



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 24th, 2023

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This past Sunday afternoon, I went to a special afternoon concert at the Barton United Church, one of our Conference churches. The recent flooding in Vermont caused a significant amount of damage to the church, necessitating the removal of everything downstairs, including the flooring, kitchen, bathrooms and reception area. It is estimated that it will cost over \$100,000 for the removal along with addressing the mold, and then there will be the rebuilding. This concert was an effort to help raise money to meet some of those costs.

I was so heartened as I entered the sanctuary to see such a large crowd of people. There were almost 50 people in the Community Chorus at the front of the church along with several musicians, and almost 100 people ended up coming to the concert. Catherine McMaster is the wonderful director of music at the church, and she had singers come from 15 different churches to participate! "Men At First", the barbershop men's group from our Essex Junction church, came all the way both for rehearsals and to be part of the Chorus!

Barton's pastor, Evelyn Coupe, began the concert by saying that when all this destruction was happening, she asked "Where are You God?" Then, she said, God is here, among all of you today. The concert and the whole event was truly a sign that when two or three or more of us are gathered in Jesus' name, God is indeed there.

Faithfully yours,
Paul

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!!!



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 below

[CLICK HERE](#)

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.

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



The 2023 Pride Vermont Parade is set for Sunday September 10 in Burlington.

What an important time to support Vermont's LGBTQIA+ community. If you are already planning to participate - bravo!

Interested in participating?

- This is the 40th anniversary of the Pride Vermont Parade - this important solidarity event has grown from involving 350 participants in 1983 to more than 5,000 last year! This year's Pride Parade will feature a new route with the majority of the parade taking place on Main Street in Burlington. Vermont's Pride Center leaders write: "After the parade, all are invited at Waterfront Park for the Pride Vermont Festival! Let's come together as a community to celebrate our accomplishments and advocate for the rights of everyone in the LGBTQIA+ community of Vermont."
- Learn more about the Pride Center here - <https://www.pridecentervt.org/>

Many UCC congregations in the Champlain Association will be taking part again this year - we hope that the UCC will have a statewide presence at Pride!

As we have for the last several years - First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington (38 S. Winooski Avenue) - is once again inviting VTCUCC congregations to gather for the Pride Parade at First Church so that our congregations can walk together.

- Between 11:30 and 11:45am all participating in the Pride Parade - are invited to meet on the front porch at First Church - our restrooms will be open - there will be some open parking - street and parking garage parking are also available.
 - Register your congregation for Pride (link below) and carry a banner in the Parade - or join our walkers.
- ***Coming to Burlington from a distance?*** If a delegation from your congregation wants to take part in Pride - and you are at some distance from Burlington - why not spend the day in the city? Join us for worship at 10am - followed by our annual - open to all - "Homecoming Sunday" picnic at 11:00. We'll head to the parade staging area just before 11:45.

Information about Pride Vermont Parade 2023 & Registration Fees:

- <https://www.pridecentervt.org/pride/>
- <https://www.pridecentervt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023-Pride-Vermont-Parade-Registration-Fees.pdf>
- The Pride Parade staging areas open at noon on September 10.

We recommend that each church pay the parade fee separately - we are asking that the United Church of Christ congregations are once again grouped near each other. If you register on or before August 31 - the fee is \$33 for a "solidarity Group" walking in the parade - a little more if you want to decorate a vehicle (\$43) - or enter a full float (\$53)!

Questions? Want to let us know that you will be worshipping at FirstChurchUCC/BTV in the morning - or gathering with us to walk to the parade staging area a little after 11:30? Please be in touch by email - or text or call me - 802 598 0746.

[Around the Office](#)



Laura Nassau and Rameen Zahed (Vermont Conference Treasurers) graced the office on Wednesday!

Laura came bearing gifts! The sign she is holding is from a bus trip Rev. John Nutting organized to travel to Washington D.C. in August of 1983 (for those keeping track- the sign is 40 years old) to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic march on Washington.



PATHWAYS

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

We celebrate having had the opportunity to meet a number of our UCC conference ministers, staff, delegates, COM members and clergy while we were at the recent General Synod meeting. If we didn't get to see you personally, we hope we have an opportunity to do so in the future.

It's time for us to alert you to PATHWAYS' Fall Schedule of Courses, especially the Fall II courses that begin in October. Fall I begins in mid-to-late August and people can still sign up any time during the first week of class. Fall II courses will begin in October. Now is the time to try one of our courses and to invite friends and colleagues to sign up for the Fall courses.

Cost Effective Apply online at PATHWAYStheological.org
6-week courses are \$325.

The 12-week UCC History and Polity course is only \$625.

UCC History & Polity

- HT21206 UCC History & Polity (12-weeks) (Sept 6- Dec 8)

Fall I: 6-week Courses Begin August 21, 2023

- TH10603 Variety of Belief within Christianity Today (6-weeks) (Aug 21- Sept 30)
 - TH10601 Making Sense of Theology (6-weeks) (Aug 21-Oct 2)
- MP10605 Spiritual Care of Self and Others (6-weeks) (Aug 21-Sept 30)
- MP20603 Small Church Administration (6-weeks) (Aug 21-Sept 30)
 - TH30607 Contextual Theology (6-weeks) (Aug 21-Sept 30)

Fall II: 6-week Courses Begin October 2 or 9, 2023

- BF10602 Understanding the Bible as a Progressive Christian (Oct 9-Nov 10)
 - BF20602 Old Testament Hermeneutics (Oct 9-Nov 19)
 - TH30605 Ecological Theology (Oct 2-Nov 12)
 - MP30609 Practicing Our Faith in the Public Square (Oct 9-Nov 19)
 - HT10604 Stories of Christian Saints and Sinners (Oct 9-Nov 19)

PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc. is a 501c3 program that grew from a program of the Southeast Conference UCC. It remains affiliated with the Southeast Conference. The program offers a full menu of courses for those seeking authorized ministry, for those wanting continuing education, and for those looking for progressive theology courses in theology, ethics, praxis and more. The courses are asynchronous, geographically unbound, affordable, and aligned with the UCC Marks of Faithful and Effective Authorized Ministers. The learners cannot hide in these online classes! The course requires people to answer the weekly questions as a blog post to which the other learners respond. This asynchronous approach builds community among the learners and with the facilitator. Please be in touch with any questions. Individuals may apply online at pathwaystheological.org.

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:

- 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:

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

PRAYER CONCERNS

Continued prayers for Peg (Lynn's wife) are

appreciated as she is very sick.

For the family and friends of Rev. Anne Melendy Hancock. [Click here for obituary](#)

For the family and friends of Rev. Christina J. Del Piero who passed away on July 17, 2023. [Click here for obituary](#)

For the family and friends of Rev. Neil C. Carr who passed away in Plymouth, Massachusetts on August 12, 2023.

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!](#)

[Happy Ordination Anniversary 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

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

August 12th
Catherine Cadieux

August 13th
Duane Brown

August 17th
Lise Sparrow

August 21st
Lava Mueller

August 28th
Cordelia Burpee
Jordan Dickinson



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

Do you or your church want to apply for a Hope Fund grant?

HOPE FUND FOR THE FUTURE



**“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see”
(Hebrews 11:1)**

You can now find the application online [HERE](#) or by clicking the link above!

Please help us thank the wonderful Discernment Team members who helped make this application happen! Those team members are:
Rev. Paul Sangree (Associate Minister, Vermont Conference),
Rev. Dan Haugh (Stowe Community Church),
Rev. Mary Hoadley (Brownington Congregational Church),
Rev. Jessica Moore (First Congregational, St. Albans),
Rev. Lava Mueller (Love Church, Randolph),
Rev. Paul Eyer (Williston Federated Church),
Rev. Caryne Eskridge (Weybridge Congregational Church)

Please send all completed applications to VermontConference@gmail.com.

**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

VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS

First Congregational Church of Essex Junction is currently looking to hire a Children's Ministry Coordinator.

Position Description:

Coordinator for children's Christian Education programs for ages Nursery up through 5th grade. Primarily responsible for the Sunday morning Faith Formation program. Other children's programs with which the Coordinator may be involved currently include the Young Apostles "youth group" and summer Vacation Bible Camp.

Compensation:

Hourly Rate: \$18-22/hour based on experience, equivalent for expected work hours of 10 hours/week with reduced responsibility mid-June to mid-August.

Interested candidates may send resumes & cover letters
to welcme@fccej.org
FCCEJ is an open and affirming church, serving all in the spirit of Christ.



WE'RE HIRING!

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Stowe Community Church is seeking a Part-Time Administrative Assistant. This staff member attends to many different office and administrative duties of the church, to further the goals of the Pastor and church leaders. Primary responsibility would be book-keeping; recording donations, transfer deposits, preparing budget reports.

Any interested applicants should send a resume or a letter of interest to jobs@stowecomunitychurch.org. The position is available for the right person to start immediately.



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

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.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.

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 lbvtc@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.

[Donate](#)

Connect with us



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

Vermont Conference, UCC | 36 N Main St, Randolph, VT 05060

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