

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

August 31st, 2023

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When I was in seminary, I attended a course called "Wonder and Wisdom." This was a Christian Education class designed to help us explore and ask questions that led to more wonder-filled understanding of God and Christ. No question was off the table, but the questions had to be preceded by

'wonder statements, such as "I wonder who Jesus loved?" "I wonder who the beloved disciple was?" One day a discussion arose around Jesus and his various relationships with others. And when one person asked the question, "I wonder if Jesus was married?" another person with a more theologically conservative background said firmly and loudly, "NOT MY JESUS!"

Now I have been used to folks quoting scripture (often out of context) and telling me how wrong I am about various topics, but this was the first time I had heard it simply put in words of first person. "Not, MY Jesus." This gave me the understanding that my classmate was uncomfortable with looking at Jesus and asking questions in any other way than her own understanding that she had been taught. But by referring to "MY Jesus" she was not imposing her view on others. This helped me to talk about my understanding of God and Jesus in a similar way. My God loves everyone! My God created us all. My God loves him, her, them, theirs, and my God wants me to love others as God has loved! This is one reason I love the Pride Parade that takes place in Burlington each year. It is a wonderful event where many folks gather each year to proclaim with joy and with an outpouring of love that a brighter, more equitable and accepting future is ahead of us! It is guite special to see and participate with so many of our churches sharing and proclaiming that our God loves everyone, that "no matter who you are or where you

are in life's journey" you are not only welcome to the table, but you are loved by our God!

In less than ten days the Annual Pride Parade and Festival will take place once again in Burlington on Sunday September 10 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. ending at the waterfront park on the lake. This year will mark 40 years since the original groundbreaking parade organizers first started this trailblazing event back in 1983. Our churches have been marching in this parade together for years. Pride parades take place in other communities around Vermont as well.

Last year we celebrated 50 years of the Open and Affirming Movement in the United Church of Christ. We rejoice that our denomination has helped to lead the way for a more open and inclusive church for all. But there is still much more to do in the way of advocacy, ministry, and witness.

In many parts of this country, it seems that the LGBTQ+ community is under threat. In some cases, those threats come from lawless hooligans who would do harm. In other cases, those threats come from new laws enacted by unfriendly legislatures in less-hospitable states. Now, more than ever, is the time to stand with our LGBTQ+ siblings to show them our support. At the Pride Parade in Burlington on Sunday, September 10, we can not only stand with the LGBTQ+ community, but we can also march with them as well.

Blessings, Jackie

Latest News

This morning, our sister Rev. Peg Slater passed away and was returned to the loving embrace of our Lord after a period of declining health.

Peg was the loving wife of Conference Minister Lynn Bujnak.

If you wish to send your condolences, please send them to:



Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak 89 Clair Point Rd Burlington, VT 05408

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!



Dear Friends,

Convocation is coming up soon, and I would be very happy to connect with each of you at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center!

I find, in retirement, that I am more and more appreciative of old friendships, and the opportunity to make new ones.

Spending time in community is a great gift.

I'm on the planning committee and we've come up with a wonderful mix of relationship-building activities, spiritual conversations, worship and play, all facilitated by your own dear colleagues. To me, the vibe we are aiming for is "church camp," (hoping that sparks good memories for you!).

There's still time to sign up, and those of us who are not too far away can even sleep in our own beds if we want to.

Hope to see you there,

Martha Peck

REGISTER NOW!!!

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE WITH GREAT JOY

THE INSTALLATION OF REV RAMEEN ZAHED

AS

PASTOR OF THE OLD MEETING HOUSE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024, AT 4:00PM
1620 CENTER ROAD
EAST MONTPELIER, VT 05602

FOR THOSE ATTENDING VIRTUALLY:
Old Meeting House - YouTube

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE PARISH HOUSE



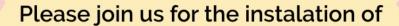
The United Church of Dorset and East Rupert invites all interested families with children 5-12 years old to join us as we begin a new year of Sunday School

Mark your calendars for our Backpack Blessing opening session on Sunday, September 10, at 10am when we will share introductions, learn about our upcoming schedule of activities, and celebrate with donuts and apple cider!

Our church leaders are excited to join us with a Time With The Young message to help us celebrate our faith with one another and our church community. We look forward to meeting you!



United Church of Dorset and East Rupert 143 Church Street Dorset, VT 05251 802.867.2260



Rev. Terry Hanley

at Grace Church

September 10th. 2023 2:30 PM

Grace Church 8 Court St. Rutland, VT 05701

gracechurchvt.org



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

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

Blessing of the Backpacks at Stowe Community Church!!!

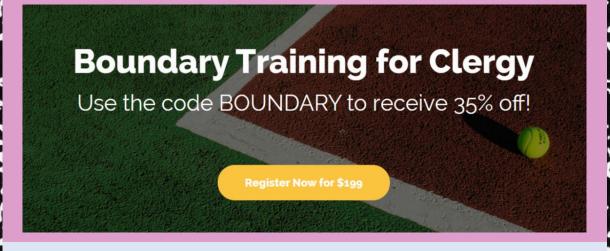






Rev. Mark Wilson (Waitsfield United Church of Christ) was kind enough to share Boundary Training with a <u>COUPON CODE!!!!</u>

Thank you, Rev. Wilson!!!



Thank you, Pat!!!

Pat Richardson has officially resigned from her position as scribe with the MSSC (Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee). She has spent the past six years gracing us with her incomparable work ethic (missing 1 meeting out of 68 even during Covid!!!) and greeting us with her infectious smile. Thank you so much for all you have done for us. We will miss you greatly!!!





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 worshiping 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.



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 <u>Apply online</u> 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

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.

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.

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!

September 2nd Judith D. Waible Alden M. Launer

September 6th Margaret T. Wright Amelia C. Pitton

September 10th
Robert William Wagner Moyer

September 11th Marjorie Ann MacNeill

> September 16th Paul H. Sangree

September 17th Kathleen S. Clark

September 18th
Laura C. Engelken
Andrew Ponder Williams

September 22nd Susan Webster-Toleno

September 23rd
Jane LoBrutto
Jonathan Hauze

September 24th Gail T. Dimick

<u>September 27th</u> Benjamin W. Thurber

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

September 1st Karen Lipinczyk

September 17th
Gary Lewis

September 18th Sally May

September 22nd Barbara Purinton

September 23rd Evelyn Coupe

September 24th
Mary Simpson Thompson

September 26th Sandra Daly

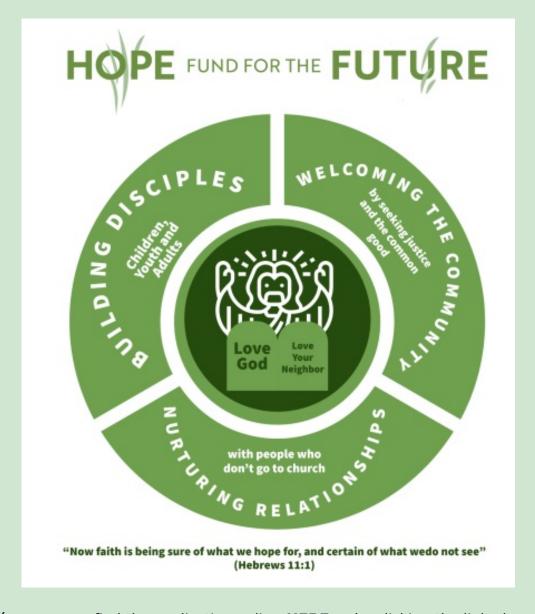
September 27th
James Macintyre

September 28th John Weatherhogg Tracy Weatherhogg



For the most up to date information click here

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



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!



Medicare-eligible people in our community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP, CONTACT:

Sue Balfe 802-989-3134

VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS

RICHMOND NEEDS AN ADMIN!!!

Job Title: Office Administrator Work Schedule: 20-25 hours/week

Reports to: Pastor

Employee Classification: Flexible Part time Apply: Email resume to Rev. Katelyn Macrae,

katelyn@rccucc.org

*Note: If current resume is not available, please email to indicate interest in

the position.

Detailed Job Description: https://rccucc.org/employment/

Read More Here!

<u>First Congregational Church of Essex Junction</u> 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 welcome@fccej.org

FCCEJ is an open and affirming church, serving all in the spirit of Christ.





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



Church /

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

Congregational Care and Welcome; and designing and activating engaging

The First Congregational Church, UCC, of Burlington, Vermont is a progressive faith community, intentionally and enthusiastically in a First Congregational 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:

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@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 (6th12th 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



For the latest news click here

The Online Learning Platform of the United Church of Christ

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/

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

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