



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

October 6th, 2022

Table of Contents

- 1) Message from the Conference
- 2) Latest News
- 3) Prayer Concerns

- 4) Around the Conference
- 5) Save the Date & Cont. Ed Resources
- 6) VTCUCC Classifieds

Message from the Conference

Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

Creation is displayed in all its glory during these Autumn days. I hope each of you will have a chance to walk, hike, bike, kayak or whatever your chosen way to encounter the Creator in creation. Those of us who attended the Clergy Convocation at the Craftsbury Outdoors Center were blessed by the location and blessed by our speaker, Bishop Dwayne Royster.

Our theme was "Justice and Joy." Dwayne led us through stories, scriptural encounters, honest conversations and a series of questions as he reminded us that in order to change the world we must first be willing to change ourselves. There were many "aha!" moments and an equal number of "ouch" ones.

One of the learnings for me was to remember that when we work for justice it can take a mighty long time. There are defeats along the way. Faithful persistence, not letting go or giving up is required as we seek to partner with those whose voices are chronically ignored and for whom justice is chronically denied.

Here are some of the questions we wrestled with:

- What is my (our) why?
- What am I missing?
- Who do you need to run with?
- What is saving you right now?
- For what are you willing to lay it all down?

Sacred conversations in a sacred world. Blessings to you in the wonder and the wrestling.

In peace,
Lynn

We are Praying for Those Impacted by Hurricane Ian in Florida

The UCC Disaster Ministry team sends our love, support, and prayers for those impacted by the hurricane and ask that you do the same.

The devastation from this storm is historic and Southwest Florida will be rebuilding for some time.



The United Church of Christ stands at the point of need with the message that, no matter what, God is with us. Disaster Ministries participates in long-term recovery efforts, supplying much needed funding and volunteers as we work to fulfil our mission: *Responding to the call of our Christ-centered faith, UCC Disaster Ministries supports holistic community recovery by engaging supporters, volunteers, and partners to focus on preparedness, emergency relief, and long-term recovery.*

Please Help:

- Pray for those impacted.
- Put together CWS kits and clean-up buckets. [Learn more.](#)
- Help is needed to move some of the kits we have received to the CWS warehouse in Maryland. If you can help, please reach out to [Karl Jones.](#)
- Donate: [Donate Now – United Church of Christ \(ucc.org\)](#)
- Sign up to Volunteer: <https://support.ucc.org/volunteer-opportunity-form>
- Volunteer Opportunities: [UCC Ministry Opportunities](#)
- Have your congregation join the Willing to Respond Network of Churches: [Willing to Respond Preparedness Network](#)

Thank you!

2022 Clergy Convocation!





Thank you so much to all who helped plan such an amazing event!!

Look at the gorgeous view (photo by Rev. Chris Heintz)!!!



Bishop Dwayne Royster!



Biking at Craftsbury Outdoor Center!



Coffee with old and new pals!

Pass Proposal 2

*...slavery and indentured servitude
in any form are prohibited.*

Abolish Slavery Vermont

#AbolishSlaveryVT



www.abolishslaveryvt.org



Vermont voters will vote by November 8th on Prop 2, to amend the state constitution to abolish slavery, no exceptions. Although Vermonters have been told that the state was the first to abolish slavery, there have always been exceptions, including allowing those under 21 to be enslaved, or enslaving individuals because of debts, damages, or fines. These have led to similar exceptions in the constitutions of 25 other states and in the Thirteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which allows enslavement for punishment of a crime.

Prop 2 needs to be passed not only because slavery is morally reprehensible and should be unambiguously abolished, but also to help Vermonters make the connection between the historic legacy of slavery and the current inequity, violence, and systemic racism in our society.

There are four ways you can respond now, to help the campaign being led by Vermont Interfaith Action and the Vermont Racial Justice Alliance:

- 1) To **pledge** to vote “yes,” use this link: <https://bit.ly/AbolishSlaveryVT>.
- 2) To request a **lawn sign**, email office@viavt.org with your name and physical address (be sure to include the town!) for drop-off.
- 3) To join us for **canvassing** in Barre City on Sat, Oct 8th from 9:30 am to 12 noon, or in Norwich on Sat, Oct 15th from 9:30 am to 12 noon, email office@viavt.org with your name, email, and phone number.

4) To do **phone banking**, which can be done with your computer from the comfort of your own home and is fully automated, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 pm, on Oct 11, 12, 18, 19, 26, 27 or Nov 2 or 3, email office@viavt.org with your name, email, and phone number.

From the Racial Justice Task Force: Introducing the "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 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.

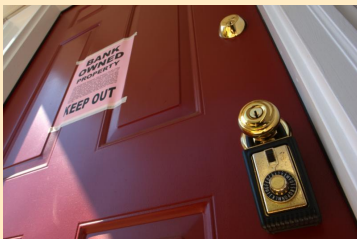


[BLMCommissioning | carolshortis.com](https://www.carolshortis.com)

The task force group has been exploring with Kathy Bullock some options for ways to participate, and there are many ways you could join in. Here are some ideas:

- 1) Have your choir join, by having each member make a small donation to the project, as a way of honoring the tradition of Black choral composers.
- 2) If you don't have a choir that this would work for, we explored other possibilities, such as having a community workshop or collaboration with another nearby church or choral group.
- 3) An online webinar led by the choral composers, along with Kathy Bullock, will be held at the end of Oct. (21st and 22nd.) Should be inspiring, and it will be available to anyone who contributes to the project.

Feel free to contact Fred Taylor (rtaylor@antioch.edu) if you're interested and would like more information.
Members of the Racial Justice Task Force



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.



**The United Church of Ludlow was blessed
to have Michelle Fountain installed its
pastor on September 18!!!**

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 !!!



THE TALK, VERMONT

The Talk, Vermont



Thank you so much for your support and participation in what was formerly The Racism in America Forum and, starting this fall, will be known as The Talk, Vermont. While our focus will be on Vermont, one of the whitest states in the nation, and its efforts to confront and overcome the challenges of racism and other forms of bigotry, we shall draw upon resources both within and beyond the state in guiding our path to a better place.

[Read more here](#)

Just for fun!!!



Click here to update your contact information!!!



The Center on Aging is sponsoring three FREE “Start A Village in Your Community” events in late October.

We are hoping that you will share a link to the webpage, so your conference members can learn about this opportunity.

The idea is to give Vermonters a chance to explore the Village Model of Aging. As you may

know, we have two villages in VT already (Mt. Mansfield & Lamoille Neighbors) and the Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC) is also exploring the concept.

There is a zoom option for the Tues., Oct 25th event at 4 pm.

The three events are:

Start a Village in Your Community

Monday, October 24th, 1 pm – Killington (Killington Grand Hotel)

Tuesday, October 25th, 10 am - Waterbury (Best Western Plus)

Tuesday, October 25th, 4 pm - Burlington (Fletcher Free Library)

Zoom option available ONLY on Tues (10/25) at 4 pm (Registration required)

Barbara Sullivan, from the **National Village-to-Village Network**, will speak at each event.

We are asking folks to pre-register, though it's not required except for the zoom on 10/25.

Web page with link to pre-register: http://www.med.uvm.edu/centeronaging/upcoming_events

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



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

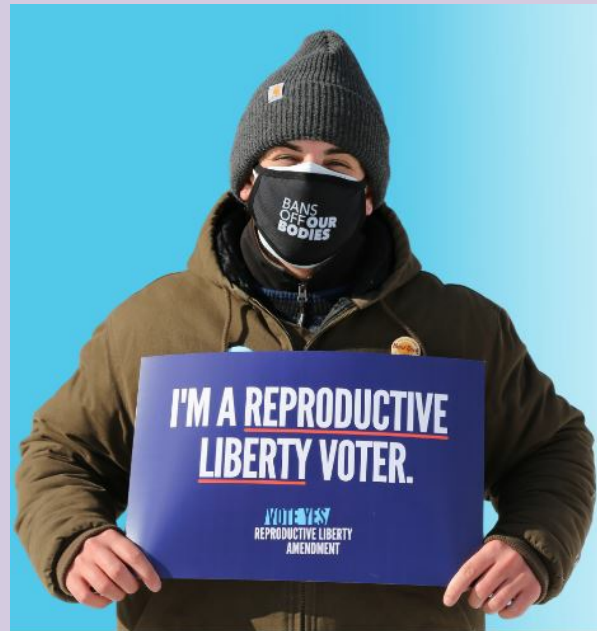
VERMONT'S REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY AMENDMENT



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](#)

PRAYER CONCERNS



Please Keep Rev. Katherine Buechner Arthuad 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](#)



Celebrate!!

Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

October 3rd
Robert Russell-Faling

October 9th
Pamela Lucas

October 12th
Susan Mcknight
Susan Church

October 13th
Dereen Vanderlinde-Abernathy

October 14th
Diana Scholl

October 16th
Jean O'Bresky

October 17th
Ivy Merrill
Susanna Griefen

October 19th
Arnold Thomas
Diana Benjamin

October 20th
Richard Bingham

October 21st
Laura Cadmus
Jo Shelnurr
Cornelius Carr

October 24th
Jared Hamilton

October 26th
Shawn Bracebridge

October 28th
William Cobb

October 29th
Lava Mueller

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

October 1st
Mark Mendes

October 3rd
James Mills
Douglas Moore

October 4th
Gail Dimick
Joan Vincent

October 5th
Paul Eyer

October 10th
Alison Young

October 12th
Paul Sangree
Arnold Thomas

October 14th
Katherine Arthaud
Susan Church

October 16th
Margaret Flad

October 18th
Adrienne Carr
William Neil

October 21st
Evelyn Lavelli
Susan Mcknight

October 24th
Jeffrey Cornwell

October 25th
Alyssa May

October 27th
Larrimore Crockett

October 29th
Margaret Tooker

October 30th
John Sanborn
David Dean

October 31st



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.

[FIND THE LETTER TO PERSONALIZE HERE!](#)

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**](mailto: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!](#)

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

The Congregational Church of Vergennes, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation of 135 members seeking a Coordinator of Children and Family Ministries. 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 little city.

This position carries an expectation (on average) of 12-15 hours per week. We seek a person of faith with experience working with children and/or youth, who will direct a program of stimulating and nourishing faith formational opportunity. If this sounds like the way you want to make a big impact in our community, please contact Rev. Elliott Munn at elliott@vergennesucc.org.

For more information, including the Job Description, please go to the church's website:

<https://www.vergennesucc.org/ccfmsearch>

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!"