

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

September 7th, 2023

Table of Contents

- 1) Message from the Conference
- 2) Latest News
- 3) Prayer Concerns

- 4) Around the Conference
- 5) Save the Date & Cont. Ed Resources
- 6) VTCUCC Classifieds



It was January in San Diego, and it was raining. Still. It was in the middle of that time when there were "atmospheric rivers" — remember that? So fun! In a moment of light drizzle, we ventured outside to wander the boardwalk. The boardwalk was full - but everyone we passed wore the same, bedraggled expression. The only one seemingly unfazed by the weather was my three-year-old. She was with her grandparents, she had just had ice cream, what could possibly make it better?

One thing, as it turns out. There, on the middle of that packed sidewalk, she saw her first rainbow, and it was a good one. She froze. She dropped Grandpa's hand. She jumped like a crossing guard into the middle of traffic, waving her hands. "Stop! Stop everybody! Look!" She cried out, circling wildly. "Look!" she cried, pointing to the rainbow. "Stop!" she commanded. "There is magic here!" And there was. Because there, in the middle of that busy, dreary city sidewalk, so many people stopped to look that they started bumping into each other. A crowd gathered. Her joy was contagious. People laughed, and experienced a little bit of magic. Together. In 2017, the Rev. Rona Kinsley gave an incredible sermon about her young grandson who was going through the "watch me!" phase of childhood development (that's the technical term). She remarked there are a lot of people out there shouting hateful messages in Jesus' name. Maybe, she said, it was time for those of us who followed the Jesus of compassion and love to speak up. Maybe, she concluded, there was a place for us to do a little bit of dancing, a little bit of twirling, a little bit of yelling "watch me." Maybe, just as was the case 2,000 years ago, the world need some dramatic displays of love in Jesus' name. That's what this Sunday is about. As many of our churches gather for our fall "Homecoming!" worship, I hope we recognize what an important, sacred task we have as those who bear the name Christ. The world needs our voice. And here in Burlington, it's the 40th annual PRIDE celebration. A time when some of God's most persecuted people gather to celebrate that they are good, and beautiful, and beloved, in spite of a culture that still – even increasingly – tells them that they should feel unsafe. Who gather to joyfully yell "watch me!" in the face of all who would have them disappear. So, if you are able, I hope you will consider bringing your congregation (or a portion thereof – even just your youth!) to worship with us at First Church in Burlington (38 S Winooski). Together, at 10 am, we will celebrate a God who promises to show up in the name of love, and we will promise to do the same. Even if you can't join us for worship, please consider joining us after, as starting at 11 we will gather with all the local UCC congregations, and have a picnic with lawn games, and face painting, and as much joy as we can handle, before walking over to the PRIDE parade together. I can't promise perfect weather, friends. But, rain or shine, I can promise rainbows – and magic enough to spare.

In faith, and joy, Elissa

(Rev. Elissa Johnk- The First Congregational Church of Burlington, UCC)





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

Donations in Peg's memory can be made to UVM Home Health and Hospice:

click here to donate to the UVM Home



Health and Hospice

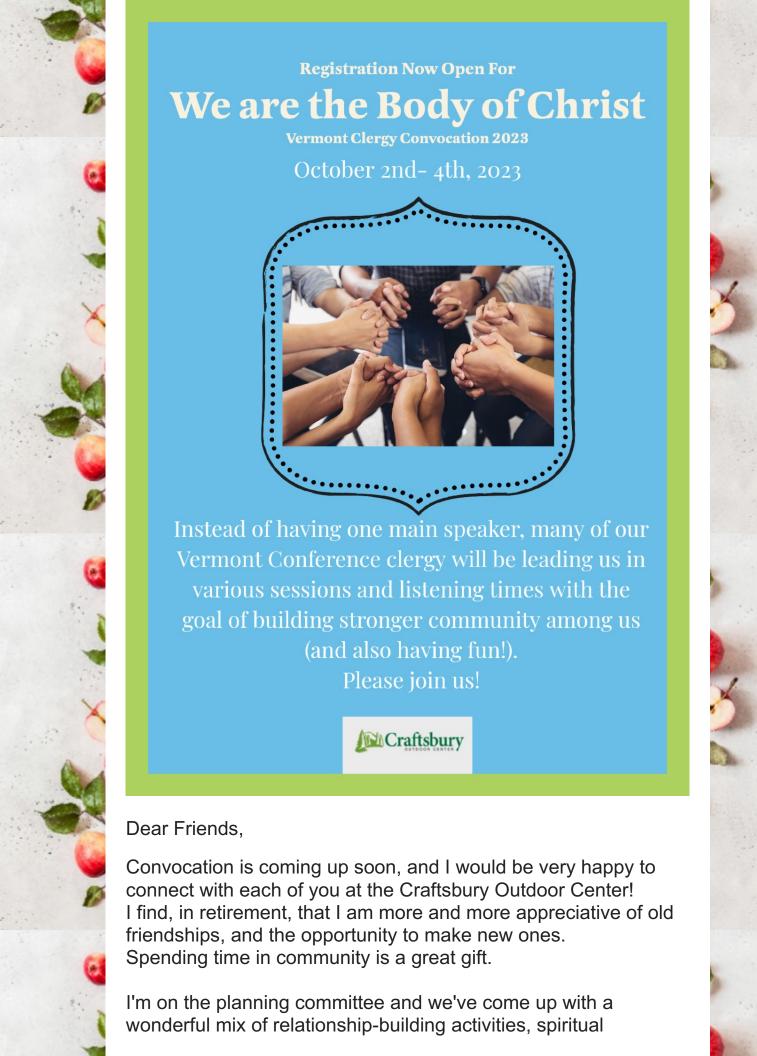
Or the Hope Fund of the Vermont Conference, UCC

click here to donate to the Hope Fund.

Please put Hope Fund in the note box.

click here for the full obituary

Clergy Convocation 2023 REGISTRATION CLOSES 09/21!!!



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

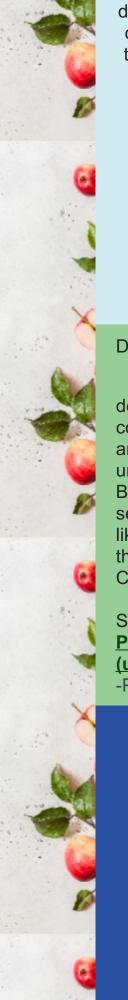
REGISTER NOW!!!

Welcome back, MSSC!!!!



(L-R: Co-Licensed Minister Chair Bonnie Stevens, Co-Chair Rev. Katelyn Macrae, Associate Conference Minister Rev. Paul Sangree, Co-Licensed Minister Chair Michael Mario, Member at Large Rev. Alyssa May, Scribe Rev. Jonathan Hauze, and Co-Chair Rev. Mark Wilson)





danced to Siyahamba), people wandered in the natural surroundings connecting with and contemplating God's creation, then came back to the circle and shared their experiences. The hope is to make this an annual event.

Read more about the Wild Church Network HERE!!!





Dear UCC Environmental Advocates (or Earth Lovers?),

We're entering into a time that the World Council of Churches has designated as the "Season of Creation," an opportunity to honor our connections and commitments to the Earth through worship, prayer and action. The season began on Sept. 1, and will go for 40 days until the Feast of St. Francis on Oct.4. Several churches in the Brattleboro area have embarked on a series of Sunday worship services devoted to this year's theme: "Let Justice and Peace Flow" like a mighty river. I encourage you to look through the resources on this web-site, which includes two inspiring videos and the Season of Creation 2023 Celebration Guide. **Season of Creation**.

Also, check out this article written several years ago by Peter Sawtell of the national UCC's Council for Climate Justice: Act and Pray in the Season of Creation - United Church of Christ (ucc.org).

-Prof. Fred Taylor



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



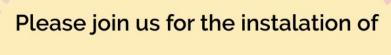
The United Church of Dorset and East Rupert invites all interested families with children 5-12 years old to join us as we begin a new year of Sunday School

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

We just sent out \$18,000 in Grants!!
Can your church or someone you
know use one!!!





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

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.



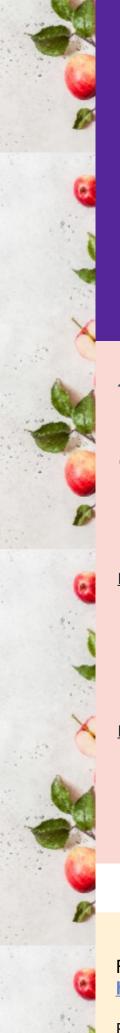
We celebrate having had the opportunity to meet a number of our UCC conference ministers, staff, delegates, COM members and clergy while we were at the recent General Synod meeting. If we didn't get to see you personally, we hope we have an opportunity to do so in the future.

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.

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

- BF10602 Understanding the Bible as a Progressive Christian (Oct 9-Nov
 - 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

<u>Happy Ordination</u> <u>Anniversary to our Clergy!</u>

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



Laura C. Engelken Andrew Ponder Williams

September 22nd Susan Webster-Toleno

> September 23rd Jane LoBrutto Jonathan Hauze

September 24th Gail T. Dimick

September 27th Benjamin W. Thurber Sandra Daly

September 27th James Macintyre

September 28th John Weatherhogg Tracy Weatherhogg



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?





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)



OUR MISSION: TO HELP YOU STAY IN YOUR HOME - HAPPY, HEALTHY & CONNECTED!



SASH is **free** and available to Medicare-eligible people in our community.

Transportation Home Health & Therapy

Agencies on Aging

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/



<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,

Read Job Descriptions Here!



Client Services & Outreach/ Development Managers

Joint Urban Ministry Project

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



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

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

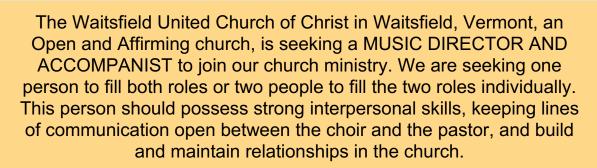


First Congregational Church of Berlin is looking for a music director!

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.



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:

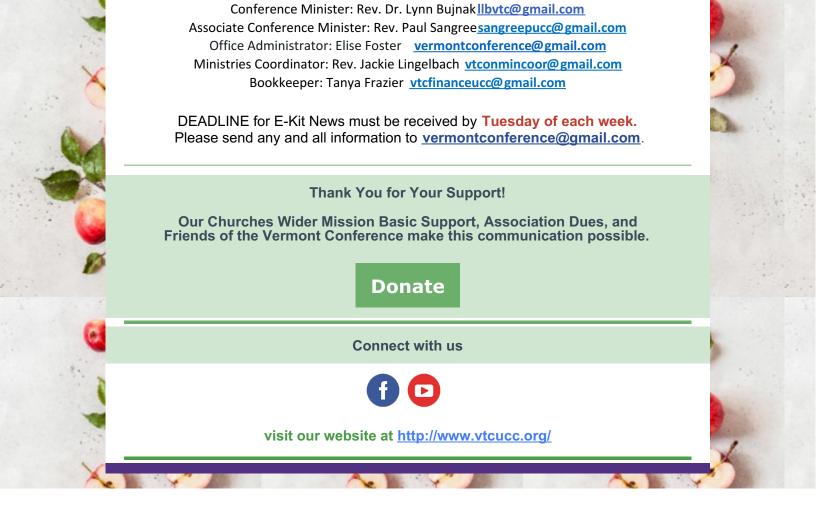
Music & Other Lay Ministries:

Music Director- North Pomfret Congregational Church Musician- Tunbridge Church



For the latest news click here

The Online Learning Platform of the United Church of Christ



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

 $\underline{Unsubscribe\ vermontconference@gmail.com}$

Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent byvermontconference@gmail.compowered by

