



# Vermont Conference, UCC Electronic Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

April 5, 2017

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## Vermont Conference News

Lynn Bujnak will be worshipping  
at the Barre Congregational  
Church

Pam Lucas will be worshipping in  
West Brattleboro and attending  
the Search Committee meeting

Jim Thomas will be worshipping  
at his home church the  
Federated Church of Rochester

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



[UCC News and Updates](#)

## Greetings!

*Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray the Lord me soul to keep.  
If I die before I wake,  
I pray the Lord my soul to take.  
Amen*

In this season of Lent - week by week we have been eavesdropping on conversations with Jesus. These conversations were with individuals walking in darkness - yet who were seeking light.

A man seeking life beyond the law learns what it means to be born again...

A woman marginalized times three - by gender, ethnicity and reputation - seeks affirmation - is affirmed as a precious child of God - recognizes the Messiah and becomes an evangelist!

A man - blind from birth - receives sight - only to be driven out of the Temple testifying to the one who opens the eyes of those who cannot see.

A man who dies, was buried and who rose to a second chance at life...

All prelude to moving into this coming week where people - great and small - will be making a choice between life and death.

What caused these people to be ready - at that particular moment in time - to be open to the

Buffalo congregation offers immigrants refuge and resources to start over in Canada

Denominational leaders offer prayers for UUA during a time of transition

First Virginia Kreyer scholarship 'a blessing' to Michigan seminarian

Commentary: Republic of Fear

Michigan congregation's 'Blessing Bags' bless others at Easter



Click image to read about Be The Church

[More UCC news](#)



Click image for more information.



**Food for Thought**

**Focus Scripture**  
**Matthew 26:14-27:66**

**Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov, 19th century**

gift of light and life that was right before their eyes?

Every single day - every one of us who wakes us - wakes up to new life - an opportunity to make different choices - to see new possibilities for living and being - to experience freedom from labels - to find the courage to choose the way of life over the ways of death.

***'Morning by morning God wakens - wakens my ears to listen as those who are taught.'* (Isaiah 50:4b)**

It means paying attention! Whether being sent out from worship hunting for signs of hope - or gathered on Monday to ponder the scriptures for the coming Sunday so that they are echoing in our ears all week - or gathering for Sermon talkbacks so that together we grow more deeply into the Word - or a sermon followed by reflections in real time during worship.

What about the congregation who receives a Word to Live By each week and spends time practicing that Word in the day to day world. Or the congregation who receives homework each week to ponder in small groups as they unpack the Word as it lives and breathes into their Monday through Saturday lives?

***'Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God.'* (1 Chron. 22:19a)**

These examples of seeking God in all times, places, persons and circumstances are real examples of what is happening in some of our churches right here in Vermont. And new life is blossoming among them and bursting out their doors into the world!

There is an earlier version of that child's prayer...perhaps it should be on our lips each day we awake.

Joseph Addison wrote in the Spectator in March of 1711 -

*When I lay me down to sleep,  
I recommend myself to [God's] care;  
When I awake,*

**"What is hell? I maintain that it is the suffering of being unable to love."**

**William Wilberforce,  
19th century**

**"You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know."**

**Attributed to Rabbi Tarfon and the Talmud (commentary on Micah 6:8)**

**"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Act justly now. Love mercy now. Walk humbly now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it."**

**Mark Twain, 19th century**

**"Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it."**

**Blood-stained kindergarten leaflet with day's prayer (when 4 girls were killed in church bombing in Birmingham in 1963)**

**"Dear God, we are sorry for the times we were so unkind."**

**Albert Camus, 20th century**

**"Great ideas, it has been said, come into the world as quietly as doves. Perhaps, then, if we listen attentively, we shall hear**

*I give myself to God's] direction.*

*Amen*

Pam Lucas

## **Annual Meeting Rooms Almost Gone!**

**Only 3 rooms are left at Lake Morey Resort!**

Find a roommate and reserve your room by calling Lake Morey Resort at 800-423-1211 and asking for the Vermont Conference group rate of \$99+tax.



[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.

**Registration is open!**  
[Click here to register](#)

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

## **Stepping Forward Together: Advancing Equity and Cultural Competency to Improve Population Health** by Vermont Care Partners

Join us for this timely and essential two day discussion about health care equity and the promotion of population health for Vermonters. The two days will be filled with national, regional and local experts sharing their knowledge and experiences about health care, diversity, culture and how to best support the health of Vermonters.

[More Information and Registration...](#)

## **Regarding Using Copyrighted or Licensed Materials**

Please do all that you can to communicate to Local Churches that if they have any portion of the poem "The Dash" by Linda Ellis included in

**amid the uproar of empires  
and nations a faint flutter  
of wings, a gentle stirring  
of life and hope."**

**Eudora Welty, 20th  
century**

**"People are mostly layers  
of violence and tenderness  
wrapped like bulbs, and it  
is difficult to say what  
makes them onions or  
hyacinths."**

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 20th  
century, as he was taken  
to his death**

**"This is the end, but for me  
the beginning of life."**

**William E. Gladstone,  
19th century**

**"We look forward to the  
time when the Power of  
Love will replace the Love  
of Power. Then will our  
world know the blessings  
of peace."**

~~~~~

## **Two Great Opportunities!**

**Our conference is in need of a  
new Open and Affirming  
Consultant and a Disaster  
Response Coordinator. Training  
and support available for each  
position. If you wish to learn  
more, please contact me.**

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

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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,

their hard copy or online publications, including  
websites, Facebook, Instagram, etc. they are at  
risk of being threatened with a copyright  
enforcement action by The Dash Management,  
the company that enforces the copyright. This  
company essentially makes a living by finding  
copyright violations and threatening a lawsuit.  
Publishing any portion of any work without  
permission may result in a church's liability for  
statutory damages, which are generally not  
covered by insurance. Properly attributing the  
work is not a substitute for getting a license  
(permission) from the copyright owner, and  
copyright owners are entitled to enforce their  
copyrights. We have discussed this particular  
poem before as several of our churches have  
fallen victim to it, and more are continuing to  
do so. Thanks.

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## **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.

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

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)



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



**Thank You for Reading**  
**An Open and Affirming Conference**  
[For the E-Kit Archive](#)

