



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

October 5th, 2023

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Dear beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

For many of us and many of our congregations fall is a busy season.

Programs have resumed, some return to worship after summer activities, mission projects are planned and active, choirs are back leading us in worship, and our eyes begin to turn towards an even busier season to come.

Meanwhile, the glorious beauty of fall surrounds us. I recently asked one of our pastor's groups if fall had a spiritual dimension. We all agreed that it did. Here are some of the things we talked about:

- **Letting go** As the colorful leaves fall around us and on the wind, we are invited to let go of all in our lives that needs to die so new life can flourish. What do you need to let go?
- **The cycle of life** Since we live in the part of the world that has distinct seasons, we experience the changing seasons that show us that life has a beginning and the joys and sorrows of living. In the right time our lives and the lives of every creature on the earth dies. But, death is not the end of the story. We await the promise of spring and the new life it brings. How can this season serve as a reminder to the cycles in your life?
- **Introspection and self-reflection** As the days grow shorter and darkness envelopes the world, we are invited to slow our busy days and increase commitment to those practices that turn us towards God and open us to what the Spirit wishes to show us.

- **Thankfulness** In this season we lift up the nearly forgotten season of thanksgiving. It's not about the turkey and a big meal. It is about saying thanks for our lives, for the bountiful earth, and for well, everything. Perhaps we can start now. What are you most thankful for right now? How can we make a difference in those whose lives are so very difficult?

Thank you, dear companions on the journey. May we find the joy and sorrow, dancing and stillness, and all the blessings this season holds.

In peace,
Lynn

Latest News



**Clergy Convocation 2023 is a wrap!!!
We cannot wait to see you next year!**





Bring A Swingin' Epiphany to your community



This 90-minute service of Lessons and Carols features The Swing North Big Band with readers from your community re-telling the Christmas story interpreted by jazz carols and swing standards.

See 2023's *Swingin' Epiphany* here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fEXEv5Yzrk&t=26s>
Contact Phil Brown, stjjazz@stjjazz.com, for pricing and available dates.



Rev. Hadley Abernathy Bunting was ordained at the Charlotte Congregational Church on Sunday, October 1st!

Congratulations, Rev, Bunting!!!



You can watch it [HERE!](#)

Black Angels of the Green Mountains: The Challenge of Black Abolitionists in Antebellum Vermont

A discussion of racial equity in our state and country

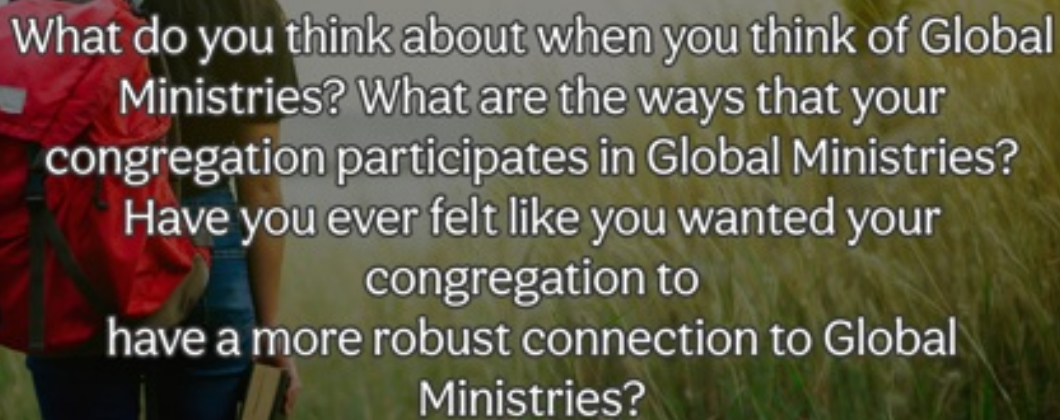
with **Reverend Arnold**

**Isidore Thomas,
B.A., M.Div., D.Min.**



Sunday, October 15th, 3pm

First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
39 Main Street, Essex Junction, VT
www.fccej.org



What do you think about when you think of Global Ministries? What are the ways that your congregation participates in Global Ministries? Have you ever felt like you wanted your congregation to have a more robust connection to Global Ministries?



If you think that the Vermont Conference being partnered with a church body in another country would be a good way for us to be on mission together, please let us know. This conversation is not even at the beginning stage. Your voice needs to be heard. Would you be in favor of our conference exploring and discerning what God might have for us in such a partnership? If so, please share your thoughts with Kimberly McKerley kmbethanyucc@gmail.com, Mark Mendes mmendes@fcej.org, or Ed Sunday-Winters edsundaywinters@gmail.com



"You are no longer strangers or foreigners, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of the household of God."
Ephesians 2:19

MEDICARE SCAM REPORTS HAVE YOU WORRIED?



Come join us for a free, in-person presentation from Vermont Senior Medicare Patrol

**PREVENT,
DETECT,
REPORT**

and learn how to avoid Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse.



VT SMP is administered by COVE and funded by Administration for Community Living grant #00MPP00083-01

Come to a presentation on
Thursday, October 12 at 2 PM
Shoreham Congregational Church

Fall Boundary Training Opportunities 2023

Have you done your boundary training recently?
All classes are offered online, including a self-paced option!

All Authorized Ministers in the Vermont Conference are required to complete boundary training every three years unless they have applied for exempt status. Please submit your most recent Boundary Training certificate of completion to the [Rev. Jackie Lingelbach](#), VT Conference Ministries Coordinator.
Trainings from the New Hampshire Conference

Ending a Ministry Well: An Advanced Boundary Training Session

Facilitated by: the Rev. Peter Ilgenfritz
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023
Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Format: via Zoom
Fee: \$25.00

Register: <https://www.nhcucc.info/event-details/ending-a-ministry-well>

The Foundations of Understanding Boundaries: A Basic Boundary Training Session

Facilitated by: the Rev. Gordon Rankin
Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023
Format: via Zoom
Fee: \$25.00

Register: <https://www.nhcucc.info/event-details/the-foundations-of-understanding-boundaries>

Additional online Boundary Training classes Fall 2023

Enkei Resolutions – online training Cost: \$60

Oct 10 & 11 2-3pm EST/9am-12 PST

Nov 7 & 8 12-3pm EST/9am-12 PST

<https://enkei-resolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Boundary-Training-Fall-2023.pdf>

Leaderwise - Online via Zoom Cost: \$85

Oct 23 & 24 from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm CST

<https://www.leaderwise.org/workshops-programs/not-your-average-boundaries-training-1-spdde>

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>



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



Sept. 24th was Rev. Kathy Clarks last Sunday in the pulpit at the Federated Church of East Arlington.



Boundary Training for Authorized Ministers

Sept 20 & 21 OR Oct 10 & 11 OR Nov 7 & 8
9 am to 12 pm (PT) each day



The sun, the sea, and the sand are each aware of their own boundary and that of the other. This is what allows for the creation of a beautiful sunset.

Facilitator:	Rev. Dr. Diane Weible, Ordained Minister & trained facilitator
Structure:	Six hours divided into two Zoom sessions. three hours each day. For credit, participants must be fully present and participate in all sessions. Each topic will include a case study and be discussed as a group prior to breaking out into small groups for discussion.
Topics Covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Power and Vulnerability● Social Media● Finances● Pastoral Identity and Vocation● Self-Care (burn-out, stress, compassion fatigue)● Receiving Gifts● Boundaries and Church Conflict● When a Minister Leaves/Retires● Ministers as church members/Ministers in Four-Way Covenants● Cultural Boundaries
Cost:	\$60
To Register:	Register by 5 p.m. PT, the day before the training is to start. Once you register and pay (these are separate steps), you will be emailed the Zoom link.

**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

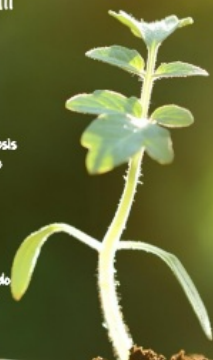
[CLICK HERE](#)

*****If you would like to request monetary relief for your church or a congregant click below*****

[CLICK HERE](#)

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



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



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>

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.

Upcoming Services

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](#)

Dear friends in the Vermont Conference – UCC,

Many friends and colleagues of the **Rev. Christina Del Piero** were surprised and saddened to read of her death this past July.

While some of her friends are planning a memorial gathering in her honor in early summer of next year, a few of us in the Addison Association will hold an informal gathering to remember her as she was known in our churches – a pastor in, but in many ways not of, the United Church of Christ. While in later years she felt alienated from organized religion, she remained a person of deep Christian faith and a pastor called and gifted in unique ways throughout 20 years of ordained ministry.

This memorial gathering will take place **Sunday, October 15, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.** in the Cornwall Town Hall. All are welcome.

David Andrews, Diana Scholl, Donna Brewer, Margaret Wright, Daniel Wright

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

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@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 (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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[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

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