



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 30th, 2023

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Message from the Conference



Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

This Friday, March 31 has been designated as National Trans-visibility Day. We approach this day amid the alarming rise in the number of hate crimes and anti-trans laws both proposed and enacted into law. Since the current legislative session began less than three months ago, the Human Rights Campaign is already tracking 340 anti-LGBTQ+ bills that have been introduced in statehouses across the country. 150 of those would specifically restrict the rights of transgender people, the highest number of bills targeting transgender people in a single year to date. Trans youth and their parents are being subjected to threats of imprisonment, accusations of child abuse and calls for death. Trans youth are being denied the life-giving gender affirming care they both need and deserve.

What can we do? Our national offices are hosting a "letters of love" project where churches, pastors, anyone can write a "love letter" (less than 200 words, please) to trans youth. The Rev. Traci Blackmon suggests reminding

trans youth:

- They are not alone.
- We won't stop fighting for their rights until they have them.
- We will not let hate win.
- There are more of us supporting them than those who stand against them.
- God loves them and so do we.

You can post these on your website and in your social media feeds. You can put up a banner, write a letter to the editor, or other creative ways to reach out in love. On March 31 and beyond, ucc.org will feature letters of love, posting a new one every half hour. If you would like to contribute to this, email your letters of love to: Lettersoflove@ucc.org .

Although the deadline for inclusion in the scrolled messages on March 31 has passed, letters will continue to be posted after that date as well.

Courage in the struggle and hope that never ends,
Lynn

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Transgender Day of Visibility March 31

All Transgender individuals are deserving of safety, belonging, and autonomy. We stand in solidarity with all our Trans siblings today and everyday. And we will continue to work to make it safer to be visible.



Latest News



Vermont Poor People's Campaign April 4th Moral Assembly at the State House

Join the VT Poor People's Campaign for a Moral Assembly at the Statehouse in Montpelier on **Tuesday, April 4th from 12:00-1:00pm**. The assembly will be followed by a community meal at Christ Episcopal Church (64 State St) from **1:00-2:00pm**.

We are gathering to: **center** the voices of poor and directly impacted Vermonters as many pandemic era relief measures end this spring; **honor** the true legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on this anniversary of his assassination; **inspire** our lawmakers and policymakers with

moral courage and needed perspective; and **keep building** a network of people and organizations in our state working to value human needs over profit, and to bring an end to unjust, entrenched economic and social systems that harm us all.

This Moral Assembly coincides with the holy periods of **Ramadan, Holy Week, and the start of Passover** calling people of faith into greater commitment to collective justice and liberation.



**DORSET CHURCH
PRESENTS ROBERT
RAY'S "GOSPEL
MASS" ON EASTER
SUNDAY, APRIL 9,
2023 AT 10 AM**

On Easter Sunday, the Dorset Church Choir will be presenting Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass" For centuries, the world's great composers have set the Ordinary of the Mass in a wide variety of styles. Ray has surrounded these texts with the joyous styles of contemporary African-American music. Premiered in 1979 at the University of Illinois-Urbana, it




**Dorset Church
Rummage Sale**

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE most fabulous shopping experience of the spring season which will take place in Dorset on **April 29, 2023** when the Dorset Church holds its **Spring Rummage Sale** from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Outside sales begin at 8:30 a.m. There will be no **EARLY-BIRD SHOPPING!!** The bag sale will take place from 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM.

If you've shopped with us before, you'll remember that a few years ago we did some reorganizing which was a big hit and we want you to come to make it an even bigger hit!!! We will continue to have all of our **Babies' and Children's items** outside as well as **Linens and Crafts, Books,** and our **"This and That"** tent which will offer household appliances, pet equipment, small furniture and many unusual treasures. **All of these tents will be open for shopping at 8:30 a.m.**

The **Inside** of the church will be overflowing with clothing and household items at reasonable prices. There will be Men's and Women's clothing and shoes, Ladies Boutique, Jewelry and



has become a favorite of churches and choirs throughout the world.

Four movements of the Gospel Mass will be sprinkled throughout the service.

With Soloists, Choir and Guest musician Lee Romano on Bass, it promises to be a memorable occasion. All are welcome to join us on **Easter Sunday Morning, April 9th at 10:00am at the Dorset Church, 143 Church St. Dorset, VT 05251**

Accessories, Attic Treasures, and Housewares. Men's and Women's Sweaters and Jeans will be inside with other clothing.

Spring and Summer clothing in good condition, jewelry, women's accessories, shoes, linens, kitchen and household items, toys, tools, sports gear, plants, garden equipment, small appliances and books will be accepted. Other items not listed are also accepted. **Please bring only items in good condition and be sure that everything is in working order!!**

We may accept by approval some larger items. Please contact Sandi at sandihedman@yahoo.com at 362-1459 or Ellen at ellen5150@gmail.com or 362-3610 to discuss the item or if you have any questions about donations.

We are sorry but we **cannot accept**: children's car seats, encyclopedias, large furniture or any items with mold.

Donations will be accepted from Monday, April 24th through Wednesday, April 26th, from 9 a.m. til 7 p.m., and Thursday, April 27th until noon. Please note, we cannot accept donations after noon on Thursday.

The church is located at 143 Church Street, off Route 30 in Dorset. Call 867-2260 with questions or for more information.



H.165, the PERMANENT Universal School Meals bill is on its way to the House Floor!

Representatives will be voting this week to ensure that Universal School Meals continue forever in Vermont, and that no child will ever again learn what hunger feels like in school.

We need YOU to

call your Representatives and urge them to vote yes on H.165. Below are instructions for calling your Representatives:

Calling
the State House - Here's
what to do:

1. Look up your Representatives here: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/people/>
 - a. You may have more than one Representative(s).
 - b. Write down their name(s).

2. Call the Statehouse at 802-828-2228. A person will answer the phone. Say you want to leave a message for your Representative(s).
 - a. Give the person the name of your one or two Representatives.
 - b. Give the person your name and phone number.
 - c. The message is: Please vote in favor of H. 165 to ensure that Universal School Meals is made permanent in Vermont

3. If the line is busy (buzzing sound) - wait a few minutes and call back.

You MIGHT get a call back from your Representative(s). Remember, the best thing you can tell your Representatives is why Universal School Meals are important to you and how important it is to make the program permanent.



Join the First Ever UCC Earth Day Summit!

This online event will take place on Saturday, April 22nd at 11 am ET. The theme is "What's Possible?: Earth Day Stories of Hope."

This two and a half hour summit will feature a keynote from the **Rev. Jim Antal**, a panel of inspiring speakers, the presentation of the Dollie Burwell Prophetic Action Award, and a video showcasing the uplifting story of Mayflower UCC in Minneapolis. Even if you cannot make the event at its scheduled time, still sign-up, and we will send you a link to a recording of it. **Register now!**

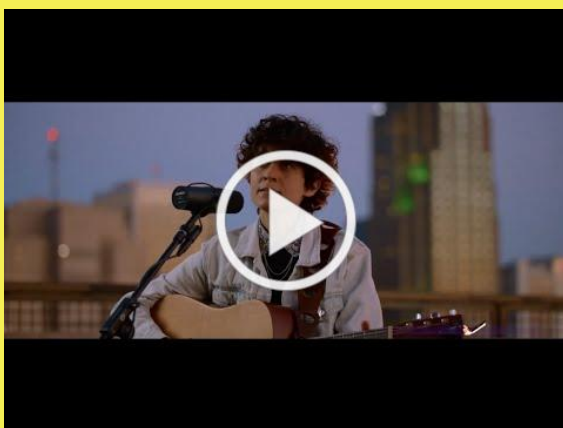
SPENCER LAJOYE

Guilford Community Church
April 23 | 2pm

Suggested Donation:
\$10-20

38 Church Dr.
Guilford, VT 05301

Delivering Broadway-esque melodies accompanied by a weathered dreadnought, award-winning singer/songwriter Spencer LaJoye has a theological obsession with making music that tells the truth...and a profoundly queer habit of creating ritual space for hurt and healing people.



Spencer LaJoye is a folk/pop singer songwriter, violinist, and vocal loop artist in Boston, MA, who believes everyone is made of the good stuff. A 2021 Kerrville New Folk Songwriting Competition winner, LaJoye (luh-JOY) makes music to tell the truth and return to their body as a queer person in recovery from American Christian evangelicalism. Delivering Broadway-esque melodies accompanied by a weathered dreadnought, their performances are equal parts confident quirk and elegant storytelling.



Funding Our Future by Paul Nickerson

Has your stewardship gone flat?
Is your church dealing with financial
issues? Make sure you don't miss
this! Registration to begin in April

Save the Date!


Saturday, May
20th from 10-3
on Zoom



ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT TO REGISTER!!!

**Do you want to help out with
Annual Meeting this year? Find
out how you can help [HERE!!](#)**

We would love your help!!!



YOU CAN NOW
REGISTER TO SEE
BILL MCKIBBON'S
KEYNOTE FOR FREE!!!

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.

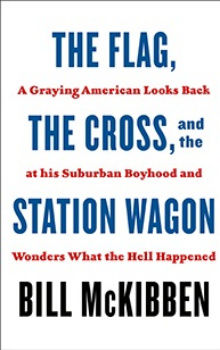
Our workshops this year are so abundant they will happen TWICE. Stay tuned for more information!

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!

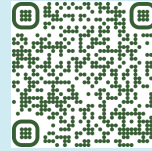
[Indie Bound](#)

[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 \(Print\)](#)



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

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

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.

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



Celebrate

Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

March 1st

C. Michael Caldwell
James Mills

March 2nd

Larrimore C Crockett
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

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

March 9th

Marcia Dorey

March 17th

Mark Blank



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

What are the participants of the Vitality Event that took place in Springfield March 11th saying?

"Fun and informative!"

"Exceptional"

"Great hospitality and food!"

"Heartening to hear the things we are working on increases our vitality!"

"Love Patty!"

"This speaker Patty was phenomenal. She took a subject that was difficult and made it fun! She modeled vitality!"

"I feel revitalized by these conversations and knowing we are not alone on this journey."



Just for fun!!!



Click here to update your contact information!!!



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 revsallybucc@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.](#)

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!

THE TALK, VERMONT

Thank you so much for your support and participation in what was formerly The Racism in

[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.

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.

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

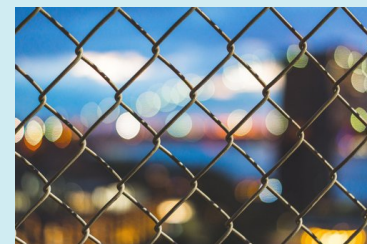
Don't forget to click below in your email to view the entire newsletter



SAVE THE DATE!

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!](#)

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!"