

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 Summer Edition

July 27th, 2023

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It has certainly been a challenging time for so many of us in the Vermont Conference. The historic rain and floods that we experienced earlier in the month damaged so many of our communities, and left roads and businesses and homes and churches ruined. In last week's Ekit, we shared the stories of pastors Leigh McCaffrey in Barre, Becca Girrell in Morristown, and Peter Plagge in Waterbury. I don't know about you, but I was so moved by each of their stories and the ways that they and their churches have sought to be places of refuge and healing for their communities. I have also been moved by the stories of so many other churches in our Conference sending out work crews to assist both neighboring churches and others during this trying time.

In my own devotional time, I have been reading through Paul's letter to the Galatians. Paul gets quite upset with the Galatian churches for listening to false prophets who tell them that "true" Christians need to be circumcised in addition to having faith in Jesus. Paul reminds them that they are not bound to the law anymore, but they are called to freedom in Christ.

And then he says in vs. 13-14: "For you were called to freedom...so through humble love be servants of one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one phrase, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Over the next several weeks and months, as over the past couple of weeks, there will continue to be some of us who will be overwhelmed by everything that has happened, and in need of spiritual, emotional, and financial support. May all of us seek to freely and humbly love each other as best as we can, through the grace of God and the power of the Holy

Spirit.

Faithfully yours, Paul



As you may know, the United Church of Johnson experienced devasted flooding and their building is unusable. Stowe Community Church has sent volunteers over the past 10 days to help and members of their church came on Sunday to worship with us, including Rev. Dr. Wendy-Jane Summers.

These past two weeks have demonstrated the beauty of the Body of Christ and Vermont Strong.

Serving together,

Dan Haugh





The United Community Church of Morrisville "Water Library" makes the news!

WATCH IT HERE!

Williston Federated Church created and delivered 27 buckets to Orleans Federated Church!

If you would like to know how your church can make your own, **CLICK HERE!**







The Barton United Church is holding a benefit concert on Sunday, August 20th at 3:00 pm. The program will feature a large choir, so far 28 Singers from various surrounding churches. Roy



MacNeil, an amazing violinist will play, as well as Thurmond Knight and Catherine McMaster playing cello and piano. A husband and wife duo, Cal and Marcia Parent on organ and trombone.

There will be refreshments after as well as a raffle of Vermont products in a beautiful basket.

Donations can be sent to:

Barton United Church

P.O. Box 306

Barton Vermont 05822

Attention: Treasurer flood Relief

Volunteers help clean out water-logged basement at <u>Bethany Church in Montpelier</u>

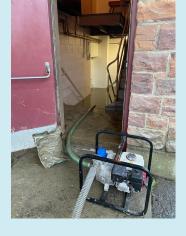
Adrian Pastor Reporter



MYNBC5.COM

Volunteers help clean out water-logged basement at Bethany Church in Montpelier

GIVE DIRECTLY TO BETHANY MONTPELIER!!!!







Pageant of the Parables

at Guilford Community Park August 5th 7 pm and August 6th 10:00 am!!

All proceeds to benefit Vermont Flood Relief.

Guilford, VT–An original Guilford Community Church production of drama, music and dance, The Pageant of the Parables, will be performed by local talent on Saturday, August 5 in the Guilford Community Park Pavilion at 7 pm.

A parable is a short and "user friendly" story in which Jesus illustrated simple truths about life. "Ours is a faith that is based on stories," explained Guilford Community Church pastor, Rev. Elisa Lucozzi. "One of the primary ways Jesus taught about faith and God's love for us was by using relatable metaphors. The parable of the Good Samaritan and the parable of the Prodigal Son are two of the most well-known examples of the many parables attributed to Jesus," Lucozzi said.

READ MORE HERE!

Donate directly to Guilford's Fundraiser HERE!



Richmond Congregational Church partnered with community members and became a Pop up Free Dinner Meal Site or Grab and Go Meal site, on Wednesday 7/12, Thursday 7/13, and Friday 7/14 for anyone affected by the in Richmond, Bolton, Jonesville, or Huntington. They had so many donations they gave food

away to other areas and folks in need!









You can donate here by using the QR Code OR by sending a check to: Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ c/o Flood Relief 36 North Main Street Randolph, VI 05060

Can you spare \$3 to spare three churches?

There are three churches in the Vermont Conference whose ministry in the community will be disrupted without our help due to losses incurred due to the recent flooding.

Those are three entire faith communities that may be

I hose are three entire taith communities that may be disbanded.

Three church families full of people who have chosen each other may be separated.

Don't let these parishes perish. Every dollar counts right now.



CLICK HERE

If you would like to request monetary relief for your church or a congregant

CLICK HERE

Flooding Response and Resources

Vermont Flooding 2023

Here is the new Link for Flood Information on our Website

2023 Flooding Resources





If you have cell phone service or a way to get online, follow this QR code or visit vermontpublic.org/flood to access all of the following resources:

FIND THE PDF FROM VT PUBLIC HERE

ANNOUNCEMENT!

In response to the recent flooding, we have been able to partner with the Orleans Federated Church at 24 School Street to open a disaster relief distribution hub.

HOURS everyday from 12 - 3 pm until further notice

We HAVE and NEED cleaning/mucking supplies: shovels, rakes, 5-gallon buckets, brushes, vinegar, spray bottles, disinfectant wipes, non-cellulose sponges, contractor bags, N95s/masks, rubber gloves, dehumidifiers, box fans, transfer pumps, extension cords, hoses, and first aid supplies.

We can deliver!

If you have supplies you'd like to donate or would like to work a shift at the hub, please email organizing@nekorganizing.org.





Farmers impacted by flooding will be unable to grow and sell produce for the remainder of the year. This is a big disruption to our food chain.

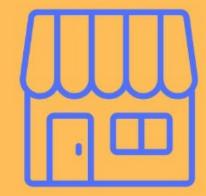
Please consider donating to the Farmer Emergency Fund through NOFA VT.

Farmer Emergency Fund

If you know of a farmer who needs assistance, have them connect with NOFA VT and UVM Ag. Extension for information and support.

Report your home and business damage





by going to https://vermont211.org

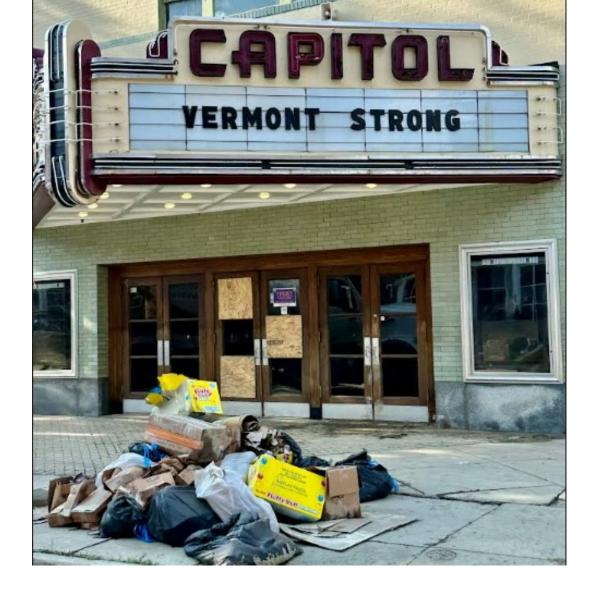
REPORT YOUR DAMAGE TO 211 REGUARDLESS IF YOUR COUNTY HAS BEEN DECLAIRED !!!!!

Information from FEMA

*FEMA reps said that individuals in undeclared counties can apply but they will get denied and they can appeal once the counties are declared

State of Vermont Flood Resources

https://www.vermont.gov/flood



The HOPE Food Truck is returning to Shoreham to bring free food to low-income people in our area! On Thursday, July 27 between 2 and 3 PM, the HOPE Food Truck will be in the parking lot of the Shoreham Congregational Church to offer free non-perishable items as well as available fresh produce on a first-come first-served basis. No paperwork is required. If you have a neighbor who is unable to come during this time, you may pick up food for them. HOPE is trying to help people get enough food during these trying times. Please bring your own bags.

Current Needs:

Montpelier:

The Bethany Church building suffered major flood damage during the flood on July 10-11. Volunteers are needed for clean up efforts beginning Thursday, July 13th. Help of all levels is needed - from moving kitchen equipment to moving affected appliances to mopping to removing drywall. If you can help, please call Sarah Haugen, office manager at 802-

BARRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Central Vermont was devastated by flooding unlike anything we have seen since Hurricane Irene. Due to this disaster, we have several members of the congregation and the community in need. If you are able to assist in any capacity, please reach out to Rev. Leigh McCaffrey at 802-477-3506 or the church at 802-476-3065. If there was ever a time to come together in support and love, the time is

793-6891. If no answer, leave your name, a call back number, and what skills you have to offer. Do not call the church office phone, as we cannot check messages.

Morrisville:

United Community Church of Morrisville

WATER!

BRING IN WHAT YOU CAN AND TAKE WHAT YOU NEED.

We've got gallon jugs of bottled water and water people filled at their wells (in any jug they can find—promise that's water!) and flats of bottled water. We also have large containers so if you bring in empties we can fill up. Please come to the church RAMP door at 85 Upper Main St. We are here as long as we can be and open again for breakfast at 7 tomorrow. We'll give out what we have till it's gone and keep getting more as neighbors bring it in.



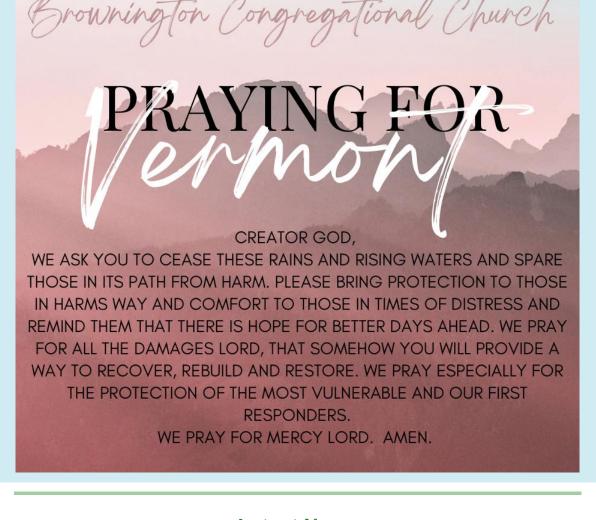
now

If you are looking to volunteer to help with Flood Recovery efforts, here is the sign up link from the City of Barre ----> https://www.barrecity.org/vol-flood.html









Latest News



We are the Body of Christ

Vermont Clergy Convocation 2023

October 2nd-4th, 2023



Instead of having one main speaker, many of our Vermont Conference clergy will be leading us in various sessions and listening times with the goal of building stronger community among us (and also having fun!).

Please join us!



REGISTER NOW!!!



In the midst of all our focus on flood relief, Springfield had it's First Annual Street Fest on Saturday, July 15th. First Congregational Church of Springfield, UCC had a booth selling strawberry shortcake. It was sunny, no rain with the Black River in the background roiling with the controlled dam release. With children's painted faces, music and food, it was such a positive moment for our Brave Little State. Picture is of our Pastor, Michael Mario and member Pat Townsend.

We also received 216 CWS Emergency Clean Up Buckets on July 20th. We took 100 to Ludlow. We are networking with folks in Londonderry to see if they could use them. We can deliver them to whoever needs them. You can reach out to John Holme at holmelaw@vermontel.net.

Have you done your boundary training?

*All Authorized Ministers are required to do boundary training every three years unless they have applied for exempt status

Online Boundary Trainings in Summer Fall 2023

Convergence – self paced online course that can be taken at any time. Cost: \$199.

Certificate provided on completion – turn into the Conference office.

https://www.faithlead.org/p/boundarytraining-clergy

Leaderwise - Online via Zoom Cost \$85
https://www.leaderwise.org/workshops-programs/not-your-average-boundaries-training-1

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

Enkei Resolutions – online training Cost: \$60

https://enkei-resolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Aug-and-Sept-2023-Boundary-Training.pdf

The following Boundaries Training sessions are scheduled for 2023:

August 23 & 24 9am-12pm (Pacific Time) September 20 & 21 9am-12pm (Pacific Time)



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?



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),

You can now find the application online **HERE** or by clicking the link above!

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

For the family and friends of Rev. Anne Melendy Hancock. Click here for obituary

For the family and friends of Rev. Dr. Mary Newgeon Hawkes who passed away on July 9, 2023. click here for obituary

We pray for all affected by the recent flooding and other natural disasters.

Prayers for all our first responders, volunteers who are working so hard during this difficult time.

Prayers of condolences and support for our UMC colleagues and friends on the passing of Retired Bishop Devadhar. Bishop Devadhar's leadership and pastoral gifts touched the lives of so many. Our prayers go out to his family, the New England United Methodist Conference, and all who grieve his loss.

https://www.neumc.org/newsdetail/17507878

For those grieving and harmed by and violence and hate.

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!)



Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

August 1st Mark A. Mendes

August 3rd William R. Neil

August 6th Richard A. White

August 9th Leonard Rowell

August 11th
Anthony E. Acheson
Alison A. Young
Elissa Johnk

August 15th
Janet Langdon
Steven E. Berry

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

August 12th
Catherine Cadieux

August 13th
Duane Brown

August 17th Lise Sparrow

August 21st Lava Mueller

August 28th
Cordelia Burpee
Jordan Dickinson

August 20th Rhonda Myers

August 22nd
Paul E. Willard

August 23rd
Donald R. Ferrell

August 24th
Beverly R.M. Anderson
Constance D Moser

Theresa Lever

August 25th
Adrianne L. Carr
Bruce S. Comiskey

August 27th
Devon Thomas

August 28th Christina J. Del Piero

August 31st
Charles M. Purinton Jr



Farewell, Welcome and Blessings

Pastoral Transitions since the 2022 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting

For the most up to date information click here



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

JUMP - the Joint Urban Ministry Project - an interfaith and community organization with support from many individuals, businesses, foundations and more than 20 faith communities - manages a direct services Drop-In Center (in donated space) at First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington,



Read Job Descriptions Here!

Client Services & Outreach/ Development Managers



Based in Burlington, JUMP has been providing direct assistance to people in need in Vermont for 35 years. If you are a team player who cares about people and community, apply to work with JUMP!

MANAGER OF CLIENT SERVICES:

Manage JUMP Drop-In Center; meet with clients; allocate direct assistance; maintain records; supervise volunteers; collaborate with JUMP staff/leader team.

MANAGER OF OUTREACH & DEVELOPMENT: Coordinate JUMP communications, outreach, social media; JUMP Drop-In Center involvement, collaborate with JUMP staff/leader team. Apply with letter and resume: JUMP, P.O. Box 1657, Burlington, VT 05402.

Positions @20 hours/week. Details: jumpvt.org

Music Director Wanted

The Danville Congregational Church in Danville, Vermont is seeking a part- time Organist/Music Director. Responsibilities include providing organ/piano music for the church's weekly worship service, providing for/or performing anthems and special music at all services, directing the church's choir, coordinating guest musicians, etc..

Salary and hours are negotiable.

For more information please contact Rev. Douglas Carter.

dcarter36@charter.net; 802-684-1151



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 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 professional staff working to assist and guide member creative development and implementation of program



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!

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!

<u>Vergennes is seeking a Sunday School Coordinator.!!!</u>

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



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.



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:

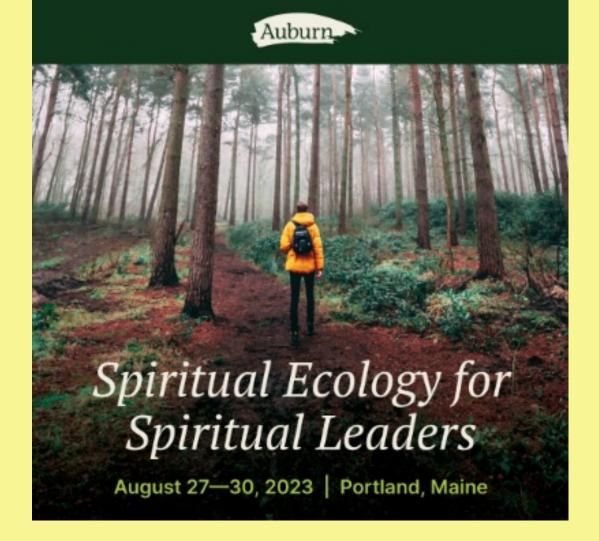
Administration & Finance:

Music & Other Lay Ministries:

Music Director- North Pomfret Congregational Church Musician- Tunbridge Church



SAVE THE DATE!



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 <u>read our full posting on Auburn Voices</u>.

Warmly,

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

View Interest Form!



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.

Donate

Connect with us





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

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