



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 30th, 2023

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You probably know that this past Saturday night, three Palestinian college students on their way to dinner in Burlington were shot at close range. Since two of them were wearing the Palestinian kaffiyeh, a traditional Palestinian headdress, it seems clear that it was a hate crime, though the authorities are still investigating. The three had all been students together at the Ramallah Friends School in the West Bank, and now all are going to American universities.

What you may not know is that all three are connected to one of our Conference churches, the Charlotte Congregational Church, UCC. Pastors Susan Cooke Kittredge and Kevin Goldenbogen were on our Conference clergy call this Tuesday, sharing what they know about the incident. Both of them have been incredibly busy since the shooting, seeking to support the families and visiting the young men in the hospital, something that Pastor Hadley Abernathy from the Charlotte church has been joining them in. Susan and Kevin both spoke very candidly about the pain they and their congregation are going through as they seek to support these very traumatized students and their

families.

One of the things many of us in the UCC are most proud of is our record of speaking out against hate in its many different forms in Jesus' name. Once again, we as leaders of our churches have an opportunity to remind our congregations of what hate looks like, and what love looks like. If you would like to financially help the families through this challenging time, please look for the link to Launch Good found here on Ekit. Please join me in praying for the victims and their families, and Pastors Kevin, Susan and Hadley and the Charlotte church.

Faithfully,

Paul

An urgent campaign poster for the victims of a shooting in Vermont. The background is dark brown with a repeating geometric pattern. At the top, the text 'URGENT CAMPAIGN' is written in orange. Below it, the names 'Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid, Tahseen Ali Ahmad' are listed in white. Underneath the names, 'VERMONT SHOOTING VICTIMS' is written in white. The central image shows three young men of Middle Eastern descent standing together, smiling. The man on the left has a beard and is wearing a blue t-shirt and a patterned shawl. The man in the middle is wearing a tan hoodie and a patterned shawl. The man on the right is wearing a maroon polo shirt and a patterned shawl. At the bottom of the image, a white rounded rectangle contains the text 'Support now: LaunchGood.com/3Palestinians' in orange and black.

DONATE HERE

[Latest News](#)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!



Rev. Elliott Munn (Pastor of Vergennes Congregational Church) and Rev. Elizabeth Gleich (Associate Pastor of the Congregational Church of Middlebury) would like us to share this wonderful news with you:

"It is with much gratitude and joy that we announce the arrival of our baby daughter! At 7:40 this morning, we welcomed Theresa Gleich Munn at Porter Hospital via planned c-section. She measures 20.75 inches and weighs 8 pounds 10 ounces (big girl!). Thankfully, everything went smoothly and without any surprises. Thank you to everyone for your prayers and love—they really matter. When Theresa was born, all we felt was joy. Thanks be to God! "

[Click Here for Christmas Activities Around the State!!!](#)

Advent Resources

From PRC:

[Storytelling the Seasons](#)

Online Resource Center



All of our booklets, webinars, and other resources for Advent in one handy spot. Go forth and grab what you need!

[Visit the PRC Website](#)

Godly Play Advent Stories



These are some of my favorite ways to



This resource is amazing for all ages and stages. Snag it!

[Find it Here!](#)

LIGHT Holy Moments

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

Cultivate Faith

There's still time to download and distribute our Advent resources for families! PRC would recommend the following components:

- [Advent in a Box](#)
- [Visio Divina Practice for December](#)
- [Prayground Suggestions](#)
- [Family Retreats/Gatherings](#)

There's still plenty of time to use these and do them WELL.

[Find it Here!](#)

Lego Advent



travel through Advent with children and families. In fact, I love them so much that I'm using them for our midweek multigenerational Advent gatherings this year.

[Click Here for Cards](#)

[Click for Stories](#)

"I'm working with a crew of families that are Lego fans. I used their love language to create a family devotional guide. If you also have Lego loving families, this may be just what you need. I'm printing them on cardstock and pairing with baggies of Legos from our congregation's collection." -PRC

[Visit our Website](#)

Welcome Vermont's New ONA Churches!!!

FEDERATED CHURCH OF BRISTOL

Welcome the newest ONA church in the Vermont Conference!

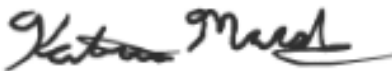
Dear ONA family:

Please join us in welcoming Federated Church of Bristol in Bristol, VT as a newly-certified Open and Affirming congregation!

As ONA church #1,849, Federated Church is now part of the largest and fastest-growing LGBTQ-affirming church movement in the world! We're proud of the congregation and grateful to the church's leadership for the hard work that led to this milestone in their history.

Please join the entire Open and Affirming movement in celebrating Federated Church of Bristol, and join us in prayer that their ONA covenant will be a blessing to their LGBTQ+ neighbors.

Blessings,



The Rev. Dr. Katrina Roseboro-Marsh
Executive Director
Pronouns: she/her

PLEASE
WELCOME ON A
CHURCH
NUMBER 1,847!

SHREWSBURY
COMMUNITY
CHURCH
IN VERMONT

The Vermont Conference UCC Justice and Witness Ministry urges all of us to become familiar with and make use of the content of the many UCC Resolutions that have been created over the past years. These resolutions, dealing with church governance and social justice issues, help us understand who we are as members of the UCC and act as guidance for our work within our Faith. The UCC

has three types of resolutions: Pronouncements, Proposals for Action, and Resolutions and other formal motions that address policy or moral issues. For example, in 2022 when the Vermont Conference supported the passage of VT Article 22, a declaration in the state constitution of the right to personal reproductive autonomy, we were able to refer to the long history of UCC action and statements supporting reproductive liberty: <https://www.ucc.org/the-ucc-fight-for-reproductive-justice/>. This past month, the UCC

resolutions have offered solid guidance for the complex and volatile issue of the latest escalation of the conflict between Israel and Palestine. The 2021 General Synod, under the leadership of Rev. Elliott Munn of the Vergennes Congregational Church, passed a resolution “decrying the oppression of Palestinian people;” adding this resolution to similar statements crafted by the UCC over the past



Justice and
Witness Ministries
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

many years: <https://www.ucc.org/synod-delegates-approve-resolution-decrying-oppression-of-palestinian-people/> As we work together within our UCC congregations, with other secular and faith partners, these resolutions offer guidance and legitimacy to our work and act as a witness to others about our UCC mission.



**The Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association
and
The West Lebanon Congregational Church, UCC**

Cordially invites you to the Ordination
of
Daniel Robert Louis Adam
into Christian Ministry.

Your prayers and presence are requested on
December 31, 2023, at 3 p.m.
at the
West Lebanon Congregational Church, UCC
18 Maple Street
West Lebanon, NH 03784

A reception will follow the service

If you would like to attend via Zoom, please email
office@westlebcongo.comcastbiz.net the week of the Ordination to
request the link.

Clergy are invited to robe and wear red vestments

Hello everyone!

My name is Tivvi Pare and I am the new Executive Director of Horton Center, the Outdoor Ministries Site of the New Hampshire Conference UCC. Though I am new to this role at camp, I am not at all new to Horton Center. I spent at least one week every summer at

Horton Center from 3rd grade through the summer following my high school graduation and have been on staff in various roles since. I even got to be a staff member for a week at Rock Point with the VT Outdoor Ministries group in 2017. I am excited to connect with



Vermont churches, families and youth to invite you all to come experience the magic of an extravagant camp welcome and loving Christian community in the splendid White Mountains at HC. Please feel free to reach out to me to introduce yourself, ask questions about camp, or just to say hey! My email address is tpare@nhcucc.org and the camp phone number is 603-545-9660. I look forward to getting to know you soon and seeing you up at Horton Center this summer!

Shalom,

Tivvi Pare (she/her)
Executive Director of Horton Center NHCUC
www.hortoncenter.org

(Pictured with Tivvi is Zimmi, her 11yr old collie shepherd mix, who loves being at camp just as much as she does!)

You're Invited! 



A special morning for women in ministry!
Starting with a guided centering practice,
followed with a "potluck" of sharing,
& closing in prayer.

This isn't a meeting, it's self-care!

All Women in Ministry are Welcome!
The First Friday of Each Month!
8:30-9:30 am on Zoom (EST)

*Bring a small "dish" (a short poem, scripture, song,
photo, anything you'd like to share) or just come to
be fed.*

Zoom Meeting ID: 811 2298 2824

Host Contacts:

CJ King: cjkingvt@gmail.com

Julie Demaree: juliejulie424@gmail.com

Mary S. Hoadley: pastormaryucc@yahoo.com



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**](mailto:pastor.fccucc@vermontel.net) if you could take some. We'll work out the details. Thanks so much for sharing the load!

*Thank
You!*



For a great Thanksgiving Service!

Rev Alyssa May, Rev Evelyn Coupe and Rev Mary S. Hoadley hosted a Community Thanksgiving Worship. More than half a dozen churches were represented and the message was delivered by Rev. Hoadley to "Give Until It Feels Go(o)d!" to over 70 people in person and online. The service was complete with a large community choir.



PATHWAYS
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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.”

**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 Warming and Cooling Shelters.

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](#).

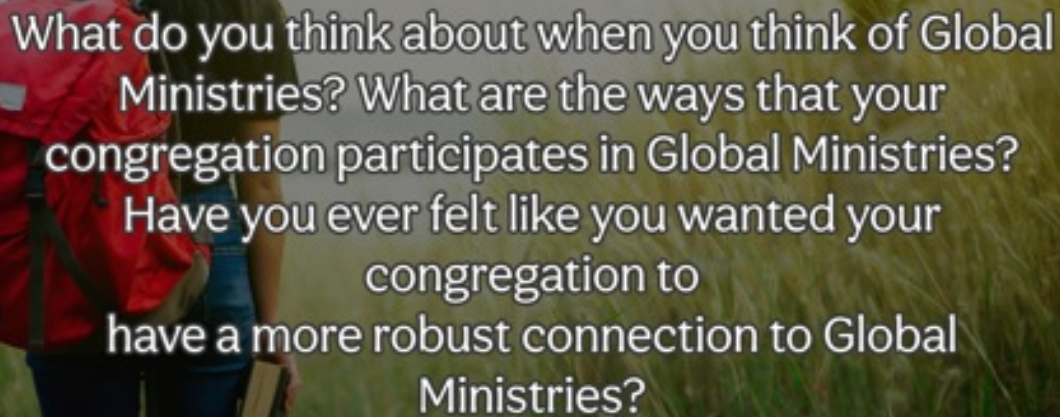
Life Changing Gifts Catalog

**“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>.





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@fccej.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

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, including Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid, and Tahseen Ali Ahmad.

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

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
Elliott 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**

BUILDING DISCIPLES
Children,
Youth and
Adults

WELCOMING THE COMMUNITY
by seeking justice
and the common
good

NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS
with people who
don't go to church

Love God
Love Your Neighbor

**"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 .

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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 lbvtc@gmail.com
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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.

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Connect with us



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

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