



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

March 9th, 2023

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Message from the Conference



Dear Beloved Community of the Vermont Conference,

I have some **good news to share!** When the books closed on our fiscal year 2022, we had received more Basic Support (OCWM) than we had budgeted. The budget was for \$342,00 of Basic Support and we actually received \$348,191. In 2021, 70 churches contributed to OCWM while 65 churches contributed in 2022. So, fewer churches contributed more support.

This is good news because it helps support the vital programs and projects of the Vermont Conference and the wider UCC. This support enables us to maintain the crucial ministries of our Associate Conference Minister in the areas of church vitality and emerging churches/faith communities. The Hope Fund will enable the Conference to fund projects of vitality and community engagement throughout the Conference. This support enables us to ensure that all of our first call pastors have access to both a mentor and a facilitated support group. It enables us to resource congregations in their search and call for pastoral leaders. It helps us encourage and support licensed ministers for our small churches and also support Members in Discernment who are taking differing paths to their education for ordained ministry. This support enables me to be present in meetings and network with other Conference Ministers across the denomination who are facing similar challenges to ours and to share ideas and even resource people to help our churches stay strong and vital in their communities.

Thank you for your support! It is deeply appreciated. I look forward to seeing you at Annual Meeting at Grace Church, UCC in Rutland on April 28-29. Registration is open, Bill McKibben is our keynote speaker and lunches and Friday dinner will be catered and included in the price of registration. Did I mention fabulous music and meaningful worship?

Peace to you in this Lenten time.
Lynn

Latest News

VITALITY EVENT

MARCH 11TH, 2023

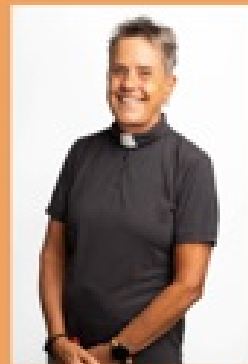
First Congregational Church UCC,
Springfield VT

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

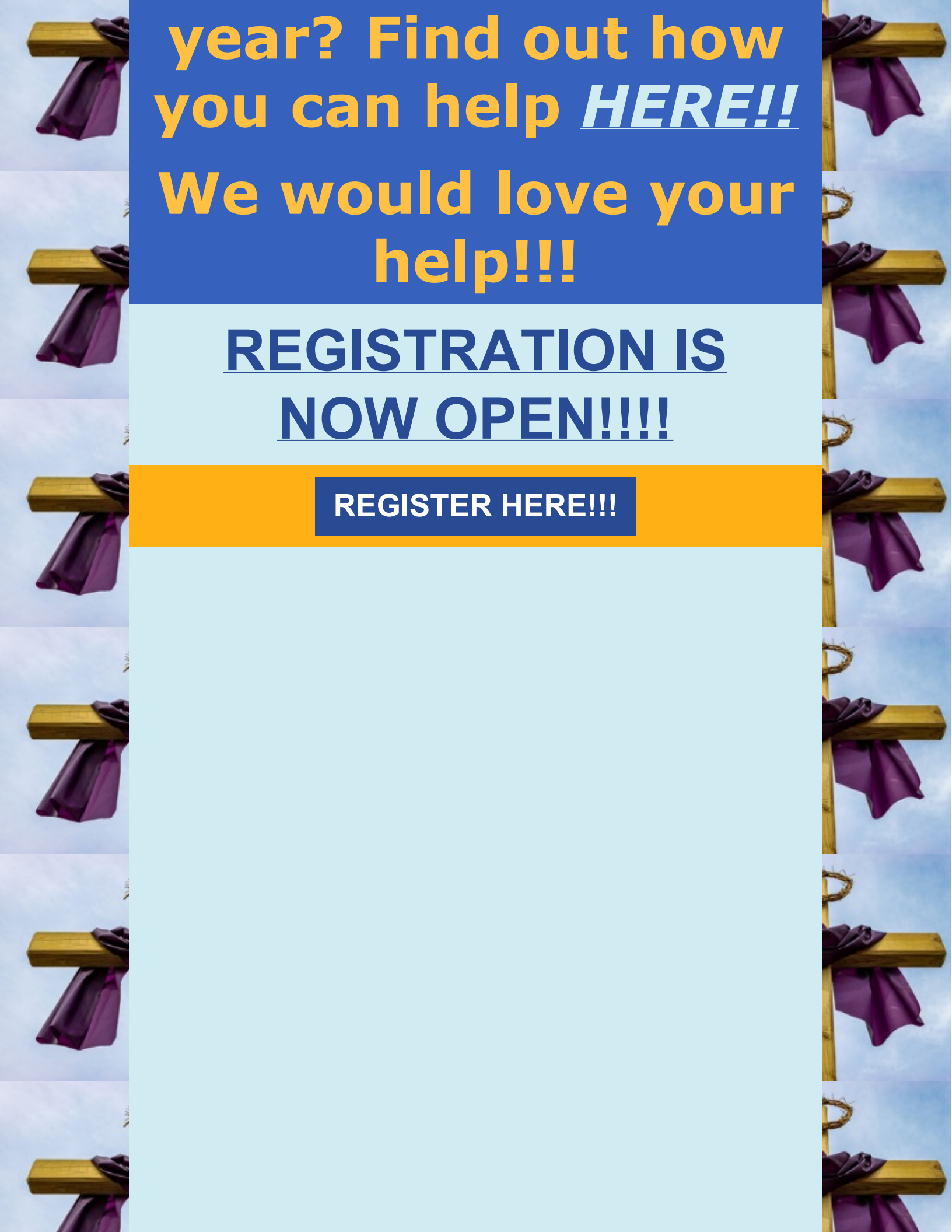
REGISTER HERE!!

**REGISTRATION
ENDS
03/09!!!**

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



**Do you want to
help out with
Annual Meeting this**



**year? Find out how
you can help *HERE!!*
We would love your
help!!!**

**REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN!!!!**

REGISTER HERE!!!

“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.

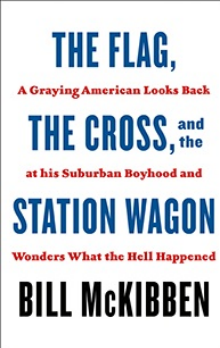
Our workshops this year are so abundant they will happen TWICE. Stay tuned for more information!

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!

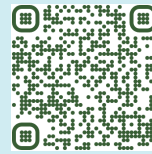
[Indie Bound](#)

[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 \(Print\)](#)



Board affirms: Karen Georgia Thompson will be first woman to lead UCC if elected by Synod

by [Maic D'Agostino](#) | published on Mar 6, 2023
The United Church of Christ is poised to make a historic choice.

After a year-long process, the UCC Board voted March 4 to nominate Associate General Minister, the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, for General Minister and President.

If elected by the General Synod this summer, Thompson would be the first woman — and the first woman of African descent — to lead the denomination.

[Read More Here!](#)



QUESTIONS?
lingelbachj@vtucc.org

**Black
Lives
Matter
Commissioning
Project
Workshop
-Celebrating
Black
Composers-**

The workshop will be presented at two locations from 9:00 am -4:00 pm :

April 15, 2023
Guilford Community Church
38 Church Dr.
Guilford, VT 05301

May 13, 2023
Malletts Bay UCC
1672 W. Lakeshore Dr.
Colchester, VT 05446

Do you lead a choral group, choir, or do you simply love to sing? Join us for a workshop celebrating black composers this Spring.

The Racial Justice Task Force of the Vermont UCC is hosting two workshops featuring new choral music by contemporary black composers commissioned by the BLM Commissioning Project.



Renowned choral leader Kathy Bullock, Professor Emerita of Music from Berea College will lead the workshops, introducing the eight award-winning songs from black composers and teaching selected songs over the course of the day. In addition, she will host a panel discussion of the issue of appropriation of black music.

For more information on the Black Lives Matter Commissioning Project: <https://blmcommissioning.com/>

**April Registration
in Guilford**

**May Registration
Mallets Bay**



The Seven Last Words of Christ by Franz Joseph Haydn

5 pm Sunday,
April 2nd,
Richmond
Congregational
Church

7 pm Friday,
April 7th,
Peacham
Congregational
Church

Singers: Martha Peck, Cara Hill,
Paul Bishop, Jose Schmidt
String Quartet: Susan Janes, Jane
Tulloh, Jody Racht, Melissa Perley
Music of great power, anguish, tenderness
and love

**The Hope Fund Discernment Team is pleased to
announce the Guilford Community Church as the
first recipient of a Hope Fund Grant.**

Guilford Community Church is creating a park for the residents of Guilford and the surrounding communities. The Guilford Community Park “will feature a 48’x24’ timber-frame pavilion in the old Vermont style, a classic seven circuit labyrinth, a playground for young children, open areas for kicking a ball or throwing a Frisbee, and a campfire pit for singing songs and telling stories. The park will serve as a platform for music and cultural events, a public space for having a picnic or getting away from it all for meditation and relaxation.”(GCC, Hope Fund application)

Out of respect for their neighbors' concerns (and as Robert Frost put it, "Good fences make good neighbors") the Hope Fund is helping the Guilford Community Church with the construction of a fence on the park's property line. We are excited to see how this multi-faceted project unfolds. We hope you will make a pilgrimage to the Guilford Community Park, walk the labyrinth and celebrate this amazing project!



The Pavilion was made with local timber by local craftspeople.



Community members pounding pegs into the timber frame beam.



Taking shape, the older folks are watching the younger folks.

[Not-Your-Average Boundaries Training](#)

LeaderWise's online boundaries training workshop is lively and interactive, full of reflection and conversation. Attendees have given us feedback that our boundaries training was a great experience, AND caused them to re-evaluate some of their own practices.



The following Boundaries Training sessions are scheduled for 2023:

- May 22 & 23 from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm Central
- August 22 & 23 from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm Central
- October 11 & 12 from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm Central

[Read more HERE!](#)



The **Justice & Witness Ministries Team** is looking for full sets of Tinker Toys. If you have a set you are not using or would like to donate for us to use at our Annual Meeting Workshop and at presentations offered through your Association, please contact Rev. Sally May at revsallymbucc@gmail.com or Sally Kruschnek at smwkersch@comcast.net.

You can order send them to Justice & Witness Ministries directly from their

[Amazon wish list here.](#)



Refugia Faith Lenten Retreat

Thursday, March 23, 2023
10:00 am – 3:00 pm (Eastern) • Online

\$40 retreat registration

\$60 retreat registration including a copy of *Refugia Faith*

A limited number of scholarships are available for this online retreat. Contact Program Director, Nicole Diroff, at nicole@thebtscenter.org to inquire.

[Learn More!](#)

[Register!](#)

Justice Witness Ministries is Back!

Your conference has a robust group of social justice-minded folks working together on several issues. Here's an update on our activities:

Justice "Road Show"

We're putting together a 90-minute workshop to share current activities and brainstorm ideas around racial, reproductive, and environmental justice, global mission, and gun safety. This workshop will involve videos, discussion, and hands-on activities to get folks excited about our UCC witness to justice in the world!

This "Road Show" will be piloted as a Workshop at Annual Meeting (April 28-29) and will be available to be presented at Association Meetings. Please contact Debbie Ingram at debbie@viavt.org if you would like to feature it as the program at your next Association gathering.

Racial Justice

Our VTCUCC Task Force is sponsoring two workshops in which church choirs and community choruses can learn spiritual music by black composers, to honor them and give them the recognition these composers deserve and have been unfairly denied for decades. The southern workshop is in Guilford on April 15 and the northern one is in Mallett's Bay on May 13. Contact the Conference office for more information.

Also, Vermont Interfaith Action is looking for congregations that would like to help in their towns advance racial justice initiatives around the Declaration of Inclusion, a statement your Selectboard can sign onto to make your town more hospitable and welcoming to all, and a

Community Engagement Guide with Local Police, to build a meaningful relationship with your police department around racial equity and true public safety for all. If you would like to know more, please contact Debbie at debbie@viavt.org.

Faith Climate Action Day

Wed., March 29, is a day to draw attention to the climate change crisis. There will be a Press Conference in the Statehouse and opportunities to meet with legislators and be present in the Gallery during the session. This event is organized by VT Public Interest Group (VPIRG) and co-sponsored by VT Interfaith Power and Light and VT Interfaith Action. For more information, contact VPIRG.

Gun safety

The issue of gun safety is important to the VTCUCC, but we need a point person to help us stay connected with the efforts of other groups. If you would like to be that person, please let us know by contacting Debbie at debbie@viavt.org.

Global mission

Did you know that Rev. Kim McKerley is our Conference's liaison to the national setting's Global Mission? She can help your church connect with visiting Mission Co-Workers to speak at an event, or help your church plan a pilgrimage to another country, and so much more! Contact kmbethanyucc@gmail.com to find out more.

Our JWM group meets regularly the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm for an hour. If you are interested in joining us, let Debbie know at debbie@viavt.org. As people of faith, let us "do justice" together!

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR POSITION - available Summer 2023 Second Congregational Church United Church of Christ Londonderry, Vermont (About 45 minutes from Rutland, Bennington and Brattleboro)

We: are a faithful, music-loving congregation that seeks an enthusiastic, creative organist and choir director. We have a beautiful Essex upright piano and a new (2017) Rodgers Classic and Artist series windless 2-Manual (559) organ.

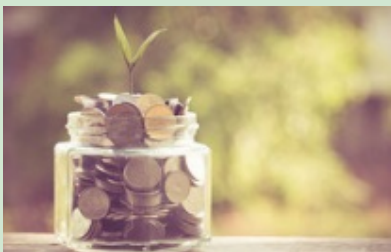
Our Church: Our weekly attendance averages 45; official church membership is 83. Our commitment to music is long standing. The choir – while small! - is energetic and enthusiastic. On any given Sunday the choir may be as small as a soloist or up to six people, with a mix of parts and singing experience.

You: We are looking for someone who is energetic and flexible. Experience as a church musician would be great but is not required. We will consider a pianist who does not have organ experience, and we will pay for short term organ lessons.

Musical requirements: Play gathering music before worship service and a postlude at end. During the worship service: accompany 3 hymns, play the Doxology, Gloria Patri, Introit, Call to Prayer, and offertory. Accompany anthem (sung by soloist, small ensemble or choir). Also play for two special services during the year (Christmas Eve and a Holy Week service).

Weekly Schedule: Warm up and choir rehearsal (if needed) 8:30 AM-9:15 AM; Worship 9:30AM-10:30 AM; (coffee hour/snack 10:30 AM-11:00 AM); Choir rehearsal for the next week and beyond (generally) 11:00 AM-12:00 Noon.
Salary: \$9,000-\$9500 (depending on experience), which includes 6 paid Sundays off, where the church finds the substitutes.

Interest and questions can be directed to Rev. Laurie S. Krooss, (802) 824-6453, LKROOSS@yahoo.com or Val Austin, Valenat1933@aol.com.



Financial Seminars in West Dover!

If your church is anything like ours, you probably have a good number of folks over 55

which in some circles qualifies them as “seniors”. After hearing some scary stories of friends who experienced a loss of their spouse and had little or no knowledge about their finances, the **Loose Knit Group (LKG)** of the West Dover Congregational Church came up with an idea to help our members be more prepared for such an event. Thus, Financial Seminars were established. One of our church members was a financial services professional who agreed to help us understand financial planning for the future. He presented his thoughts on how to be “Money Wise”, including budgeting, why to plan financially, the first important steps and how to begin. In addition, he discussed how to protect one’s income, retirement and other topics. Scott then arranged for a local attorney to share his knowledge about wills and trusts. A second session with the attorney is scheduled for March.

We hope that this information will prove to be helpful to our members.

last minute helps for Lent



Online Resource Center

All of our booklets, webinars, and other resources for Lent and Easter in one handy spot. Go forth and grab what you need!

[Online Resources](#)



40 Hours Together

There's still time to download and distribute our 40 Hours Together for families.

[40 Hours](#)



It's time to share!!

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by

violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including

health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Click here to visit the OGHS webpage on [ucc.org https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/](https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/)
Suggested offering date: **March 19, 2023**

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.

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.

Please keep Evelyn Lavelli in your prayers as she mourns the loss of her both

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!

March 1st
C. Michael Caldwell
James Mills

March 2nd
Larrimore C Crockett

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

March 9th
Marcia Dorey

March 17th
Mark Blank

Amy Davin

March 3rd

Catherine Cadieux

March 4th

Joseph Will

March 5th

SallyAnn Silfies

March 8th

Dale N. Hindmarsh

March 9th

Chris Heintz
Elisa Lucozzi

March 11th

Linda L. Kulas

March 12th

Josh Sharp

March 13th

Kevin E. Goldenbogen

March 22nd

Susan Cooke Kittredge

March 23rd

Hal C. Miller III
David Andrews
Caryne Eskridge

March 25th

Kathy W. Eddy
Jeffrey W. Cornwell
Katelyn Macrae



Just for fun!!!



Click here to update your contact information!!!

THE TALK, VERMONT

Thank you so much for your support and participation in what was formerly The Racism in America Forum and, starting this fall, will be known as The Talk, Vermont. While our focus will be on Vermont, one of the whitest states in the nation, and its efforts to confront and overcome the challenges of racism and other forms of bigotry, we shall draw upon resources both within and beyond the state in guiding our path to a better place.



VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS



Stowe Community Church
Director of Youth Ministry Job Description

MINISTRY DESCRIPTION: The Director of Youth Ministry is responsible for developing and delivering a comprehensive program of Christian Education for youth (6th-12th grades). It is important that the Director inspires and excites the youth of SCC to learn and study the faith by communicating and demonstrating a personal passion for Jesus Christ.

[Read more \(including how to apply!\) HERE!](#)

Vergennes is seeking a 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.

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 (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!

NEAUCE 2023

"Beyond Church Walls:
Hearing New Voices"

May 4 - 6 (Th, F, S)

Pilgrim Pines
Swanzey, NH

SAVE
THE
DATE

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!

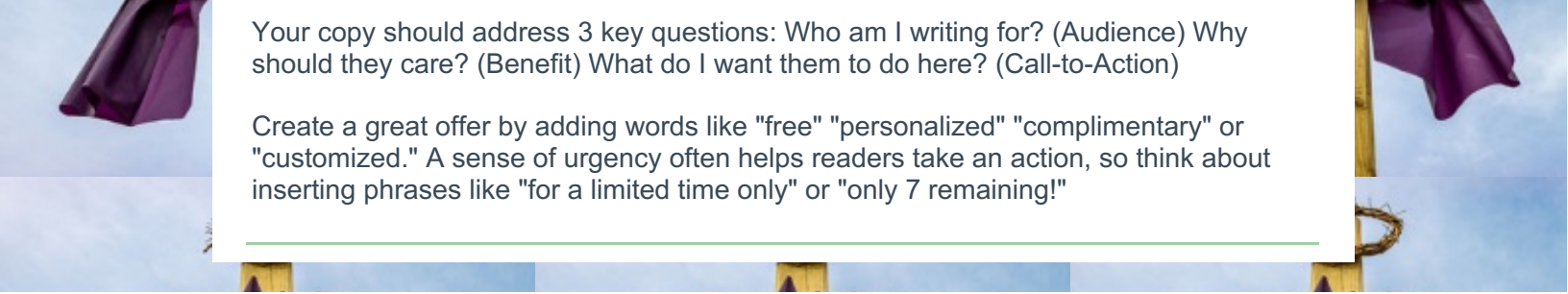
Our Churches Wider Mission Basic Support, Association Dues, and Friends of the Vermont Conference make this communication possible.

[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!"
