

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 Fall Edition

October 26th, 2023

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Conference friends,

In the midst of all that is going on in the world, I wanted to share with you some hopeful news about the development of our Conference Pastoral Preparation Program (PPP). As many of you know, we are following the model our Southwest Association has used over the past several years to train lay people in the church to pastor some of our part-time churches in the Conference. Our plan is to start the Program in September of 2024.

Susie Webster-Toleno has agreed to be our first Dean of the PPP, and she will begin serving us in Jan. 2024 in this capacity. Susie has been in our Conference for a long time and is the pastor of our Westminster West congregation. She also has been the facilitator of the Licensed Pastor Group this past year for the Conference and has served in numerous other ways in the Conference. We look forward to her leadership among us!

Just this past month, we have had two graduates of the Pastoral Preparation Programs in the Southwest Association, Andris Berry and Jane LoBrutto, become the newly settled pastors in East Arlington and Fairhaven. We hope that those of you reading this article will start thinking of people in your congregation who may want to be part of the first Conference PPP class this coming September.

Perhaps you yourself reading this will be in that class!

With Hope, Paul

"God, our hearts are broken with pain at the senseless deaths and woundings caused by gun violence in Maine. We



know that so many in our sister state in the north are mourning and living in fear, along with all the rest of us. Help us to transform our own hearts to see peaceful ways of resolving our differences. Let our voices be raised asking our legislators to enact gun laws to protect all in our society. Let our hands reach out and connect with those who feel alone and those who live in fear, and those suffering from mental illness.



We pray all this in the name of our Prince of Peace, who desires that we live together in peace. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Rev. Paul Sangree

Latest News



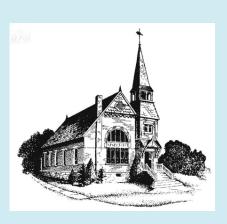


Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola was installed as the Conference Minister of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ on October 21st, 2023. Our own Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak preached the sermon at her installation!

250 YEARS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL



CHURCH IN WEST RUTLAND!!!

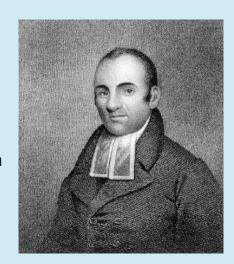


October 20th marks the 250th year of the Congregational church in West Rutland. On October 20th, 1773 Rev.

Benajah Roots and 14 people incorporated themselves into a church. Since then the church, now called the United Church, has worshipped in four buildings.

The first building was a log meeting house near the present entrance to Evergreen Cemetery. It was used from 1773 to 1788. The second building was a wood-framed church on the south end of Pleasant Street. It was used from 1855 to 1885. The third building was across the street and was used until 1885. The fourth building is a brick church on the corner of Chapel and High Streets in downtown West Rutland. It was built in 1886 and is presently still in use as the United Church.

Over the years, the church has been served by many ministers. The most notable was the church's second pastor, Rev. Lemuel Haynes. Rev. Haynes was the first black congregational minister to serve an all-white congregation. He served from 1788 to 1818 and was known to be a powerful preacher who ministered well to his congregation.



The present interim minister is the Rev. Pete Hults. He and his wife Jean are

natives of West Rutland and grew up in the <u>United Church</u>. Their worship services are every Sunday at 10 am. Anyone who desires to worship is welcome. They are very proud to have been worshipping the glory of God for 250 years!

Read the 200th Anniversary Bulletin HERE!

Sunday, October 15th, Rev. Arnold Thomas lead a discussion on racial equity in Vermont at the

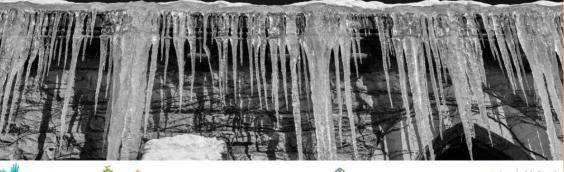


First Congregational Church of Essex Junction.



Holy Heat Pumps!

A Webinar on Heat Pumps for Faith Communities















How we cool and heat our buildings is a significant part of how we address the climate crisis. When it comes to Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems, heat pumps are a crucially important technology in the transition away from fossil fuels. This webinar will explain how heat pumps work and how government funds can be accessed by congregations for their purchase. We will hear a success story from a local faith community that installed both air-source and ground-source heat pumps. Finally, we will address frequently asked questions, such as, "What do you do with a building that has had radiator heating?" Even if you cannot make the webinar at its scheduled time on October 25th at 1 pm ET, still sign-up, and we will send you a link to a recording of it.

Register now!





UPDATE: Churches for Middle East Peace calls for de-escalation, humanitarian access and addressing systemic issues after war breaks out in Israel/Palestine

by Staff Reports | published on Oct 8, 2023

UPDATED OCT. 10: The <u>following statement was</u> <u>issued Monday, Oct. 9</u> by <u>Churches for Middle East</u>

<u>Peace (CMEP)</u> — of which the United Church of Christ and <u>Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</u> are members — after issuing an <u>initial statement Saturday, Oct. 7</u> (<u>see below</u>) regarding the ongoing conflict and violence in Israel and Palestine. CMEP held a <u>Pray for Peace online</u> <u>event</u> the morning of Oct. 9 and will continue to hold them on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. ET.

Monday, Oct. 9 statement

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) continues to grieve the devastating loss of life in Israel/Palestine. As the numbers of those killed and injured climb, we ask people of faith to remain committed to praying and working toward an immediate end to the violence. Yet, cessation of conflict will not automatically bring justice. Without attention to the core systemic issues of the war and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territory, there will be no real peace. At a time when the rush by governments will be for more military responses, CMEP prays for the de-escalation of violence to prevail. We urge an escalation of diplomatic efforts by the United States, through the United Nations, and other regional bodies. Too many people are already grieving the loss of loved ones.

CMEP calls for an immediate end to all violence and calls

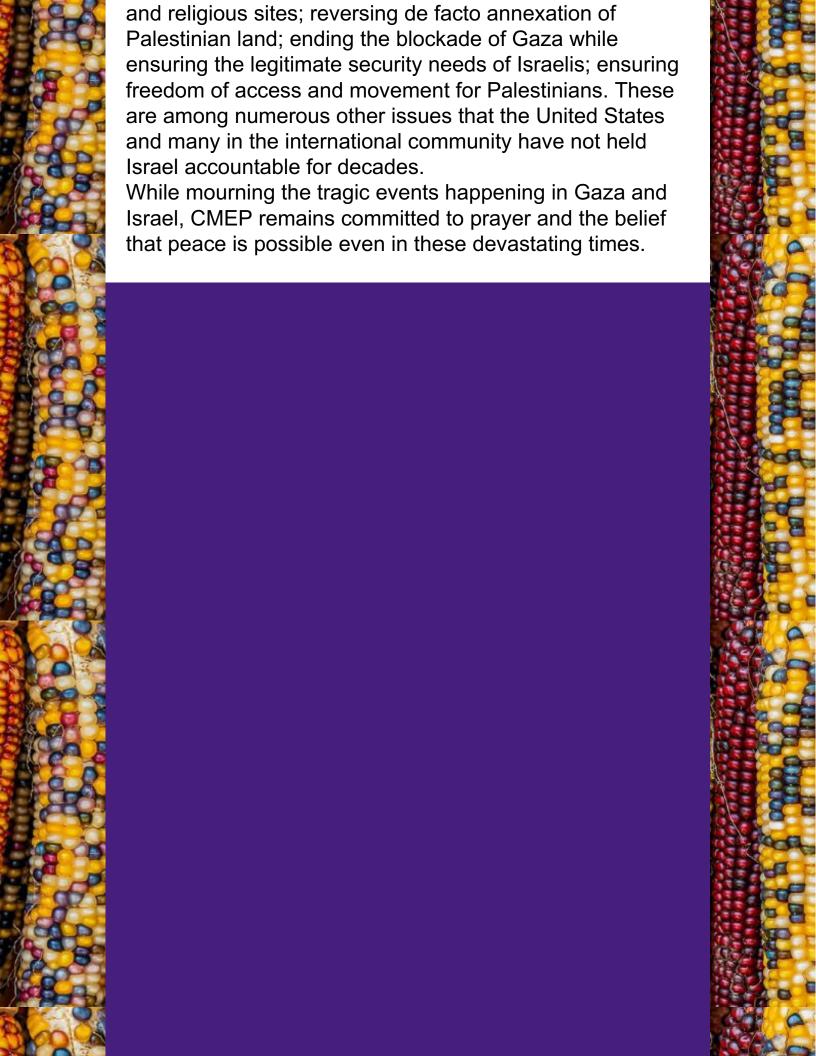


for restraint from all parties. CMEP is deeply concerned by the prospect of an Israeli protracted military offensive and possible ground invasion into Gaza that could result in considerably more deaths and destruction and a broader regional war. <u>Half of the 2.2 million people of Gaza are</u> <u>children</u>.

CMEP abhors reports from the Israeli government that they have shut off power, water, and fuel to the people of Gaza. These actions constitute collective punishment, and international law designates such actions as illegal and unconscionable. The lack of water, electricity, fuel, and access to medical supplies will have a disastrous impact on millions of civilians in Gaza, especially those who need immediate medical attention. We urge the resumption of power, water, and gas for the people of Gaza. CMEP calls for the protection of access to humanitarian aid and the cessation of conflict so that emergency medical care can be offered.

The call from Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu telling Gazan residents "to leave" is completely unrealistic given that all border crossings in and out of Gaza are closed, and leaving is not an option for the more than two million people living there. CMEP calls on Hamas to do no harm and to release all hostages held in captivity. CMEP continues to hold in prayer the families of those held hostage and the families of all who have been wounded or lost their lives already in the violence of the past few days. CMEP calls on the international community and the United States to stop supporting further militarization and pursue every alternative means to protect all Israeli and Palestinian civilians.

The United States has long failed to serve as a constructive partner in helping to secure a just and lasting peace in Israel/Palestine. During heightened tension, CMEP implores the U.S. government to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region. Core issues of the conflict must be addressed, including but not limited to: ceasing the expansion of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories; ending impunity given to settlers when they attack Palestinians, their homes, their lands,







Building a world of justice and compassion takes both passion and training.

Whatever your passion, our workshops provide the training with tools,
knowledge, and confidence for taking action on any issue.



FORMS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

SOCIAL LOCATION

ADVENT: EMBRACE THE DARK INTRO TO PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY

OCTOBER 17

Explore the difference between social service and social justice and the various forms of social change actions. Think strategically about the direction you wish to take in seeking to change the world and the methods used to do it.

OCTOBER 30

Examine the identities you carry in the world and how it impacts your experiences.

NOVEMBER 29

In preparation for Advent contemplate the slowing down of winter and join conversation about the possibilities of embracing the darkness as both an antiracist practice and a space for art, music, and meditation.

5-PART SERIES LENT 2024

From Exodus to Jesus the Bible offers an ancient, enduring and relevant story about people living in the light of the love of God. Explore how the lessons and values of our faith tradition can inform our work to build a better world.

ALL WORKSHOPS:

ONLINE ZOOM

\$20/PERSON, SERIES \$75/PERSON



Interested in integrating faith and justice work into your life in meaningful and transformative ways?

Take the leap into Jubilee, a 5-month online program. Starting in January 2024, accepting applications now. www.justiceleadership.org/project/jubilee

"I know I couldn't do what I'm doing now without this program. I'm on the state steering committee. I never thought that people would listen to what I have to say, that my vote mattered. But with this program I know it does and I have confidence I didn't before."

-Kim, 2023 participant





www.justiceleadership.org info@justiceleadership.org Facebook and Instagram: Justice Leadership Program



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=0fEXEv5Yzxk&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!





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

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

Happy Retirement!!





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

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	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.

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-boundariestraining-1



Monday, November 6, 5:30-8:30pm ET – Boundary Training for Retired Clergy

By request, we have added another BAT for those considering retirement or who are already in retirement. Join us for a focused conversation on boundary topics faced in retirement – identity, leaving well, exempt status, as well as a refresher on the Ministerial Code, power, and accountability. Led by Revs. Tara Barber, Melanie Oommen, and Anissa Glaser-Bacon.

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

(Please let us know what your Congregation is up to by sending an email to <u>VermontConference@gmail.com</u>.

You may just see yourself or someone you love in the eKit or our Facebook page!)



Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

October 3rd Richard L. Bingham

October 9th William E. Cobb Neil Carr

October 12th
Sue Church
Diana Marie Benjamin

October 13th
Pamela Y. Lucas

October 14th

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

October 1st Mark Mendes

October 3rd
Douglass Moore

October 4th
Gail Dimick
Joan Vincent

October 5th Paul Eyer

October 10th



Susanna K. Griefen

October 16th
Dereen C.Vanderlinde-Abernathy

October 17th
Diana F. Scholl
Robert J Russell-Faling

October 19th
Susan G. Mcknight
Arnold Isidore Thomas

October 20th
Jo Shelnutt

October 21th
Ivy J. Merrill
Lava Mueller
Jean A. O'Bresky

October 24th
Laura Cadmus

October 26th
Jessica Moore

October 28th
Shawn Edward Bracebridge

October 29th
Jared Hamilton

Alison Young

October 12th
Paul Sangree
Arnold Thomas

October 14th
Katherine Arthaud
Susan Church

October 16th Margaret Flad

October 18th Adrienne Carr

October 21st Evelyn Lavelli Susan Mcknight

October 24th
Jeffery Cornwell

October 25th Alyssa May

October 27th

Larrimore Crockett

October 29th Margaret Tooker

October 30th
John Sanborn

October 31st

David Vanderlinde-Abernathy



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!



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.





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





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/

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