



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 Fall Edition

September 21st, 2023

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Your Hope Fund Discernment Team is now almost one year old! We have been meeting monthly since last Fall on behalf of our Conference and all of you who donated to the important work of the Hope Fund. Mary Hoadley, Paul Eyer, Jessica Moore, Dan Haugh, Caryne Eskridge, Lava Mueller and myself began the work of the Discernment Team, and now Karen Braeutigam has joined the group in place of Lava.

One grant we just gave was to the First Congregational Church UCC in Springfield. You can read more of their story on the Conference website under Hope Fund, but they reached out to us with the idea of taking the green overgrown space on the east side of their church and turning it into a public park. They wrote, "Our new mission statement, 'We are a community in Christ, called to act with love toward our neighbors', gave us a goal to make this green space a place that is open and inviting to all. We want to invite our neighbors to come and sit in a peaceful place, have conversations, eat lunch, or just be in the moment in a busy town."

Our Team was impressed with their desire to make a positive difference in their community and to build relationships with people who don't go to church, and so we gave them the grant. Diane Holme from the church responded "Oh, what a gift the Hope Fund has given us! It is daunting to write for grants. This is our first result, and the hope it brings is very real!"

Thank you for your support of the Hope Fund. It has made and will make a real difference in the churches of our Conference. Is

there some way your church could be making a positive difference in your community, building relationships with people who don't go to church, and discipling children, youth and adults? Is there a way the Hope Fund could help make your vision a reality through a financial gift to your project? You can find an application form on the Conference website.

May we all be open to the movement of the Spirit among us,

Joyfully yours,
Paul

Latest News

Clergy Convocation 2023
REGISTRATION CLOSES
TODAY!!!

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!!!



Rev. Bill Borrer was installed at the First Congregational Church of Manchester on Sunday, September 17th, 2023.

Happy Retirement!!

August 27th, 2023 was Rev. Evelyn Lavelli last day in the pulpit at the United Church of Hardwick.



Burlington Pride 2023





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)



The First Wild Church Service at the United Church of Ludlow!!!

Worship was celebrated with creation in the style of the Wild Church Network (there are 140 churches in the network throughout the U.S. and Canada) reconnecting spiritually to God and each other in beloved community. After a Native American Land Acknowledgement, Opening Prayer, Scripture and song (some even 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

**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, 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*****

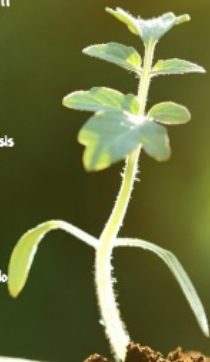
[CLICK HERE](#)

Blessing of the Backpacks at Stowe Community Church!!!



Various guest speakers will address topics such as:

- Can Bible-believing Christians be environmentalists?
- How can Christians obey God's command in Genesis to have dominion while also being caring and wise stewards of the creation?
- What does creation care have to do with following Jesus?
- What are everyday things that Christians can do to be good stewards of all that God has made?
- Break-out sessions on topics like: bookkeeping, renewable energy, theology of food, land stewardship, and others.



Creation Care Symposium

October 7, 2023 from 1 to 5:30 p.m.

@ the Red Door Church in South Royalton



Scan here for more information and/or to register for the event!



*Event is free thanks to a grant from the Lily Foundation

reddoorchurchofsoro.org/creationcare

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

Thank you, Rev. Wilson!!!

Boundary Training for Clergy

Use the code BOUNDARY to receive 35% off!

Register Now for \$199

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



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.

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.

Aug. 31st, 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](#)

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

September 27th

Benjamin W. Thurber

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

September 1st

Karen Lipinczyk

September 17th

Gary Lewis

September 18th

Sally May

September 21st

Pete Hults

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



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)

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

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!**

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 **welcome@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@stowecommunitychurch.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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