



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 22nd, 2023

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Message from the Conference

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

If you look at the pictures in this eKit and the pictures on our Conference Facebook page, you will see an amazing witness by our pastors and churches that occurred on Tuesday. In response to an event held in the Vergennes' High School regarding limiting access to gender affirming care for trans youth, the Vermont Conference joined the counter event celebrating all gender expressions and especially honoring trans youth in our communities and state.

Rev. Elliott Munn, pastor of the UCC church in Vergennes, worked with student leaders to find ways for our Vermont Conference to be supportive of these student organizers. Elliott invited people within and beyond Vergennes to join in a prayer service at 5:00 pm. Following the service we joined the celebration on the lawn of the high school. Many of us who are clergy wore either clerical collars, rainbow stoles, T shirts stating "this pastor loves you" or combination of all of these. I was humbled by the number of people, especially youth who thanked us for being present and asked what kind of church we were. What kind of church are we? We are the church where no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here. I was so grateful to our pastors and members who showed up, witnessed to our faith and, I pray gave hope to trans youth and adults that the church can be a place of support and welcome instead of judgement and harm.



Courage in the struggle,
Lynn



Latest News

**Clergy Convocation 2023 is
coming Oct. 2-4th!**

We will once again gather at the [Craftsbury Outdoor Center](#) which has great food, a beautiful lake and grounds, and awesome accommodations! This year, all of us will be leading Convocation instead of having a speaker! Your planning team is using the theme "Building Community" to find creative ways to draw all of us closer together through workshops, worship and having fun together! There will also be childcare for parents. You won't want to miss it! Save the date of Monday afternoon, Oct. 2nd-Wed. lunch, Oct. 4th! Registration will begin in July!



What happens in Antarctica does not stay in the Antarctic!

Thursday, June 22, 2023 - 6:30 pm

We are proud to host a timely and moving discussion of Antarctica. Through breathtaking photographs shown on a big screen, this travelog will prompt a discussion of evolving geopolitics and the worldwide environmental impact of climate change in Antarctica.

Join us for this travelog & discussion with
PHYSICIST & PHOTOGRAPHER
JACK JEWELL
Ph.D. Optical Scientist & Photographer

Special Guest
TINA BONIFACE
World traveler, writer & marketing specialist for solar energy

[REGISTER HERE!!!](#)

Our new church pastor, Rev. Lava Mueller, founder of Love Church, UCC, was interviewed on Vermont Editions recently. We are so proud of you Lava! Have a listen-Lava is the third person of four interviewed!

[LISTEN HERE!](#)



Environmental News from Professor Fred!



This recent webinar sponsored by the national UCC Office of Climate Justice was very informative about how people of faith can get involved in the EPA's process of strengthening their protections. You can watch a recording with [this link on YouTube.](#)

Description: Pollution from the power sector places a disproportionate burden on low income neighborhoods and communities of color. The power sector also produces a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. In the coming months, there is a significant opportunity to advance environmental justice and put the United States on a path to achieve 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2035. **In 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency can make desperately needed strides in strengthening protections that will safeguard communities and our future.** In this webinar, we will learn more about the possibilities before us and what communities of faith can do to realize them. Our featured panelists will be Charles Harper from Evergreen Action, Madison Mayhew from Interfaith Power & Light, and Michael Hansen from G.A.S.P.

Other links and resources related to the webinar can be found below.

Letters and Comments can be easily accessed and used to submit comments directly to the EPA. And check out the first link for info about the UCC's Climate Hope Postcard campaign.

Links to Resources

[Register Your Congregation to Collect Petition Postcards to EPA Powering Toward 100% Clean Power by 2035--Report Coauthored by](#)

[Charles Harper](#)

[Submit Mercury Rule Comments](#)

[Faith Leader Letter for Carbon Rule](#)

[Faith Leader Letter for Light-Duty Vehicle Standards](#)

[Faith Leader Letter for Heavy-Duty Vehicle Standards](#)

[Comment on EPA's Heavy-Duty Vehicle Standards](#)

[Comment on EPA's Carbon Rule](#)

[Sign-Up for Interfaith Power & Light Action Alerts](#)

[Learn more about GASP](#)

[Learn more about Evergreen Action](#)

[Learn more about Interfaith Power & Light](#)

[UCC Action Center](#)



Rev. Dan Haugh, pastor of Stowe Community Church, joined the UCC in a special service on Mother's Day, and did his first baptism wearing his new UCC stole! What a special day!



Adelaide Merriam reads during worship at the Wells River Congregational Church.

Photo by Kendall Lambert.



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!!!



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

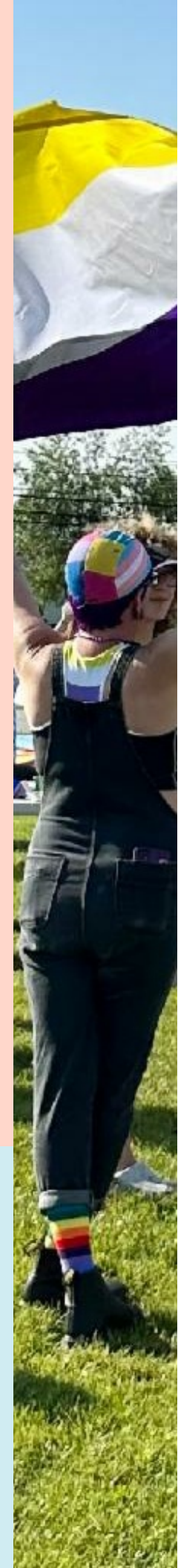
Several of the June liturgies in the UCC Worship Ways were written by Coalition staff and board members. They all have a theme of Pride Month! Check them out:

June 25



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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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP, CONTACT:

Sue Balfe 802-989-3134

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

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

June 1st
Jay Sprout

June 2nd
David Andrews

June 6th
Cornelius Carr

Margo Marrone

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

Scott Couper
Robert Moyer

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

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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@vergennesucc.org.

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

<https://www.vergennesucc.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

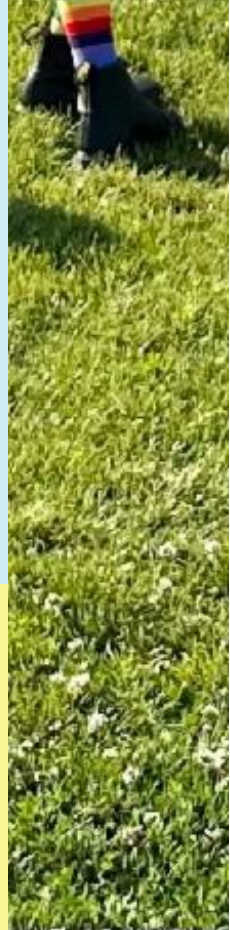
Church Musician- Tunbridge Church



SAVE THE DATE!

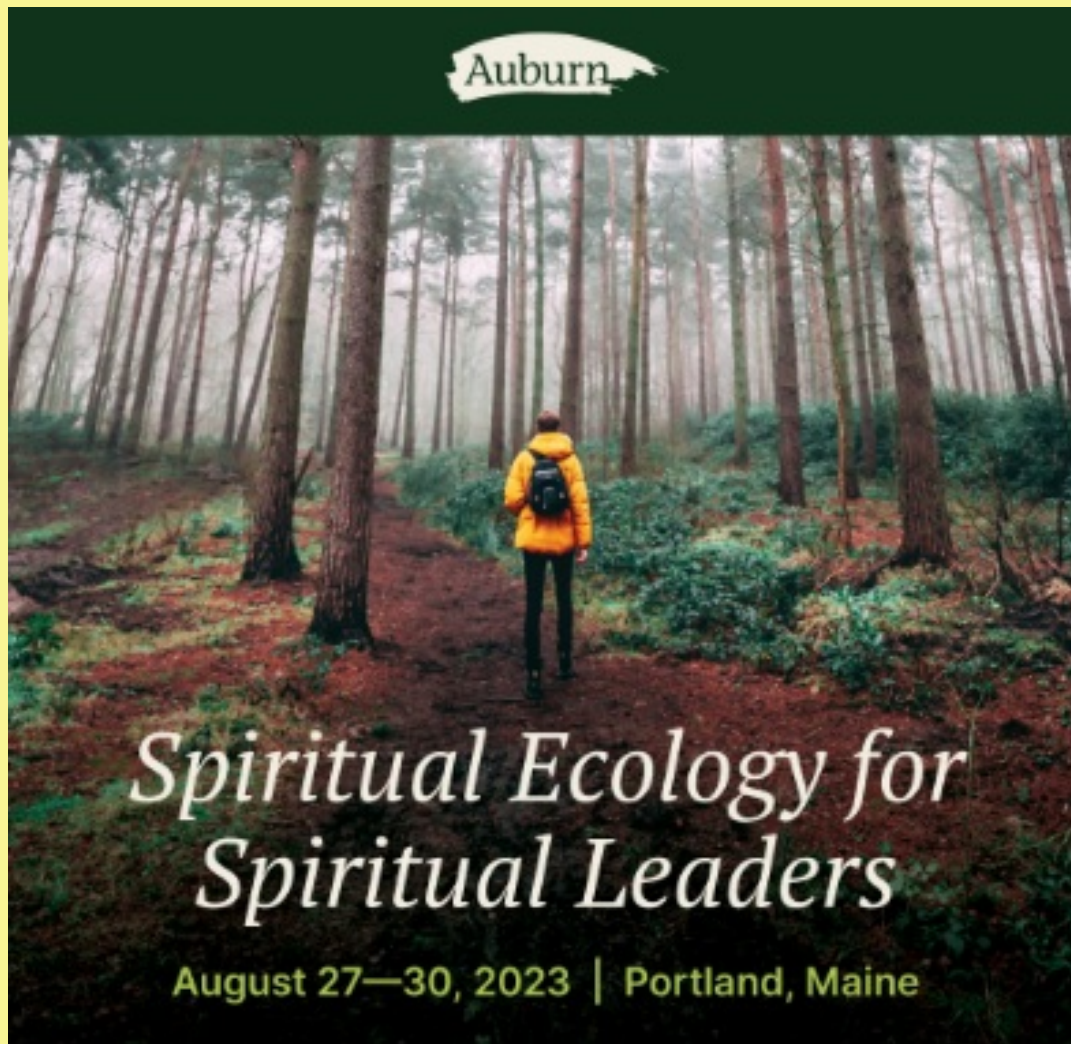
[Not-Your-Average Boundaries Training](#)

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
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.

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visit our website at <http://www.vtcucc.org/>
