



Vermont Conference, UCC Electronic Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

May 24, 2017

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Vermont Conference News

Pam Lucas will be worshipping in
Strafford at the Farewell
Service for Lynn Wickberg

Congratulations to Laura
Cadmus who graduated
from Andover Newton
Theological School last
Saturday with a Master of
Divinity. Laura presently
serves the First
Congregational Church of
Berlin.

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



[UCC News and Updates](#)

Greetings!

COUNTING NUMBERS

Numbers count in the liturgical year.

Tomorrow is the Day of Ascension - Oh, I know that you will not be rising early for a sunrise service on some mountaintop - or gathering together to pray in the evening. No special services planned. We'll wait for Sunday to celebrate!

BUT you can spend tomorrow wishing the world 'Happy Ascension Day' by tweeting using hashtag #HappyAscensionDay.

But why is tomorrow the Day of Ascension? Because it is 40 days after Easter. 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead. 40 days after Jesus walked out of a tomb and walked into an Upper Room and frightened his disciples out of their minds. It was the same Upper Room where just four days earlier they had gathered to celebrate the Passover with Jesus - and together they had walked out of that room into a Garden. The disciples had seen Jesus arrested - sentenced to die in a travesty of a trial - witnessed him crucified and buried. Their hopes and dreams had been buried with him.

After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)

40 days earlier, Jesus re-called his disciples to follow him into the future. A future that would be vastly different from what the past three years had been like. Something brand new under the sun had just happened. For 40 days Jesus appeared to them again and again speaking of the Kingdom of God - a Kingdom that Jesus had demonstrated so clearly in his life, his words, his deeds. And now it was time to share that Good News with the whole world! And the newly re-called disciples were to be the Good News Messengers!

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

But how could they do this Jesus work without Jesus? As always, Jesus has the answer...

While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. (Acts 1:4)

And then Jesus was gone - he was lifted up out of their sight.

So disciples, witnesses and messengers of the Good News - hear the Word of the Lord!

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Forgive often. Reject racism.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

A clergy network facilitated safe abortions years before Roe v. Wade

DMV Sanctuary group works for release of mother of two detained by ICE in Virginia

CHHSM Vice President J. Bennett Guess Leaving to Become ACLU of Ohio Executive

Faith community speaks out as FCC begins rollback of open internet rules

Synod resolutions seek to enhance UCC giving model with modern approaches

Commentary: The "other" is not actually the problem!

Pennsylvania congregation calls attention to opioid epidemic in highly visible way

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

General Synod resolution seeks national study of gun violence

[More UCC news](#)



Click image for more information.



Food for Thought
Focus Reading:
John 17:1-11

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 20th century

"If we have no peace, it is because

Stop looking up at what will be no more! Stop looking down in self-absorbed contemplation!

START LOOKING AROUND at a world so in need of Good News - so in need of love - peace - justice - mercy - safe sanctuary.

START BECOMING THE CHURCH - the Body of Christ - in all places - at all times - with all you are. We will never BE the Church - because we fossilize into an institution. Always BECOMING Church is a constant work in process - but begins and continues with prayer - together.

Then they returned to Jerusalem...When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying...All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. (selected Acts 1:12-14)

Praying to be ready to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost - 10 days later.

10 days to become open to the new thing God is still doing among us. New occasions teach new duties. Over and over again these many centuries God has been seeking to re-call, re-form and re-shape a people who would bless all the people of the earth. Now it is our turn to be re-called, re-formed and re-shaped into Good News Messengers for our time.

Maybe we should gather together tomorrow to pray...

Oh, and by the way - today, please wish all your Methodist friends a Happy Aldersgate Day!

On Wednesday, May 24, 1738, John Wesley experienced his "heart strangely warmed." This Aldersgate experience was crucial for his own life and became a touchstone for the Wesleyan movement.

May 24, 2017
Pam Lucas

Information Review Time!

Attention Authorized Ministers! The biannual information review is taking place at this time.

An email containing the Word and PDF versions of the 2017 Information Review were sent out earlier this month. If you are an authorized minister and have not yet sent your completed information review to the Vermont Conference, please take some time and do so this week.

The 2017 Information Review for Authorized Ministers is due on May 31st.

If you have any questions--or need to have the form sent to you again--[please email Conference Ministries Coordinator Jesse Davis.](#)

Thank you!

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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

we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

John O'Donohue, 20th century

"The hunger to belong is not merely a desire to be attached to something. It is rather sensing that great transformation and discovery become possible when belonging is sheltered and true."

Henry David Thoreau, 19th century

"Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads."

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, 19th century

"Earth's crammed with heaven... But only he who sees, takes off his shoes."

Fred Rogers, 20th century

"The connections we make in the course of a life--maybe that's what heaven is."

Jonathan Edwards, 18th century

"The way to heaven is ascending; we must be content to travel uphill, though it be hard and tiresome, and contrary to the natural bias of our flesh."  
"Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will."  
"Grace is but glory begun, and glory is but grace perfected."  
"The happiness of the creature consists in rejoicing in God, by which also God is magnified and exalted."

Krista Tippett, *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*, 21st century

"Spiritual life is a way of dwelling with perplexity--taking it seriously, searching for its purpose as well as its perils, its beauty as well as its ravages."

John Henry Newman, 19th century

"God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has

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](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 [atzammataro@aol.com](mailto:atzammataro@aol.com) to receive a Dillard University brochure.

Hello, everyone!

We at Ascension Lutheran Church in South Burlington wanted to reach out to our friends and family in the local Faith Community to let you know about our **Lake Champlain Watershed Action Cruise** coming up on June 16, 2017. We have approximately 20 seats available still, and we would love for more people to join us! We are hoping to have a diverse group with which to share ideas.

The day will start with a cruise out of the Basin Harbor Club up Otter Creek, led by naturalists to help us connect with our watershed. When we get back, we will move around the corner to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum for lunch and a series of presentations on how we as a faith community can become more involved in water conservation and all of the issues surrounding it. So far confirmed presenters include the Secretary of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, a representative from the Lake Champlain Keeper and Conservation Law Foundation, and the Director of Lake Champlain International.

The cost is \$25.00 per person, which includes the cruise, lunch, museum admission, and all presentations. This event is designed with adults-only in mind, but we do hope to offer more events in the future to include children and families.

I have more information, including the registration form, posted on our website. The file can be viewed and downloaded here:

<http://alcv.org/news-a-events/lake-action-cruise.html>

If you have any questions at all, please do let me know!

Thank you all for your time! We truly appreciate it, and hope to see you out on Lake Champlain very soon!

Blessings,

Kelli

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The passing of Robert M. Mitchell

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Robert Mitchell. Robert passed at Dartmouth-Hitchcock due to complications from cancer and Parkinson's disease.

Employment Opportunities!

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CHURCH MUSICIAN Job Opening, Thetford Hill, VT  
First Congregational Church of Thetford

Progressive, Open and Affirming UCC congregation seeks Choir Director/Accompanist to provide keyboard music (piano and/or Rieger organ) and direct our choir for Sunday services.

Come join with our community and create music in our beautiful, acoustically wonderful sanctuary.

Begin September 2017 More details at our website [thetfordhillchurch.org](http://thetfordhillchurch.org).  
[office@thetfordhillchurch.org](mailto:office@thetfordhillchurch.org) or call 802-785-2915

committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next...I shall do good. I shall do His work if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling. Therefore I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am. I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain."

N.T. Wright, Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church, 21st century

"...left to ourselves we lapse into a kind of collusion with entropy, acquiescing in the general belief that things may be getting worse but that there's nothing much we can do about them. And we are wrong. Our task in the present...is to live as resurrection people in between Easter and the final day, with our Christian life, corporate and individual, in both worship and mission, as a sign of the first and a foretaste of the second."

### Resources from WorshipWell

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:

[worshipwell.church](http://worshipwell.church)



### Music Director Needed!

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. Email: [scookekitt@mac.com](mailto:scookekitt@mac.com)

### 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 JeffBrewer: [grmtbrew@comcast.net](mailto:grmtbrew@comcast.net)  
or 802-380-8184

### Organist/Choir Director Needed!

Application

Email:

[welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)

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](mailto: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](http://www.fccej.org)

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

