



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 13th, 2022

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Message from the Conference

Friends of the Vermont Conference,

At our Conference clergy call this week, we remembered that 2022 marks the anniversary of a couple of very important dates in United Church of Christ history. It was fifty years ago, in 1972, that Bill Johnson as an openly gay man was ordained by the Golden Gate Association of the Northern California Conference. He was the first openly gay man to be ordained by a Christian denomination in the United States. It was forty years ago, in 1982, that Anne Holmes as an openly lesbian woman was ordained by the Potomac Association of the Central Atlantic Conference. She was the first openly lesbian woman to be ordained by a Christian denomination in the United States.

Since then, both have ministered in the United Church of Christ in many different ways. Rev. Holmes served as pastor of several different churches in the Central Atlantic Conference and retired in 2017 from Bethel United Church of Christ in Vienna, Virginia. Rev. Johnson started new churches in New York and Ohio and founded what is today known as the UCC Coalition for LGBTQ Concerns. He retired in 2013.

Of course, much has changed since those historic ordinations, for which we give thanks. There is also much that has not changed. We are so grateful for these historic trailblazers! Our own Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ has been Open and Affirming since 2004. We give thanks for all of the queer clergy

and laity who serve and worship in our churches, and for their leadership and witness in our Conference! May we take a moment to give thanks for where we have come from,

Faithfully yours,
Paul

Latest News

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!



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!





PLEASE JOIN US FOR INSTALATION OF

REV. ANDREW
PONDER WILLIAMS

SUNDAY
16
OF OCT.

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



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



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.



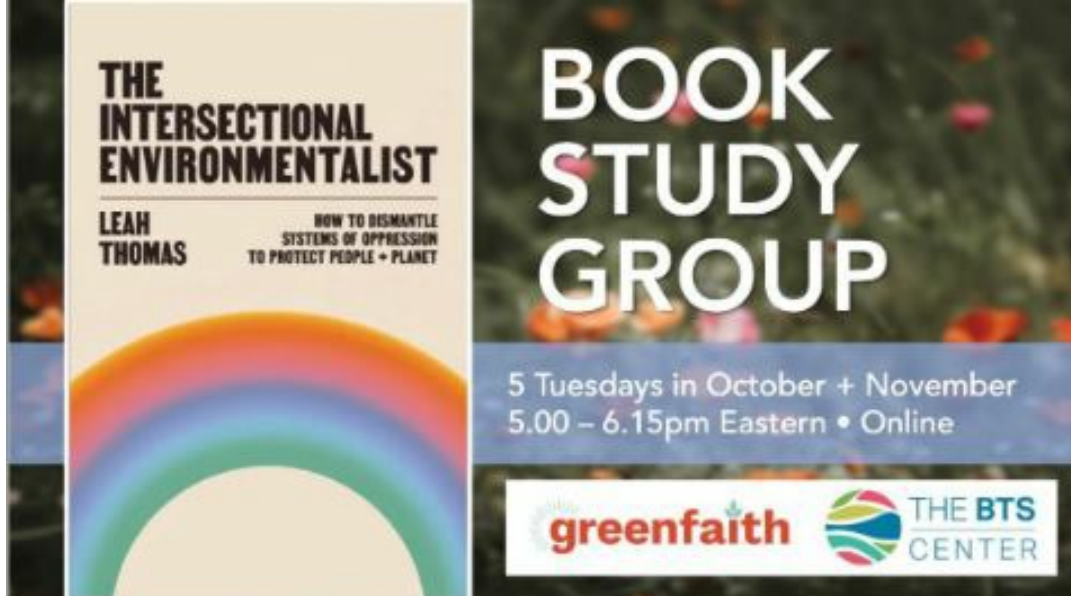
[BLMCommissioning | carolshortis.com](https://www.carolshortis.com)

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 Intersectional Environmentalist* Book Study**

**Five Tuesdays, October 18 - November 15, 2022
5:00 - 6:15 pm (Eastern) • Online**

Co-hosted by GreenFaith and The BTS Center

\$35 per person

Scholarships are available for this program. Please write to nicole@thebtscenter.org to inquire.

[Learn More!](#)

[Register](#)

New Offerings from Practical Resources for Churches!!!



Tax-Advantaged Giving Guest Post: Horizons Stewardship

The program year is already in full swing, and soon enough, you will be wrapping up another year of ministry. Now is the time to consider how you will engage your donors during this important giving season by encouraging tax-advantaged giving.

It is true that reducing tax liability is not a primary motivator for giving. However, today's donors are savvy about leveraging their contributions to take advantage of tax deductions. Promoting tax-advantaged giving can help your donors maximize their gift to your church and provide substantial year-end funding for your important ministries.

What are some of the primary ways donors can leverage their gifts and avoid unnecessary taxation?

Did you miss these webinars?

Encouraging Year End Giving

Leaders - Scott McKenzie, Jennifer Williams

Finish Strong 2022

Should You Do a "Second Annual" Pledge Drive?

Leader: Cesie Delve Scheuermann & Julia Frisbie

IRA Rollover Handout 2020

2020 Year End Flyer

January pledge letter

January pledge letter for those 70.5 years+

What's Next for the Offering Plate?

Leaders - Scott McKenzie, Jennifer Williams

REVOLVING DOOR OFFERING TALKS v2

Sample Scripts for Offering Talks

Here is a link to the [Stewardship & Finance page](#) of our Online Resource Center

Here is a list of some of my favorite Stewardship Recorded Webinars, click blue links to watch.

Narrative Budgets: You can do this!

Leader: Cesie Delve Scheuerman

Increasing Joy, Increasing Generosity in Your Congregation

Increasing Joy, Increasing Generosity Handout

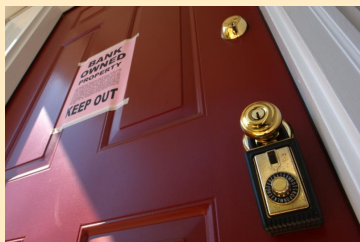
Leader: Cesie Delve Scheuermann

Unlocking the Secrets of Bountiful Generosity Session 1

Unlocking the Secrets of Bountiful Generosity Session 2

Leaders: Kristine Miller & Scott McKenzie

SALT is an Emmy Award winning, not-for-profit production company dedicated to the craft of visual storytelling. We love creating stories with sparkle and imagination, lovely little windows through which the world can catch a glimpse of who you are and what you do. My favorite place to [download letters and graphics for a Stewardship Campaign](#) these are not free but reasonably priced.



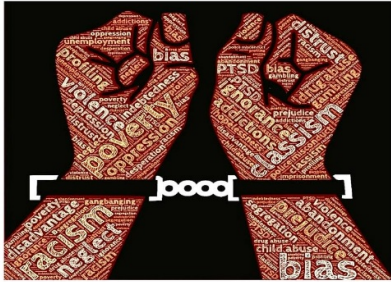
The VERAP Housing program is slated to end on December 1, which means that 8,000 economically disadvantaged Vermonters receiving VERAP are in danger of losing housing. COVID, job losses and rising

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 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

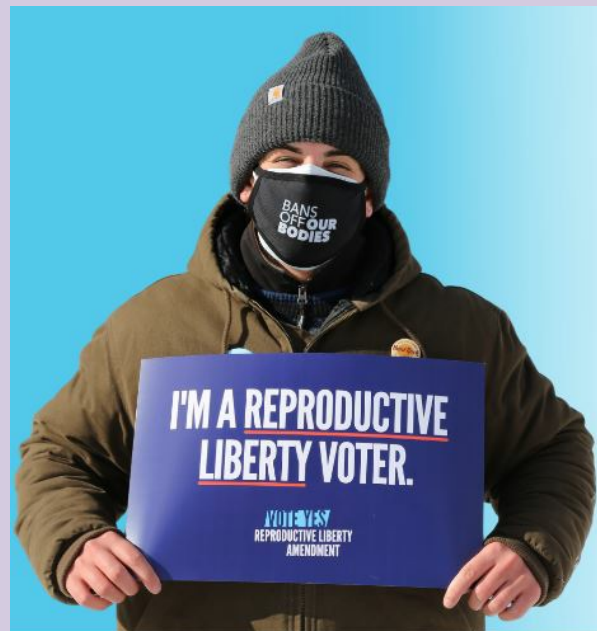
VERMONT'S REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY AMENDMENT



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

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

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!

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

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

Jared Hamilton

October 26th
Shawn Bracebridge

October 28th
William Cobb

October 29th
Lava Mueller

October 24th
Jeffrey Cornwell

October 25th
Alyssa May

October 27th
Larrimore Crockett

October 29th
Margaret Tooker

October 30th
John Sanborn
David Dean

October 31st
David Vanderlinde-Abernathy



Article 22 presentation by
Planned Parenthood!!!!



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

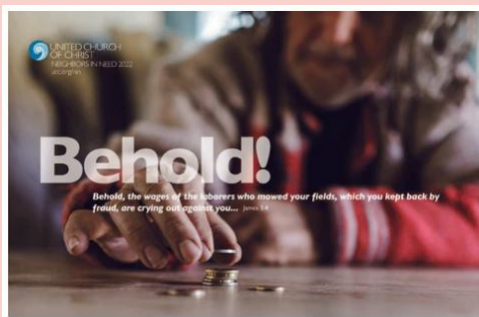
The Task Force has sent the following letter to Seven Days and encourage UCC churches to send letters to their local news outlets. The Conference has a listing of local news outlets, so for more

FIND THE LETTER TO PERSONALIZE HERE!



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

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

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!"