



# 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 Winter Edition

January 18th, 2024

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Dear friends,

I have told some of you about this, but I wanted to let the rest of you know that the Conference Board of Directors approved a Sabbatical for me this year from May 18<sup>th</sup>-Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>. It is hard to believe that I started with you way back in 2018, but thank you for sharing these past years of ministry together! I am grateful too for partnering in these years with Lynn and Jackie and Elise in our Conference staff, and for all the people of our beloved Vermont Conference.

I will use this time first and foremost to rest and reflect. In the other sabbatical I had in my ministry, I filled it with all kinds of activities, and realized later that I would have benefited more from some time to slow down. I do plan to do some travelling with my wife and family. I also hope to do a silent retreat.

My other objective is to learn from others about what is helping churches be more vital. I plan to be in touch with the Michigan Conference, which has a robust program of new church development. I would love to speak to some of their new church pastors about their



experiences, and to leaders of their Conference. I will share what I learn at the end with all of you.

Lynn will cover the churches I am working with around search and call. As for my other ministries, I hope to work with you to cover the summer months after I step aside in May. Thank you so much for your support of this time away from my Conference roles! I am deeply grateful,

Paul

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## Latest News

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# *Installation of Rev. Amanda Swoyer*



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME CELEBRATE  
THE COVENANT BETWEEN REV. SWOYER &  
THE WEST LEBANON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023  
2:00 PM**

**A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW  
(THERE WILL BE NO 10:00 AM SERVICE)**

West Lebanon Congregational Church  
18 Maple Street, West Lebanon 03784  
603-298-8096

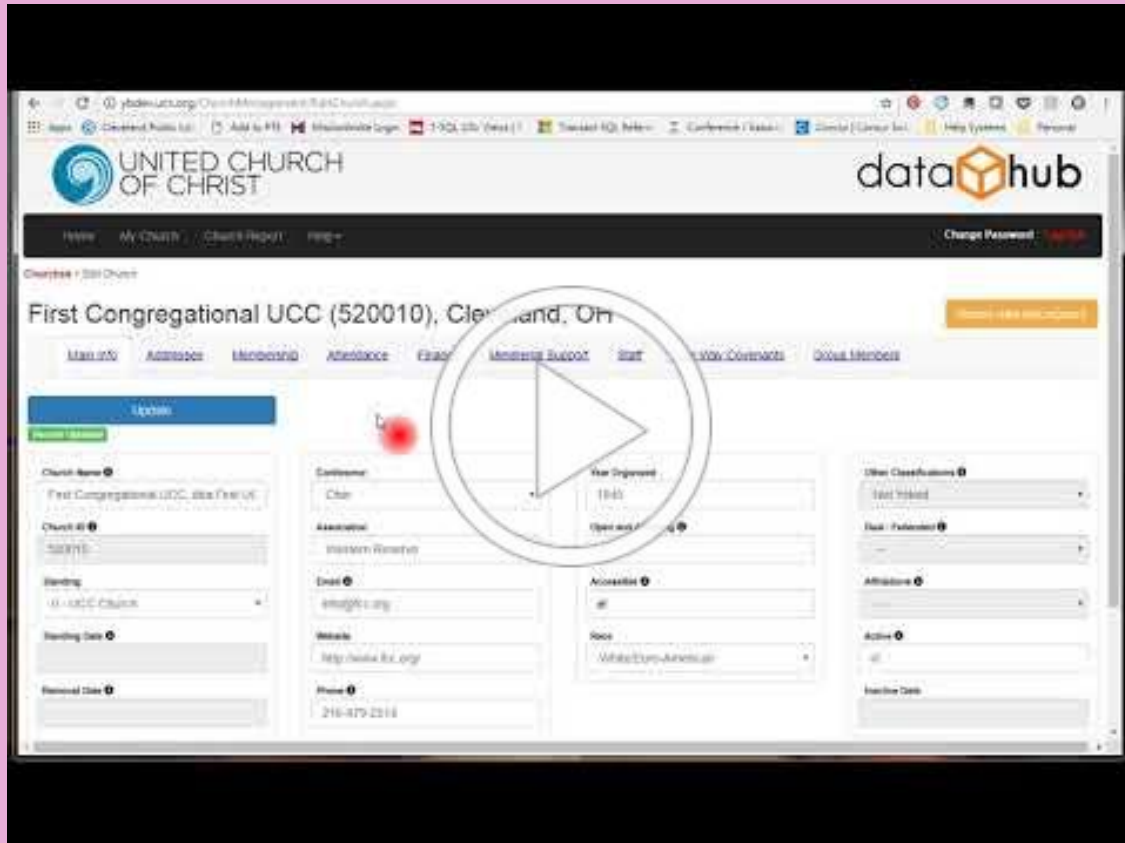
West Lebanon Congregational Church is pleased to announce that we'll be having the Installation of Rev. Amanda Swoyer on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 2pm (There will be no Sunday morning Worship Service that day.). A reception will follow. ***An Installation highlights and celebrates the relationship between a local church, their newly called pastor and the larger church association.***

**The Installation will be in person and on Zoom. People on Zoom are welcome to join 30 minutes (1:30pm) before the start of the service.**

Topic: Installation of Rev. Amanda Swoyer  
Time: Feb 11, 2024 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84559295165?  
pwd=VG5abFdneEpiWW1iZ0J1RFIzR1RFUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84559295165?pwd=VG5abFdneEpiWW1iZ0J1RFIzR1RFUT09)

# It's Yearbook Time!!!



Hi Friends!

'Tis the season for the national yearbook! I hope you are as excited as I am!!

[You can sign in here!](#)

[You can find instructions here!](#)

[You can find the paper form here!](#)

[And you can always email Elise here!](#)

## RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE PROGRAM VIA ZOOM

Monday January 29, 2024 4:30-6:00 PM

[Register here](#)

**Unpacking Privilege** is a workshop looking at the privileges that some people have that others do not with a focus on considering how privilege can be shared.

What is privilege?  
What is a privilege that you know  
you have?

# Unpacking Privilege

—  
By Michelle Fountain

**ACTION ITEM:** Prior to the program, we are asking you watch "Traces of the Trade" and "Cost of Inheritance".

THE COST OF INHERITANCE -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUCFF8e0yYs>

THE TRACES OF THE TRADE -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXdBLEnigBA>

Michelle Fountain is a journalist, teacher, student and preacher. In a previous life, she was the Public Affairs Manager for the Pennsylvania Region for State Farm Insurance where she was in charge of media, community and political outreach, as well as employee publications. She worked as a journalist writing primarily for *The Vermont Standard* for close to 15 years and occasionally still dabbles in journalistic writing. Michelle taught English at Woodstock Union High School for 16 years and now teaches English at Proctor High School. She holds a Masters Degree in Education from Plymouth State and has taken courses at the Middlebury Bread Loaf School of English in African American Rhetoric and How to be an Anti-racist Teacher. She has led teachers in looking at their privilege by working through Layla Saad's *Me and White Supremacy*. Michelle is also the licensed minister at the United Church of Ludlow. She developed "Unpacking Privilege" as a workshop for attendees at the annual meeting for the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ in April, 2022.



# HOW TO HELP YOUR CHURCH GROW!

Each church will be asked to bring a team of a Pastor and at least 3 lay people. Each of the above topics will be overviewed, and then each church will choose the two areas they wish to address first. Churches will be clustered in cohorts around these topics for a year of training and coaching. In my experience, the year of coaching helps a church to put the principles of a seminar into practice.

The Hope Fund is funding special scholarships for Vermont Conference churches to participate. We ask for \$100 for your church to come to the seminar (lunch included for all your participants) and \$250 for a year of coaching for your church.

Saturday, March 9th from 9:30-3 at the  
Federated Church of  
Williston or online via Zoom.

**REGISTER HERE!**



**Kathy Bullock**

*joins the*

**Brattleboro  
Women's  
Chorus**

**January 18**

January 18  
7 pm via Zoom

## Singing in the Spirit: The African American Sacred Music Tradition

*Open to All Singers. For More Info and to Register:*

**BrattleboroWomensChorus.org**

### Winter Workshop with Kathy Bullock

Thursday, January 18 at 7 pm on Zoom

*Open to the public*

As we begin our spring session, the focus is on music from the African diaspora. We will kick off our season with a winter workshop with renowned singer/educator/ composer, Dr. Kathy Bullock! This is highly encouraged for chorus singers as it will place our repertoire in context. This workshop is open to the public and will be recorded for your convenience.

#### **Singing in the Spirit: The African American Sacred Music Tradition**

Spirituals and gospel music are much more than pleasing songs to listen to—they are powerful representations of the triumphant spirit and faith that have defined African-American music and people. Bullock takes the audience on a musical journey from West Africa, through the middle passage, to the North American shores where the African-American culture was forged. Through songs, stories, and performance, this participatory program lets the audience experience the beauty, joy, and power of this music and culture.

**Dr. Kathy Bullock** is an educator, scholar, singer, accompanist, arranger and choral conductor who specializes in gospel music, spirituals and classical works by composers from the African diaspora. A Professor Emerita of Music from Berea College in Berea, Kentucky, she is currently teaching, performing, and conducting workshops and other programs on African American music throughout the United States, Europe, and Africa.

**Register for Kathy Bullock by January 18**

Last year, Kathy Bullock led several wildly popular singing workshops for the Conference. Here's a chance to join her if you missed it - or want to sing with her again!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**



Sign up for camp at [www.HortonCenter.org](http://www.HortonCenter.org) TODAY!

**AT HORTON CENTER!**  
It's time to sign up for a week (or more) at Horton Center! Take a look at our summer schedule with camps for all ages **HERE**.  
Questions? Give Tivvi a call!

Contact Tivvi (Horton Center Executive Director)

email: [tpare@nhcucc.org](mailto:tpare@nhcucc.org), phone: 603-545-9660 Visit [www.hortoncenter.org](http://www.hortoncenter.org) for more information.

Join our **mailing list** to be included in our seasonal newsletter. Fall 2023 Edition is **HERE**.

Follow us on Instagram ([@hortoncenter](https://www.instagram.com/hortoncenter)) and Facebook ([Horton Center Official FB Site](https://www.facebook.com/HortonCenterOfficialFB))

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2024 AT NOON**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**JOIN POOR AND IMPACTED PEOPLE, CLERGY, AND ADVOCATES IN YOUR STATE!**

**MASS POOR PEOPLE'S & LOW-WAGE WORKERS' STATE HOUSE ASSEMBLIES & TO THE POLLS**

**A DAY OF NATIONALLY-COORDINATED, SIMULTANEOUS DIRECT ACTION ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

**CALLING ALL PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN & DEMAND**

**LIVING WAGES, HEALTHCARE, VOTING RIGHTS & STOPPING VOTER SUPPRESSION, EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL, WORKER/LABOR RIGHTS, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, ACCESS TO HOUSING, FULLY-FUNDED PUBLIC EDUCATION, ABOLISHING POVERTY, AND THE UNITY OF LOVE, NOT THE DIVISION OF HATE.**

**BRING THE DEMANDS OF 140 MILLION POOR & LOW-WEALTH PEOPLE DIRECTLY TO LAWMAKERS AT STATE CAPITOLS. EVERYBODY IN, NOBODY OUT!**

**WE MUST CHALLENGE POVERTY BEING THE 4TH LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN THIS COUNTRY!**

**WE MUST ACTIVATE 85 MILLION POOR & LOW-WEALTH ELIGIBLE VOTERS!**

**WE WON'T BE SILENT ANYMORE!**



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



Justice and Witness Ministries  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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 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.



**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.”

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

We pray for all affected by the ongoing work and recovery from 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 violence and hate, including Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid, and Tahseen Ali Ahmad.

Reverend Doctor Harry R. Flad died peacefully on Saturday evening, December 30th, 2023 .Please keep all of Rev. Dr. Flad's family, friends, and colleagues in your prayers.

Reverend Richard White died peacefully last Tuesday evening, January 2nd, 2024. Please keep all of Rev. White's family, friends, and colleagues in your prayers.

## 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!)



### Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

January 1st  
Erin Reardon

January 3rd  
Debbie Ingram

January 7th  
Jeremy Kirk  
Peter Plagge

January 9th  
Douglas J. Cameron

### Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

January 7th  
Bill Borrer  
Debbie Ingram

January 14th  
Kurt F. Shaffert

January 17th  
Kevin E. Goldenbogen

January 24th  
Amelia C. Pitton

January 12th  
Scott Couper  
Nancy G. Devor

January 18th  
Roger C.B. Daly

January 22nd  
Joan W. Vincent

January 23rd  
Tracy Weatherhogg

January 24th  
Douglas S. Moore  
Mark D. Wilson

January 26th  
Thomas C. Kinder

January 28th  
Dereen C. Vanderlinde-Abernathy

January 29th  
Mary Hoadley



## **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



# 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](mailto: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 [lbvtc@gmail.com](mailto:lbvtc@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](#)

Connect with us



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

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