



# 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 Advent Edition

December 1st, 2022

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## Message from the Conference

Friends of the Vermont Conference,

So what is your favorite Advent Scripture? What is your favorite Advent or Christmas carol? (I bet many of us have no trouble answering the second question, but maybe have never thought about the first...) Every year, we listen to mostly the same Scriptures and carols during the Advent season, and there is something comforting in that for both laity and pastors. Now, pastors who have been in their church for many years will sometimes grumble as they think to themselves, "What can I possibly say about these Advent Scriptures that I haven't already said many other years?" But both pastors and laity enjoy the colors and smells and traditions of the season, and the sense of hope, joy, peace and love that Advent brings to all of us.

My favorite Scripture is Isaiah 11:6: "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fatted calf together, and a little child shall lead them." This verse is a wonderful picture of the Peaceable Kingdom that God will restore the nation of Israel to. For Christians, this verse is also a powerful sign that points to Jesus coming among us as the Prince of Peace.

May this Advent season in your church be a blessing to you and to other,

Peace,

PS In case you are wondering, my favorite Advent/Christmas carol is "Away in the Manger"!

## Latest News

Join us for an afternoon of music, and fun  
at the *FIRST ANNUAL FCC*



# **CAROLS , COOKIES,** **AND (UGLY) CHRISTMAS SWEATERS!**



**Sunday, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> 4:00 pm**  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, MANCHESTER**

Gather in the sanctuary to sing and hear holiday favorites - both sacred and secular - by the FCC Chancel Choir, the Tall Spire Ringers and area soloists.

Have refreshments & join in  
**"The Great Manchester Christmas Cookie Contest!"**  
Community members are invited to bring their best cookies (please provide 2 dozen).  
Make a donation in the basket of your favorite cookie  
- the basket with the most \$\$ wins!

All proceeds will be given to the  
InterFaith Council's Emergency Needs Fund  
which aids folks in need throughout the Northshire region.  
A trophy will be given for the "ugliest" Christmas sweater  
or outfit!

## Lighted Labyrinth and Peace Pole

The Christian Education team at **Charlotte Congregational Church** implemented the Illuminated Advent Spiral and their Social Justice and Facilities ministries implemented the installation of the Peace Pole.





## Guilford Church's Annual Holiday Bazaar



The GCC Holiday Bazaar will take place Saturday, December 3, from 9:00 to 1:00 in Zeller Hall, and will feature an array of wonderful handcrafts, delectable sweets, decorated wreaths, and terrific raffle items.

Raffle tickets for the gorgeous quilt made by Judy Siler, are now available via PayPal on the church website, [guilfordchurch.org](http://guilfordchurch.org). On the home page, in the blue menu bar click on Holiday Raffle 2022. Be sure to include contact information. Physical tickets will be created for the number of chances purchased.

The drawing for the quilt will be Sunday, December 11, following worship. The drawing for all other raffle items happens at the close of the Bazaar.

Below is a complete list of our fabulous raffle items!

- American Girl Doll of 2022 ("Corinne") and accessories, donated by Mary Lila Gregg
- Mixed hardwood table, 22H x 22L x 12W, made and donated by Dwayne Johnson
- Birch charcuterie board, made and donated by Dwayne Johnson
- Set of pottery dishes, made and donated by Emma Davis
- Handknit wool mittens, made and donated by Sara Glennon
- Yamaha 76-key portable electric piano, with stand and user's manual, donated by Bev Langeveld
- Vermont products gift basket, donated by Kathie Lovell
- Handblown glass bowl from Hot Glass Works, donated by Carole Crompton
- Original artwork in glass frame, created and donated by Jeanushka Fishell

- Handknit fashion scarf, made and donated by Bev Langeveld
- \$50 Hannaford gift card
- \$50 Price Chopper (Market 32) gift card

# Gallery Walk

December 2, 5-7pm

Centre Church, Brattleboro



featuring  
*Amanda Whitman*  
 with a traditional  
 Pub Sing  
 of olde British  
 holiday songs.  
 Join in for an evening  
 of music and fun!

**Crafts & Artful Quilts**  
 Jewelry - Art - Potted Plants - S. American Crafts -  
 Ornaments - Quilts - Homemade Treasures

## DORSET CHURCH TO CELEBRATE WORLD AIDS DAY – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 AT 2:00 PM



In celebration of World AIDS Day, our local P.F.L.A.G. (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) group will be having a special presentation about the National AIDS Memorial Quilt on Sunday afternoon, December 11<sup>th</sup> At 2:00 PM at the Dorset Church in the Upper Room Chapel. Our speaker will be Bill Aupperlee who will accompany his history with a Power-point presentation of the quilt itself. Q & A will follow with

refreshments. All are welcome, presentation is free. The church is located at 143 Church St. (off Route 30) in Dorset. Questions, call 802-867-2260.



## Lament with Earth

Five seasonal events honoring the pain of loss through the liturgical year

Thursdays October 2022 - June 2023  
7:30-8:30 pm (Eastern) • via Zoom

Next gathering on Thursday, December 1

[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)

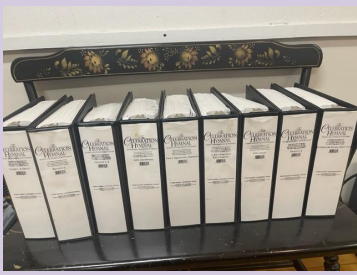
### Vergennes is seeking a Sunday School Coordinator.!!!

The Congregational Church of Vergennes, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation of 135 members seeking a Sunday School Coordinator. 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.

The pay rate is \$25 per hour, and the hours range from 8 to 15 hours per week depending upon applicant interest. We seek a person of faith with experience working with children, who will direct a program of stimulating and nourishing faith formation. 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](mailto:elliott@vergennesucc.org).

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

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



This music is free and looking for a new home! Please contact [Erika](#) at United Community Church in St. Johnsburry for more information.

**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.

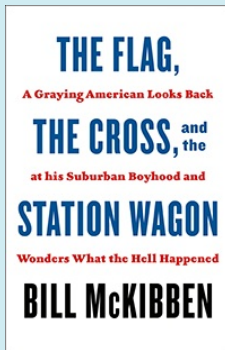
Our workshops this year are so abundant they will happen TWICE. Stay tuned for more information!



Our keynote speaker is Bill McKibben (pictured here) whos 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!

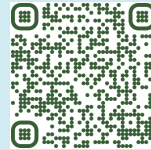
[Indie Bound](#)

[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!!!](#)

[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](mailto: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!

December 1st  
Scott Couper

December 5th  
Margaret Flad

December 9th  
Doug Carter

December 14th  
Mary Brownlow  
Daniel Wright

December 19th  
Jane Wilson

December 22nd  
Lee Moore

December 24th  
Mary Simpson Thompson

December 27th  
Cordelia Burpee  
Junius Peeler

December 28th  
Gregory Homan

December 31st  
Roger Brown

### Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

December 2nd  
Devon Thomas

December 3rd  
Elizabeth Gleich  
Daniel Wright  
Elisa Lucozzi

December 6th  
Ed Sunday Winters

December 7th  
Carole Carlson

December 9th  
Josh Simon

December 15th  
Audrey Walker







## 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](mailto:jane@dorsetchurch.org).



[Caption]



[Caption]



[Caption]

# 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.



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:llbvtc@gmail.com)

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Bookkeeper: Tanya Frazier [vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:vermontconference@gmail.com).

Thank You for Your Support!

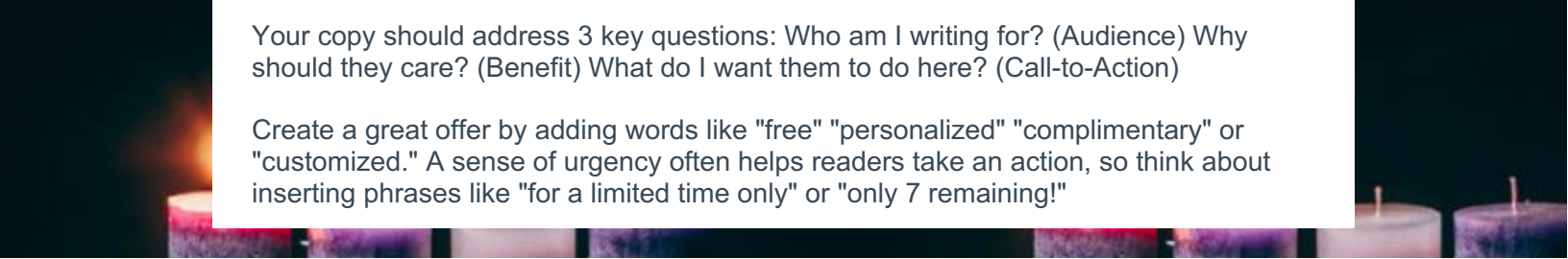
Our Churches Wider Mission Basic Support, Association Dues, and Friends of the Vermont Conference make this communication possible.

**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!"