



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 Winter Edition

January 5th, 2023

Table of Contents

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1) Message from the Conference | 4) Around the Conference |
| 2) Latest News | 5) Save the Date & Cont. Ed Resources |
| 3) Prayer Concerns | 6) VTCUCC Classifieds |

Message from the Conference



Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

We stand here in the first few days of a New Year, with all the expectation and hope we can muster. Tomorrow is the Feast of the Epiphany that begins a season of stars and wise ones, of finding the sacred in all things and in spreading the Good

News with our voices, hands and hearts. This is a time ripe with possibilities, where we stand at the beginning of a new journey that will lead us both out of ourselves and deep within.

In some of our congregations, this Sunday will be Star Sunday. We will once again remember the journey of the Magi led by a star, encountering a dangerous person of power and going home by another way. Paper stars will be handed out or chosen containing a word to accompany us as we live and pray and journey over the next year.

I wonder, what will each of us discover as we travel through this new year? What word might call to us and become part of the transformation that all journeys invite? Where is a light to guide us? What danger might we face? What companionship might we find? Happy Epiphany! I'll see you on the journey.

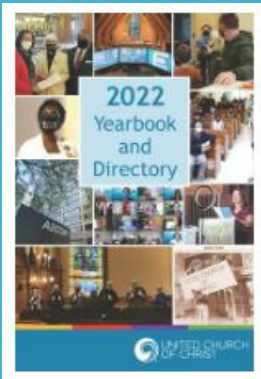
In peace and hope,
Lynn

PLEASE HAVE ALL DONATIONS FOR BASIC SUPPORT (OCWM), 5 FOR 5 MISSIONS, FRIENDS OF THE CONFERENCE, THE HOPE FUND, AND PER CAPITA IN BY JANUARY 15TH, 2023. THIS IS WHEN OUR BOOKS WILL CLOSE!

Latest News

DataHub is Open for Yearbook Info!

[Access DataHub!!!](#)



It's that time again for the UCC to begin preparing the Yearbook & Directory for the coming year. We are deeply grateful for your continued efforts to help us maintain up-to-date and accurate data, especially as 2022 has continued to be a year of pandemic challenges and uncertainty. To best help us prepare for the upcoming Yearbook & Directory, please consider the important items in the sections below.

[Yearbook Instructions](#)

“And Who Is My Neighbor?”

228th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference



April 28-29, 2023
Grace Church, Rutland

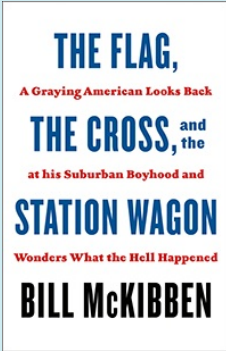
The Vermont Conferences 228th Annual Meeting will be connecting the dots between creation justice, economic justice, environmental justice, and LGBTQ justice.

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!

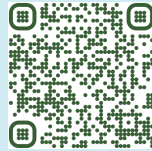
[Indie Bound](#)

[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 \(Print\)](#)



Practical Resources for Churches (PRC) is growing their **Cultivate Faith YouTube channel!** Take a peek at the playlists we've already uploaded and subscribe so you get updates when we upload new resources. (Lots more are coming SOON!)



Tackling Tough Topics With Kids

Rev. Karen Ware Jackson



OUR FIRST FREE WINTER COMMUNITY SUPPER OF THE SEASON SINCE COVID WILL BE HELD AT **THE DORSET CHURCH** ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023

We will be serving (and eating!) a delicious **FREE** supper at The Dorset Church, 143 Church St. (off Route 30) on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023** Dinner will be held from **5:30 PM—7:00 PM**. This is our first supper of the winter season—please come and enjoy!

This month we will be serving Italian fare which will include pasta with your choice of meat sauce or vegetarian marinara, roasted Italian sausage, fresh mozzarella, tomato and basil salad, broccoli with garlic and oil, and ***hot crispy garlic bread*** and butter.

Of course, assorted desserts will be offered as well. We offer both wheat and gluten free choices.

On **Thursday, February 2, 2023** we will be serving your choice of a Roast Pork Dinner complete with apple sauce, red cabbage or a vegetarian corn chowder

Our last supper of the winter season will be held on **Thursday, March 23, 2023** The menu will be a Meatloaf Dinner with roasted potatoes or a vegetarian minestrone soup.



Please help us in congratulating

Rev. Jane Elizabeth Wilson

on her recent retirement!

Congregations on both sides of the river have been lucky enough to have been blessed with her service.

**COMMITTED
to LISTEN**

a public reading of
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s
Letter From a Birmingham Jail

Hosted by
THE BTS
CENTER

January 16, 2023 • Online
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
www.thebtscenter.org

Maine
Council
of Churches

Committed to Listen • MLK Day 2023

Sponsored by The BTS Center and the Maine Council of Churches

January 16, 2022 • 12:15 pm (Eastern) • Online

[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)

Are you a Friend of the Conference?



You may write a check to the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ and mark it "Friends of the VT Conference." Alternatively, you may give your gift online [HERE](#) with the option of signing up to have a regular amount withdrawn from your credit card or bank account each month.

Please send checks to:
Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ
36 North Main Street
Randolph, VT 05060

Do you want to be part of the Hope Fund's story?

HOPE FUND FOR THE FUTURE



**"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see"
(Hebrews 11:1)**

You can now find the application online [HERE](#) or by clicking the link above!

Please help us thank the wonderful Discernment Team members who helped make this application happen! Those team members are:

Rev. Paul Sangree (Associate Minister, Vermont Conference),
Rev. Dan Haugh (Stowe Community Church),
Rev. Mary Hoadley (Brownington Congregational Church),
Rev. Jessica Moore (First Congregational, St. Albans),
Rev. Lava Mueller (Love Church, Randolph),
Rev. Paul Eyer (Williston Federated Church),
Rev. Caryne Eskridge (Weybridge Congregational Church)

Please send all completed applications to
VermontConference@gmail.com.

Join the Marketplace

...
Celebration XI
March 17-18, 2023

Now Accepting Vendor & Exhibitor Applications

Jewelry / Prints / Pottery / Stationary
Candles / Handbags / Clothing / Books
Crafts / Handmade Goods & MORE

www.UCCWC.org

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Celebration XI



register online
www.UCCWC.org

UCC New England Women

CELEBRATION XI

www.UCCWC.org



A weekend filled with reconnecting with friends, making new ones, and forming connections with other women of faith.

March 17-19, 2023

DoubleTree by Hilton | Manchester, NH

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



Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

January 1st
David Joseph Dean

January 2nd
Jane Wilson

January 3rd
Joan W. Vincent

January 7th
Roger Carroll Banker Daly
Douglas S. Moore

January 9th
Douglas J. Cameron

January 12th
Nancy G. Devor
Thomas C. Kinder
Debbie Ingram

January 13th
Michael Boy

January 18th
Tracy Fye Weatherhogg

January 19th
Peter O Plagge

January 22nd
Mark D. Wilson

January 23rd
Scott Couper

January 24th
Jeremy Kirk
Erin Reardon

January 26th
Josh Simon

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

January 7th
Debbie Ingram

January 14th
Kurt Shaffert

January 20th
Kevin Goldenbogen
Jean O'Bresky

January 24th
Amy Pitton

January 28th
Dereen Vanderlinde-Abernathy





for a new home! Please contact [Erika](#) at United Community Church in St. Johnsbury for more information.

Just for fun!!!



Click here to update your contact information!!!



THE COALITION FOR UCC RURAL MINISTRIES
PRESENTS

NOURISHING THE SEEDS OF FAITH

(ISAIAH 55:10-11)

A VIRTUAL NATIONAL GATHERING OF
RURAL/SMALL TOWN CHURCHES &
MINISTRIES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SAVE THE DATES: FEBRUARY 9-11, 2023

REGISTRATION TO OPEN IN JANUARY 2023

HOSTED BY

FAITH EDUCATION, INNOVATION & FORMATION (FAITH INFO)

JUSTICE AND LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRY OF THE UCC

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

REV. ROBERTO OCHOA — ochoar@ucc.org

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 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@vergennessucc.org.

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

<https://www.vergennessucc.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!



Tending the Fire

Wise, resilient leadership for a changing world

“There’s no going back to who we were. We have to figure out how to move forward.”

Your church needs your leadership more than ever as we move out of the pandemic, yet the way forward isn’t always clear. As a leader, you face pressure for solutions and plans which are then sabotaged from all sides. How can you discern the way forward and lead your congregation with hope and resilience?

Tending the Fire will teach you how to manage yourself and your church so that you can:

- Be a healthy, non-anxious leader
- Manage difficult emotional relationships
 - Avoid overwork and “underwork”
 - Recognize and handle sabotage
- Discover the “next right steps” for your churches and yourself.

[Learn more and register here!!](#)

NEAUCE 2023

"Beyond Church Walls:
Hearing New Voices"

May 4 - 6 (Th, F, S)

Pilgrim Pines
Swansey, NH

SAVE
THE
DATE

PATHWAYS
pathwaystheological.org

A new year brings new opportunities to learn and grow in faith! PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc. is pleased to announce our January term online, asynchronous courses that are accessible and affordable for curious Progressive Christians. All courses are designed with the Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers at their core, and are helpful to anyone who wants to develop spiritual and leadership gifts for use in the church and the world.

—United Church of Christ History and Polity, January 11–April 7; this course is designed according to the content recommendations of the UCC History and Polity Network Teachers group (12 weeks, \$625)

—Practicing Our Faith in the Public Square, January 11–February 21(6

weeks, \$325)

—Understanding the Bible as a Progressive Christian, January 11-February 21 (6 weeks, \$325)

—The Art of Worship, January 11-February 21 (6 weeks, \$325)

We will also offer a three week Introduction to Supervised Ministry for student ministers and their site supervisors who are participating in the PATHWAYS Supervised Ministry track.

For more information about PATHWAYS as an organization, our courses, and to register, please visit www.pathwaystheological.org.

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 lbvtc@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!"

