vest in **red**.

## **Neighbors in Need 2022**



In 2022, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, we wanted to provide a way to discuss this topic through a faith lens.

Join us by promoting this year's NIN "Behold!" campaign at your church.

Explore the **FREE exciting**

**promotional toolkit**, which contains a four-week bible study, a coloring book, three posters, social media banners, and a leader's guide. These

materials will assist you in planning and carrying out the 2022 NIN campaign. As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Justice and Witness Ministries use two-thirds to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations and support various justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Most churches will collect the offering on October 2nd, 2022, as a part of World Communion Sunday, but contributions can be made at any time.

TO CELEBRATE THE  
**INSTALLATION**  
OF  
**REV. JULIE  
LOMBARD**

*SUNDAY*  
October  
**16<sup>th</sup>**

TWO THOUSAND  
AND TWENTY TWO

**3:00 PM**

The United  
Church of  
Northfield

58 S. MAIN ST.,  
NORTHFIELD

**PLEASE JOIN US**

**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

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES  
*cohort*

- four monthly sessions
- topics relevant to your ministry in this current time
- sharing of research, best practices, and new materials

**PRC**

EXCLUSIVE SERVICE FOR OUR SUBSCRIBERS

### 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:

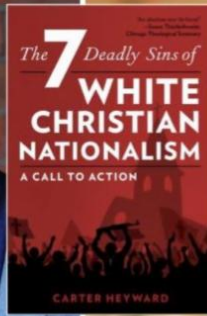
- § first things first: how to successfully launch your ministry
  - § curriculum and resources
  - § classroom management
  - § living the liturgical year

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 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.

**Amount program fee: \$100** | **6-12 hours per week** | **Online (Zoom)** | **Program cost: \$0** | **Participants can be from anywhere**

The Jubilee program consists of four complementary components:

- Education:** Workshops and group study to explore the Bible, history, and contemporary issues related to justice and equity.
- Learning:** Participants will explore their own faith traditions and how they relate to social justice and equity.
- Community Work:** Based on your interests, each participant will identify a place in the community to work on a project or issue that is important to them.
- Church Engagement:** An optional module for participants who want to explore how their faith traditions relate to social justice and equity.

**Next cohort starts Fall 2022**  
Apply online today!  
[justiceleadership.org](http://justiceleadership.org)

## **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.*



## **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**

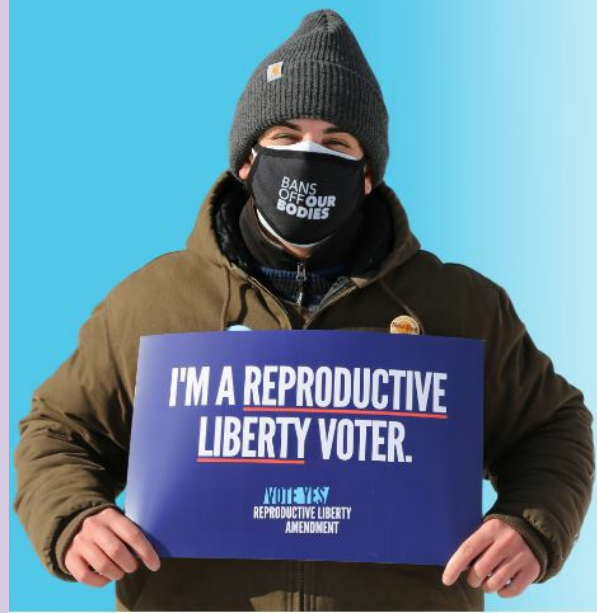
**VOTE YES**  
**REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY**  
**AMENDMENT**

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.



[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](#)

## 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

65° 7:21  
 78° NOON M SUNNY  
 83° 4 PM P CLOUDY

xfinity WEATHER PLATTSBURGH, NY

By Cam Smith

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

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



## 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.

### 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!**

## Celebrate!!

### Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

August 1st  
Mark Mendes

August 3rd  
William Neil

### Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

August 12th  
Catherine Cadieux

August 13th  
Duane Brown

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

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

---

**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- Charlotte Congregational Church

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



## SAVE THE DATE!

A poster for the UCC Summit. It features a woman with voluminous curly hair, smiling with her eyes closed. The background is a soft-focus landscape with mountains and yellow flowers. The text on the poster is as follows:

**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/>

---

---

## 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!"