



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

November 3rd, 2022

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Message from the Conference

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

We are in that time of year when congregations and the Conference are looking at finances through the end of the year and stewardship for the year to come and beyond. Here in the Conference, there are many things we are proud to have made good use of the OCWM and per capita contributions from our local churches. Just to name a few:

- This year, the Hope Fund was launched, and a discernment team is even now considering proposals by our churches for new expressions of church and innovative ideas for renewal.
- We have provided a weekly opportunity for support and exchange of ideas and resources for pastors
- We have offered a variety of support groups to our clergy, particularly clergy who began their ministry during COVID, first call clergy and clergy new to our Conference. 90% of Vermont Conference clergy are in one of these groups
- We supported our churches who are in the search for a new minister with Lynn and Paul's presence and with Conference Search Consultants
- We continued to provide opportunities for training and support around congregational vitality

- Paul and Lynn continue to support the work of Church and Ministry Committees as they offer walking with Members in Discernment, nurture clergy and where necessary holding authorized ministers accountable for ethical standards and behavior
- We continue to support not only our seminarians but also those who will have a nontraditional path to ordination. We continue to find new ways for Members in Discernment to get the education, support and practical skills needed in ministry
- We assist churches who are coming to the end of their existence, and we offer training for new leadership options to our smallest churches
- We pay for the excellent administrative work done with great enthusiasm and generosity of spirit by Elise Foster and Jackie Lingelbach

Please give generously to our mutual ministry by your church contributions to Our Churches Wider Mission and paying your church per capita dues. Individuals can contribute to the Friends of the Conference which can be done electronically on our Conference website: vtcucc.org.

In peace and great hope,
Lynn

[Latest News](#)

Pass Proposal 2

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

Abolish Slavery Vermont

#AbolishSlaveryVT



www.abolishslaveryvt.org

 **vermont racial
justice alliance**

VIA
Vermont Interfaith Action

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.

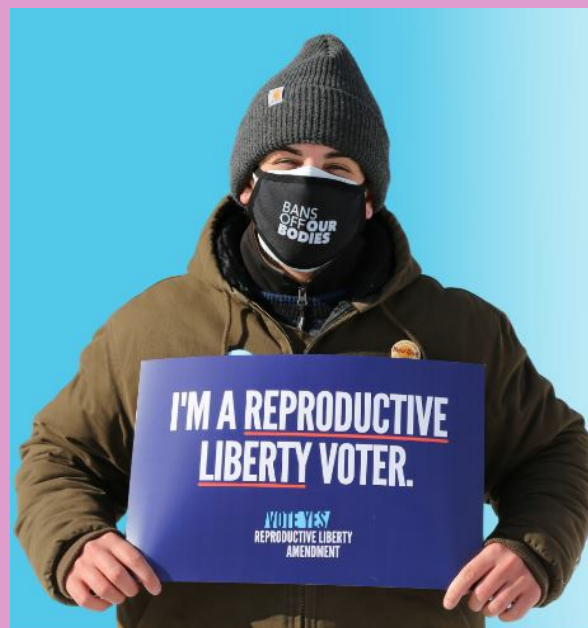
VERMONT'S REPRODUCTIVE LIBERTY AMENDMENT



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.



CARING INVOLVES PREPARING

by Greg Briggs, Conference Disaster Coordinator

No one likes to think about bad things happening. Yet too often, the difference between a challenging time and a disaster is if there was advance preparation and planning. This is true for our households, our churches, our communities, and our state.

With the changing times, the types of disasters and crises we are called to prepare for are ever wider. It isn't just the once in a century flooding event, but also hate crimes, gun violence, climate fueled events, and many other human caused disasters.

As the Vermont Conference and the national UCC reimagines how it prepares for future crises and disasters, I want to invite you to be part of our starting conversation and thinking ahead here in Vermont. Thursday, November 17 at 4pm will be the first conversation of our crisis and disaster ministries, and we want to invite you to join us.

It will be an hour long meeting via zoom.

Though we can never know what comes next, we do know that the more that we practically prepare to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, we can prepare to transform disasters into times of resilience and growth.

[Request Zoom Invitation Here!!!](#)

SAVE THE
DATE
APRIL 28-29,
2023

“AND
WHO
IS
MY
NEIGHBOR?”

228TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
VERMONT CONFERENCE

WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER BILL MCKIBBON

Grace Congregational
UCC
8 Court Street, Rutland,
VT 05701

(Actual logo coming soon to an eKit near you!)

The Vermont Conferences 228th Annual Meeting will be connecting the dots between creation justice, economic justice, environmental justice, and LGBTQ justice.

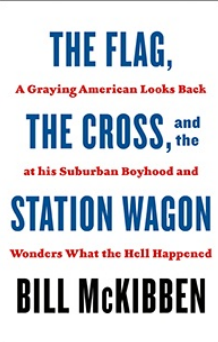
Our workshops this year are so abundant they will happen TWICE. Stay tuned for more information!

Our keynote speaker is Bill McKibben (pictured here) whose new book "The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon" was just released.



“I’m curious about what went so suddenly sour with American patriotism, American faith, and American prosperity.”

"Like so many of us, McKibben grew up believing—knowing—that the United States was the greatest



country on earth. As a teenager, he cheerfully led American Revolution tours in Lexington, Massachusetts. He sang "Kumbaya" at church. And with the remarkable rise of suburbia, he assumed that all Americans would share in the wealth.

But fifty years later, he finds himself in an increasingly doubtful nation strained by bleak racial and economic inequality, on a planet whose future is in peril.

And he is curious: What the hell happened?"

You can find the book from the sellers below!

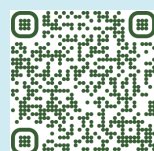
[Indie Bound](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Audible](#)

[Would you like to be a vendor at next years Annual Meeting?](#)

A limited amount of display space is available for this year's meeting. Tables are 8' and may be reserved on a first come, first served basis. Displays may be set up Friday morning between 8-10am. A \$30 fee is being charged per table. All organizations, committees, departments, and vendors must pay the fee. Extension cords can be provided.



Use this QR code to pay for your table if you are using the fillable online form!

[Fillable Exhibitor Form \(Online\)](#)

[Exhibitor Form \(Print\)](#)

[Make sure to watch our website for new updates!!!](#)



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

(This is an actual photo of Rev. Rogalski, where the photo we ran before was not. We would like to extend our whole hearted apologies to Rev. Rogalski.)

On Halloween the **United Community Church in St. Johnsbury** took part in the main street activities. We welcomed over 2000 people to walk through our spooky sanctuary, complete with our organist Barabra Connelly playing Toccata In d minor on the organ. We also played short Halloween cartoons on the big screen, had popcorn and a photo booth.



Help Us Fill this "Bucket of Bolts" with



"Buckets of Hope!"

FMI: (802) 829-3211

Buckets of Hope at First Congregational in Berlin!!!

Visit the Honda parked in front of the church—grab a list—fill a bucket with the listed items and put inside the car. This is our unique mission project to aid in Hurricane Disaster Relief.

Deadline for buckets is November 20th when a representative from CWS will be with us in worship.



Middle School Ministries Coordinator:
First Congregational Church UCC of
Burlington Vermont

is looking for a team player ready to work with youth in a great location – Burlington, Vermont! The person hired for this new part-time position will work with our great team to oversee programs and service-learning opportunities, facilitating the spiritual development of youth (6th-12th grade). You'll work with middle school youth on Sunday mornings at FirstChurchBTV and with our collaborative youth program (youth in grades 6 thru 12 from both the College Street Church and FirstChurchBTV) one evening per week and periodically on weekends. Learn more about this opportunity

here: <https://bit.ly/middleschoolcoordinator> Approx. 6 hours per week - \$20/hour.

JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES

Meet us
on Zoom
Nov. 3rd at 6:30 PM

Contact
VermontConference@gmail.com
for
your
invitation!



JOIN US FOR A BLESSED TOMORROW AMBASSADOR TRAINING

FREE WEBINAR

Saturday, November 5 | 1 AM - 3 PM Eastern



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:

[Children and Youth Climate Hope Art Contest](#)

[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!!!

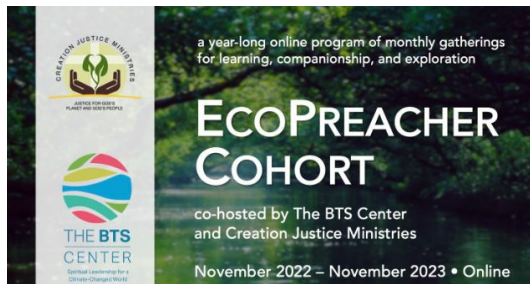
Northeast Association

of the Vermont Conference,
United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting

**Nov. 16th,
2022
7 pm**

On
Zoom!!

For more information, please email
elavelli@comcast.net



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 inquire.

[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)



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,

Wanda Salter

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

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.

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!

November 4th
Laurie Krooss

November 5th
Cass Poulos

November 6th

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

November 1st
Elissa Johnk
Leigh McCaffrey
Andrew Nagy-Benson

November 3rd
Jared Hamilton

Thomas Harty
November 8th
Matthew von Behrens

November 10th
Ed Sunday-Winters

November 15th
Anne Squire
Lise Sparrow

November 16th
John Merriam

November 22nd
David Ransom

November 23rd
Audrey Walker

November 29th
David Kraus

November 4th
Kathleen Clark
Mark Wilson

November 6th
Kelly Donahue

November 7th
Constance Moser
Susan Webster-Toleno

November 17th
Joshua Moore

November 20th
Anthony Acheson

November 21st
Martha Peck
November 22nd
Elliott Munn

November 25th
Christine Boardman
Erin Reardon



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!

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



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

Just for fun!!!



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

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.



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:

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!!

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/>

The logo for UCC NEWS features the letters "UCC" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by a vertical line and the word "NEWS" in a bold, multi-colored, sans-serif font. The colors for "NEWS" are blue, green, and purple.

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!"