



# Vermont Conference, UCC Electronic Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

Jan. 25, 2017

## Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

[Our Calendar](#)

[Directory](#)

[Staff](#)

[Summer Camp](#)

[Vt School of Ministry](#)

[Annual Meeting Page](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

## In This Issue

[UCC News & Updates](#)

[Food for Thought](#)

Donate Online

## Vermont Conference News

Lynn Bujnak will be worshipping  
at her home church in Barre

Pam Lucas will be worshipping in  
Dummerston

Jim Thomas will be worshipping  
in Bridgewater

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



[UCC News and Updates](#)



I was hungry and  
you gave me no  
food, I was thirsty  
and you gave me  
nothing to drink,  
43 I was a stranger  
and you did not  
welcome me,

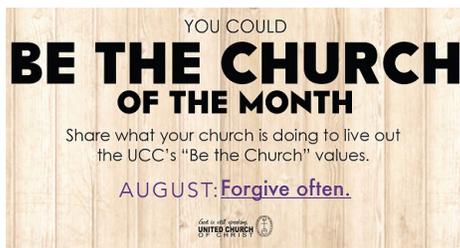
naked and you did not give me clothing,  
sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when  
was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or  
a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and  
did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will  
answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you  
did not do it to one of the least of these,  
you did not do it to me.'

(Matthew 25:42-45)

Dear Friends,

As the first few executive orders are  
written by our new president, as  
confirmation hearings are held for cabinet  
positions, as Planned Parenthood is  
defunded, as steps are taken to dismantle  
the Affordable Care Act, as financial  
support is withdrawn for the Arts and  
Science, as information about climate  
change, lgbtq resources, care for the  
differently abled disappear from the White  
House website, we are facing a moral  
challenge. Add to this the rise of hate  
speech and violence directed at women,  
Black and Brown people, Muslims, Jews



[Click image to read about Be The Church](#)

Broken-down bus doesn't slow Kansas marchers, thanks to host church

600 marchers experience UCC extravagant welcome in Washington D.C.

ONA Coalition plans 45th anniversary celebration at General Synod

Women's Marchers around the country celebrate call for change

Wisconsin Conference contingent 'Listening & Witnessing' in Washington D.C.

UCC, DOC leadership condemn threats against Jewish centers

Nationwide climate vigils on inauguration weekend renew commitment to Earth care

Dorhauer named to Center for American Progress list of faith leaders to watch in 2017

Commentary: Keep It Moving

[More UCC news](#)



[Click image for more information.](#)

and we begin to understand that this is more than just a shift from one political ideology to another, from Democratic to Republican priorities.

The seriousness of the concerns is so great that literally millions of people participated in last Saturday's Women's March from around the world. Those of us who gathered in Montpelier were part of the largest such gathering in the history of Vermont. This was a beginning response, filled with energy and hope, but by no means the only one necessary.

If this all sounds "political" as you read it, consider the passage above from the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew. The care for the hungry, strangers, poor, sick, imprisoned is a moral imperative and as disciples of Jesus Christ we cannot ignore policies that do the exact opposite of Jesus' command. Becoming active and engaged in the public realm is taking seriously Jesus' call to follow Him.

So, here's some of the things I will do: I will continue to monitor actions that disenfranchise the most marginal of our society, I will regularly contact my senators and representatives as well as chairs of various House and Senate committees to express my concerns and wishes, I will stay in contact with partners within the Church, within Interfaith Circles and with those who do not identify as religious but share the same concerns, I will speak out, I will remind myself and others that God promises us courage in the struggle for justice and peace and love really does trump hate.

In peace and hope,  
Lynn

**[It's UCC Yearbook Time!](#)**

The United Church of Christ's annual Yearbook is the central reference point for the UCC for information about churches,

Care for the poor.

## **Food for Thought**

### **Focus Scripture Matthew 4:12-23**

#### **Pope Francis I, 21st century**

**"Find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world."**

#### **Helen Keller, 20th century**

**"I must not just live my life; I will not just spend my life. I will invest my life."**

#### **Francis de Sales, 16th century**

**"In the quest to know God, may we do ordinary things extraordinarily well."**

#### **Barack Obama, 21st century**

**"A change is brought about because ordinary people do extraordinary things."**

#### **Donald Miller, Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality, 21st century**

**"The trouble with deep belief is that it costs something And there is something inside me, some selfish beast of a subtle thing that doesn't like the truth at all because it carries responsibility, and if I actually believe these things I have to do something about them. It is so, so cumbersome to believe anything. And it isn't cool."**

#### **Madeleine L'Engle, 20th century**

ministers and other data the UCC uses to better understand the health of our denomination and identify trends as we all plan for the future.

The UCC Yearbook relies upon all UCC churches, associations and conferences to submit their statistical information at the beginning of each year so the reference data is as accurate as possible. Using the UCC Data Hub, churches may upload their information directly for the Yearbook.

The Vermont Conference asks that every church in our Conference participate in the UCC Yearbook information submission effort. Each church should designate one person to be responsible for this effort and notify Jesse Davis at the Vermont Conference so he can be a resource to them. Jesse will be in contact with these designated people as the Yearbook process moves forward. The UCC Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD) has made resources available to take you step by step through the data upload process in the UCC Data Hub.

You can access the 2017 Yearbook Instructions and video tutorials at: [www.ucc.org/research\\_yearbook](http://www.ucc.org/research_yearbook)

The deadline for uploading church information to the UCC Data Hub is March 8, 2017.

If you are the designated Yearbook person and have questions, please contact the Vermont Conference Ministries Coordinator Jesse Davis at [davisj@vtcucc.org](mailto:davisj@vtcucc.org) or 802-728-4999.

Thank you!

## **Save the Date for Annual Meeting**

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



**"We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it."**

**e.e. cummings, 20th century**

**"Bon Dieu! may I some day do something truly great. amen."**

**Oliver Wendell Holmes, 19th century**

**"Alas for those who never sing and die with all their music left in them."**

**John Buchanan, 21st century**

**"The world and the church are changing more rapidly than we can comprehend some things are the same: the world and the church desperately need our energy, imagination, passion, impatience, intelligence, and love one of the great biblical themes is that God calls all of us to walk into the future without knowing exactly where we are headed, to let go of old securities and certainties and trust the God who promises to be with us wherever we go."**

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All members of the Vermont Conference -- church members, delegates, Members in Discernment and authorized ministers are heartily encouraged to attend!

**There is a group rate available at Lake Morey Resort.**

Make sure to tell their reservation agent that you are attending the Vermont Conference, UCC Annual Meeting to get the group rate of \$99 (\$107.91 inclusive). **Call Lake Morey Resort at 800-423-1211.**

### **Information for Resolutions**

The deadline for resolutions to be presented, discussed and voted upon at the Annual Meeting in April 2017 has passed. Information for the submittal of emergency resolutions and resolutions to be discussed, but not voted upon, at the April 2017 Annual Meeting:

1. Any emergency resolution should be submitted to the Board of Directors no later than April 21, 2017.
2. Resolutions to be presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting, but to be discussed and voted at the 2018 Annual meeting should be submitted by March 22, 2017.

In addition, there is a document which outlines the format in which the resolutions should be presented. Please contact Jesse Davis for all pertinent documents at [Davisj@vtcucc.org](mailto:Davisj@vtcucc.org)

### **A Vermont Conference Continuing Education Offering**

**PASTORING CHALLENGING PARISHIONERS:  
A Mental and Relational Health Perspective**

As Pastors, we love our parishioners, each and every one. But sometimes, there are those dear ones who challenge us: pastorally, relationally, in committee meetings, in relationships with other parishioners, and with staff. Sometimes the challenges are so great that we wish we had a model of understanding and a



## Sunday School Coordinator

Williston Federated Church seeks a Sunday School Coordinator.

Plan and supervise Sunday School for children aged 3 years through Senior High. Recruit, train, and support teachers and other volunteers in Sunday School program. The Sunday School Coordinator will serve as a consistent and welcoming presence on Sunday mornings. This individual will coordinate and oversee our Christian Education Program and assist with Sunday School teaching when needed.

For a job description and to apply, Email [Office@steeple.org](mailto:Office@steeple.org) at the Williston Federated Church.

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You are invited to join the Vermont Conference UCC in Chandler Music Hall for Vermont Pride Theater's sixth annual winter benefit on Saturday January 28th: the first New England production of Topher Payne's prize-winning new play Perfect Arrangement. Proceeds from this staged reading will go to the civil rights work of GLBTQ Legal Advocates Defenders ([www.glad.org](http://www.glad.org)). [More information here...](#)

method for engaging in pastorally effective ways. This workshop is designed to give some conceptual models for understanding challenging folks from a mental and relational health perspective. Through small group discussion and role play, participants will have opportunities to discuss these models and to practice effective ways to engage.

February 22, 2017

10:00am - 3:00pm

Bethany Church - Randolph, Vermont

\$15.00 - Lunch included

[Click Here to Register](#)

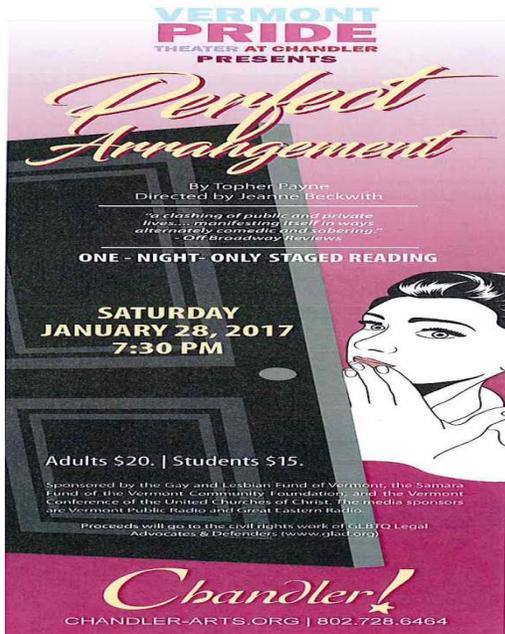
## FACILITATOR

The Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola is the Pastor of the First Congregational/Puffer UM Church in Morrissville. She holds a PhD. in psychology, and before her ordination eight years ago, was a clinical psychologist in hospital and private practice for more than 20 years. Her specialty areas included sequelae of severe childhood abuse in teens and adults, eating disorders, and women's mental health. She has also given papers and workshops on working with challenging clients in the therapy relationship, women and substance abuse; and is published in the areas of the sequelae of incest, and rethinking labels for severe personality disorders.

## New Hampshire School of Ministry to offer Pastoral Care Course

Beginning in February 2017, the Rev. Dr. David B. Reynolds, Executive Director of Pastoral Counseling Services in Manchester, NH will offer an online course entitled Pastoral Care: Creating Meaning with Individuals and Communities.

Drawing from Dr. Carrie Doehring's book, The Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach, the course will provide students with an understanding of the practice of pastoral care in contemporary ministry settings.



## The Conference Resource Center

The following **VHS tapes** are available at no cost.

[Email me](#) if you are interested in them and I will mail them out to you.

Here is this week's selection:

**Hans Christian Anderson - The Ugly Duckling**

**Quigley's Village (Over coming Fear for Ages 2-7)**

**Quigley's Village (Fairness Ages 2-7)**

**McGee and Me - The Not-So-Great Escape**

**McGee and Me - Skate Expectations**

**Dr. Seuss The Lorax**

**Charlotte's Web**

**Children's Heroes from Christian History (3 tapes)**

The course will be 12 hours over a six-week period and will include a face-to-face class for 2-3 hours. To register for the course, please contact the Rev. Rebecca Maccini at [revrwm@tds.net](mailto:revrwm@tds.net).

## "Journey of the Universe: A Story for Our Times" Yale University Online Classes Now Open to the Public

Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, Senior Lecturers and Research Scholars at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies are currently offering four six-week online courses. These are featured as a specialization under the theme of "Journey of the Universe: A Story for our Times." This specialization includes two courses on Journey of the Universe and a course on the Worldview of Thomas Berry. Each of these courses can be taken independently, followed by an Integrating Capstone course. These are MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) available on Coursera to anyone, anywhere on the planet. This is the first MOOC specialization for Yale and the first MOOCs for the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Learners may audit these courses **FREE OF CHARGE** (with the exception of the capstone course). Or learners may register for all of the courses for a small fee and, upon completion, receive a specialization certificate. The courses do not have to be completed within the six week period, rather, learners may finish at their own pace.

[For the entire article click here!](#)





These are just a few of the large amount here at the Conference. If you are in the area and want to stop in and look to see what we have on VHS, please do.

## Resources from WorshipWell

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:  
[worshipwell.church](http://worshipwell.church)



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

