



# 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

February 9th, 2023

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## Message from the Conference

Dear Friends of the Vermont Conference,

We are now about one month away from our Hybrid Conference Vitality Event in Springfield on Saturday, March 11th from 10-3! I have heard some good energy around it already, and wanted to encourage you to form a team and to come join us that day as we talk and dream together about "How to be a Vital Church in a Post-Pandemic Age". It turns out that we are able to lower the price, so it will be \$50 for all churches, whether you are coming in person or online.

In case you missed it, the Rev. Patty Kogut is going to be our leader. Patty is an Associate Conference Minister in the Southern New England Conference, and someone who both has led a vital church and is skilled in leading others in thinking about it. She has an energetic spirit that will draw everyone in and make the day fun!

It would be great to get a team together from your church to come. Research shows that churches are far more impacted by a day like this when it is not just the pastor or a layperson going, but a group. It would be wonderful if you could have a group of 4 come, but if that is not possible, two is fine. (Ten is great too!)

The cost is the same no matter how many you bring! It will be \$50 per church for groups coming in person, which includes a delicious lunch prepared by our friends at First Church in Springfield for everyone. It will also be \$50 per church for those who will join us online. You can bring as many people as you want, and the cost will be the same. You can register on Ekit. Let me know if you have any questions. I hope to see you there!

Faithfully,

Latest News

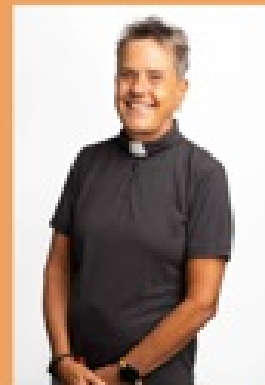
**VITALITY EVENT**  
**MARCH 11TH, 2023**

First Congregational Church UCC,  
Springfield VT

\$50 per church in person  
\$50 per church via Zoom

**REGISTER HERE!!**

**Featured Seminar**  
: "How to be a Vital  
Church in a Post-Pandemic  
Age." with Rev. Dr.  
Patty Kogut, Associate  
Conference Minister  
in the Southern New  
England Conference





The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquake on the border of Turkey and Syria. The death toll continues to rise – numbers are pointing to over 5,000 – depending on the source. This is shattering news and adds to the challenges of the war in this area for over a decade. The UCC has posted a prayer and short statement in response to this crisis. While the earthquake was on the border, the tremors were felt as far away as Lebanon and Cyprus. At this time, we are issuing an appeal to help recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria. It is hard to tell what other areas are affected or the extent of the damage from this seismic event. Amid this current uncertainty, you can be certain that with your financial support the United Church of Christ will be there helping those in need. Give generously by clicking [here](#). You may also text UCCDISASTER to 41444.

Sincerely,

Kent Siladi  
Director of Philanthropy





Graduating into December

An event about transitioning into the next phase of living  
Please join us Saturday February 18, 2023  
2pm- 4pm  
Shoreham Congregational Fellowship Hall  
Shoreham, Vermont

What comes to mind when you hear the words “death” and “dying”  
What would the elements of a positive dying experience look like to you  
or for your family?  
Where would you like to be as you graduate into the next phase in the  
journey?

Join us as we spend time talking about what the term “a good death”  
looks like for us all. Let’s begin talking about death in a more honorable,  
sacred way reflective of what it truly is.

“Death is not the opposite of life, but a part of it”  
Haruki Murakami

Presented by Becki Lund of La Dimora  
Certified End of Life Doula, Grief Facilitator, Reiki Master Teacher

“When we open our hearts to others we allow the language of love,  
acceptance and empathy to speak through us.”



Eden  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY

**EDEN BOOKSTORE**

*Progressive theological resources*  
Welcome to Eden Bookstore Online, the  
bookstore for progressive Christians. The  
Eden Seminary Bookstore online shop  
offers works on theology and religion.  
Eden merchandise available  
at [www.eden.edu/shop/](http://www.eden.edu/shop/)

**LIFE at Eden: History and Polity of the UCC**

Via Zoom and in-person! Free for current Eden students

Dates:

Friday, Feb. 10, 2023 @ 7:00-9:00 PM CST

This intensive class will provide an overview of the predecessor denominations that shaped the United Church of Christ's style of congregational governance. It will also look at how General Synod functions, explore some theological foundations, discuss how the authorization process works and review educational resources available from the denomination.

About the Instructor:

Dr. Jill Baker is an adjunct faculty member at Eden and Coordinator of Eden's Houses of Study. She regularly teaches UCC History and Polity, among other courses. She has been active at the local, Conference and national levels of the United Church of Christ since 1991. Jill is the current Moderator of Illinois South Conference.

**The Future of Co-Vocational Ministry**

Date(s) - 02/21/2023

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Annual Bracke Public Lecture on Leadership

Via Zoom

The Future of Co-Vocational Ministry!

Join us to get an update on the latest trends from The Hartford Institute of Religious Research, about the state of the church, and what ministry jobs will look like in the future?

This event is for all. It is also part of the Eden students' Progressive Christian Leadership Seminar

Speakers:

Dr. Allison Norton is the Faculty Associate in Migration Studies and Congregational Life at Hartford International University, where she directs the Pastoral Innovation Network of New England. She teaches courses in sociology of religion, immigration, and multicultural and inter-generational ministry. Her research and publications explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on U.S. congregations, the rise of megachurches in West Africa, the transnational dimension of African Pentecostalism, the role of migration on the worldwide expansion of the Christian faith, and the religious identities of the "new" second generation.

The Rev. Aaron Rogers is a passionate preacher, teacher, and nonprofit leader based in St. Louis, MO. He received his B.S. from Bradley University and his M. Div from Eden Theological Seminary. In his 10+ years of nonprofit leadership, he has served nonprofits, churches, and foundations. Most notably, Aaron served as the Associate Minister of Stewardship and Development at the historic Riverside Church in Harlem NY and as the Associate to the Rector for Trinity Episcopal Church in the Central West End neighborhood of St. Louis. He serves as chair of the board for East Side Aligned, a collective impact organization for children and youth in East Saint Louis and for Faith for Justice, a coalition of Christian activists in the St. Louis area. Currently, Aaron is a candidate for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church and is completing a Diploma of Anglican Studies at Virginia Theological Seminary. He is passionate about racial equity, social justice, and creating thriving organizations.

Affectionately known as "Rev. Raquel," the Reverend Raquel S. Lettsome, Ph.D. informs and inspires congregants and classes through her preaching, teaching, writing, and online course and webinar experiences. To this end, she

founded Raquel S. Lettsome, LLC. ([www.raquelslettsome.com](http://www.raquelslettsome.com)) to use these gifts in the service of churches and educational institutions to help them advance their missions. She is also the Founder & President of the not-for-profit corporation, RSL Ministries, Inc., ([www.rslministries.com](http://www.rslministries.com)) where she works with faith leaders and lay people to interpret Scripture more effectively for preaching, teaching, and living. Dr. Lettsome is currently the Distinguished Visiting Scholar of the New Testament at Eden Theological Seminary (St. Louis, MO) and has been an invited lecturer and instructor for classes at Princeton Theological, Payne Theological, United Lutheran seminaries as well as national conferences, and denominational meetings. Dr. Lettsome is also a published author in the fields of homiletics, biblical studies, womanist biblical interpretation and theology, and Christian spirituality. Her latest publication, Breakthrough You! 30 Daily Devotions to Move You Forward, was a #1 New Release in Religion & Spirituality Short Reads on Amazon.com. Dr. Lettsome holds a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies (Yale University), a Master of Divinity (Princeton Theological Seminary) and is the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in New Testament Studies from Princeton Theological Seminary (2005).

**Stavenger Social Justice Symposium (Peace UCC, Eden, Metropolitan Congregations United)**

Date(s) - 03/11/2023

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Theme- *Citizenship: Belonging and Participating:  
The Realities and the Possibilities*

Speakers/Panelists:

- Ms. Ana Garcia Ashley, Director, Gamaliel Network
  - Rev. Angel Luis Rivera-Agosto, Area Executive Latin America and the Caribbean, Global Ministries (UCC/Disciples)
- Rev. Rebecca Turner, Pastor of Christ Church United Church of Christ, Maplewood, Missouri

**Stepping Out: Re-Imagining your Elderhood In Person Retreat**

In person retreat.

Dates: March 14-16, 2023. Tuesday evening-Thursday lunch

Location: La Salle Retreat Center, St. Louis, MO

**Description:**

Stepping Out It is an in person gathering for adults contemplating, or currently retired.

This open enrollment retreat will explore new material that is explored in the NEXT Steps semester course.

No prior experience with the NEXT Steps program is required, all are welcome and encouraged to attend. (For those that have attended the full semester course this retreat will be presenting new material with time for deep reflection and action planning.)

All program activities are designed to stimulate your individual self-discovery as you delve deeply into your personal plan and truth and discover meaning and purpose in elderhood.

**Cost:** \$275.00



## New Offerings from Practical Resources for Churches!!!

40 Days Together is Cultivate Faith's Lenten initiative for families.

In a nutshell, 40 Days Together is a chance to help equip families *totake on* regular spiritual practices together (rather than giving up something for the season). There will be two parts to it:

- Free on our website: table tents with mealtime prayers for families to use all through Lent and conversation questions for the car, for family group text threads, for the table, or whenever. These will be released on our website for all to freely use
- Fee based packets: more comprehensive materials for families to use, towards the goal of spending 40 Hours Together throughout the Lenten season. Materials will include:
  1. book lists for read-alouds/read-togethers for every developmental stage
  2. ideas for simple family hikes
  3. lunchbox notes (for parents/caregivers to slip into their kids' bags AND for kids to slip into their parents'/caregivers/ bags)
  4. ideas for midweek simple sabbath rests together (can also be done together virtually)
  5. ideas for family collaborative art prompts using materials found around the home
  6. suggestions for family devotionals/prayers
  7. bedtime blessing ideas for every developmental level
  8. paper tracker of the 40 Hours Spent Together

Click the link below to pay for 40 Days Together with PayPal  
40 Days Together: Family price \$10

40 Days Together: Congregations 50 and under in worship \$30

40 Days Together: Congregations 100 and under in worship \$50

40 Days Together: Congregations 200 and under in worship \$70

**Thursday February 9**

**First meeting of the Game Changer Cohort with Kay Kotan**

Each workshop will be one hour of content followed by a 30 minutes Cohort coaching session where you will assess your church's current levels of game changing leadership and work towards creating a MAP (ministry action plan) to enact the needed game changing leadership strategies in your local church context.

Participants will need to watch the initial webinar and read the book *Being the Church in the Post-Pandemic World*. This work is best engaged by both the clergy and 4-6 leaders from their church.

**Click to register for all three Zoom meeting.**

**There is a fee for this Cohort**

Congregations that are members or belong to a Judicatory Member (see list below)  
- \$75 for the three sessions (Includes up to 6 registrants from the same church/ministry)

Non-Members

- \$100 for the three sessions (includes up to 6 registrants from the same church/ministry)

When: Feb 9, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

When: Mar 9, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

When: Apr 20, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Participants will need to watch the recording or **Eight Game Changers for the Post Pandemic Church** and read the book **Being the Church in the Post-Pandemic World**. This work is best engaged by both the clergy and 4-6 leaders from their church.

On January 12, 2023, a coalition of concerned community members from across Northfield and the State of Vermont submitted the attached statement/complaint to Northfield's Town Manager and Select Board. The attached list of links, though not part of the statement itself, provides additional context and background information. If you are inclined to do so, now is the time to contact the [Town of Northfield](#) to voice your individual support, experiences, and/or concerns.

## **"Northfield Needs a New Chief of Police"**

January 12th, 2023

*A Joint Statement by Northfield Middle High School's Gender & Sexuality Alliance; the United Church of Northfield; Outright Vermont; Rights & Democracy of Vermont; Education Justice Coalition of Vermont; Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network; Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ; TeachOut Vermont; Concerned Parents, Educators, and Students of Northfield*

Northfield's current chief of police has revealed himself (1) to have a feeble grasp on what the laws and constitution actually mean and (2) to be willing to misinterpret and misapply the laws in order to advance his own ideological agenda.

In 2020, the district attorney of Washington County issued a Brady letter, which called into question Chief John Helfant's ability to faithfully execute his duties. An investigation revealed evidence of Fourth Amendment violations and potential on-duty racist practices, including disparately worse treatment of Hispanic and African American men. It was also revealed that Officer Helfant omitted exculpatory evidence from his statements and failed to activate his body camera when this disparate treatment is alleged to have occurred. Although criminal charges were not brought against him at the time, he nonetheless has become a less effective officer because his standing in the community was eroded and the DA's office no longer accepts his referrals of non-listed and non-violent crimes."

**[READ MORE HERE](#)**

**[NPD Chief Problem Links for Context](#)**

**[Update!!!](#)**

**Lynn and Julie Lombard (Northfield UCC)** were both featured in an article published by the Vermont Digger yesterday, January 25th.



## **YOU CAN READ IT HERE!!!**

(Please note that Lynn is the Conference Minister for the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, not "a minister at the United Church of Christ in Randolph" as the article states. This will be corrected per the author.)

### **The First Congregational Church of Berlin's website got a makeover!**

Check it out here!!



**United Community Church, St. Johnsbury** swung into the new year with a Swinging Epiphany Celebration. The ecumenical community service included five UCC, Congregational and UMC clergy reading the familiar Christmas and Epiphany scriptures interspersed with jazz carols and swing standards offered by the Swing North Big Band. Swinging Epiphany Celebration was originally conceived in 2012 and offered annually in various VT and NH communities. The 2023 service was the first offering since the pandemic. Enjoy this recording of the Benediction and closing number:



**United Community Church, St.**

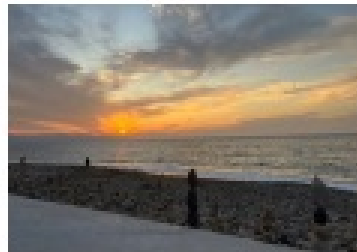


**Johnsbury** has a free lunch program that was also recently featured on the Vermont Public Website. You can read it **HERE- Free lunch, and a community gathering place, reopens in St. Johnsbury after a 2-year hiatus**

## Boundary Training for Authorized Ministers

### February 22 & 23

9 am to 12 pm



The sun, the sea, and the sand are each aware of their own boundary and that of the other. This is what allows for the creation of a beautiful sunset.

Facilitator:	Rev. Dr. Diane Weible, Ordained Minister & trained facilitator
Structure:	Six hours divided into two Zoom sessions, three hours each day. For credit, participants must be fully present and participate in all sessions. Each topic will include a case study and be discussed as a group prior to breaking out into small groups for discussion.
Topics Covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power and Vulnerability</li> <li>• Social Media</li> <li>• Finances</li> <li>• Pastoral Identity and Vocation</li> <li>• Self-Care (burn-out, stress, compassion fatigue)</li> <li>• Receiving Gifts</li> <li>• Boundaries and Church Conflict</li> <li>• When a Minister Leaves/Retires</li> <li>• Ministers as church members/Ministers in Four-Way Covenants</li> <li>• Cultural Boundaries</li> </ul>
Cost:	\$60
To Register:	<a href="#">Register</a> by 9 a.m. PT, February 21. Once you register and eligibility for the training is confirmed, you will be emailed the Zoom link.



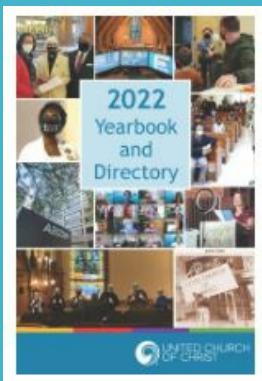


## Congratulations to Bristol Federated Church!

Our Messy Church is located in Bristol, Vermont but is an Ecumenical event including 5 different churches in 3 different towns, representing 4 different denominations. We seek to reach those living in our rural 5 town area of Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, New Haven, and Starksboro, Vermont. We acknowledge that Messy Church requires a good number of volunteers and the potential to burn out our faithful, but older population of volunteers is very real if we attempt to go at it alone. We are stronger (and reach more people) when we work together.

## 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.

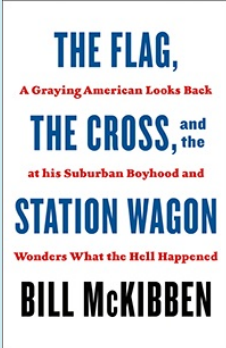
Our workshops this year are so abundant they will happen TWICE. Stay tuned for more information!

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!

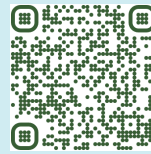
[Indie Bound](#)

[Amazon](#)

[Audible](#)

## [Would you like to be a vendor at this 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!)



## Do you or your church want to apply for a Hope Fund grant?



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](mailto: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](http://www.UCCWC.org)

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

## Celebration XI



register online  
[www.UCCWC.org](http://www.UCCWC.org)

UCC New England Women

## CELEBRATION XI

[www.UCCWC.org](http://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

Prayers for the family and friends of Rev. Holsman.

## 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*



Happy Birthday to our  
Clergy!

February 6th  
James MacIntyre  
Darlene Baer

February 7th  
John Weatherhogg

February 13th  
Margaret Tooker

February 16th  
Betsy Miller

February 20th  
Gary O'Gorman  
Harold Masback

February 26th  
Robin Junker-Boyce

Happy Ordination  
Anniversary to our Clergy!

February 3rd  
Janet Langdon

February 4th  
Richard Ridgenwald

February 8th  
Cynthia Batten

February 13th  
Shawn Bracebridge

February 15th  
John Bixby

February 24th  
Lucia Jackson



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



**Just for fun!!!**



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



Please help us in congratulating



## Rev. Jane Elizabeth Wilson

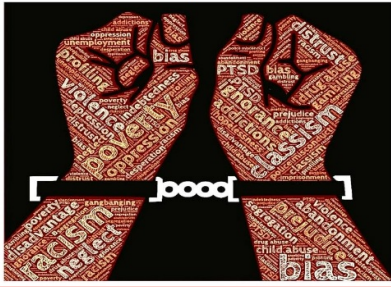
on her recent retirement!



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

## **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@vergenesucc.org](mailto:elliott@vergenesucc.org).

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

<https://www.vergenesucc.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 (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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](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!



**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  
Swanzey, NH

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

# PATHWAYS

[pathwaystheological.org](http://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](http://www.pathwaystheological.org).

For the latest [news click here](#)

[The Online Learning Platform of the United Church of Christ](#)

## How to Contact Vermont Conference Staff

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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).

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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!"