



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

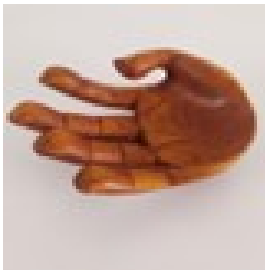
November 17th, 2022

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 of the Vermont Conference,

A few weeks ago, a friend gave me a most interesting present. It is an open hand carved out of wood. It was purchased from a "fair trade" artisan meaning the artist was paid fairly for their creation just like an artist in our country would be paid. My friend told me the name of the sculpture is "Thankful".

As I look at that open hand, I find myself thinking of all the people and experiences that are and have been part of my life. I think of those things that bring a smile to my lips. I think as well of hard experiences and relationships that also make up my life and know that for some of them, I am able to be grateful for the growth and understanding that have come.

If the open hand has caused me to think about gratitude, it has also drawn me towards praise and thanking the One who is the Source of my life. Thanksgiving is a nearly forgotten holiday except for turkey and football. Christmas is already for sale in all the stores. Yet, the open hand calls out to me, reminding me of the gift of my life in all its complexities, joys and trials.

Here is my plea. Dig deep this year. Spend time reflecting, listening, being willing to be both humbled and surprised. What has flowed into your open hands? Where is there both joy and sorrow? What is it that causes you to raise your hands in praise and thanksgiving? Let the Spirit stir up the language of gratitude so that, like the psalmist we approach our God with a glad and thankful heart.

With thanks for all of you and this amazing ministry we share,
Lynn

Latest News



The Tour de SWA is Off to a Great Start!

The first stage of the Tour de SWA took place on Sunday October 16 th with nine cyclists (three from end-to-end)! A hardy crew of three, Matt Moore, Jim Gray and Chris Heintz left the United Church of Benson at 8:30 after fueling up with breakfast served by the church. They were joined by the Delins family (Lucine, Daris, Luna and Matiss) at the First Congregation Church of Fair Haven. They visited the Castleton Federated Church and passed through Poultney on their way to Pawlet where they were greeted by Pastor Tracy Weatherhogg who served up a delicious lunch. She joined the tour for the next leg to Rupert Congregational Church and then on to the Dorset Church – a total of 55 miles end-to-end). Along the way they were supported by Julie Demaree (our Clergy On the Ground) and Esther Gray who drove our support van.

Most important: this first stage raised over \$2,000 for the Hope Fund. The Southwest Association hopes to raise \$10,000 and visit each of its member churches during the Tour de SWA. 2023 will bring two more stages which will visit the remaining churches. Please keep your eyes open for dates.

Contact Jane LoBrutto at the Dorset Church with questions:
jane@dorsetchurch.org.



[Caption]



[Caption]



[Caption]

DISASTER MINISTRIES MEETING TONIGHT!!!!

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 or 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!!!



ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

FAIR TRADE CRAFTS FROM
SERRV INTERNATIONAL



HANDMADE CRAFTS FROM
DORSET CHURCH FELLOWSHIP



Gifts Through:
Habitat For Humanity
Heifer International
Asian Rural Institute



DORSET CHURCH



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

9:00 am—2:00 pm

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

11:00 am—1:00 pm



All images from SERRV.ORG

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 LBGTQ justice.

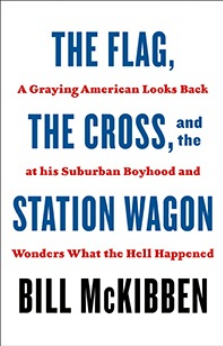
Our workshops this year are so abundant they will happen TWICE. Stay tuned for more information!

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!

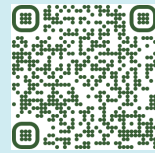
[Indie Bound](#)

[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!"

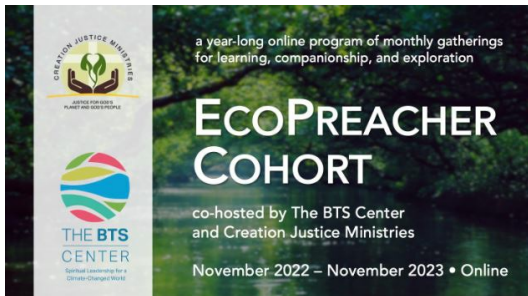


FMI: (802) 829-3211

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.



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](#)

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!](#)

[Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!](#)

November 4th
Laurie Krooss

November 5th
Cass Poulos

November 6th
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 1st
Elissa Johnk
Leigh McCaffrey
Andrew Nagy-Benson

November 3rd
Jared Hamilton
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

November 26th
Penny Smith



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

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.

The Talk, Vermont



[Read more here](#)



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

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.vegennesucc.org/ccfmsearch>



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.

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

Don't forget to click below in your email to view the entire newsletter



SAVE THE DATE!

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.

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!"

