



# 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

November 9th, 2023

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My mother-in-law, Astreed Tourian, died two years ago. Her family fled from the Armenian genocide during WWI, and after living in a few other places, ended up in Jerusalem, where she grew up from 1933 to 1948. These were the years of the British Mandate, when Palestinians and Jews lived together uneasily under British rule. Astreed and her family lived in an apartment building just outside the Armenian quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Especially in the years following WWII, which ended in 1945, Zionist groups committed acts of terror in what was then called Palestine in an effort to get the British to create a state of Israel. One of those acts was to plant a bomb in the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, which killed one of Astreed's best friends, along with many others. Then in 1948, when the fighting became more heated, the apartment building next to the one Astreed's family was living in was bombed. Astreed's family decided that they needed to get out, and left at midnight and drove to Beirut, taking whatever possessions they could with them. They thought they would return when the fighting died down, but they never were able to. They made a new life in Beirut, where they were considered stateless refugees, until 1957, when they were able to come to the USA.

Despite her years in the Middle East, Astreed did not know any more than anyone else what might bring peace to her troubled home. But I know she would have resonated with this

beautiful poem/prayer, written by Rabbi Sheila Weinberg, that was shared with me by our own Tracy Weatherhogg:

Two Peoples, One Land  
Three Faiths, One Root  
One Sky, One Beginning, One Future, One Destiny  
One Broken Heart, One God  
We Pray to You  
Grant us a Vision of Unity  
May we see the Many in the One and the One in the Many  
May You, Life of all the Worlds  
Source of all Amazing Differences  
Help us to See Clearly  
Guide us Gently and Firmly toward each other Towards  
Peace. Amen.

-Paul

## Latest News



# PATTI CASEY CONCERT

Sat, Nov 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

First Congregational Church of Burlington  
38 S. Winooski Avenue



### *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.

Tickets are \$30 and are available [HERE!](#)



At the end of November, IPL will be present as an observer organization at COP28, the UN global climate conference in Dubai, to ensure that world leaders hear the moral voice as they debate strategies and ambitions to effectively tackle the global challenge of climate change. Our witness is crucial, and we want to make sure that you're up-to-date on the issues, understand how you can participate, and have a chance to ask your questions.

There are multiple ways that you can participate with the faith community at COP28 from home:

1. **Sign-up for IPL's COP28 webinar Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 4 p.m. ET/1 p.m. PT on Zoom** to learn more about key topics, the faith community involvement at COP, and how to stay well-informed about the happenings throughout the event.
2. A simple, yet powerful way to **take action** and support the faith climate movement is to **add your signature to our letter to President Biden** calling on the U.S. government to lead by example by committing to bold and just climate action at COP28.
3. If your looking for more information about COP28, want to learn more about the global climate crisis, or need reflection and prayer materials, check out our **COP28 Resources** page on the IPL website.
4. Follow IPL on social media and **blog posts**. Spread the word by liking and sharing our posts during COP28, from November 30 to December 12, 2023.

Together, we have the power to amplify the moral voice at COP28 and safeguard our Sacred Earth for future generations. Thank you for being part of the faith climate movements and standing with us in raising our voices on the global stage!

In gratitude and hope,



Rev. Rebekah Kokalis

Grants and Online Communications Manager

State Representative  
**Joe Andriano**

wants to hear your views.

Come to the  
**Shoreham**  
**Congregational Church**  
on **Saturday**  
**November 18 at 2 PM**  
to share your concerns.



# HOLIDAY FOOD SALE

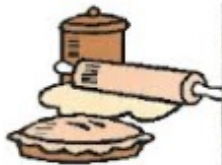
**SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 18, 2023  
8:30 AM – NOON**

**AT THE  
DORSET  
POST OFFICE**

Sale to benefit  
The Fellowship of Dorset Church



**COME AND GET  
YOUR HOLIDAY  
GOODIES!**



Homemade Brownies



**“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/spotlight-service-boston-north-backyard-mission-17525014>



# 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."



# ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

FAIR TRADE CRAFTS FROM  
**SERRV INTERNATIONAL**

HANDMADE CRAFTS FROM  
**DORSET CHURCH FELLOWSHIP**

Gifts Through:  
**Habitat For Humanity**  
**Heifer International**  
**Asian Rural Institute**

## DORSET CHURCH

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

**9:00 am—2:00 pm**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

**11:00 am—1:00 pm**

All images from SERRV.ORG



# LIGHT

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND EPIPHANY RESOURCES FOR  
FAMILIES AND CONGREGATIONS



## CONGREGATION PACK INCLUDES:

- Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy
- playground 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 together 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](mailto:elizabeth@prcli.org)

## **Launching "Light" Holy Moment for Advent and Christmas (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.](#)**



# Holy Heat Pumps!

A Webinar on Heat Pumps for Faith Communities



United Women in Faith

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 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm ET, still sign-up, and we will send you a link to a recording of it.

[Register now!](#)

# NEW WORKSHOPS FOR EVERYONE

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**

**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.

**SOCIAL LOCATION**

**OCTOBER 30**

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

**ADVENT: EMBRACE THE DARK**

**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 anti-racist practice and a space for art, music, and meditation.

**INTRO TO PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY**

**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?

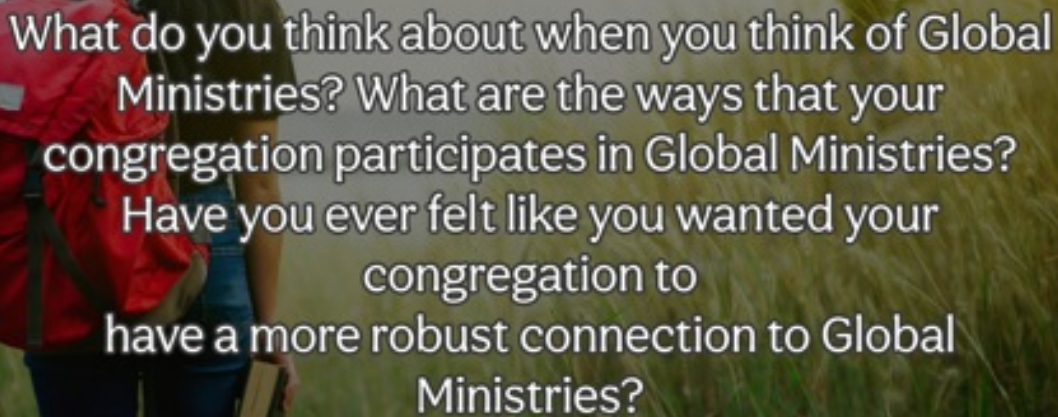
Take the leap into Jubilee, a 5-month online program. Starting in January 2024, accepting applications now.

[www.justiceleadership.org/project/jubilee](http://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](http://www.justiceleadership.org)  
[info@justiceleadership.org](mailto:info@justiceleadership.org)  
Facebook and Instagram: Justice Leadership Program



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](mailto:kmbethanyucc@gmail.com), Mark Mendes [mmendes@fcej.org](mailto:mmendes@fcej.org), or Ed Sunday-Winters [edsundaywinters@gmail.com](mailto: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

## 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>

**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>

## **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.

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## **AROUND THE CONFERENCE**

(Please let us know what your Congregation is up to by sending an email to [VermontConference@gmail.com](mailto:VermontConference@gmail.com) .

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

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## Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

November 4th  
Richard B. Crocker

November 5th  
Fred D. Edmonds  
D. Gene Kraus

November 6th  
John P. Merriam

November 8th  
Lise Sparrow

November 9th  
Anne L. Squire

November 10th  
Audrey Walker

November 15th  
Casseniette R. Poulos  
Thomas Harty

November 16th  
Matthew A. von Behrens

November 22nd  
David P. Ransom

November 23rd  
Laurie S. Krooss

November 29th  
Ed Sunday-Winters  
Wendy Savery

## Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

November 1st  
Elissa Johnk  
Leigh McCaffrey  
Andrew Nagy-Benson

November 3rd  
Jared Hamilton

November 4th  
Kathy Clark  
Mark Wilson

November 6th  
Kelly Donahue

November 7th  
Constance Moser  
Susan Webster-Toleno

November 17th  
Joshua Moore

November 20th  
Anthony Acheson

November 21st  
Martha Peck

November 22nd  
Eliott Munn

November 25th  
Christine Boardman  
Erin Reardon

November 26th  
Penny Smith



## 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?**

# HOPE FUND FOR THE FUTURE



**"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see"  
(Hebrews 11:1)**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 Munnat [elliott@vergenesucc.org](mailto:elliott@vergenesucc.org).

For more information, including the Job Description, please go to the church's website:

<https://www.vergenesucc.org/ccfmsearch>



**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 (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 [llybvtc@gmail.com](mailto:llybvtc@gmail.com)  
Associate Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangree [sangreepucc@gmail.com](mailto:sangreepucc@gmail.com)  
Office Administrator: Elise Foster [vermontconference@gmail.com](mailto:vermontconference@gmail.com)  
Ministries Coordinator: Rev. Jackie Lingelbach [vtconmincoor@gmail.com](mailto:vtconmincoor@gmail.com)  
Bookkeeper: Tanya Frazier [vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](#)

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visit our website at <http://www.vtcucc.org/>

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