



The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ



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

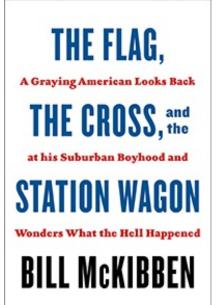
October 20th, 2022

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



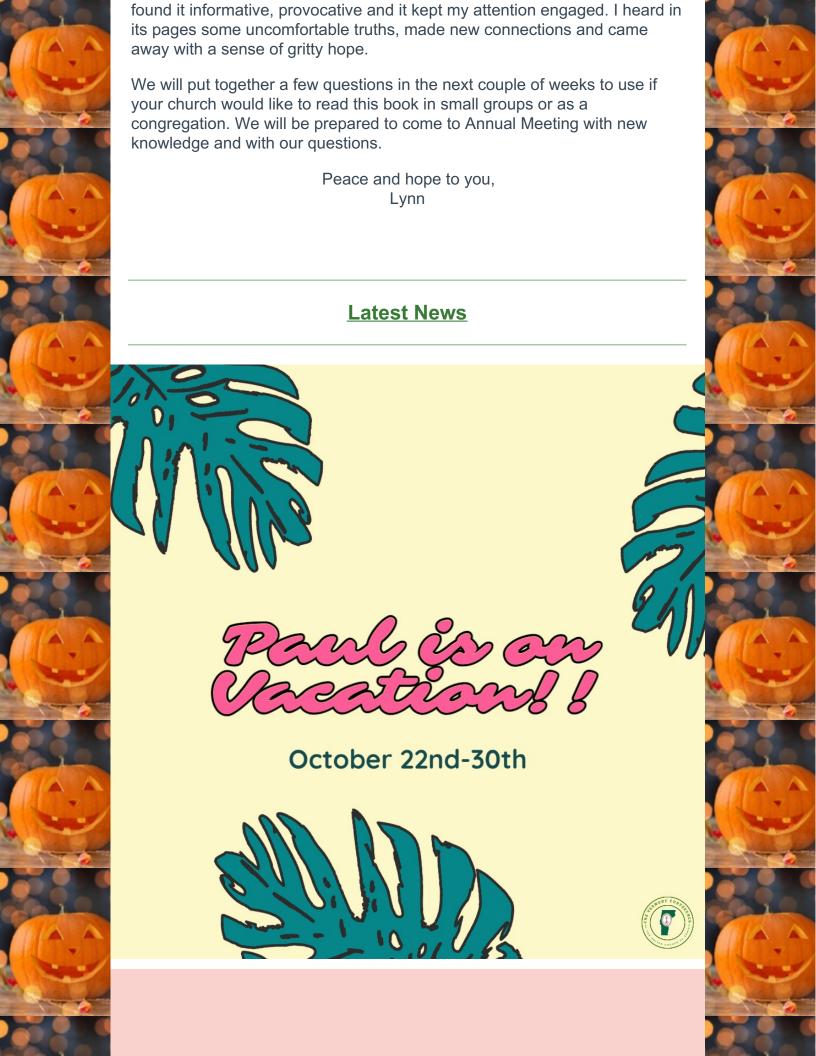
Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference.

For the last few years, we have been focusing on justice issues in our Annual Meetings. One of the connections the planning committee hoped to make was to increase our ability to recognize the intersectionality of these important and pernicious issues. This year will help us to "connect the dots."

If you have not yet heard, our keynoter for 2023 Annual Meeting is **Bill McKibben**. Bill has been a major leader in Climate Justice for many years. Wikipedia describes him in this way: "William Ernest McKibben is an

American environmentalist, author, and journalist who has written extensively on the impact of global warming. He is the Schumann Distinguished Scholar at Middlebury College and leader of the climate campaign group 350.org."

Your planning team is very excited to have Bill engage us through the Annual Meeting. In preparation for our time with Bill, we are suggesting that everyone read Bill's newest book, "The Flag, the Cross and the Station Wagon, A Graying American Looks Back at his Suburban Boyhood and Wonders What the Hell Happened." I finished the book today and







The United Church of Bellows Falls was blessed to have Matt Rogalski installed its pastor on October 6th!!!



Climate Ambassador Training

How do we link our faith to the climate crisis? How do we effectively talk about climate change with others? What opportunities do we have to make a difference in our local churches and communities? These questions and more will be addressed in the Blessed Tomorrow Ambassadors Training Program that is being offered by the United Church of Christ and ecoAmerica. This free, virtual, interactive training will take place on Saturday, November 5th from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm ET. Featured presenters include the Rev. Carol Devine, the Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt, the Rev. Emma Brewer-Wallin, the Rev. Michael Malcom, and Andrew Wells-Bean. Training participants will receive a free copy of Berndt's book, *Cathedral on Fire: A Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis* Learn more and register here!

Other Upcoming Events:

<u>Children and Youth Climate Hope Art Contest</u>

Centering Africa as the UN Climate Conference Convenes in Egypt





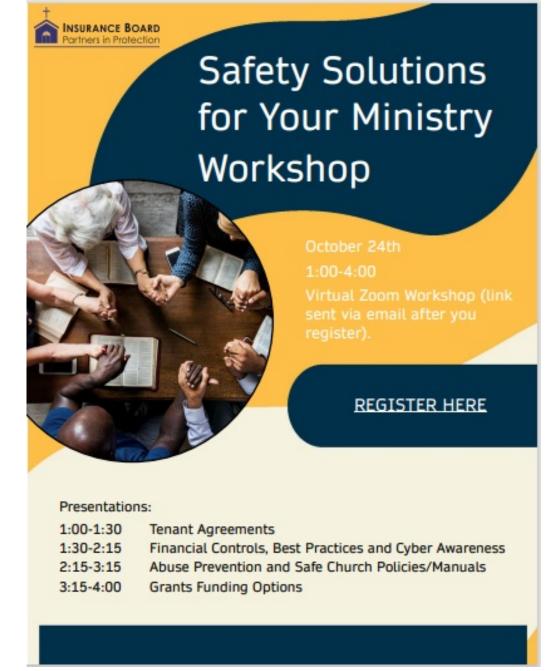
The United Church of Northfield was blessed to have Rev. Julie Lombard installed its pastor on October 6th!!!













EcoPreacher Cohort

Co-Hosted by Creation
Justice Ministries and
The BTS Center

November 2022 – November 2023 Once a month from 1:00 - 2:15 pm Eastern • Online Program contributions will be used to compensate guest presenters throughout the program.

\$60 suggested clergy program fee
\$20 suggested student program fee
OR contribute what you can
Scholarships are available. Please contact nicole@thebtscenter.org to



Learn More

Register

CHAMPLAIN ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING

OCTOBER 23 | 12:30 PM FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BURLINGTON







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:

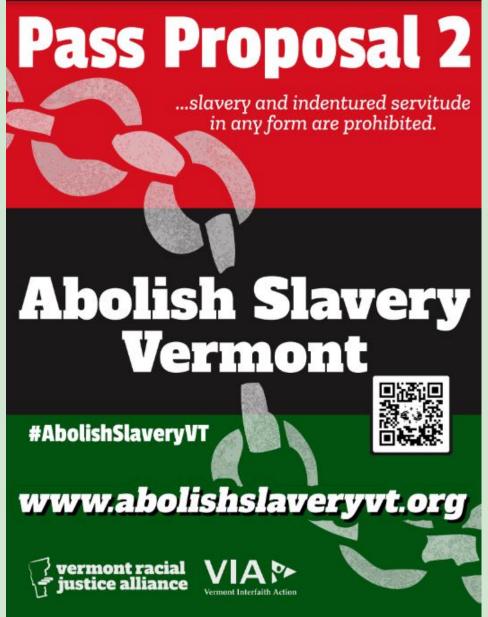
- Pray for those impacted.
- Put together CWS kits and clean-up buckets. Learn more.
- Help is needed to move some of the kits we have received to the CWS warehouse in Maryland. If you can help, please reach out to <u>Karl Jones</u>.
- Donate: <u>Donate Now United Church of Christ (ucc.org)</u>
- Sign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

Churches: Willing to Respond Preparedness Network

Thank you!







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 <u>office@viavt.org</u> 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.

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 (<u>rtaylor@antioch.edu</u>) if you're interested and would like more information.

Members of the Racial Justice Task Force









Dear churches and individuals in the Vermont UCC Conference:

Kenyan children with autism need your help. Because of a traditional belief that giving birth to a child with disability is a "curse," possibly a punishment for something a parent may have done wrong, many Kenyan parents are ashamed of their children with special needs. As a result, these children have frequently been neglected or sometimes even suffered abuse. The stigma around disabilities has caused children to be kept

hidden away or to take on marginalized roles in Kenyan society. And, children with special needs are often unwelcome in schools. With Kenyan class sizes of 50-60 students, it is not possible for a single teacher to meet the needs of students who require additional staff and specialized instruction in order to make progress. Sunrise School was founded in 2021 in order to offer appropriate educational opportunities for children with autism who would otherwise be unable to go to school.

Sunrise opened its doors in October 2021. The school is a "legacy mission" of Christ's Church of Saxtons River, a Vermont church that recently made the difficult decision to close. In fact, the school's construction was accomplished with financial support from numerous Vermont churches, community organizations, and many individuals. Sunrise currently has twelve students and the capacity for up to eighteen. Unfortunately, most Kenyan families do not have the means to pay the necessary school fees. Due to recent inflation, the cost of living in Kenya has risen dramatically. For example, since the August elections, the cost of 50kg of rice has increased from 2500 Ksh to 6150 Ksh. As a result of these developments, nearly all Sunrise families are in need of financial assistance. The Hummingbird Scholarship Fund was created in response to this need and offers churches and individuals a chance to ensure that Sunrise can continue to offer appropriate schooling for Kenyan children with autism.

While aiming to change each learner's life for the better, Sunrise's wider objective is to help Kenyans with disabilities become accepted and appreciated as contributing members of society. I wonder if your church would like to somehow join in on Sunrise's efforts. Although our most urgent need is scholarship funding, possible ways to become involved are many and include the following:

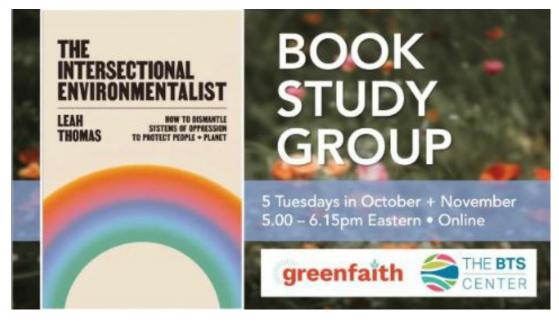
- Learn more about Sunrise by scheduling an in-person or zoom presentation during worship or perhaps an afternoon or evening presentation on a different day
- Plan a church school unit including a zoom presentation and activities to help the children in your church connect with Sunrise students



- Make quilts or blankets for children who stay in the Cottage
- Travel to Mumias to help with a service project at Sunrise
- Sponsor a learner by contributing to the Hummingbird Fund (School fees are \$400 per term or \$1200 per school year- of course, any size gift is welcome!) If you are interested in joining in, please contact me at salterwanda@gmail.com, or feel free to give me a call at (802) 869-2582. I look forward to hearing from you! Sincerely yours,

Saxtons River, Vermont
P.S. Donations (check made out to "Bellows Falls Rotary Club") can be sent to:

Sunrise School Hummingbird Fund
c/o Bellows Falls Rotary Club
PO Box 81
Bellows Falls, VT 05101



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

Wanda Salter

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 GivingGuest 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

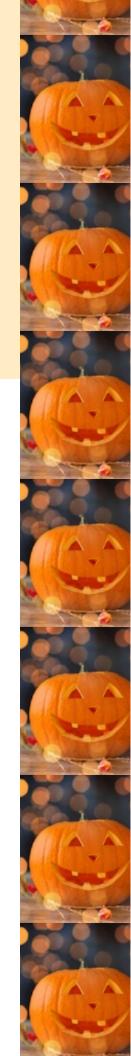
SALT is an Emmy Award winning, not-for-profit production company dedicated to the craft of visual storytelling. We love creating stories with sparkle and imagination, lovely little windows through which the world can catch a glimpse of who you are and what you do. My favorite place to **download letters 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

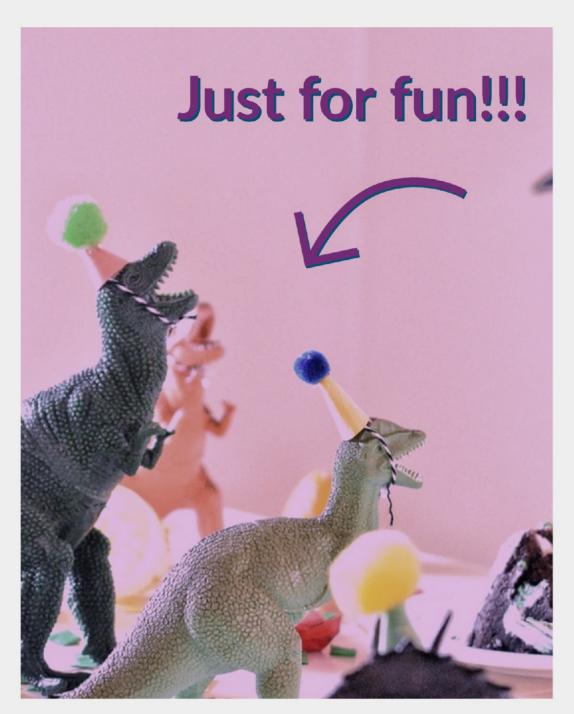


disadvantaged Vermonters receiving VERAP are in danger of losing housing. COVID, job losses and rising rental prices have made the situation worse. **Vermont Interfaith Action has a letter** that you can sign on to if you would like to join in

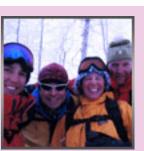
encouraging Governor Scott to come up with another housing plan before Vermonters are literally put out in the cold. I encourage you to join me in both signing the letter and sending one to Governor Scott directly at https://vermont.force.com/vermontce/s/governor-office-ce or 109 State St., Pavilion, Montpelier, VT 05609. We need to act now before the crisis becomes worse with the onset of winter.







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

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 <u>VermontConference@gmail.com</u>.

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 Merril
Susanna Griefen

October 19th Arnold Thomas Diana Benjamin

October 20th Richard Bingham

October 21st
Laura Cadmus
Jo Shelnurr
Cornelius Carr

October 24th

<u>Happy Ordination</u> <u>Anniversary to our Clergy!</u>

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
Adrianne 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



information, contact **VermontConference@gmail.com**.

FIND THE LETTER TO PERSONALIZE HERE!



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

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

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@vegennesucc.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.

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 <u>PATHWAYS Theological Education</u>, 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. <u>PATHWAYS Theological Education</u>, 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



Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak llbvtc@gmail.com
Associate Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangreesangreepucc@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!"