



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

August 3rd, 2023

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“Hospitality is much more than a simple welcome or an offer of food or drink. Hospitality is an attitude of heart that opens us to others and receives them on their own terms.” from *Putting on the Heart of Christ* by Gerald M. Fagin, SJ

It's summertime and for many of us that means we have more people visit us, more people to invite into our homes and host. We cook and clean and try our best to make our space welcoming. In other words, we provide to the best of our ability hospitality. This is a key concept and attitude in the Bible. The stranger is always to be welcomed warmly into our space and provided the sustenance they need.

As we have witnessed through the tragic and devastating events of the flooding, hospitality also comes from welcoming those who have lost so much, offering a helping hand, sometimes for days on end, providing clean drinking water and advocating for all the effected counties to be designation as federal disaster areas so FEMA funds are available. These are all acts of hospitality and these gifts have been offered with an incredible generosity of heart. As Fr. Fagin says it, hospitality is an “attitude of the heart.”

This Sunday, many of us will hear and/or preach on the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. Actually, there were far more than 5,000 since scripture says that was the number of men and there were also the “women and children.” This story, told in all four gospels is fundamentally a story of hospitality and the abundance that hospitality can provide.

On Sunday, many of our congregations will share in Communion and remind ourselves the table we are invited to does not belong to the pastor, the church or those around the table; the invitation, the table and the host is always God. And, indeed, when we allow ourselves to accept that open and hospitable space, we are free to become more fully the people we were created to be, more fully hospitable

in the truest sense of that word.

Blessings this day and all days,

Lynn



Chicken Barbecue for Flood Relief

On **Saturday, August 5, from 4:00 p.m.** until the food is gone, the **Federated Church of East Arlington** on Ice Pond Road is hosting a Chicken Barbecue outside under the tent with takeout also available. The menu for this rain or shine event consists of barbecued chicken, cole slaw, corn on the cob, beverages, cookies, and ice cream. There will be a

free will offering gathered with the money raised from the dinner going to the Flood Relief Fund for Southern Vermont (strattonfoundation.org) to assist our neighbors throughout southern Vermont whose homes, cars, property, and businesses were impacted by the recent July floods. Checks should be made out to the Federated Church of East Arlington with "flood relief" indicated in the memo line. For additional information, phone 802-375-2548.

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!](#)

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

How Churches can apply for FEMA aid

Houses of worship may be eligible for Public Assistance grants and Small Business loans. FEMA recommends having a person with good administrative skills fill out the applications, as this can be a complicated process. The deadline to apply is September 12, 2023. Even if you aren't sure if your church would qualify for the grants or the loan, you should still apply, and apply as soon as possible. The best places to start learning the process are the attached flyer from FEMA and this youtube video: <https://youtu.be/7xfzOEVHQ44>



FEMA

**What Houses of Worship
Need to Know About the
FEMA Disaster Aid Process**

[click here for more info](#)

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns has put up a good website with information on how to apply for FEMA Public Assistance, upcoming Applicant Briefings and more:

[FEMA Public Assistance \(PA\) FAQs | Vermont League of Cities and Towns \(vlct.org\)](#)

Vermont Days of Service, August 4-6.

Join various faith groups, volunteers, VOAD (Volunteer Organizations that Aid in Disasters), and the State of Vermont in a combined effort to help our neighbors and communities get cleaned up!

**VERMONT
STRONG**



VERMONT

DAYS OF SERVICE

AUGUST 4TH, 5TH, 6TH

Please join various Faith Groups, Volunteers, VOAD, and the State of Vermont in a combined effort to help our neighbors and communities get cleaned up!

*Freedom
& Unity*

**FOR IDEAS
ON WHERE TO
SERVE OR
REGISTER AS A
VOLUNTEER
VISIT:**

www.vermont.gov/volunteer



**OR SCAN THE
QR CODE WITH A
SMART PHONE
OR TABLET**

Vermont Interfaith Action

Transforming People and Communities



VIA's Statewide Convention

Vermont Interfaith Action's Eighth Annual Statewide Convention will be held **Wed, Sept 6 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm** at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church, 43 Hebard Hill in Randolph, Vermont. Everyone is welcome to join us for:

- Reports about our issue work
- Opportunities to talk with justice-minded people from all over the state and across the spectrum of faith traditions
- Training on three foundational aspects of community organizing
- Sharing a meal together
- Celebrating interfaith worship together
- Approving our Revised <https://bit.ly/VIAStatewideConvention> By-Laws during a brief business meeting

Use this link to register: <https://bit.ly/VIAStatewideConvention>. Suggested donation is \$25, but no one will be turned away from lack of funds. More info, contact debbie@viavt.org or (802) 651-8889.



As you may know, the United Church of Johnson experienced devastated 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!](#)**



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

Adrian Pastor



MYNBC5.COM

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

GIVE DIRECTLY TO BETHANY MONTPELIER!!!!



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, VT
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 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.



OR

[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



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.



Current Needs:

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 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

Clergy Convocation 2023

Registration Now Open For
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!!!

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)



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.

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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

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

Continued prayers for Peg are appreciated as she recovers at home.

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 VermontConference@gmail.com .

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

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 15th
Janet Langdon
Steven E. Berry

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
Adrienne 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, VT.

[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 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!](#)

[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.fcbvt.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

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 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!

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

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