



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

November 2nd, 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



Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference.

I write this article on All Saints Day. Perhaps either last Sunday or this Sunday your church will have a time to remember the saints in your life or your congregation. I have always liked the hymn, "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" where the emphasis is on ordinary people living their lives in faithfulness to God. I like thinking about those who have gone before us and were recognized as saints after their death, but also remembering the many "saints" who lived quiet lives and whose names have been long forgotten.

NT Write has written: "Since both the departed saints and we ourselves are in Christ, we share with them in the 'communion of saints.' They are still our brothers and sisters in Christ. When we celebrate the Eucharist they are there with us, along with the angels and archangels. Why then should we not pray for and with them? Love passes into prayer; we still love them; why not hold them, in that love, before God?"

May we hold in our love the ordinary and extraordinary saints of God, those we have known and those known only to God. This week, think about knowing you are a part of the Communion of Saints.

In peace,

Lynn

(Image by https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/hand-drawn-all-saints-day-illustration_32706215.)

"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



Patti Casey Concert to Benefit VIA

The concert will benefit the social justice work







of Vermont Interfaith Action. Patti has recorded five award-winning albums featuring her signature New England folk-storytelling-bluegrass style. She will be joined by multi-instrumentalist Colin McCaffrey. For more info contact debbie@viavt.org or (802) 651-888

Tickets are \$30 and are available HERE!









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!

"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs are people who have come alive."

My name is Betsey Guest-Natale and along with being the Christian Education Director at Second Congregational Church of Boxford, I am the Volunteer Coordinator for Boston-North Backyard Mission. This ministry of our church hosts youth groups and puts them to work in our community. Here is a link:

https://www.sneucc.org/newsdetail/spotlightservice-boston-north-backyard-mission-17525014.





† cws Where Can We Live in Peace?

Documentary Event



"Every day, thousands of migrants risk their lives for the chance to reach safety in the United States.

Along this dangerous route, a safe haven has arisen: Abba House. Led by local Pastor and CWS partner, Ignacio Martinez, Abba House is a place where families and individuals on the move can access shelter, food and psychological, legal and medical support. It is also the only shelter in Mexico with a focus on welcoming migrants who have lost limbs due to accidents on the railroad during transit.

Above all, Abba House is a place of hope where the most vulnerable of our neighbors are given a place to rest and are reminded that they are not alone."



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!



LIGHT

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND EPIPHANY RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES AND CONGREGATIONS

CONGREGATION PACK INCLUDES:

- Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy
- prayground suggestions
- family retreat plans
- · mission project
- bedtime stories and prayers plan
- out the door blessings
- plans for two parent/caregiver book clubs

FAMILY PACK INCLUDES:

- read alouds/read alongs for all ages and stages
- visio divina practice
- family hikes
- collaborative art prompts
- bedtime blessings



I'll never forget the magic of the giant bubble lights on the Christmas tree when I was young. Not the small, delicate ones with the colors you'd find in a crayon box, but the big, chunky bubble lights with electric colors in the bases and tubes, glowing over the branches and ornaments. Paired with the way the light would shimmer off of the tinsel that was draped over every bough, it created an atmosphere of peace that one would not expect from items made in the 70s and 80s. When you think about the miracle of Christmas, the light from the stars and angels that roused the shepherd, the cozy lantern glow inside the stable where Jesus was born, and the unearthly brightness of the star that the Wise Ones followed to find Jesus, it isn't so far removed to consider the peace that can come from such unlikely circumstances. Our Holy Moment for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany is themed around LIGHT this year, because in a post pandemic life filled with unlikely circumstances, couldn't we all use a reminder of how LIGHT transforms everything?

This year, you'll find:

- an Advent candle liturgy that will cultivate peace and introspection for all ages
 - family read togethers to help us tune our senses on the light we need
- family mission opportunities to help us be the light
- bedtime stories and prayers plans to breathe light and life into our youngest friends
- out the door blessings to help us carry the light with us wherever we go
- plans for Advent in a Box, so light can carry forth between church and home
- family retreat plans to bring rest and light into families and MORE.

Elizabeth Christie elizabeth@prcli.org

<u>Launching "Light" Holy Moment for Advent and Christmas</u> (RECORDING) Leaders - Elizabeth Christie, Karen Ware Jackson

Are you thinking about spiritual formation for families in Advent and Christmas? Join us to hear more about "Light" our Holy Moment curriculum for Advent and Christmas. Elizabeth Christie and Karen Ware Jackson will share how they plan to use the curriculum and "We Gather" liturgy in their congregations to equip families for faith formation not only at church, but everywhere else!

Light was ready for download on October 16. Click here to order.

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!





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.



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.





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/wpcontent/uploads/2023/08/Boundary-Training-Fall-2023.pdf

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

<u>Monday, November 6, 5:30-8:30pm ET –</u> **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.

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!

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 Susanna K. Griefen

October 16th
Dereen C.Vanderlinde-Abernathy

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

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 Alison Young

October 12th
Paul Sangree
Arnold Thomas

October 14th
Katherine Arthaud
Susan Church



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

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!



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

<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@fccei.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 **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.

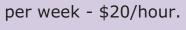
Visit www.fccbvt.org to submit a question or a cover letter and resume. You can also mail your cover letter and resume to FCCB, PO Box 1157, Montpelier VT 05601-1157, or send email to FCCBorganist@gmail.com. You can call us at 802-229-0338 with questions.



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



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 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/



<u>Update Profile</u> |Constant Contact Data Notice Sent byvermontconference@gmail.compowered by

