



The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ



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

April 20th, 2023

Table of Contents

- 1) Message from the Conference
- 2) Latest News
- 3) Prayer Concerns

- 4) Around the Conference
- 5) Save the Date & Cont. Ed Resources
- 6) VTCUCC Classifieds

Message from the Conference

Vermont Conference friends,

Annual Meeting is almost here! It has been four years since we have been able to gather in person as a Conference. I started in this role as your Associate Conference Minister in Dec. of 2018, and so the 2019 Annual Meeting at the Lake Morey Conference Center was my first Annual Meeting. I remember with gratitude all the wonderful conversations I had at that meeting with so many of you, and the important work we did together as a body. There was such a spirit of joy in our gathering that year!

We all know the challenges that we have faced over the past 3 years with the Pandemic. We had to cancel the 2020 Annual Meeting, and then we held the 2021 and 2022 Annual Meetings virtually. They were wonderful gatherings, but it just was not the same as being in person together. That is one of the main reasons that I am so looking forward to our gathering this year!

We are so fortunate to have Bill McKibben as our main speaker, and there are so many awesome workshops as well. We are so grateful to Grace Church in Rutland for hosting us, and look forward to powerful times of worship and deliberation together. And I hope you look forward along with me to the little conversations you can have with others on the side and in between the main presentations. They can be such a wonderful gift!

Registration for Annual Meeting will close this Saturday . Please come to be with us!

Faithfully yours,



Latest News

What are people saying about BLM Workshop in Guilford last Saturday?



"My heart is blown open by the reflections of the composers and how they deepened my relationship to their songs."

"Music is a universal language of all peoples."

"Emotional food for deep thought."

"There's so much love in the world. Let love prevail, not hatred."

JOIN US IN MAY IN MALLETTS BAY!!!

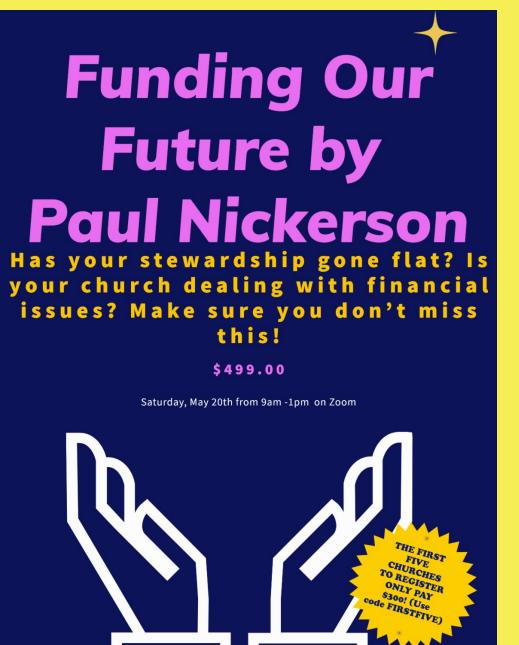
May Registration Malletts Bay











Register for Funding Our Future HERE!

The Waitsfield United Church of Christ in Waitsfield, Vermont, an Open and Affirming church, is seeking a MUSIC DIRECTOR AND ACCOMPANIST to join our church ministry. We are seeking one



person to fill both roles or two people to fill the two roles individually. This person should possess strong interpersonal skills, keeping lines of communication open between the choir and the pastor, and build and maintain relationships in the church.

READ MORE HERE!!!



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 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.

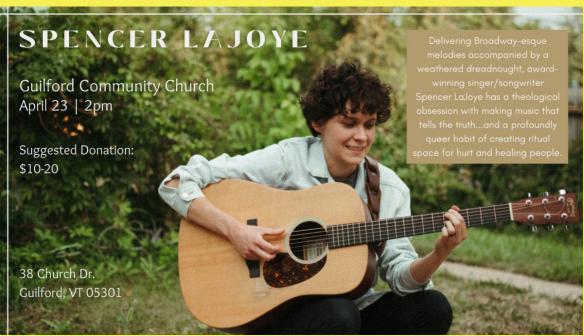






Join the First Ever UCC Earth Day Summit!

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 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.

Do you want to help out with Annual Meeting this year? Find out how you can help <u>HERE!!</u>

We would love your help!!!

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

REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN!!!!

REGISTER HERE!!!

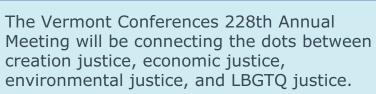


"And Who Is My Neighbor?"

228th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference



April 28-29, 2023 Grace Church, Rutland



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

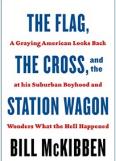


Our keynote speaker is Bill McKibben (pictured here) whos new book "The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon" was just released.

"I'm curious about what went so suddenly sour with American patriotism, American faith, and American prosperity."

> "Like so many of us, McKibben grew up believing knowing—that the United States was the greatest country on earth. As a teenager, he cheerfully led American Revolution tours in Lexington, Massachusetts. He sang "Kumbaya" at church. And





with the remarkable rise of suburbia, he assumed that all Americans would share in the wealth.

But fifty years later, he finds himself in an increasingly doubtful nation strained by bleak racial and economic inequality, on a planet whose future is in peril.

And he is curious: What the hell happened?"

You can find the book from the sellers below!

Indie Bound

Amazon

Audible

Would you like to be a vendor at 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 <u>first</u> <u>come</u>, <u>first served basis</u>. 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)



PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc. is a 501c3 program that grew from a program of the Southeast Conference UCC. It remains affiliated with the Southeast Conference. The program offers a full menu of courses for those seeking authorized ministry, for those wanting continuing education, and for those looking for a progressive theology, ethics, or practical church course. The courses are asynchronous, geographically unbound, affordable, and aligned with the UCC Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers. Please be in touch with any questions. You may apply online at **pathwaystheological.org**.

Six-Week Course Schedule through the Early Fall 2023 Summer I: Courses Begin May 17, 2023

- TH10608 Ethics and a Life of Meaning (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun 27)
- BF20604 New Testament Hermeneutics (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun 27)
- MP20611 Preaching for Special Occasions (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun 27)
- HT21206 UCC History & Polity (12-weeks) (May 17 Aug 8)
- TH30608 Theology of Gender and Sexuality (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun27)
- MP10607 Faith Formation (Children, Youth, Adults) (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun27)



MP20601 Introduction to Spiritual Health (Pastoral Care) (6-weeks) (May 17-Jun27)

Summer II: Courses Begin July 5, 2023

- HT10608 Pluralism and Religion in North America (6-weeks) (July 5-Aug 15)
- <u>TH10610 Living the Heart of Progressive Christian Theology</u> (6-weeks) (July 5- Aug 15)
- <u>BF20602 Old Testament Hermeneutics</u> (6-weeks) (July 5- Aug 15)
- MP30601 Congregational Ministry and the Future Church (6-weeks) (July 5-Aug 15)
- MP30604 Contemporary Homiletics (6-weeks) (July 5- Aug15)

Fall I: Courses Begin August 21, 2023

- <u>TH10603 Variety of Belief within Christianity Today</u> (6-weeks) (Aug 21-Sept30)
- MP10605 Spiritual Care of Self and Others (6-weeks) (Aug 21 Sept 30)
- MP20603 Small Church Administration (6-weeks) (Aug 21 Sept 30)
- <u>TH30607 Contextual Theology</u> (6-weeks) (Aug21 Sept 30)
- HT21206 UCC History & Polity (12-weeks) (Sept 6 Dec 5)

Supervised Ministry Program

PATHWAYS offers a six-course series in Supervised Ministry. The participant finds a ministry site and supervisor. The supervisor oversees the participant's internship as the participant takes the facilitated asynchronous online courses. There is a four-week introduction to supervised ministry followed by six 9-week courses. The titles and schedule of courses are listed below:

Supervised Ministry 2023-2024 Schedule

Intro to Supervised Ministry (June 3- June 30, 2023)

Supervised Ministry I Entering a Place of Ministry (July 10 - Sept 17, 2023) Supervised Ministry II The Transformative Context of Pastoral Care (Oct 2 – Dec 17, 2023)

Supervised Ministry III The Practice of Worship Leadership (Jan 8 - Mar 10, 2024) Supervised Ministry IV Faith Formation in the Parish (April 8- June 9, 2024) Supervised Ministry V Leadership in the Midst of Change (July 8 - Sept 15, 2024) Supervised Ministry VI Leaving a Place of Ministry (Oct 1 - Dec 17, 2024)

ACPE-certified Community-Centered Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

PATHWAYS will offer a 24-week ACPE-certified CPE course in the Fall 2023. Applications are due by mid-August for a November 2023 course. The course originates with the Sankofa CPE Center but you apply through PATHWAYS. From the website: "Learners can choose diverse learning settings including social justice/activism venues to meet their clinical hours. Digital ministry can also be a focus including tele-chaplaincy and online worship. This 24 week program.

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

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 morns the loss of her both

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

(Please let us know what your Congregation is up to by sending an email to <u>VermontConference@gmail.com</u>.

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!

April 6th Robert C. Hamm Rona Kinsley

April 9th
Christine S. Boardman

April 12th
Cynthia Jane Batten

April 13th Sandra Lee Daly

April 15th Elizabeth H. Fisher

> April 16th Lynn Bujnak

April 19th Kim Larose

April 21st Rameen Zahed

April 23rd

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

April 14th Laurie Krooss Robin Junker-Boyce

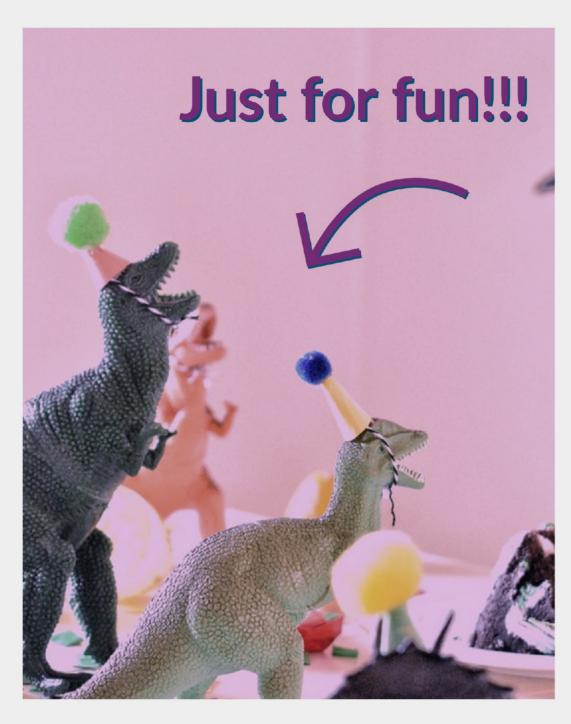
> April 29th Judith Waible

April 30th Anne Hancock



Ezra Chapola

April 27th Mark Blank

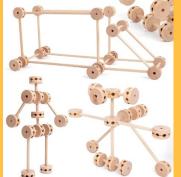


Click here to update your contact information!!!

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 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**.

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.

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!

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.

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@vergennesucc.org.

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

https://www.vergennesucc.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)

<u>We</u>: 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.

<u>Our Church:</u> 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.

<u>Musical requirements:</u> 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.

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





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 SAVE "Beyond Church Walls:

"Beyond Church Walls: Hearing New Voices"

May 4 - 6 (Th, F, S)

Pilgrim Pines Swanzey, NH



UCC NEWS

For the latest news click here

The Online Learning Platform of the United Church of Christ

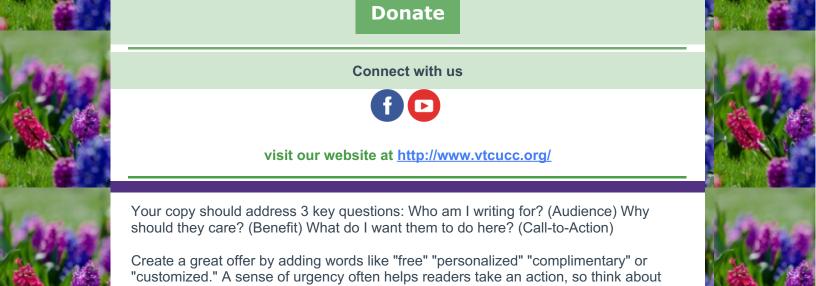
How to Contact Vermont Conference Staff

Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak llbvtc@gmail.com
Associate Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangreesangreepucc@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.



inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"