



Vermont Conference, UCC Electronic Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

March 15, 2017

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Vermont Conference News

Lynn Bujnak will be attending the Champlain Association Listening Session.

Pam Lucas will be worshipping at the United Church of Thetford.

Jim Thomas will be attending the Embracing Stewardship Conference.

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



[UCC News and Updates](#)

Greetings!

This Lent I am following a devotional based on five "marks of love/mission."

One is sharing the Good News with others. This is not my strong suit because it conjures up images of knocking on doors and asking complete strangers if they are "saved." Nevertheless opportunities do come along.



Recently I was attending meetings in Cleveland. The hotel where we were meeting and staying had a large lobby area where many congregated to talk and share a beverage at the end of long days. I met two of my colleagues to do what we usually do - play Pinochle and talk. We were sitting at one end of a longish table near the pool table. Soon a group of twenty-somethings arrived to play pool.

One man sat at the opposite end of our table and pulled out his laptop, intent on finishing a work project. A woman sat opposite him and we heard her tell another of their gathering that the man is gay. The other guy laughed ... seriously, dude? He replied quietly, yes, I'm gay. Soon, the same woman turned to Gary, David and I and asked, "What brings you to our town?" There was a moment of silence as we looked at one another to decide who would try to explain what a Conference Minister is. David took the lead this time. The woman told us quickly that she was an atheist. And then was almost immediately challenging. We tried to explain

Two UCC churches named 'Cool Congregations' for creation care projects

For three UCC leaders, a rare glimpse inside Gaza

General Synod service projects to focus on people, environment, animals

Commentary: Glimpsing a Future without Barriers

Expand your worldview with General Synod workshops

UCC leaders champion 'resilient' refugees, celebrate blocked travel ban

New Hampshire UCC seeks to support Syrian refugees through races

about the UCC and "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here."

Before the words were out, the woman had looked up UCC.org. She started to read aloud some of the things she found there ... active in justice issues, LGBT affirming ... She looked up and said, "I don't believe it." Turning to me she said, "Who did you vote for in the last election?" I said, "There was choice?" She said, "I knew it! I knew it!" Then I told her who I had supported. Her jaw dropped. The man working at his computer told us he had seen some street banners in downtown Cleveland. He asked us, "Are you saying there would be a place for me in your church?" We assured him that he would be most welcome.

This is an encounter I can't get out of my head. First there was the immediate assumption that Christian minister meant closed-minded, judgmental and responsible for causing others pain. Second, the pain and hunger for community where one could be accepted and welcomed as who they are. These are some of the Millennials we rarely see in our churches, but who are there and who are seeking authenticity, connection, God.

Perhaps I can share the Good News in my own way and with integrity. I am thankful for this brief meeting between as Fred Buechner has named it, "the world's deep hunger and my deep joy." May this Lenten season continue to bring all of us to such crossroads and grace-filled meeting places. May it be so. May these encounters challenge and change not only those we meet but us as well.

Lynn



Click image to read about Be The Church

[More UCC news](#)



Click image for more information.



Food for Thought

**Focus Scripture
John 4:5-42**

Barbara Pine, 20th century

Reserve Your Room for Annual Meeting Now!

The reserved block of rooms for the Vermont Conference Annual Meeting will be released to the public in one week! Reserve your room by calling Lake Morey Resort at 800-423-1211 and asking for the Vermont Conference group rate of \$99+tax.

"Sometimes being listened to is so much like being loved, it is impossible to tell the difference."

Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, 20th century

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

Ernest Hemingway, 20th century

"When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen."

Henry David Thoreau, 19th century

"It takes two to speak the truth-- one to speak and another to hear."

Virginia Woolf, 20th century

"If you do not tell the truth about yourself you cannot tell it about other people."

Hafiz, 14th century

"I wish I could show you, when you are lonely or in darkness, the astonishing Light of your own Being."

Mother Teresa, 20th century

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them."

William Langewiesche, 20th century

"You should not see the desert simply as some faraway place of little rain. There are many forms of thirst."

Ethiopian proverb

"The fool is thirsty in the midst of water."

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## Two Great Opportunities!

Our conference is in need of a new

Registration is now open!

[Click here for more information and to register](#)



Keep an eye out later this week for more updates about the 222nd Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, UCC.

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

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

## Our sympathy goes out to Tom Marrone and family

The Vermont Conference has learned that Tom Marrone's mother has passed away. We hold Tom, Margo and their family in our prayers during this time.

## 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 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.

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

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**Greetings to our UCC
friends and colleagues.**

There are several big marches taking place in DC in the coming weeks and months. Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ is happy to offer free sleeping space and basic accommodations for any UCC groups coming to DC for the following events:

- March for Science. Sat, Apr. 22
- People's Climate March. Sat, Apr. 29
- Immigrants March. Sat, May 6
- Equality March for Unity and Pride, Sun, June 11.

Westmoreland UCC is located at 1 Westmoreland Circle in Bethesda, MD-immediately across the street from DC at the intersection of Massachusetts and Western Avenues.

The accommodations we can offer are not luxurious-basically floor space for sleeping bags and pillows. But the cost may be right-free.

Our Social Justice & Action Board has taken on this effort to welcome marchers because we feel that opening our building is a good way to live out the Christian value of hospitality. We feel that providing space encourages people to add their voices to the grand choir of democracy. And we feel that these four marches-focusing on science, immigration, the climate, and LGBTQ rights-are very much in keeping with our

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.

Heather E. Kimmel
General Counsel
United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Ave. E.
Cleveland, OH 44115
(216) 736-2138
kimmelh@ucc.org

UCC values and the values of our local congregation.

So, if you know of any UCC groups headed to DC for these marches, tell them to contact us. (And honestly, we're not limiting this to UCC'ers. If you know other groups who need lodging, please connect them with us.)

Peace, Tim Tutt

Rev. Timothy B. Tutt
Senior Minister
Westmoreland Congregational
United Church of Christ
1 Westmoreland Circle
Bethesda, MD 20816
301-229-7766

"Be kind to unkind people. They need it the most."

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.

WANTED:

Glass communion cups. Second Congregational Church in Londonderry is in search of the small glass communion cups that your church may not use anymore....(Yes, of course we can buy them but first we thought that there may be some collecting dust in a church that has switched to plastic and we thought we would take them off your hands!) If you have some that you'd like to find a home for please call [Rev. Laurie Krooss](#), or 802-824-6453.
Thank you!

Resources from

WorshipWell

Be sure to check
out the worship
resources
available at:



worshipwell.church



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

