



Vermont Conference, UCC Electronic Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

Jan. 4, 2017

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Vermont Conference News

Lynn Bujnak will be in
Danville

Pam Lucas will be preaching
in Weybridge

Jim Thomas will be
worshiping at his home
church the Federate Church
of Rochester

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



[UCC News and Updates](#)

Dear VTCUCC:

I pray the New Year has dawned for you with hope in the midst of despair, courage in the midst of fear and faith, solid as a Rock, on which to stand.

On November 18, 2016, on the steps of the Vermont Statehouse, I joined with 120 clergy and lay leaders gathered by Vermont Interfaith Action to protest the rise of hate speech and action as well as be very clear that we will



support, defend and seek justice for those most vulnerable in our communities and in our world.

One outcome of that meeting was an interfaith agreement that this coming weekend would become a "Sabbath of Listening" for our member congregations.

The intention is for congregations throughout Vermont to spend time in prayer and preaching at their worship services listening to the voices of the vulnerable in our midst, listening to the concerns for safety and inclusion, listening in a deep way beyond our normal political posturing and to initiate the actions of healing that will enable our congregations to continue to seek justice for their communities.

I know this is short notice and it may not be possible to do this at Sunday's worship service. But, the need is still urgent and another Sunday will be fine. Melissa Battah from VIA did a great job of pulling together resources that relate to Epiphany and to the baptism of Jesus, including a couple of powerful litanies. You can find these resources [here](#).

And a final note ... the times are stressful and we need one another very much. Isolation can leave us cynical and caught in despair. Please make time to meet regularly with colleagues, friends and spiritual directors. Be diligent in



Click image to read about Be The Church

Love and prayers lift up Connecticut congregation displaced by fire

Commentary: Was 2016 the year of Environmental Justice?

Muslims and Christians in connecticut share space for interfaith outreach

The UCNews top 10 stories 2016

UCC Advocacy in 2016

Wisconsin faith community gives young refugee family a new life

Central Pacific Conference leader stepping down in late March

[More UCC news](#)



Click image for more information.



Food for Thought

**Focus Scripture
Matthew 2:13-23**

Paulo Freire, 20th century

your spiritual practice. Jim and Pam and I will be present for you as well. Be gentle with yourself and with one another. Let us en-courage each other.

Remember that our faith teaches us this: Love is stronger, deeper and more enduring than hate.

In peace,
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, 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

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@vtccuc.org or 802-728-4999.

Thank you!

Here are the Per Capita Rates for 2017

"Washing one's hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral."

Abraham Lincoln, 19th century

"Nearly all [people] can stand adversity, but if you want to test a [person's] character, give [them] power."

John Steinbeck, 20th century

"Power does not corrupt. Fear corrupts....perhaps the fear of a loss of power."

Paulo Coelho, 21st century

"Don't give in to your fears. If you do, you won't be able to talk to your heart."

Nelson Mandela, 20th century

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."

J.R.R. Tolkien, 20th century

"A man that flies from his fear may find that he has only taken a short cut to meet it."

Jennifer Donnelly, Revolution, 21st century

PER CAPITA RATES FOR 2017				
Association #	Association Name	Assoc. Amount	Conference Amount	Total
788	Addison	\$0.00 *	\$12.40	\$12.40
792	Champlain	\$1.10	\$12.40	\$13.50
796	Grafton-Orange	\$0.50	\$12.40	\$12.90
800	Northeast	\$1.00	\$12.40	\$13.40
804	Southwest	\$1.00	\$12.40	\$13.40
808	Washington	\$0.00 *	\$12.40	\$12.40
812	Windham Union	\$0.25	\$12.40	\$12.65
816	Windsor-Orange	\$1.00	\$12.40	\$13.40

* Addison and Washington Associations collect Per Capita directly from their churches

2016 CONTRIBUTION CUT OFF DATE

All contributions to the Conference must be received at the office **NO LATER THAN January 13th** to count toward 2016. Any contributions received after that date will count toward 2017. Please pass this word to those who do that work in your church. We want to be sure to assign contributions as you meant them.

Thanks! Any questions, please email Jim at thomasj@vtcucc.org

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.



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

Information for Resolutions

Information for the submittal of Resolutions is now available-there are three types of resolution pertaining to the April 2017 Annual Meeting:

1. Any resolution to be presented, discussed, and voted on at the Annual Meeting in April 2017 should be submitted to the Board of Directors no later than January 18, 2017.
2. Any emergency resolution should be submitted to the Board of Directors no later than April 21, 2017.
3. Resolutions to be presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting, but to be discussed and voted at the 2018

"Little by little, the old world crumbled, and not once did the king imagine that some of the pieces might fall on him."

Plato, 5th century b.c.e.

"We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when [we] are afraid of the light."



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 at the Williston Federated Church.

Resources from WorshipWell

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:



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

Featured Article

Sabbath of Listening and Healing

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 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

Registration opens in January

FACILITATOR

The Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola is the Pastor of the First Congregational/Puffer UM Church in Morrisville. 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.

Back Bay Mission Opens 2018 Mission Trip Calendar

worshipwell.church

Liturgy for Japanese American Remembrance Day

Ellen Godbey Carson has prepared worship and study resources for the "Day of Remembrance" for Japanese Americans who were exiled and imprisoned during World War II.

As background, Ellen is a retired attorney and member of Church of the Crossroads in Honolulu, Hawaii. She was one of the lead counsel in the class action suit for Americans of Japanese ancestry who were exiled from their homes and imprisoned in racial prison camps by the United States government during World War II. That case assisted in obtaining a Presidential apology to those imprisoned and Congressional redress payments to those who survived.

Advent blessings to all,
Charles
www.hcucc.org

[Read it here...](#)

Back Bay Mission's 2018 mission trip calendar opened at midnight central time on January 1, 2017. You can reserve your mission trip week by emailing the Mission's volunteer coordinator at volunteercoordinator@thebackbaymission.org.

The Mission accepts reservation requests only through email. The 2018 calendar is available on the Mission's website.

You can learn more about mission trips at Back Bay Mission [here](#).

Back Bay Mission Accepting Applications for the 2017 Shari Prestemon Social Justice Internship

Back Bay Mission is now accepting applications for the 2017 Shari Prestemon Social Justice Internship!

The Shari Prestemon Social Justice Internship provides people between the ages of 19 and 35 with a unique opportunity to participate in a 10-week summer program tailored to their interests.

Drawing on the Mission's long experience in community engagement and advocacy for justice, the internship will nurture participants' passion for social justice and develop their appreciation for the church's role in seeking social justice.

Applications must be submitted by March 1.
Notifications will be made by March 31.

You can learn more about the internship, and download an application, on the Mission's website.

[Back Bay Mission](#)

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 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.



Tom Harty, the United Church pastor, and the whole congregation waves while Associate Conference Minister Jim Thomas snaps a selfie with them during Saturday night's Christmas Eve service. About 200 packed into the Bethel church to celebrate the season and the 200th anniversary of the opening of the historic church building.



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

