



# Vermont Conference, UCC Electronic Keeping in Touch

EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONS FOR CHRIST'S  
MINISTRY AND MISSION TODAY AND TOMORROW

E-Kit

April 12, 2017

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## Vermont Conference News

Lynn Bujnak will be worshipping at the Barre Congregational Church

Pam Lucas will be leading worship at the First Congregational Church in Thetford

Jim Thomas will be leading worship at the First Congregational Church of Randolph in Randolph Center

God is still speaking,  
**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



## Greetings!

*When I was in seminary one of my favorite experiences was participating in the Great Easter Vigil. The service began around 7:00pm on the Saturday before Easter in the completely dark chapel with music and silence. Then we walked through the campus experiencing the witness of the Word in creation, exodus, the prophets, exile, the promise of the Son and his birth, life, ministry and*



*death on a cross. Just before midnight we would be standing in front of the chapel for a baptism (thank heavens for our married student colleagues!) and the renewal of our own baptismal vows. The doors to the chapel were then flung open, the sanctuary warm and bright and filled with flowers. We entered singing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."*

*There was something deep and holy about this service. It put so many parts of the Christian faith and experience in a profound context. Later that morning we may have traveled to the churches where we were serving as student pastors tired, but we were also "lost in wonder, love and praise."*

*What is it that touches you or connects you to the Mystery during this Holy Week? Is it one of the services or Holy Communion? Is it a Good Friday walk or the songs and hymns of the season? Do you keep vigil in the Garden? Do you fast? Do you enter in to times of silent contemplation or put your faith into action through service? For pastors it is often hard to find the time to let this week wash over us while preparing and leading so many services. But, we can be surprised by Grace, awash with the wonder of God whether we are leading or worshipping.*

*However you commemorate, contemplate and enter in to this Holy Week, blessings on your journey. May you be touched and transformed and renewed in hope.*

*In peace,  
Lynn*

## Annual Meeting Registration Closes Soon!

[UCC News and Updates](#)

**Annual Meeting registrations are due on April 18!**

UCC leaders grieve for victims of Palm Sunday attacks in Egypt

If you have not yet registered, do so now to avoid a \$25 late fee. The late fee goes into effect after April 18.

**NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER APRIL 22nd!**

Chicago new church start attracts national attention before first worship service

As support for sanctuary movement grows in UCC, questions arise

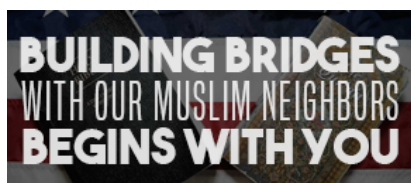
Commentary: Accessible and Affordable Healthcare: It's a Moral Imperative

UCC among 100 religious groups supporting limits to church political activity



Click image to read about Be The Church

[More UCC news](#)



Click image for more information.



### Food for Thought

Focus Scripture  
John 20:1-18

**George Eliot, 19th century**

**"It seems to me we can never give up longing and wishing while we are thoroughly alive. There are certain things we feel to be beautiful and good, and we must hunger after them. "**

**Emily Dickinson. 19th century**

**"To live is so startling it leaves little time for anything else."**

[Click here to register](#)

[Click here for an interview with Rev. Steve Blackmer, co-presenter of our environmental workshop.](#)

[Keep up to date on Annual Meeting. Click Here!](#)

Make sure to read the Annual Meeting blog to find the latest news.

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



A self-supporting association of, by and for musicians serving UCC churches across the United States

<http://uccma.org/Conference-2017>

Link to the conference brochure:

[https://uccma.wildapricot.org/resources/Pictures/UCCMA%202017%20Brochure-TriFold\\_HR.pdf](https://uccma.wildapricot.org/resources/Pictures/UCCMA%202017%20Brochure-TriFold_HR.pdf)

### New England Women Ministers Association Spring Retreat & Annual Meeting

Singing God's Song in Uncertain Times Tuesday, May 16 - Thursday, May 18, 2017  
Miramar Retreat Center: 121 Park St. Duxbury, MA 02331 Renewing our Bodies & Souls - Listening to our Muse Celebrating Our Lives as Sisters in Ministry

[For more information click here...](#)

[Retreat Registration Form click here...](#)

The Norwich Congregational Church, UCC will host their 3rd annual Children's Choir Festival on Sunday, May 7 beginning at 2:00 and concluding with a Festival Concert at 6:00.

**Mother Teresa, 20th century**

**"Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ risen."**

**John Paul II, 20th century**

**"Do not abandon yourselves to despair....We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song."**

**Arundhati Roy, 21st century**

**"Not only is another world possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."**

**Frederick Buechner, 20th century**

**"It has always struck me as remarkable that when the writers of the four Gospels come to the most important part of the story they have to tell, they tell it in whispers. The part I mean, of course, is the part about the resurrection."**

**Carolyn Heilbrun, 20th century**

**"Power consists in deciding which story shall be told."**

**Martin Luther, 16th century**

**"Be thou comforted, little dog, Thou too in Resurrection shall have a little golden tail."**

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**A Great Opportunity**

**Our conference is in need of a Disaster Response Coordinator. There is training and support available for the position. If you wish to learn more, please contact me.**

Lynn [bujnakl@vtcucc.org](mailto:bujnakl@vtcucc.org),  
802-728-4999.

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Hello, Friends at the Vermont Conference.

Young singers from other churches are invited to join in, either as part of existing choirs or in groups as small as 2 or 3. All that is needed for preparation is learning four main anthems for the festival choir. In addition, we are again inviting individual choirs to offer an anthem of their own to round out our program. We want to make this festival as accessible as possible for young people who love to sing. The concert will include 2 congregational hymns. We will be serving a pizza dinner for the kids prior to the performance.

For more information about the festival anthems, or questions about how to participate, please contact our choir director, Kathy Sherlock-Green at [kathy@mailgreen.us](mailto:kathy@mailgreen.us)

Norwich Congregational Church, UCC  
15 Church St.  
Norwich, VT 05055

**The Climate March**

Dear UCCers Concerned about Our Climate,

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.

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 to join the UCC contingent and receive updates in preparation for the march.

With gratitude for each of you,  
Rev. Brooks Berndt  
Minister for Environmental Justice

Sign-up now to join the UCC contingent and receive updates in preparation for the march.

[For more information read here...](#)

**Here's an invitation to a meaningful musical experience being presented on Friday, April 14, at the United Community Church, St. Johnsbury.**

I am Pastor of the Orient Congregational Church, UCC, on the eastern end of Long Island, Suffolk Association, New York Conference.

We are celebrating our 300th Anniversary this year. We are planning events all year, including a big Anniversary Event that will take place in August.

I am looking for former ministers, spouses, children, grandchildren, etc so they may be invited to join us for our big weekend.

With blessings,  
Ann Van Cleef

[Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef](#)  
Pastor, Orient Congregational Church, UCC  
Registrar, Suffolk Association  
Chair, Commission on Ministry,  
NY Conference  
(631) 323-2665

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**FREE ORGAN!**

The Second Congregational Church is Londonderry has a Rodgers 'windless' (electric) organ that needs a home. All you have to do is come and pick it up! Also included are the two organ speakers. This is a double console organ that has served us well, standard peddles, etc. Questions and or interest can be directed to [Rev. Laurie Krooss](#), or 802-824-6453.

**Resources from  
WorshipWell**

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:



[worshipwell.church](http://worshipwell.church)

Joseph Haydn's powerful and emotional work, The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross is a decidedly Christian work and is presented in conjunction with the tradition of Good Friday. But this performance is presented as a cultural experience and not as worship, per se, and it is appropriate for people of any, or no, faith.

The concert is produced by Main St. Arts at North, which is a presenting partner with Catamount Arts. As such, the public may buy advance tickets (\$10) through Catamount Arts, but everyone is invited to attend by donation at the door. Students are always free.

**Clergy and retired clergy personal retreat & respite in the southern Green Mountains!**

**As part of a memorial to Rev. Paul & Dorothy Alberti (retired ELCA minister and wife and much beloved Associate members of Second Congregational Church in Londonderry) The Blue Gentian Lodge in Londonderry, VT, owned by Paul and Dorothy's son and daughter-in-law, are offering lodging at the Blue Gentian Lodge for \$25 per night (single or double occupancy) to clergy and retired clergy as a personal retreat & respite from April 17-May 25th.**

**For more information or questions please contact:**

**Blue Gentian Lodge  
Lisa Sicotte & Ken Alberti  
289 Magic Mountain Access  
Londonderry, VT 05148  
[www.bluegentian.com](http://www.bluegentian.com)  
[BlueGentian@comcast.net](mailto:BlueGentian@comcast.net)  
802-824-5908**



**Thank You for Reading**



**An Open and Affirming Conference**  
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