



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 29th, 2023

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Message from the Conference

Vermont Conference friends,

Our Vermont Conference experienced a holy moment last Tuesday. It all started with a message the previous week from Elisa Lucozzi, our pastor in Guilford, to Elliott Munn, our pastor in Vergennes, alerting him that an anti-trans author was going to be speaking at his local high school. When Elliott got in touch with the school, he learned that the staff of the school were horrified, but that the rules of the school allowed for it. He then reached out to Caryne Eskridge, our pastor in Weybridge, who helped put him in touch with queer organizations that were planning a rally at the high school and march to the town green focused on joy in response to this speaker. Elliott invited these organizations to his church that Sunday to share what they were doing. In addition to Elisa and Caryne, Elliott also received valuable advice from his wife and our Associate pastor in Middlebury, Elizabeth Gleich. Debbie Ingram, Executive Director of Vermont Interfaith Action and head of our Justice and Witness Team was also very helpful.

In consultation with church leaders, Elliott decided that the church should have a prayer service before the event at the high school, and invited both local clergy and church members and with the help of Elise in the Conference office, pastors from across the Conference. Our Conference Minister, Lynn Bujnak came, along with many other clergy from across the area and Conference and many people from the church in Vergennes—a total of 73! They then joined the group meeting outside of the high school, and the march that then went to

the town green.

Several of the pastors I spoke to who participated described this march as a holy moment. There was such joy on so many faces, and many of the 4-500 people who participated in the march came up to our clergy and told them how much it meant to them that they were there! (It helped that several of our pastors were wearing t-shirts that said "This Pastor Loves You!") The rally and march were all about supporting the kids, and many of the local kids from the school spoke on the green about how deeply they appreciated it. All in all, it was quite a night! We can be grateful that we all belong together to a Conference that followed the leading of the Spirit at such a time as this.

On a different topic, please be in prayer this week with your Vermont delegation as we travel to General Synod in Indianapolis! We will certainly report back to everyone about what we saw and experienced. May the Spirit be at work among us as well,

Thankfully yours,
Paul



Latest News

The Vermont Conference in Vergennes!





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!

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!](#)



The First Congregational Church, UCC, of Burlington, Vermont is a progressive faith community, intentionally and enthusiastically in a time of visioning and transition. The Director of Congregational Life (DCL) will be passionate about creative and transformational ministries,



working with the Lead Minister, church staff, and congregation to steward this progressive faith community into its next manifestation. This position will be the primary professional staff working to assist and guide member-driven teams in the creative development and implementation of programming throughout the church community. They will focus on two main areas of oversight: Congregational Care and Welcome; and designing and activating engaging faith experiences for all life stages.

[Read more 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.



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!!!



**OUR MISSION: TO HELP YOU STAY IN YOUR HOME —
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

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

It is with sadness that the family of Rev. Anne Melendy Hancock, 94, previously of East Charlotte, Vermont, announce her passing on June 3rd at the Arbors in Shelburne, Vermont.

[Click here for obituary](#)



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!

July 2nd
Kathy D. Duckworth
Pete Hults

July 7th
Paul Eyer
Robert Ebling

July 8th
William Nelson

July 11th
David Travers

July 12th
Barbara Purinton

July 16th
Marshall Hudson-Knapp

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

July 9th
Donald Harpster

July 11th
Diana Benjamin

July 16th
Alden Launer
Peter Plagge

July 22nd
Laura Cadmus

July 25th
Michael Caldwell

July 31st
Amanda Swoyer

July 17th
Martha Peck

July 19th
John Sanborn

July 21st
James Merriam

July 23rd
Edwin Hilbert

July 24th
Janice Chilek

July 27th
Jackie Lingelbach

July 29th
William Bartholomew



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!](#)

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!](#)

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>

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 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



Spiritual Ecology for Spiritual Leaders

August 27—30, 2023 | Portland, Maine

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 ljbvtc@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/>