



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 29th, 2022

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Message from the Conference

Friends of the Vermont Conference,

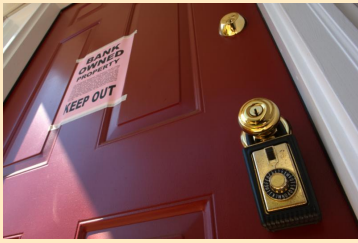
I have been recently watching the PBS series, "America and the Holocaust." The program particularly focuses on the American reaction to the Jewish refugees who were desperately trying to escape from the clutches of Nazi Germany and the eventual Holocaust. There were American Christian leaders who denounced the Nazi actions, and stood by the Jewish people, and there were American Christian leaders who warned of the dangers of allowing any Jewish immigration to this country. In retrospect, we as a nation failed in so many ways to do what was right.

Every age faces its own moral dilemmas. In our clergy call this week, it was brought up that there will likely be many climate change refugees coming to Vermont over the next ten years. A recent PBS video about climate change looked at the US and determined that the safest place to live in the US in this time of climate change is Vermont. Our state, which has struggled with population growth, may find that there will be many more people coming here looking for housing and jobs in the coming years.

What will the response of your church be? Can we through our actions and words be the hands and feet of Jesus in our state in response to these climate change refugees? What would it look like for your church to do that? These might be some good conversations for the leaders of your church to have in the coming months and years.

Faithfully yours,
Paul

Latest News



The VERAP Housing program is slated to end on December 1, which means that 8,000 economically disadvantaged Vermonters receiving VERAP are in danger of losing housing. COVID, job losses and rising rental prices have made the situation worse. **Vermont Interfaith Action has a letter** that you can sign on to if you would like to join in encouraging Governor Scott to come up with another housing plan before Vermonters are literally put out in the cold. I encourage you to join me in both signing the letter and sending one to Governor Scott directly at **<https://vermont.force.com/vermontce/s/governor-office-ce>** or 109 State St., Pavilion, Montpelier, VT 05609. We need to act now before the crisis becomes worse with the onset of winter.

Article 22 presentation by

Planned Parenthood!!!!



The Reproductive Liberty Task Force is encouraging congregations to promote their support of Article 22 (Prop 5.)

The Task Force has sent the following letter to Seven Days and encourage UCC churches to send letters to their local news outlets. The Conference has a listing of local news outlets, so for more information, contact **VermontConference@gmail.com**.

2022 BURLINGTON PRIDE!!!

A special thank you to Lucy Samara, Rev. Sally May, and Rev. Elissa Johnk for additional photos!



Mr. Rick Presson from Mallets Bay Congregational Church

Rev. Josh Simon from First Congregational Church Essex Junction hands out stickers!!!



Mallets Bay Congregational Church



First Congregational Church, Burlington



First Congregational Church, Essex Junction



Charlotte Congregational Church, UCC



Williston Federated Church



Rev. Sally May from Mallets Bay visits with parade attendees.



Did your church participate in a Pride event? Please send your photos to VermontConference@gmail.com !!!

Vergennes is seeking a Coordinator of Children and Family Ministries!!!

Just for fun!!!



**Click here to update your
contact information!!!**

Rev. Alison Andrea Young
was installed as the Pastor
of First Congregational
Church in Berlin on Sept.
18th, 2022!



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!



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, 802-498-5019 call or text



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.](#)

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

SUNDAY
October

16th

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**

NO-YES
**REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY
AMENDMENT**

A ballot measure amending
Vermont's constitution to
protect every person's right to
make their own reproductive
decisions.

The Reproductive Liberty Amendment, previously Prop 5, will be a ballot measure in Vermont's 2022 General Election. If passed, it would amend Vermont's constitution to protect every person's right to make their own reproductive decisions, like whether and when to become pregnant, use temporary or permanent birth control, or seek abortion care.



[Read More HERE](#)

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.

Please keep Reverends Mark and Amy Pitton in your prayers. Marks father passed away this week. In addition, this is a challenging time for Bethany Church and for Amy.

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](#)

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

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

September 1st
Karen Lipinczyk

September 17th
Gary Lewis

Amelia Pitton
Margaret Wright

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 18th
Sally May

September 22nd
Barbara Purinton

September 23rd
Evelyn Coupe

September 24th
Mary Simpson Thompson

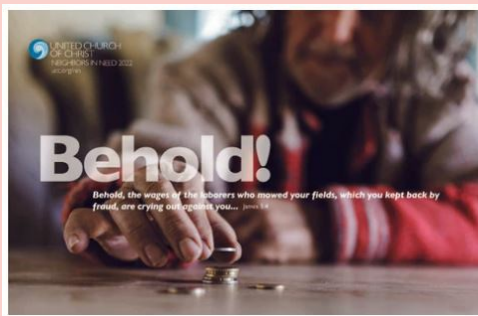
September 26th
Sandra Daly

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.



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

[Read more here!!!](#)

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!](#)

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. 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:

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!

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



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

For the latest [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)

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!"