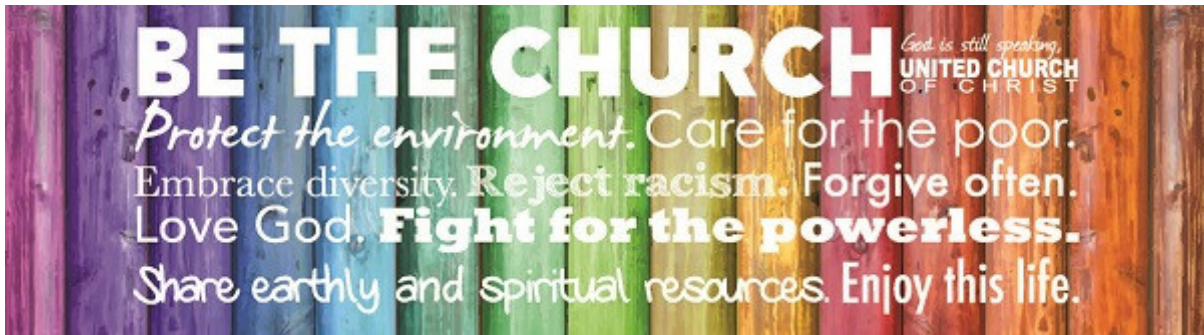


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Volume 9. No. 5

April 6, 2017

Greetings!

The Vermont Conference sends this newsletter of events of interest to Conference members. This newsletter provides highlights of events sponsored by the Conference, the Associations and local churches as well as regional, national and other events of interest.

This newsletter is emailed on the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month. Please send us your events by emailing vtconference@vtcucc.org with the following information: Event Name & Brief Description, Date/Time, Location (complete address please), Contact Information, if any (name, phone and/or email).

Next Issue:

May 4, 2017

Event items are due that day, by 9:00 am.



Conference Events Events and Meetings

Annual Meeting
Lake Morey Resort
April 28 & 29

Dear UCCers Concerned about Our Climate,

In This Issue

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Join Our Mailing Lists!

Association Events Events and Meetings

Highlight

222nd Annual Meeting of the
Vermont Conference, UCC

The 222nd Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, UCC will take place April 28-29, 2017 at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee.

There are 2 rooms left!

You can book your room now by calling Lake Morey Resort at 800-423-1211 and asking for the **"Vermont Conference Annual Meeting" group rate.**

Whether it is the undoing of the Clean Power Plan, the greenlighting of the Keystone XL pipeline, or the threatened cuts to the EPA, there are a host of issues that could cause many of us to throw our hands up in despair and decide not to act. Still, there are two reasons that I find myself motivated to do all that I can to support the April 29th climate march in Washington, DC. The first is simply "love." In addressing our climate, I am always motivated by what I call the Three Great Loves: love of neighbor, love of children, and love of creation. It is impossible for me to think of my two daughters and not want to march.

My second motivation is captured in a famous quote from Bayard Rustin, the lead organizer behind the 1963 March on Washington. Rustin once said, "The proof that one truly believes is in action." For me, marching is a spiritual practice. It is a way of giving flesh to my deepest convictions, to my faith. In this instance, it is proof that God is still at work and a better world is possible, despite the bleakness of our present reality.

The Climate March on April 29th is being organized by the same broad coalition of groups that brought together more than 400,000 people for the 2014 climate march in New York City. The UCC Council for Climate Justice and the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries are official co-sponsors for the DC march. I invite you to join a strong and vibrant UCC presence at this march. [Sign-up now](#)

With gratitude for each of you,

Rev. Brooks Berndt
Minister for Environmental Justice
Sign Up for The Pollinator: The UCC Environmental Justice Newsletter

Events at Churches Education, Dinners, Concerts, More

Community Supper

Every Friday, 6 pm at the United Church of South Royalton

United Church of Dorset and East Rupert

Registration Deadline: Online at <http://tinyurl.com/vtcam2017> by April 20, 2017.

Everyone-delegates, authorized ministers, church members-is welcome and invited to the 222nd Annual Meeting!

Regional and National

Workshops, Retreats, Education, More

Interested in the intersections of theology, faith, and disability?

The 2017 Summer Institute on Theology and Disability will be held at Azusa Pacific University, June 5-8, and hosted by Azusa Pacific University in partnership with Fuller Theological Seminary. Highlights: A multi-faith conference that includes scholars, clergy, seminarians, laity, and people involved in inclusive faith supports, including people with disabilities and their families in all of those roles. We draw about 150 people from North America and other countries around the world. Planned and led by faculty who are widely known for their work in this area with new plenary speakers invited each year. Videos from previous Institutes are on the website below. Workshops led by Institute participants. The Call for Workshops for 2017 is at the website below. Deadline: January 1, 2017 A Cooperative Resource Exhibit featuring books, A/V materials and other resources related to

Spring Rummage Sale April 29 at 8:30 am. Donations will be accepted from Monday, April 24th through Wednesday, April 26th, from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m., and Thursday, April 27th until noon. Please note, we cannot accept donations after noon on Thursday. The church is located at 143 Church Street, off Route 30 in Dorset. Call 867-2260 with questions or for more information.

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**The United Congregational Church of Orford UCC** is pleased to announce hosting a pilot dental clinic on three different months in the coming months beginning in March. Please read and take note.

#### Free Oral Health Screening For Adults

Upper Valley Smiles for Life provides preventative oral health screening, education, and fluoride varnish to adults. Services are provided by a licensed dental hygienist. This pilot program is available to all Upper Valley adults and will provide services at up to four Upper Valley locations between March and August 2017.

United Congregational Church, Orford, NH

May 11, 2017  
July 20, 2017

For more information, schedule updates, and to make an appointment, please contact Sally Edson at 603-448-1558 orsedson@gcsc.org

Sponsored by the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Community Health, and Dr. Christopher D. Baker, DMD.

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About Us

The Vermont Conference is about "Equipping congregations for Christ's ministry and mission today and tomorrow".

OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) contribution to the Vermont Conference makes this email newsletter and the numerous programs available to you and your church. The "Friends of the Conference" helps as well.

disability, any theological discipline, and ministry. A chance for authors and publishers to promote their resources in this area to a very interested audience. Contact us for an Exhibit Entry Form. We will also distribute information about new resources to over 1000 people, organizations, and networks. A Ph.D. seminar for graduate students doing work in this area, led by Hans Reinders and other faculty. A Jean Vanier Emerging Scholar Plenary Competition. See website. For more information, visit the [website](#), contact Bill Gaventa, and/or "like" our [Facebook page](#) for information and announcements as plans develop.

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Perhaps you would be a [Friend of the Conference](#). Have you considered remembering the Vermont Conference in your will? You could leave a lasting legacy which would support the good works of the Conference and our churches. Be in touch with me for the best way for that. You can also donate now.



Jim Thomas  
Vermont Conference, UCC