



# 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 Fall Edition

September 8th, 2022

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## Message from the Conference



Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

I am deeply grateful for the Sabbatical time given to me by this Conference. Sabbath time enabled me to truly rest and to reconnect with what is important and necessary and sacred. The gift of this time enabled me to reconnect and spend quality time with Peg and our family. I reconnected with friends. I spent a lot of time with God, sorting and examining, letting go and recommitting to those activities and practices that are life giving for me and necessary for the health of my spirit, mind and body. I went fly fishing and spent evenings on our deck watching the bats take to the sky and the descending darkness light up one small firefly at a time. I played music alone and with my dulcimer friends. I took a couple of beginner classes in watercolor where I learned about the interaction between water and paint and learned to see more creatively.

I did not read a stack of books on various aspects of church, but I did have the time and space to think and pray about the world, the changing nature of church and specifically about the pastors and congregations of this Conference. I love this brave little Conference and continue to believe that our existence and witness matter. I return rested and renewed and ready for the next part of our journey together.

Thank you so much!  
-Lynn

**\*\*\*Furthermore\*\*\***

Our Conference along with the New Hampshire Conference received information that a group known as the Free Staters has published a listing of “woke churches.” I think this is an issue our churches should be aware of. To describe this to you I am using excerpts from an article written by my colleague, Gordon Rankin, Conference Minister in New Hampshire.

The target audience for this list of “woke churches” is those who do not want to find themselves in such a church.

The criteria to be considered a "woke" church (according to the Free Staters) is one of the following four things: 1) being LGBTQ affirming, 2) being involved in racial or social justice, 3) having continuing Covid protocols, or 4) being affirming of Ukraine. Later in the week, there was also a similar listing for Jewish faith communities.

As best we can tell, all the information on this list comes from the websites and social media postings of the various churches and synagogues. In other words, it is all information that is already public.

We share this news so that there is awareness among our churches. We encourage continuing the same safe church strategies that are used regularly. At this time, we are not encouraging our churches to do anything reactively as it can increase potential risk.

I especially want to underscore this final statement in Gordon’s article:

I would remind us that it is important that we not allow our faith commitments to be silenced at such a time as this. (It is certainly possible that trying to silence the faith witness of such churches and synagogues is part of the intent of such a list.) Our siblings in the LGBTQIA+ communities and in communities of color often find themselves in vulnerable places. If our faith witness is silenced, their vulnerability is only increased. Our voices for justice need to be even louder when things get uncomfortable.

Let us be informed, aware and faithful to the gospel call of radical welcome and a just world for all. If you hear or experience issues with the “woke church list” please let the Conference know.

Courage in the struggle (thank you Betty Edson),  
Lynn

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**Latest News**

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UCC Reproductive Liberty  
Task Force

# WEBINAR ON ABORTION ACCESS AND ACTION FOR VERMONT

Presentation by Planned Parenthood  
of Northern New England

## THURSDAY SEPT. 15<sup>th</sup>

### AT 5:30 PM VIA ZOOM



Overview of abortion care access in VT and  
nationally

How did we get here? - brief history

Purpose of Article 22

Misinformation campaigns in VT and nationally

What can we do as individuals and churches?

# REGISTER HERE

Save the date of Thursday, September 15 from 5:30-6:30pm for an informational webinar on Vermont's Article 22 (Prop 5) and reproductive rights.

The United Church of Christ, Vermont Conference, is hosting a statewide virtual webinar about the issue of access to abortion care in Vermont and nationally as a result of the Supreme Court Dobbs vs Jackson decision in June, 2022 that overturned abortion access. Also, the webinar will address the November 8 voting on Article 22, the Reproductive Liberty Amendment, that insures reproductive

health choice for Vermonters. The speaker will be Lucy LeRiche from Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. This webinar is for all churches and their membership in the UCC and will be recorded for further viewing. For more information, contact Elise Foster - [VermontConference@gmail.com](mailto:VermontConference@gmail.com)



## **MAINE** **WELCOMES A** **NEW** **CONFERENCE** **MINISTER!!!**

Please celebrate with **Rev. Marisa Laviola**, one of our former pastors, who has been called as Conference Minister in the Maine Conference of the UCC, beginning October 26. Marisa considers Vermont her "home" conference where she was nurtured and grew and learned as local pastor.

Feel free to send her a word of congratulations!!!

[\*\*revdrmarisa@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:revdrmarisa@gmail.com)

[\*\*Read more here!!!\*\*](#)

# Tour De SWA

October 16th, 2022

United Church of Benson



Members of the Southwest Association will be making a 44.9 mile pilgrimage via bicycle to raise money for the Hope Fund! They will stop at six churches. It will end at 4pm with a barbeque at the United Church of Dorset! Please come help us cheer them on!



## 2022 BURLINGTON PRIDE!!!

[Click here for Burlington's 2022 Vermont Pride Parade Registration so your church can join in on the fun!!!](#)

*Let us know if your church will be participating so we can take lots of*



photos!!!



## **INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE**

*Nourish, Renew & Thrive*


**Thursday 9.15.22 @ 7pm**  
UVM Interfaith Center  
400 S. Prospect, Burlington

This inclusive space and program invites LGBTQ+ people and their allies to celebrate the sacredness of queer joy, embodiment, and community. Knowing that each of us understands spirituality differently, together we'll create space for our beautiful diversity.

For questions email [interfaith@uvm.edu](mailto:interfaith@uvm.edu) 

## **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!](#)**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR INSTALATION OF

# REV. ANDREW PONDER WILLIAMS

SUNDAY  
**18**  
OF SEPT.

3:00PM  
UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH  
1325 MAIN STREET, ST.  
JOHNSBURY, VT 05819

## **P.F.L.A.G. End of Summer Cook-out**

(Free to all)

Sunday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 - 6 :00 P.M.

(Rain or Shine)

If "shine" at the Dorset Church manse next door to the church, if "rain" in the church vestry and new Upper Room Chapel.



Theme of the Event: "COMING OUT STORIES."

P.F.L.A.G. (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is a national network of support groups for anyone, gay or straight, who are concerned with L.G.B.T.Q. issues and loved ones. We are the only local chapter in our area and just celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary last spring.

All are welcome but reservations are appreciated to have enough food. Call 802-867-2260 to let us know your coming or send an email to [dorsetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetchurch@gmail.com)

## November Trip to El Salvador



You are invited! Yes, you! Bethany Church, Montpelier, is planning a weeklong trip to El Salvador to visit its rural sister parish—a 30-year relationship—and explore other areas of the country to learn about culture, history, and current issues affecting the lives of Salvadorans. We've been taking trips for three decades and they are ALWAYS

fabulous, opening minds and hearts in unexpected ways. This is not a work trip; it is about visiting friends and making new ones, being present in solidarity with people in their struggles, and learning about issues that touch on our responsibilities as Christians and as U.S. citizens. Past participants include members of churches in Montpelier, East Montpelier, Barre, Berlin, Waterbury, Randolph, Sherburne, Castleton, Thetford, and Brattleboro, which has its own Salvadoran sister parish. We have no firm dates or costs yet; we're trying for the beginning of November and the cost in the past has been around \$1,200, including flights. You probably have many questions, and we can answer them all!

Please contact Theresa Lever now, even if you only have a glimmer of interest. [thelevers@comcast.net](mailto:thelevers@comcast.net), 802-498-5019 call or text





# CLIMATE CHANGED

A Podcast from  
THE **BTS** CENTER



## Climate Changed

A Podcast from The BTS Center

hosted by Nicole Diroff and Ben Yosua-Davis  
produced by Peterson Toscano

Episode 4 featuring Keyana Pardilla, Robin Wall Kimmerer,  
and Sherri Mitchell is now live! [Click here to listen and  
subscribe on your favorite podcast platform.](#)

DONUTS AND CIDER

# Rally Sunday

SEPTEMBER 18


The United Church of Dorset and East Rupert invites all interested families with children 5-12 years old to join us as we begin a new year of Sunday School

Mark your calendars for our Meet 'n Greet opening session on Sunday, September 18, at 10am when we will share introductions, learn about our upcoming schedule of activities, and celebrate with donuts and apple cider!

Our church leaders are excited to join us with a Time With The Young message to help us celebrate our faith with one another and our church community. We look forward to meeting you!



United Church of Dorset and East Rupert  
143 Church Street  
Dorset, VT 05251  
802.867.2260



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**.

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**

**VERMONT'S REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY  
AMENDMENT**

**NOVEMBER 5**  
**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](#)

## PRAYER CONCERNS



Please Keep Rev. Katherine Buechner Arthud and family in your prayers. Katherine's father Fred Buechner, died two weeks ago and she lost her mother this week.

## 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](#)

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

## Celebrate!!

### Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

September 2nd  
Alden Launer  
Judith Waible

September 6th  
Amelia Pitton  
Margaret Wright

### Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

September 1st  
Karen Lipinczyk

September 17th  
Gary Lewis

September 18th  
Sally May

September 8th  
Wayne Holsman

September 10th  
Robert Moyer

September 11th  
Marjorie MacNeill

September 16th  
Paul Sangree

September 17th  
Kathy Clark

September 18th  
Laura Engelken  
Andrew Ponder Williams

September 22nd  
Susan Webster-Toleno

September 23rd  
Jane LoBrutto

September 24th  
Daniel Cooperrider  
Gail Dimick

September 27th  
Benjamin Thurber

September 22nd  
Barbara Purinton

September 23rd  
Evelyn Coupe

September 24th  
Mary Simpson Thompson

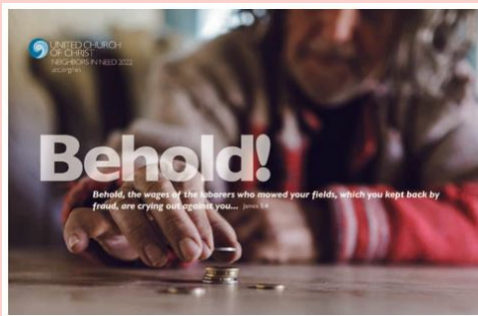
September 26th  
Sandra Daly

September 27th  
James MacIntyre

September 28th  
John Weatherhogg  
Tracy Weatherhogg



## 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.

# 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!](#)**

**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:



**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!



**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



## 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!!!](#)

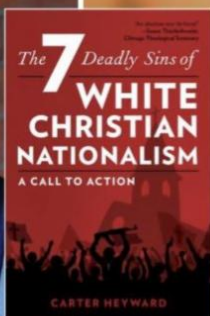


Author and Theologian

## 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!](#)

# 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)

## 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.org](mailto:info@justiceleadership.org)

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

A screenshot of the Justice Leadership Program website. The page features a header with the program name and a brief description. Below the header, there are icons representing various aspects of the program: a calendar for the 8-week duration, a clock for the 6-10 hour weekly commitment, a laptop for online courses, a dollar sign for the \$1000 grant, and a group of people for the 10-12 participants per cohort. The main content area lists four components: Mentorship, Learning, Community Work, and Mutual Engagement. A call to action at the bottom states 'Next cohort starts Fall 2022' and provides the application link 'Apply online today! justiceleadership.org'. Social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter are also visible.



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**

For the latest [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 [lbvtc@gmail.com](mailto:lbvtc@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!"