



Vermont Conference, UCC Electronic Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

May 17, 2017

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Vermont Conference News

Lynn Bujnak will be attending the Windham Union Listening Session

Pam Lucas will be worshipping at Shrewsbury Community church and then attending the Southwest Association Annual Meeting in Pittsford

Jim Thomas will be leading worship in Cornwall at the First Congregational Church



[UCC News and Updates](#)



Greetings!



This morning I had a conversation with a colleague who told me he had no real idea of where his family came from before they emigrated to the US. I was surprised until he told me his family was poor and Jewish and were driven out of areas and countries time and time again because of the Pogroms in Europe and parts of Russia. Family members disappeared presumed to have died in Nazi concentration camps. Although I know my history I still felt sick at this reminder of the hatred and violence humans perpetrate on other humans based on ethnic and religious identity.

It is part of what it means to be a person of faith and a Christian that we not forget. Further, we need to recognize when similar actions arise in our own time and place. Scripture reminds us that "perfect love casts out fear." It is fear that often drives the worst of our human impulses and actions. The question is not, what do I need to do to insure my and my loved ones safety. Instead it is how do we recognized and foster the well-being of all.

I am proud of our congregations, ecumenical and interfaith partners, and other settings of the church for creating opportunities to learn and understand across differences, to recognize our common humanity.

On my colleague's wall is a poster with this quotation: *The darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis.* Dante Alighieri

May we not forget. May we not keep silent. May we follow the way of Jesus who held love as the highest command.

In peace,
Lynn

Annual Meeting Wrap-up

Thank you to everyone who attended the 222nd Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, UCC! We were blessed to have wonderful worship, music and fellowship at the beautiful Lake Morey Resort.

If you missed any part of the Annual Meeting--or were unable to attend--we are posting various presentations on the Annual Meeting website at <http://vtcam2017.wordpress.com/presentations>.

Pilot project promotes partnership between UCC climate justice teams and 350.org

General Synod resolution seeks national study of gun violence

Commentary: A call to action opposing mandatory minimums for drug crimes

Jeanette Vizguerra leaves sanctuary just in time for Mother's Day

Racial justice proponents reject new Department of Justice guidelines on criminal punishment

Commentary: The disconnect

Blindsided by neighbor's deportation, angry UCC clergy in Phoenix take on ICE

General Synod resolution seeks rights for adoptees

Commentary: Moving from Lament to Hope

[More UCC news](#)



Click image for more information.



Food for Thought
Focus Reading:
John 14:15-21

Viktor E. Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning, 20th century

"Love goes very far beyond the physical person of the beloved. It finds its deepest meaning in his spiritual being, his inner self. Whether or not he is actually present, whether or not

Jeffrey Tuper-Giles, our new Vice Moderator, has written a reflection of his experience at this year's Annual Meeting. [You can read Jeffrey's reflection here.](#)

We hope to see you next year at the 223rd Annual Meeting!

Southwest Association within the Vermont Conference

United Church of Christ
ANNUAL MEETING WARNING

All ministers with standing in the Southwest Association and four delegates from each member church are hereby warned and all other interested persons are invited to be present at:

The Pittsford Congregational Church, UCC
Registration begins at 2:00 PM
Sunday, May 21, 2017
The meeting

[Read more here...](#)

The Department of Mission thanks all those congregations and individuals who have contributed to the United Church of Christ's Neighbors in Need Programs over the years.

In the past, Neighbors in Need has funded at least two organizations in Vermont, the Dismas House in Burlington and Vermont Low Income Advocacy.

The Department would like to call to your attention changes that are being made in the NIN grant making process. From now on, all grants will be made only to UCC churches or organizations. The maximum grant will increase from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Additionally, NIN will fund five Grass Top Grants up to \$10,000 for innovative ideas to advance justice in our communities.

The Department will like to encourage Vermont Conference churches to apply for grants that will further their justice ministries in their communities. If you have an especially innovative idea that would benefit from a larger grant, please consider applying for a Grass Top Grant. Deadlines will be in the fall. For more information, go to: http://www.ucc.org/nin_grant-application

Thanks.
Jeanne Zammataro
Vice-chair, DOM

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**Please consider starting, continuing or supporting a Summer Lunch Program in your town. Hunger Free Vermont is a very valuable asset for gathering information on both need and what is already being done in your community. Another valuable resource is partnering with the Vermont Food Bank. Your food dollars go three times farther if you buy through them. You can either pick it up, or get a monthly delivery. They have a wide variety of canned and boxed goods. They also have a selection of fresh produce available. We have churches that prepare meals and serve them. We also have churches that deliver bags of groceries There is no limit on what you can do. Funds are available to help. Please fill out an application and get it in by May 20, 2017.**

### SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM GRANTS

he is still alive at all, ceases somehow to be of importance."

Sandy Olson, Alternatives for Simple Living, 20th century

"I read a wonderful quote from the twelfth century mystic, Hildegard of Bingen, that gave me pause. She described the Holy Spirit as 'the Greening Power of God.' Of course she did not intend that in the context that we might mean by "Greening" something, that is, making it more environmentally friendly. She meant, I believe, that as plants are greened by water, sunlight, and soil, the human soul is 'greened' by the Holy Spirit's presence in one's life. Because of the Holy Spirit the human soul can 'flower and bear good fruit.'"

The Dalai Lama, 21st century

"My call for a spiritual revolution is thus not a call for a religious revolution. Nor is it a reference to a way of life that is somehow other-worldly, still less to something magical or mysterious. Rather, it is a call for a radical re-orientation away from our habitual preoccupation with self towards concern for the wider community of beings with whom we are connected, and for conduct which recognizes others' interests alongside our own."

Richard Attenborough, 21st century

"There is a LIGHT in this world. A healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometime lose sight of this force when there is suffering, and too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways."

Jeremy Taylor, 17th century

"Since the days of Pentecost, has the whole church ever put aside every other work and waited upon Him for ten days, that the Spirit's power might be manifested? We give too much attention to method and machinery and resources, and too little to the source of power."

Albert Einstein, 20th century

"My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable superior spirit who reveals himself in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble mind."

The Department of Mission is hoping UCC congregations are all currently preparing to help feed hungry children this summer by participating in a local summer lunch program or continuing or initiating your own. Schools are doing their best to help feed children during the school year with not only lunches but breakfast, after school snacks and some are even providing an evening meal.

Just imagine the financial impact on a low income family when summer arrives. Children will be hungry. In 2010 approximately 28,000 children in Vermont received free and reduced price meals at school...only 6000 participated in summer lunch programs when school was no longer in session. We don't think these numbers have significantly changed. Please make it a goal to find the other 22,000 children and feed them.

The Vermont Conference strongly supports our churches' involvement in Summer Lunch programs. In 2016, 13 churches received grants for their summer lunch programs through the Vermont Conference Department of Mission Summer Lunch Grant Program.

[Read more here....](#)

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Dillard Henderson Scholarship

Celebrating its historic ties to Dillard University, a historically black university in New Orleans, in 2004 the Vermont Conference established the George Washington Henderson Scholarship at Dillard University. Six years later the Conference's contributions to the Dillard Henderson Scholarship had reached the minimum funding level of \$25,000 in order for Dillard to commence granting scholarships to its students from the Henderson Scholarship Fund. In 2012, the Conference passed a resolution (http://www.vtcucc.org/docs/Annual%20Meeting/2012/first_posting/DocumentC.pdf) to commit the Conference to expand the Dillard Henderson Scholarship Fund by dedicating its odd year Annual Meeting offerings to the Fund; the 2017 Annual Meeting offering raised \$1,392 for the Dillard Henderson Scholarship Fund. If your congregation would be interested in making its own contribution to the Fund, please contact Jeanne Zammataro atjzammataro@aol.com to receive a Dillard University brochure.

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### ***Clergy and retired clergy personal retreat & respite in the southern Green Mountains!***

**As part of a memorial to Rev. Paul & Dorothy Alberti (retired ELCA minister and wife and much beloved Associate members of Second Congregational Church in Londonderry) The Blue Gentian Lodge in Londonderry, VT, owned by Paul and Dorthy's son and daughter-in-law, are offering lodging at the Blue Gentian Lodge for \$25 per night (single or double occupancy) to clergy and retired clergy as a personal retreat & respite from April 17-May 25th.**

**For more information or questions please contact:**

**Blue Gentian Lodge  
Lisa Sicotte & Ken Alberti  
289 Magic Mountain Access  
Londonderry, VT 05148  
[www.bluegentian.com](http://www.bluegentian.com)  
[BlueGentian@comcast.net](mailto:BlueGentian@comcast.net)  
802-824-5908**

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### Alzheimers and Dementia

Wendell Berry, 20th century

"The soul, in its loneliness, hopes only for 'salvation.' And yet what is the burden of the Bible if not a sense of the mutuality of influence, rising out of an essential unity, among soul and body and community and world? These are all the works of God, and it is therefore the work of virtue to make or restore harmony among them."

Margaret Mead, 20th century

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

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### A Great Opportunity

**Our conference is in need of a Disaster Response Coordinator. There is training and support available for the 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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Music Director Needed!

Application

Email: scookekitt@mac.com

Job Description/Offer: Charlotte Congregational Church, U.C.C. seeks PT Music Director.

Church is GLBTQ friendly. Job includes: Accompanying congregational singing, leading Thursday night rehearsals, conducting the adult choir for Sunday morning worship services at 10am and for other occasional services. Regular planning meetings with the senior and associate pastors are part of the position.

Organist/Choir Director Needed!

Application

Email: welcome@fccej.org

The AD church: The Greater Hartford United Church of Christ, at 1721 Maple St. (Route 14) in Hartford Village, hosts an interdenominational worship service, created for those living with Alzheimers or dementia and their caregivers/families.

It is held the first Sunday of every month, beginning at 1:30. It features a short message, traditional hymns, the Lord's Prayer, and Communion. The service is followed by refreshments and social time.

All are welcome. 802-295-9635.

Administrative Assistant Wanted! First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro

8-10 hours/week

Position includes: Composition, compilation, and printing of the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. Maintenance and updating of the signs, bulletin boards, church website and Facebook page. Compilation of the Annual Report and the yearly statistical report for the Vermont Conference. Facilitation of communication between members, committees, church leadership, and lay persons. Maintenance of attendance and membership records. Receiving, sorting, and passing along electronic, voice, and paper mail; placing orders as needed; filling out check requests. Co-ordinating rentals of the church space and advertising church events. Preparing materials and personnel for funerals and weddings. Sweet-talking the cantankerous copier.

Applicants should possess reliability, an organized mind, and good language and computer skills. Compensation competitive.

Contact Jeff Brewer: grmtbrew@comcast.net or 802-380-8184

Job Description/Offer: First Church of Essex Junction, U.C.C. seeks PT Organist/Choir Director. Church is GLBTQ friendly. Job includes coord. music program, directing adult choirs, and playing organ & piano @ 2 services [beautifully refurbished 1928 Estey organ / Young Chang baby grand].

Email cover letter and resume to FCCEJmusicsearch@gmail.com or mail to FCCEJ Music Search, 1 Church Street, Essex Junction VT 05452.

Church office 802-878-5745.
First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
Website:
www.fccej.org

**Resources from
WorshipWell**

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:
worshipwell.church



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