



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 16th, 2023

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Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference, I have been thinking about Thanksgiving. Yes, I am aware that Thanksgiving the holiday is nearly upon us, but my thoughts have turned to the simple act of

thanking. Thanking has no special day or time or season; it is a practice whose time is always at hand. There is a Shaker song that begins,

*What the dew is to the flower
Gentle words are to the soul
And a blessing to the giver
And so dear to the receiver
We should never withhold*

I count "thank you" as among the gentle words, words that bless the giver and are dear to the receiver. These past few weeks since Peg died, I have found myself flooded with gratitude. I am so grateful for the life we shared and grateful, too, that we had the time to thank each other for those years together before she died. I hope that you make a practice of thanking your loved ones, your friends, and anyone who has touched you with their thoughtfulness and kindness.

In this season of gratitude, may speaking those words be a blessing and hearing those words be held dear in your

heart.

Thank you all!
Lynn

Latest News



Join us for our Christmas
themed Messy Church.
Loads of Christmas Fun, games,
crafts, activities, and DINNER
For all ages. ALL FREE

Bristol Federated Church
37 North St., Bristol

bristolfederated.com/messychurch
for more information
and to pre-register

Prepare the Way!

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 9TH
4:00PM



Brought to you by the 5 Town area churches.



First Congregational Church in
Springfield has about 50
Emergency Clean Up Buckets left
from the July flooding. We
thought, rather than having them
shipped back to the Church World
Service depot, we could spread
them out among churches to hold
until the next time they are
needed. We are looking for
churches who have space to store

5-10 buckets where they would not freeze. Please e-
mail Pastor Michael Mario
at: pastor.fccucc@vermontel.net if you could take

some. We'll work out the details. Thanks so much for sharing the load!



**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 Bowties

The poster features a central text area surrounded by various food items. On the left side, there are illustrations of cupcakes, a chocolate brownie, a loaf of bread, a cupcake, a jar of jam, a cupcake with blue frosting, and a pie. On the right side, there are photos of a croissant, a cupcake, several brownies, round bread rolls, a square cookie, and a round flatbread. At the bottom, there are illustrations of a pie, a bowl of berries, a tray of donuts, a cake on a stand, and a round flatbread.



PATHWAYS
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Affordable, Accessible, Awesome

Are you busy with work, family, caring for others, standing up for justice but need a moment each day to deepen your faith and explore ways to hold on in a broken, fearful, too often violent world? We invite you to check out our online courses where community grows, questions arise, peace comes, and faith deepens. Courses offerings can be found on the website [here](#). Now is a good time to look ahead to the 2024 course schedule and contact **PATHWAYS** with any questions you may have. Whether you would like to take one course or a whole program, PATHWAYS welcomes you. Heidi Hulme writes, “I have never been one to do things “traditionally,” and PATHWAYS allowed me the opportunity to continue to prepare my alternative path to ordination, while allowing me to serve a church, and be a wife and mother. ... I am grateful for this experience and education; it has blossomed my ministry, and changed my life.”

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.

**MEMA Mass Care Disaster/Emergency Shelter Course
Announcement from our VT Conference Disaster Response
Coordinator, Rev. Greg Briggs!!**

Maine's Emergency Management Agency is offering a number of training for Mass Care after a natural or human caused disaster. I encourage anyone that is considering this for your church or community to attend. This training will include information for setting up Emergency Shelters, including a section devoted to

After our flooding last July, one of the challenges to providing urgent care was the limited spaces for displaced individuals, as well as adequate housing for incoming volunteer groups. I would like to see at least one additional church in each Association to become equipped to either be an emergency shelter, or a short term host site for volunteer groups. See the attached form for more information.

[Find More Information or Sign Up Here!](#)



Alternative Christmas Gifts for Peace-Building and Resilient Communities

Join us in celebrating Christmas by sharing life-changing gifts that bring hope, love, peace, and joy! These are rare and precious gifts that we believe should be shared globally. With your Alternative Christmas gift-giving, you can honor or remember your loved ones AND make a difference in people's lives worldwide.

This holiday season, as part of the Pacific Basin Initiative, we are excited to share a giving opportunity with Dansalan College Foundation in the Philippines. Gifts for Dansalan College support their ministries of education, peace-building, and resilient community-building.

In 2017, a group of militants attacked Marawi City on the southern island of Mindanao, and Dansalan's Marawi campus suffered fire, vandalism, and hostage-taking. Most of the campus was destroyed. Today, Dansalan College concentrates on its Iligan campus, about 25 miles from Marawi City. The college is working to improve facilities so it can function as the main campus. The previously built conference center is now being used for classes and administration of the school. Currently, the college is constructing an academic building. They plan to build several athletic facilities, faculty residences, and a new library building.

Continue reading about Alternative Christmas and browse the Life-changing Gifts Online Catalog [here](#). Learn more about Dansalan College [here](#).

Life Changing Gifts
Catalog

**“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 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

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.](#)

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.

 <p>FORMS OF SOCIAL CHANGE</p>	<p>SOCIAL LOCATION</p>	<p>ADVENT: EMBRACE THE DARK</p>	<p>INTRO TO PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY</p> 
<p>OCTOBER 17</p>	<p>OCTOBER 30</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 29</p>	<p>5-PART SERIES LENT 2024</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Examine the identities you carry in the world and how it impacts your experiences.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

ALL WORKSHOPS: ONLINE ZOOM \$20/PERSON, SERIES \$75/PERSON



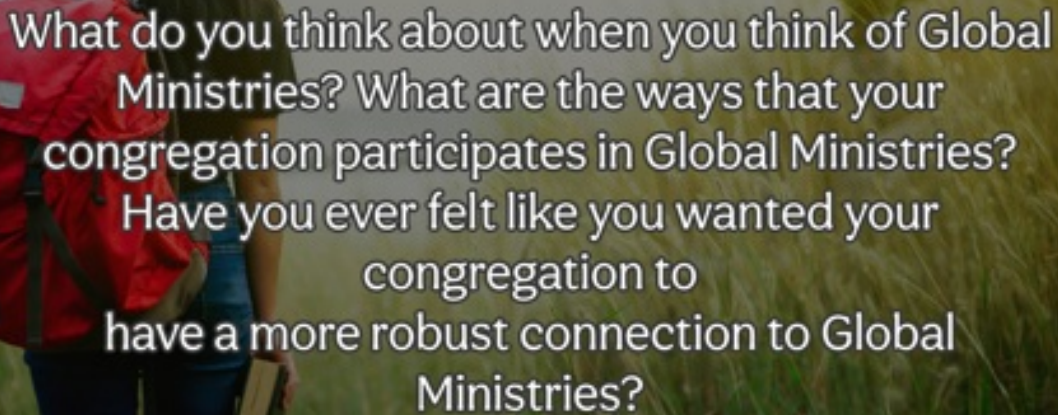
Interested in integrating faith and justice work into your life in meaningful and transformative ways?
 Take the leap into Jubilee, a 5-month online program. Starting in January 2024, accepting applications now.
www.justiceleadership.org/project/jubilee

"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



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

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

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.

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!](#)

November 4th
Richard B. Crocker

[Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!](#)

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

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.

**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



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 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.

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 (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 llbvtc@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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