



Vermont Conference, UCC Electronic Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

March 29, 2017

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Vermont Conference News

Lynn Bujnak will be worshipping at the Barre Congregational Church

Pam Lucas will be worshipping somewhere, to be determined!

Jim Thomas will be preaching at Sherburne United Church of Christ, Killington, VT and also at the Bridgewater Congregational Church

Greetings!

*The Lord God gives me the right words to
encourage the weary.
Each morning he awakens me eager to learn
his teaching;
He made me willing to listen and not rebel or
run away.
- Isaiah 50:4-5*

We are in the middle section of Lent. This Sunday the lectionary gives us one of the longest Gospel passages of the year, the story of the death (and return to life) of Lazarus, forty-five verses from John's Gospel, with about 27 sermons inside. I have the honor to lead worship at both the Sherburne United Church of Christ and the Bridgewater Congregational Church this Sunday. I'm not sure which sermon is going to come out yet, but it's simmering. And while I get to visit with these churches, I largely leave their ministry behind me on Sunday afternoon.

But I'm also looking ahead a bit. The Isaiah passage above is the assigned lectionary reading for the Wednesday of Holy Week. I remember when, as a local church pastor, how the reflective time of Lent became a sprint as Holy Week approached. Do we have the palms ordered? What about the Maundy Thursday service elements? Should we try to make anointing oil as part of our liturgy again? Oh, and the ecumenical Good Friday service. And Easter sunrise. And Easter again. And...



[UCC News and Updates](#)

Four Reformation churches celebrate 20 years of communion

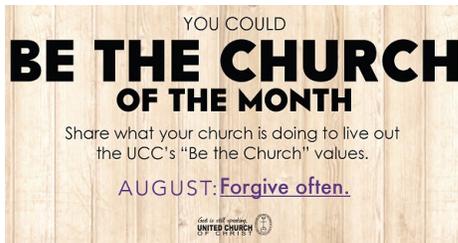
Moral Movement leader William Barber to keynote General Synod gala

UCC sends assistance to South Sudan and other African countries

UCC calling Creation care advocates to the People's Climate March in Washington D.C.

Commentary: That "Adorable" Special Interest Group

Idaho church explosion severely injures moderator and his wife



Click image to read about Be The Church

[More UCC news](#)



Click image for more information.



Did you ever notice that both Lent and Advent end in "-ent"? Somewhere I think I have a word origin book that says that word suffix "-ent" means 'never enough time to do all there is to do.' And as a pastor you may pray there aren't any funerals added in, and that the cemetery is still closed, and maybe the deacons will do a few of those pastoral visits.



What am I saying? Well, there is an ebb and flow to pastoral work. Right now? We're in a season of flow. Pastors don't punch a time clock, which is actually to their detriment, as most work far more than they are paid for. The next three weeks especially. Did you know that pastors get sick most often right after Christmas and Easter? Ever wonder why that might be? So while God gives pastors "the right words to encourage the weary," I wonder if you and the lay leadership of your congregation might consider that pastors get weary too. And this is a great time of year to make sure they know that they're not in this alone. And that they deserve some encouragement and rest as well.

Because nothing feeds a pastor more than knowing that they are appreciated, and supported, and are doing ministry in partnership with a community of faith, and: NEWS FLASH - they aren't responsible for making the earth go around the sun and everything on it. We have God for that. Thank God. Amen?

Peace,

Jim

Food for Thought

Focus Scripture John 9:1-41

Charles Shulz, 20th century

"I cannot fail to be thrilled every time I read the things that Jesus said, and I am more and more convinced of the necessity of following him. What Jesus means to me is this: In him we are able to see God, and to understand [God's] feelings toward us."

Madeleine L'Engle, 20th century

(when asked, "Do you believe in God without any doubts?")
"I believe in God with all my doubts."

Paul Gauguin, 19th century

"I shut my eyes in order to see."

Helen Keller, 20th century

"My darkness has been filled with the light of intelligence, and behold, the outer day-lit world was stumbling and groping in social blindness."

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### 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 [bujnakl@vtcucc.org](mailto:bujnakl@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

Rev Jim Thomas
ACM, VTCUCC

New Annual Meeting Website

The Vermont Conference Annual Meeting has its own website!

[Click here to visit the Annual Meeting website](#)

Only 23 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.



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.

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



[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. 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
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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
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

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Norwich, VT 05055



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

