

The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ



Purpose (from the Gospel of Matthew):

To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves **Vision:**

United in Christ's love, a just world for all Mission:

United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all

Weekly E-News Winter Edition

March 21st, 2024

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Dear Friends,

Those of you who know me know that I am a devotee of public radio. Working in my kitchen or driving around the NEK, I am listening to the radio. Like many of you, I am heartbroken by the increasingly desperate reports coming from Gaza and, in these past few days, the increasingly desperate reports from Haiti. One of the things these two places have in common right now, besides horrific violence, is the risk of life-threatening famine.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is an innovative multi-partner initiative and is recognized for its nonpartisan research and recommendations worldwide. According to IPC, 1.1 million people in Gaza – fully half of the population – are experiencing catastrophic food insecurity and famine is imminent. In Haiti, UNICEF estimates that more than 1.1 million women and children are in need of nutritional assistance, a need which could quickly escalate to famine. As the parent of a teenager who eats 6 times a day, I cannot imagine the pain of watching your child suffer, and potentially die, because there is nothing to feed them.

During this Holy Week, I am planning to fast during daylight hours on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Quite frankly, I am planning this fast because I don't know what else I can concretely do. Our church and our family are offering prayers and donations already. I would welcome your company in this endeavor, whether you plan to fast for several days or for one meal or are not able to fast at all. Join me please in prayer that we can end the absolutely solvable problem of

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All slides, videos, media, info for the program, etc. are due by APRIL 1ST, 2024 per the Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

Exhibitor Form

Itinerary (DRAFT)

Hotel Information

Volunteer Form

New Workshop!!!

White Christian Nationalism with Rev. Ed Sunday Winters

We will talk about what it is. I try to share a brief timeline of historical antecedents to our current situation. Finally, we strategize ways that we can be proactive in sharing our Good News and in nurturing our democracy.

Read More Here!

New Workshop!!!!

Digital Ministry!!

Accessible Church:
Harnessing Digital Tools for
Inclusive Outreach

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Description: This workshop will explore responsible stewardship of digital tools for inclusive outreach. This presentation will explore how utilizing digital tools can increase the accessibility of your church space. We will dive into the abundance model of adding digital aspects into a congregational life regarding access to sacred space and information processing.

Read More Here!

Would you like to present at the *new* and *improved* Peacemakers Breakfast this year? Email Elise HERE (and stay tuned for more information)!!!!





This year when you make a donation or pledge to donate to Friends of the Conference in the amount of \$20, \$50, or \$65, you get the free gift of a tote bag, tee shirt, or both (respectively). These have been ordered in very limited quantities, so we have made them

available for preorder! We will reserve your gift as soon as you pledge!!!

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE HERE!!!

GAME ON!!



We are having a Church Vs. Church competition to conclude at Annual Meeting!!!

Church World Service provided so much help to us in our time of need during the flooding last year, it is our honor to be able to help fill their currently empty period pack warehouse by challenging our churches to bring more period packs than any other church to our Annual Meeting!! CWS will take it from there. The least we can do is try to help them as much as they helped us.

There are two ways to successfully do this-

You can make your own using the supplies and instructions listed

HERE!!!

You can order kits HERE!!!

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Every church who participates in this will be

eligible for a \$250 UCC matching grant!!! Read more about that HERE!!!

The MSSC has given the go-ahead for the Windham Union Association to hold an Ecclesiastical Council for Matt Deen!!!

Congratulations!



How Rev. Dr. Scott Couper and Centre Church is changing the world... or at least Brattleboro.



Meal sites feel pressure as need from hungry Vermonters doubles

At Loaves & Fishes, volunteers scramble to keep donations of dollars and ingredients on track for more hot meals

By **Annie Landenberger**

"At Loaves & Fishes, one of the region's enduring meal services for those in need, volunteer cook David Treadwell says that "the demand has doubled."

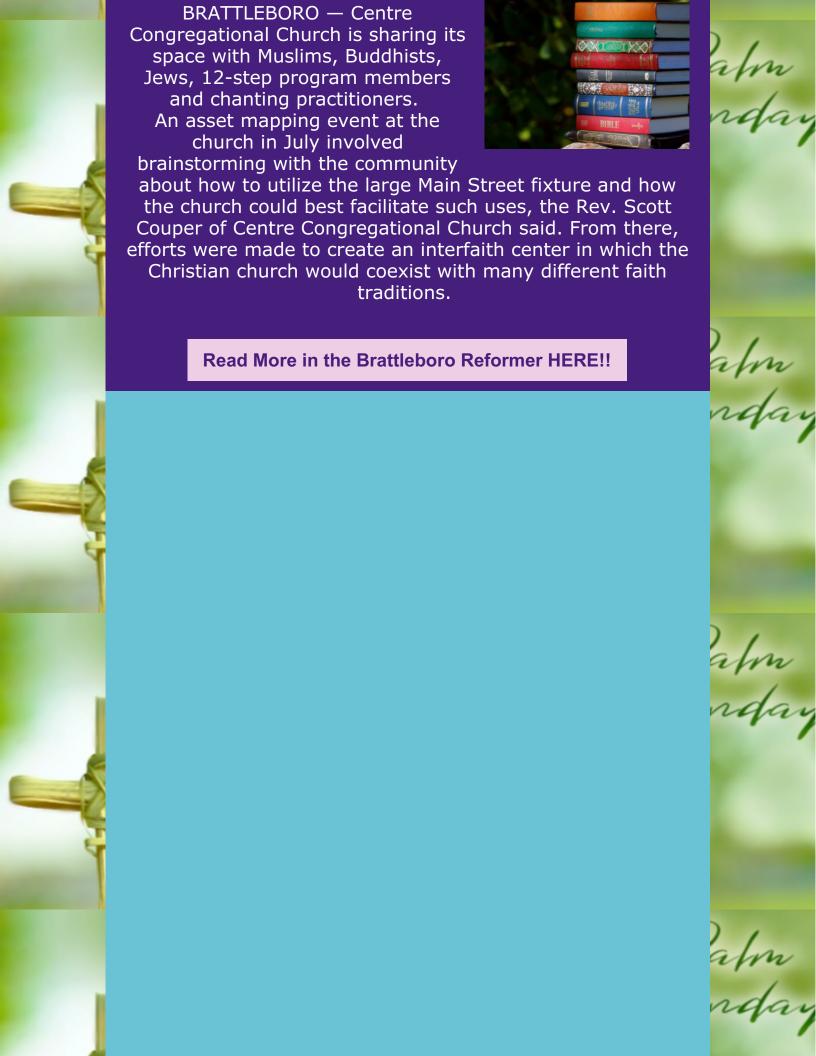
The number of meals prepared and distributed every Tuesday and Friday out of the vast kitchen, prep, serving area in the basement of Centre Congregational Church (CCC) has gone from 100 per day a year ago to 250 every Tuesday and 200 on Fridays, says Loaves & Fishes facilitator and volunteer coordinator Ruth Tilghman of St. Michael's Episcopal Church (SME)."

Read More in The Commons HERE!!

'A safe place for everybody to do

their thing':

Brattleboro church becomes interfaith center By Chris Mays, Brattleboro Reformer Feb 21, 2024





Family and the SG Family Weekend conferences are open to all - singles with or without children, couples with or without children - all ages are invited and included! There is programming for everyone. Your time on Star Island can be as busy as you would like it to be or it can be completely unscheduled. The SG1 Youth conference runs separately with its own staff and is open to 9th graders through graduating seniors. SG2 has an integrated youth program.

The Star Gathering Conference 2024 dates are:
STAR GATHERING 1 FAMILY: JULY 28 - AUGUST 4
STAR GATHERING 1 YOUTH: JULY 28 - AUGUST 4
STAR GATHERING 2 FAMILY & YOUTH: AUGUST 4 - 11
STAR GATHERING FAMILY WEEKEND: AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 2

READ MORE HERE!

Ministry21: Equipping 21st Century Leaders for Ministry in a Changing World A partnership of the Vermont and New Hampshire Conferences of the United Church of Christ



If you've attended Conference events lately, you'll have noticed that many of our churches are lively and joyful regardless of the size of the congregation. We have so much spirit, joy, and courage to offer the

communities in which we serve! We are actively engaged in the ministry Jesus did, feeding bodies and souls, working for justice and safety for marginalized peoples, resisting the powers of war and divisive hatreds, and worshiping faithfully.

To support the needs of these amazing churches for skilled leadership, our Conference is joining with our UCC neighbors in New Hampshire to develop Ministry21 — a partnership designed to help equip lay leaders for service in the Church through a three-year program of courses. Ministry21 will launch in September of 2024, bringing students together one Saturday per month to develop their skills and knowledge in preaching and worship leadership, the practical aspects of leading congregations, and pastoral tasks of caring for parishioners and engaging in ministries in the community. This program is particularly designed for licensed clergy and those potentially seeking licensure, as well as lay leaders who wish go deeper in their support of their local congregation.

alm alm nday afm nday One of the very life-giving opportunities for the local church is to take note of the gifts that are evident within the church family and encourage their development. If you are clergy or a lay-leader who has noticed the gifts of someone in your worshiping community, and you suspect they are being called to deeper learning and service within the church, please encourage them to contact Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno, the Vermont Conference Dean of Ministry21. Susie can be reached by text or phone at 802-579-8356, or via

email: Ministry21.vtconferenceucc@gmail.com



Register HERE!!!

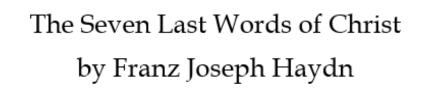
Greetings NEAUCE Community, We want YOU To Find Rest For Your Soul!

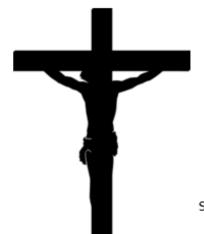
Join us in **"Keeping Sabbath Sacred"** this May at NEAUCE 2024 on the beautiful Pilgrim Pines Campus in Swanzey NH.

Registration is open for the **53rd Annual NEAUCE Conference**. Gather with your colleagues for amazing worship, a variety of specialty workshops, networking, rich discussions, creative play, and relaxing opportunities.

Our Keynote, Rev. Matt Carriker will focus on **Sabbath Practices** that will

guide us into long-term rhythms of rest amidst the busy, demanding nday schedules of our lives and ministries. In "Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives," Wayne Muller says, "Without rest, we respond from a survival mode, where everything we meet assumes a terrifying prominence... a period of rest is not simply a human psychological convenience; it is a spiritual and biological necessity." We have largely forgotten the Sabbath as a church. Jesus models a way of Sabbath as a refuge- setting aside a sanctuary in time to "disconnect from the frenzy of consumption and accomplishment and consecrate our day as an offering for healing all beings... the world aches for the generosity of a well-rested people." (Muller) Moving away from the legalistic, dreary Sabbath, Jesus invites us to reclaim the Sabbath not simply for self-care, but for the good of the church and the world. Come, explore together how this alm nday practice can offer nourishment, delight, savoring, and blessing. Also joining us is **Guest Speaker Debbie Gline Allen, SNEUCC Minister of Faith Formation.** She will invite us all to explore the implications and implementations for Christian practices of hospitality that can lead to transformational congregational ministry fully grounded in a culture of welcome and acceptance. As faith formation leaders accommodate post-pandemic shifts and changes, this intentional perspective may be just what your church needs to enliven an intergenerational focus. We are so excited to gather in person once again and meet new faces or reconnect with beloved colleagues from years in this ministry. Being a part of this three-day retreat is always magical, memorable, and transforming in so many ways. alm Come, Rest, and Reclaim Sabbath in ways that are just right for you! Kristin Putney **NEAUCE Chair** Director of Faith Formation, Youth and Families Seekonk Congregational Church, UCC Seekonk, MA 02771 774-991-1555





7 pm Wednesday, March 27th 1st Congregational Church Berlin

7 pm Friday, March 29th Memorial Baptist Church Middlebury

Singers: Martha Peck, Linda Radtke

Brian Clancy, Jose Schmidt

String Quartet: Susan Janes, Patricia Fitzgerald

Jody Racht, Melissa Perley

Music of great power, anguish, tenderness, and love

Online Boundary Training Classes 2024

For All Authorized Ministers – Licensed, Ordained & Retired

Boundary Awareness Training: Through the Lens of Clergy Wellness from the Southern New England Conference UCC

Good professional boundaries allow ministry and those who do it to thrive with health and wholeness. Through the lens of clergy wellness, authorized ministers will renew their understanding of and develop skills for maintaining boundaries in an ever-shifting ministry landscape.

Upcoming Trainings are online via Zoom:

- June 5, 2024, 9:30am-2:30pm
- September 16, 2024, 9:30am-2:30pm
- November 12 & 13, 2024, 6:30PM-8:30pm (both sessions must be attended)

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The cost for the training is: SNEUCC Clergy - \$65.00; all other Clergy -\$85.00. If you have questions regarding the training please contact Deb Holmes at **holmesd@sneucc.org** or 508-244-4399. Enkei Resolutions - online training Cost: \$60 April 10 and 11, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (PT) September 4 and 5, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (PT) https://enkei-resolutions.com/boundary-training-registration/ Leaderwise - Online via Zoom Cost: \$85 MAY 15 & MAY 16 (3:00 PM TO 6:00 PM CENTRAL) https://www.leaderwise.org/workshops-programs/boundariestraining-may24 **Convergence** – self paced online course that can be taken at any time. Cost: Certificate provided on completion – turn into the Conference office. https://www.faithlead.org/p/boundarytraining-clergy **PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc - PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES** AND MINISTERIAL SELF-CARE -Synthesizing Courses (Level 3) - MP30606 -1.5 Credits \$350 The website link is: https://www.pathwaystheological.org/ The registration link for this course is: https://www.pathwaystheological.org/index.php/programs/ministr y-preparation/ministry-preparation-tagclasses/professionalboundaries-and-ministerial-self-care Required Texts • Lebacqz, Karen, and Drickill, Joseph. (2000). Ethics and Spiritual Care: A Guide for Pastors, Chaplains, and Spiritual Directors. Abingdon Press. ISBN: 978-0-678-• Gula, Richard M. (2010). Just Ministry: Professional Ethics for Pastoral Ministers. Paulist Press. ISBN: 978-0-80910463104 For **PATHWAYS THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION, Inc.** Late Spring and Summer courses, go to the **schedule** to find out more and to sign up: Small Church Administration begins April 10, 2024 Contemporary Homiletics begins April 10, 2024 • Living the Heart of Progressive Christian Theology begins April 10, 2024 • Ethics and a Life of Meaning begins May 1, 2024 Stories of Christian Saints and Sinners begins May 8, 2024 Preaching for Special Occasions begins May 8, 2024 UCC History and Polity begins May 8, 2024 • Congregational Ministry and the Future Church begins May 15, 2024 What about the Bible begins June 1, 2024 • Variety of Belief within Christianity Today begins June 19, 2024 • Introduction to Spiritual Health (Pastoral Care) begins June 19, 2024 Practicing Our Faith in the Public Square begins June 26, 2024 • Pluralism and Religion in North America begins July 10, 2024

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Isabel Wilkerson Pulitzer Prize-winning author



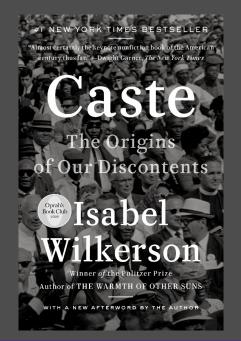
Author of Caste: The Origins of Our
Discontents
Virtual Presentation
April 28, 2024
6:00 pm
Hilton Hotel
60 Battery Street
Burlington, Vermont

The Burlington Community is honored to welcome Isabel Wilkerson, Pulitzer Prize-winning Author, to give a virtual presentation on her new book, Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents.

Please reserve an advance ticket for this event.

There will be a 30-minute presentation followed by a 30-minute Q&A.

\$45.00 Purchase Tickets





7PM-8:30PM EACH NIGHT

- 2/27/24. ONA 101 Starting the Open and Affirming Journey.
- 3/19/24. ONA 201- We're ONA, What's next?
- 4/23/24. ONA and the Bible.
- 5/28/24. Beyond The Binary Panel: The spectrum of gender.
- 6/25/24. Unpacking Attraction with the Bible — A Deep Dive into Bisexuality, Pansexuality, and Asexuality.
- 7/30/24. Navigating Ethical Non-Monogamy & the Bible: Open Relationships, Polyamory and More.

Register Here!

How to Become ONA

Greetings from Horton Center!

My name is Tivvi Pare and I am the Executive Director of Horton Center, the Outdoor Ministries site of the UCC in New Hampshire. Horton Center is an incredibly beautiful place where people of all ages come to rest, rejuvenate, reflect and relax! We have seven weeks of summer camping starting in late June and running through early

August. Campers entering 3rd grade through 2024 high school graduates come for a week at a time to explore their faith, be part of an inclusive

Christian community, try new things (rock climbing, archery, hiking, etc!), and make new friends. There are also opportunities for adults, families, and entire churches to come up to our mountaintop "thin" place!

I'd love the chance to connect with you and share more about the opportunities Horton Center holds for you, your youth, your churches and more!

Please complete this form and plan to attend an informational Zoom meeting so that I can meet you and provide more information about camp.
All are welcome at Horton Center!

Shalom,
Tivvi Pare (she/her)
Executive Director of Horton Center
tpare@nhcucc.org
603-545-9660
www.hortoncenter.org

LEARN MORE HERE!

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.

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

(Please let us know what your Congregation is up to by sending an email to <u>VermontConference@gmail.com</u>.

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



Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

March 1st
C. Michael Caldwell

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

March 2nd



Larrimore C Crockett Amy Davin

March 3rd
Catherine a. Cadieux

March 4th
Joseph Will

March 5th SallyAnn Silfies

March 9th Chris Heintz Elisa Lucozzi

March 11th Linda L. Kulas

March 12th Josh Sharp

March 13th Kevin E. Goldenbogen

March 22nd Susan Cooke Kittredge

March 23rd
David Andrews
Caryne Eskridge
Hal C. Miller III

March 25th
Jeffrey W. Cornwell
Kathy W. Eddy
Katelyn Macrae

March 1st Jessica Moore

March 5th
Steve Longley

March 9th Marcia Dorey

March 17th Mark Blank alm nday

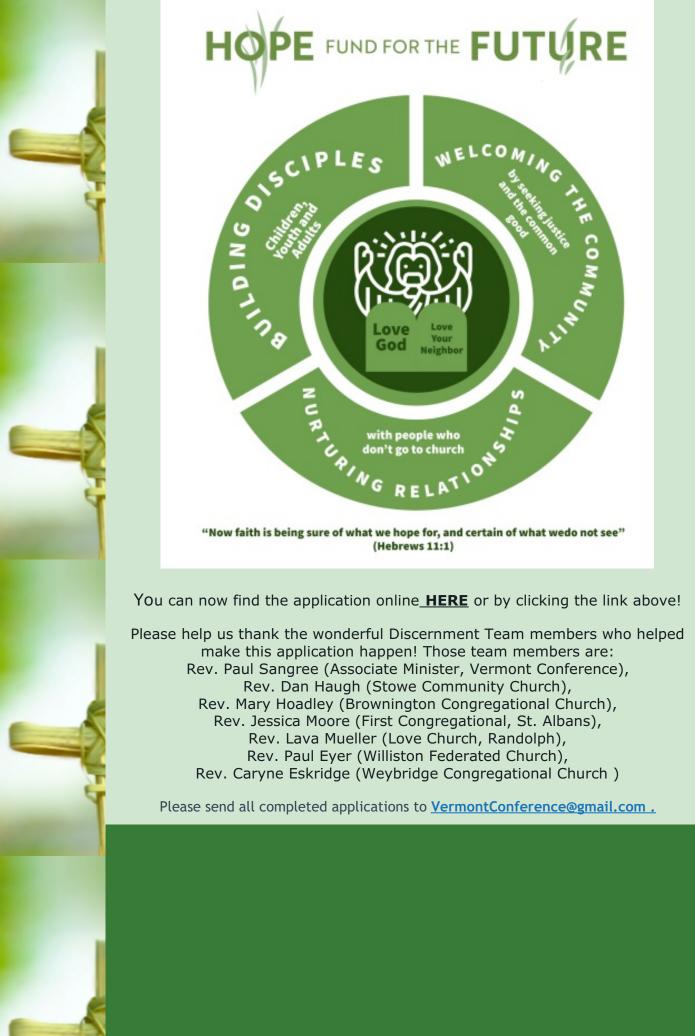
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Farewell, Welcome and Blessings
Pastoral Transitions since the 2022 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting

Do you or your church want to apply for a Hope Fund grant?

For the most up to date information click here



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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

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light Seeks Coordinator

Job Description-Coordinator
Vermont Interfaith Power & Light

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light (VTIPL) is a non-profit organization that provides a religious response to climate change via education, advocacy and working with faith and spiritual

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communities and their members to reduce their carbon emissions and energy costs.

Read More Here!



WE'RE HIRING!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

If you have a passion for young people, outdoor recreation and building a community of faith, we should talk!

Stowe Community Church is seeking a 10 hours/week, part-time Youth Activities

Coordinator who is ready to build on a solid foundation and bring new life to the growing ministries of SCC. Duties include developing inspiring and engaging service projects, social outings, bible studies for students 6th grades and up...and maybe a trip to the mountain every once in a while.

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.



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 Pond Village Church in Brookfield is seeking a church musician willing to play for our 10am service on Sunday mornings.

Contact: Millie Reynolds, Pastor at (802) 431-3043 or minedgoof@comcast.net

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@vergennesucc.org.

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

https://www.vergennesucc.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

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For the latest news click here

The Online Learning Platform of the United Church of Christ

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How to Contact Vermont Conference Staff

Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak llbvtc@gmail.com
Associate Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangreesangreepucc@gmail.com
Office Administrator: Elise Foster vermontconference@gmail.com
Ministries Coordinator: Rev. Jackie Lingelbach vtconmincoor@gmail.com
Bookkeeper: Tanya Frazier vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com

DEADLINE for E-Kit News must be received by **Tuesday of each week**. Please send any and all information to <u>vermontconference@gmail.com</u>.

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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