



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 Summer Edition

June 15th, 2023

Table of Contents

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

Message from the Conference

Vermont Conference friends,

I met with the Conference Board of Directors earlier this month and proposed that we establish a Pastoral Preparation Program (or PPP for short!) in the Vermont Conference. This is in response to our continuing clergy shortage in Vermont, and something that Lynn and I are well aware of. Our part time churches are struggling to find good pastoral leadership for their churches, which affects so many communities in our state. This program would seek to train lay people into our midst and equip them to be pastors among us.

We have a successful model among us in the Southwest Association. They had five people take part in a PPP several years ago, and currently have six people in a PPP now. Several of their graduates and current students are serving churches in our Conference and doing a very good job. The current PPP group meet on average for one Saturday a month from 9-4 for three years, and has local pastors come in to offer classes on the Bible, preaching, pastoral care and other topics. In addition, each of the students has a local pastor as a mentor. Recently, several members of the class led worship for the Southwest Association spring meeting, and each of them shared their call stories as the sermon. It was very

inspirational!

We are seeking to raise money for the potential PPP, which will need a director. One place we are turning is the Hope Fund. Our current PPP students certainly give me a sense of hope about our future as the Vermont Conference! We will also be forming a team for the fall to plan out how this program will work, so if you would have interest in serving on that team, please let me know.

Faithfully yours,
Paul

Latest News

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

ON GENDER DIVERSITY & FAITH

Newfane Church
11 Church Street

Tuesday, June 27
7:00 pm



OUR CONVERSATION PARTNER:

REV. DR. DONNIE ANDERSON

NEWFANE — On Tuesday, June 27 at 7:00 PM, Newfane Congregational Church will host its fourth public conversation of the year with a focus on gender diversity. In 2023 alone, more than **530 bills** have been introduced nationwide that seek to limit or restrict gender-affirming care (for trans adults as well as youth), criminalize

drag performances, and redefine trans people out of (legal) existence, among myriad other harms.

To help us contextualize these developments and better understand the spiritual and theological issues at play, we'll be joined by the Rev. Dr. Donnie Anderson, an ordained minister whose credentials are recognized by the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, and American Baptist Churches USA. Dr. Anderson is a visible activist for the transgender community and will be speaking from lived experience.

Dr. Anderson came out to her family and the world as a transgender woman at the age of 69. She is an educator, counselor, and social activist who received her bachelor's degree in Business Education from Barrington College, a master's degree in Religious Studies from Providence College, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Eastern Baptist Seminary as well as a number of other graduate courses in business and religious studies.

For more information, please contact Pastor Matthew Deen by emailing him at matt@newfane.church or by calling the church at 802-365-4079.



Frances "Frankie" Colleen Davin-Drain was welcomed into the loving arms of her parents on June 8th, 2023 at 12:27am.

Please help us celebrate Rev. Amy Davin and the birth of her beautiful daughter!!!



Have Extra Craft Supplies or Tools?



Bethany is hosting a Community Event!

BETHANY SWAP & SHOP

Shop Til You Drop

Saturday June 17 ~ 10 am - 5 pm

Bethany Church • 30 North Main St., Randolph

DROP OFF unwanted tools & craft supplies on June 15-16 noon to 7 pm and receive a gift certificate for Swapping on June 17 ... or just **donate** ... or just **shop!**



*Proceeds support Bethany's missions here & around the world.
Leftovers to be donated to Habitat For Humanity.*

Sandro Russo In Concert!!!

Virtuoso Sandro Russo will perform a free concert featuring works of Chopin and Liszt.

Sun. June 25 @ 2 pm

Cornwall Congregational Church
2598 Route 30 ~ Cornwall



PRIDE MONTH WORSHIP RESOURCES

OPEN AND AFFIRMING
COALITION
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Worship Ways

Several of the June liturgies in the UCC Worship Ways were written by Coalition staff and board members. They all have a theme of Pride Month! Check them out:

June 18

June 25

**HAPPY 85TH
BIRTHDAY TO
REV. CAROLE
CARLSON!!!**



Shoreham



Strawberry Festival and Concert

Wednesday June 21, 2023

6 to 8 PM

(or until the berries run out)

Shoreham Congregational Church

Regular Strawberry Shortcake \$7

Small Strawberry Shortcake \$4

Bottled Water \$1

Music by Nick Thornblade

Free Will Offering for Concert

and your first chance to buy raffle tickets for this year's
quilt – drawing will be at Apple Fest in September

**Bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket
and enjoy music, food, and fellowship
on the Town Green at the Gazebo!**



[Read More Here!](#)



First Congregational Church of Berlin is looking for a music director!

First Congregational Church of Berlin (FCCB) seeks an enthusiastic Music Director to lead our vibrant music program. We are looking for an individual with skill and experience both as keyboardist (organ and/or piano) and as choir director whose music will inspire our congregation and invite participation from the larger community. As a “singing congregation”, we know that music is vital in our lives and welcome the opportunity to share in music from every genre and tradition.

Visit www.fccbvt.org to submit a question or a cover letter and resume. You can also mail your cover letter and resume to FCCB, PO Box 1157, Montpelier VT 05601-1157, or send email to FCCBorganist@gmail.com. You can call us at 802-229-0338 with questions.

The **Bradford Congregational Church** of the United Church of Christ is searching for a part time organist/pianist. All interested persons should contact Pastor Jeff Long-Middleton. A job description is available upon request.

Phone: 978-273-6399

Email: pastorjeffuccbradford@gmail.com



[Read More Here!](#)

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 HAPPY, HEALTHY & CONNECTED!**



**SASH is *free* and available to
 Medicare-eligible people in our community.
 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP, CONTACT:
 Sue Balfe 802-989-3134**



This confirmation group from **United Community Church of St. Johnsbury**, Congregational Church of Lancaster, NH, and First Congregational of Littleton, NH, is offering a public theological witness during one of their recent gatherings!



We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Rev. Jen Mihok, appointed pastor at the United Church of Underhill, gave



birth to a healthy baby on Friday, May 12. Mira (pronounced MEER-ah) Joan Mihok Larson came into the world weighing 8 lbs 15 oz and measuring 20.25 inches. We pray for Jen and the family as they embrace this time of new life.



Summer Food Grant

It is that time of year again. Children will be out of school, and families find it hard to stretch their budget. In this time of Supply chain issues, and prices rising through the roof, The VT Conference Department of Justice and Witness Ministries is again offering grants to help your congregation help your neighbors. See the attached application form. Requests must be received by May 21, 2023. Upon receiving the grant, you promise to send a final report by August 30, 2023.

Find the Application [HERE!](#)

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

The Rev. David J. Dean, Pastor Emeritus of Grace Congregational Church in Rutland. Rev. Dean died Palm Sunday April 2, 2023 in Pilgrim Manor, Cromwell, CT.

A Memorial Services will be held Saturday June 10, 2023 at 2 pm at Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, Rutland, VT. and on Saturday May 6, 2023 at



1 pm in the Event Center of Cromwell. CT.

Rev. Dean's obituary can be read here:

[Click here for obituary](#)

Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 8 Court St., Rutland Vermont 05701, or the Benevolence Fund of Covenant Living Of Cromwell, 52 Missionary Rd., Cromwell. CT 06416. Tossing Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Please keep Rev. Greg Briggs and his family in your prayers as they mourn the passing of his father.

Please keep Sandy Soho, Co-Chair of the Racial Justice Task Force and her family in your prayers as they mourn the passing of her mother.

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!)



Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

June 1st
Kathy D. Duckworth

June 3rd
Jay D. Sprout

June 4th
John M. Grivetti
Margo Marrone

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

June 1st
Jay Sprout

June 2nd
David Andrews

June 6th
Cornelius Carr
Scott Couper
Robert Moyer

June 5th
Carole C. Carlson

June 9th
John N. Bixby Jr

June 13th
Sally P. May

June 15th
Evelyn Coupe

June 17th
Harvey P. Bartlett

June 19th
James H. Gray

June 27th
Donald G. Vincent
Alyssa May

June 28th
Evelyn E. Lavelli

June 8th
Doug Carter

June 9th
Charlie Purinton

June 10th
Jane Wilson

June 13th
David Kraus
Ivy Merrill

June 14th
Susan Kittredge

June 15th
Katelyn Macrae
Dale Hindmarsh

June 16th
William Nelson
Linda Kulas

June 18th
David Brown
Joan O'Gorman

June 20th
Matthew von Behrens
David Norling

June 22nd
William Bartholomew
Ken White

June 25th
David Travers



Farewell, Welcome and Blessings
Pastoral Transitions since the 2022 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting
[For the most up to date information click here](#)

Justice Witness Ministries

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.

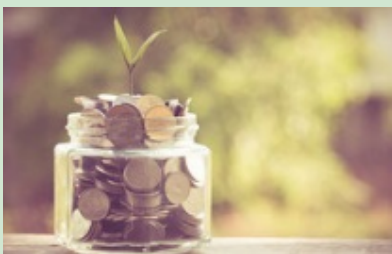
Gun safety

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.

CULTURAL CAMP

PRESENTED BY SHIDAA PROJECTS INC.

Sponsored by:

802 Cars



The Montpelier Community Fund

July 25-26-27 8:15 am - 1:30 pm Ages 8 & Up

Drumming
Dance
Storytelling



Fabric Printing
Tie & Dye
Cooking



First Congregational Church of Berlin, 1808 Scott Hill Road, Berlin, VT

\$150.00 per camper - shidaaprojects.org/programs

Heather@Shidaaprojects.org 617-780-2458

VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS



Stowe Community Church
Director of Youth Ministry Job Description

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

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

Vergennes is seeking a Sunday School Coordinator!!!

The Congregational Church of Vergennes, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation of 135 members seeking a Sunday School Coordinator. We are a vibrant, Christian community—full of life, music, and laughter. We have a long history of deeply appreciating the gifts of our staff in supporting an inclusive, loving, and compassionate ministry in the heart of our little city.

The pay rate is \$25 per hour, and the hours range from 8 to 15 hours per week depending upon applicant interest. We seek a person of faith with experience working with children, who will direct a program of stimulating and nourishing faith formation. If this sounds like the way you want to make a big impact in our community, please contact Rev. Elliott Munn at elliott@vergennessucc.org.

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

<https://www.vergennessucc.org/ccfmsearch>

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!!!](#)

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.

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



SAVE THE DATE!

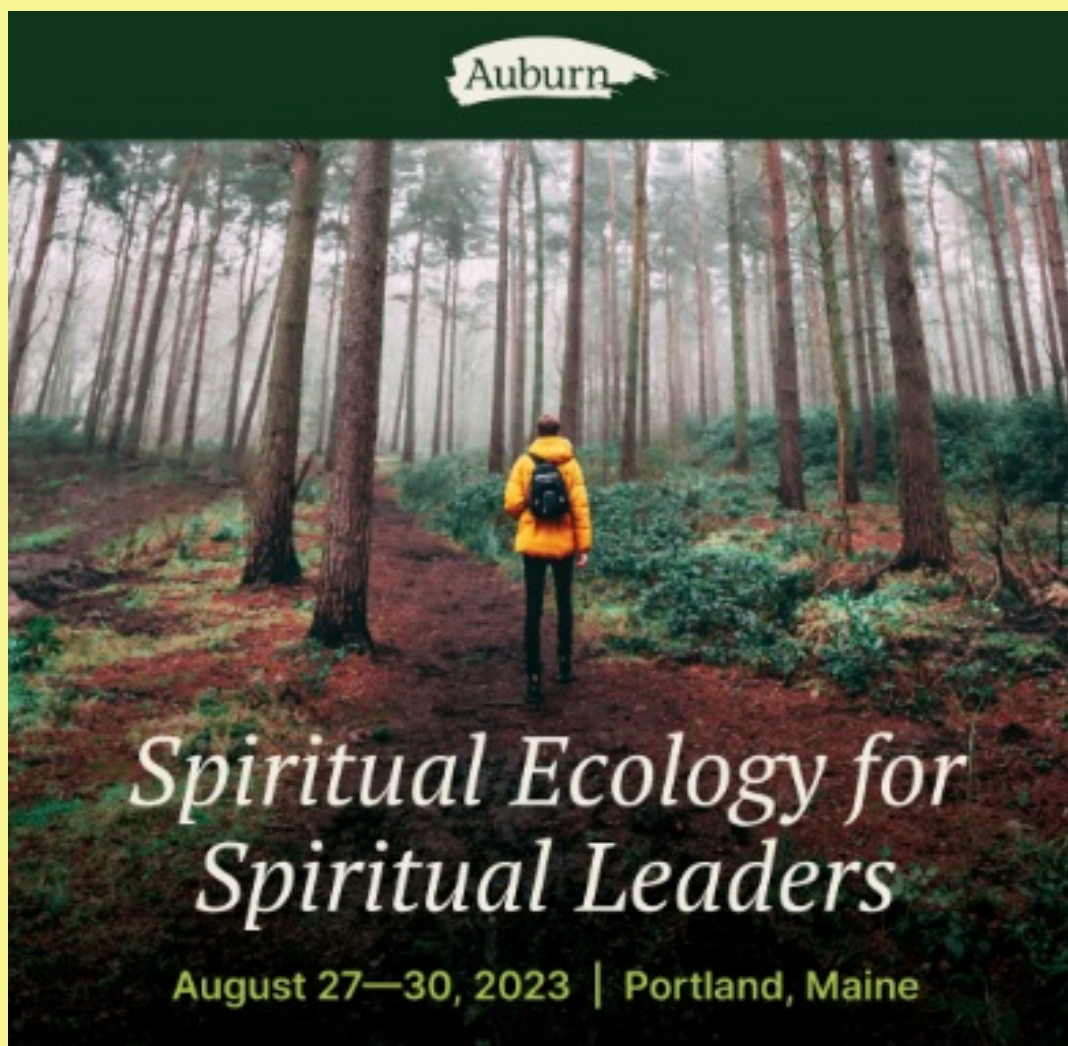
[Not-Your-Average Boundaries Training](#)

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:
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!](#)



Auburn Theological Seminary and The BTS Center are partnering to offer a four-day gathering in Portland, Maine, for early-career leaders working toward communal justice.

Spiritual Ecology for Spiritual Leaders aims to provide participants with an immersive experience centered around connection with the Earth, stories of collective spiritual ecology, and each other.

Please share this opportunity with the leaders and communities in your life and [read our full posting on Auburn Voices.](#)

Warmly,
Keisha E. McKenzie, Ph.D., *Senior VP Programs*
Matt Deen, *Fellow in Public Theology: Ecological Justice*

[View Interest Form!](#)

UCC | NEWS

For the latest [news click here](#)

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

Just for fun!!!



[Click here to update your contact information!!!](#)

How to Contact Vermont Conference Staff

Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak llbvtc@gmail.com
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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/>