

Vermont Conference, UCC Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

August 30, 2017

- Quick Links**
- [Our Website](#)
- [Directory](#)
- [Staff](#)
- [Summer Camp](#)



~~~~~  
**Vermont Conference  
News**

## Greetings!

Dear Beloved Community of the Vermont Conference,

As the pictures of catastrophic flooding in Texas inundate our TVs and Tablets, the sheer volume of destruction is hard to take in. Some commentators have named this a 1000 year storm, but we know as climate change continues to be at work, sadly, that may not be the case.

What can we do to assist our neighbors in Texas and other Gulf Coast cities and towns? First, we need to refrain from sending things that have not been asked for like clothing, stuffed animals and food. While our intentions are good, these things often do not get to the people who need help and in fact can impede those who are working to bring relief and aid to victims. The best way we can help is to make a financial contribution. There are many funds that have been established. Our UCC has launched an emergency appeal, the Emergency USA Fund. Please mark your check for "Hurricane Harvey."

What else can we do? We can support those who have lost homes and loved ones and cherished belongings by surrounding them with our prayers. Further, we can remember that while the need is currently acute, there will be need for assistance for years in recovering from this devastation. We can not abandon the survivors when the news turns all too quickly to other concerns. Down the road, after the focus of helpers turns from rescue to recovery there will be opportunities to help rebuild.

A Farewell Gathering for Jim Thomas



On Saturday, September 23, 2017, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, we will be gathering at the Randolph Bethany Church for a farewell gathering for Jim and Lynn Thomas. This is an "open house" style gathering. Come when you can!

At 4:00PM we will share in the Liturgy of Farewell as we send Jim and Lynn Thomas on their

way with our gratitude and good wishes for Jim's new ministry as Pastor of the Atkinson Church, UCC in New Hampshire.

-----  
The Rev. Fred W. Atwood-Lyon

May 1, 1934 - August 27, 2017

I write to share with you news of the death of the Rev. Fred W. Atwood-Lyon. Rev. Atwood-Lyon was educated at the University of Maine and Andover Newton Theological School. He was ordained to Christian ministry on June 8, 1960. Among his many accomplishments during his years in ministry, Rev. Atwood-Lyon was the National Secretary for Church Growth and Development, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. In the Ohio Conference, he served as Minister for Growth and Development, and was Associate Minister for the Eastern Ohio Association. In MA, he served in many capacities, among them he was the Conference Consultant and Chairperson of Evangelism and Church Growth Task Team. In the Connecticut and Rhode Island Conferences, he was Office Manager for Achievement Fund Campaigns. Rev. Atwood-Lyon served churches in Massachusetts, Vermont and NH. In New Hampshire, he served as an Interim Minister with the Congregational Church, UCC, in Amherst. Additionally, in the New Hampshire Conference, Rev. Atwood-Lyon served on the

*Psalm 46 reminds us that when catastrophe strikes, we are not abandoned.*

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth  
should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the  
sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the  
city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be  
moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.  
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms  
totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

May our sisters and brothers in harm's way find  
refuge.

In peace,  
Lynn

-----  
**\*\*\*\*Registration Is Now Open\*\*\*\***  
**Fall Vitality Event 2017**

Presented by:  
Vermont Conference, UCC &  
Partners for Sacred Places

Join us on October 14, 2017 for a special  
Vitality event at which we will  
explore: Growing a congregation's membership,  
ministry, financial stewardship, leadership and  
vision through community engagement and  
outreach!

Take this opportunity to learn from other  
congregations about their innovative outreach  
and community partnerships, large and small  
including:

- **Creating new ministries**

New Church Start Mission Group.

Condolences and cards may be sent to Fred's wife, the Rev. Carol Atwood-Lyon, at 61 Augusta Way, Dover, NH 03830.

Please remember the Atwood-Lyon family in your prayers.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us, we are not alone.  
Thanks be to God!

Rev. Gary M. Schulte,  
Conference Minister  
New Hampshire Conference,  
United Church of Christ

-----  
**VERMONT SCHOOL OF  
MINISTRY  
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN  
FOR FALL 2017 COURSES**

The Vermont School of Ministry partners with the New York School of Ministry to provide educational offerings for lay enrichment and continuing education opportunities. It also provides the core foundational education for the preparation of supply preachers and authorization for Licensed Ministry.

**SUPPLY PREACHER  
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM - Sept.  
2017 - June 2018**

The need for supply preachers has become a pressing concern in a number of Associations. This program, which runs every other week from September to June, is entirely web conferenced. It is designed for

- Leading conversations on major local issues;
- Launching a major "community-wide" capital campaign;
- Or just asking your neighbors how you might work together.

Keynote speaker [Tuomi Forrest](#) is the Executive Vice President of [Partners for Sacred Spaces](#). He has offered technical advice and consultation to thousands of congregations of all faiths on the care and active community use of their historic religious buildings since joining Partners in 1997.

These topics and more will be shared and discussed in this interactive day-long educational program.

Registration is \$25 per person (which includes lunch!) and you can sign up by clicking the Registration button below.

**We look forward to seeing you on October 14th in Montpelier!**

[Register here...](#)

~~~~~

2017 Convocation Registration has opened!!

(There was an error on the form initially posted, which says cost \$15.00, this has been changed and now shows the correct cost of \$50.00, sorry for any inconvenience).

[Click here for Registration form and Information](#)

~~~~~

**[Click here to view the recent Pastoral Transitions in 2017 in the Vermont Conference](#)**

~~~~~

UCC History, Polity and Theology Class Offered Fall, 2017 for Privilege of Call, Ordination, Commissioning, and Licensing

lay people who want to learn how to preach and lead worship well, so that they can act as supply preachers (able to fill in when authorized ministers are ill or away) in their congregations or in their Associations. This program does not prepare persons for any form of authorized ministry.

The program consists of sixteen 1½ hour webinars and two 3 ½ hour practicum sessions.

There are reading/writing components for each session. Participants will work with and receive feedback from a variety of instructors: Rev. Quinn Caldwell, Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias, Rev. Steve Johnson, Rev. David Kaden, Rev. Jonathan Lawrence, and Rev. Marjorie Purnine. A recommendation from one's home church is required to enroll.

Monday evenings - 7:00-8:30 pm

Click [here](#) for a pdf with the full schedule, the books, and the program fees.

[Click here to register](#)

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Those considering Licensed Ministry should be in conversation with their pastors and their Association Committee on Ministry or Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee.

Applications for that purpose may be found [here](#). Full information about this program can be found [here](#). The registration system for the New York School of Ministry has been

The Center for Progressive Renewal is offering a fall semester online UCC History, Polity and Theology class beginning on September 6th and ending December 6th. The class has met the polity requirements of most Committees on Ministry in the UCC. It can be taken either for academic credit or simply to fulfill the polity requirement of Committees on Ministry. It has been accepted for credit in eight seminaries, including Union (NYC), Vanderbilt, Candler, Columbia, Eden, and Lancaster. It is included in the catalogs of both Union Theological Seminary and Lancaster Theological Seminary.

[Read entire article here](#)

Human Genetic Engineering: Dreams & Nightmares

Food for Thought Pot-Luck Forums for the Fall 2017

Mount Mansfield Union High School Library

211 Browns Trace, Jericho, Vermont 05465

Sponsored by Mt. Mansfield Union High School and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

[Click here for Forum information](#)

A Day with Diana Butler Bass Wednesday, October 4th

Clergy and Laity Invited! Cost - \$10.00 to register and \$10.00 for lunch Diana Butler Bass will be in the Plattsburgh Area on October 4th and there will be a gathering from 10 a.m. thru 3 p.m. for area faith communities. The morning and afternoon sessions will be at Plattsburgh UMC - 127 Beekman Street. From 10 a.m. to Noon - we will have a conversation on her recent book, "Grounded" - Finding God in the World - A Spiritual Revolution. Please come having read the book!

[Click here for more information](#)

Action for Ecological Justice: Celebrating a Year of Creation

overhauled this summer. Click [here](#) to see our fall Events. Choose the course you want to explore on the left side (not the blue buttons on the right), and you'll see the full course information, with the registration box at the bottom of the page.

~~~~~



[UCC News and Updates](#)

2017 Digital Stewardship Materials... [read more here!](#)

California church sanctuary vote draws protests

Faith leaders mark anniversary of March on Washington with a D.C. witness on moral values

Texas church, washed out in 2016, flooded by Hurricane Harvey

UCC church in Phoenix mourns man deported to Mexico, welcomes another into sanctuary

Hurricane Harvey prompts UCC emergency appeal for long term recovery

UCC leader expresses outrage at Trump's pardon of former Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio

Author, activist Rinku Sen to deliver 2017 Parker Lecture

~~~~~

Conference

Bishop Coyne invites you to this one-day conference hosted by the Catholic Church of Vermont as part of the Year of Creation. Action for Ecological Justice will explore, reflect upon and respond to the message of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home.

Laudato Si' highlights the urgency of the global climate crisis, the embeddedness of creation care within Catholic teaching, the interconnectedness of all that exists, and the moral imperative to act for the benefit of the planet and those who call it home--human and non-human. With perspectives from scientists, politicians, activists, economists, professionals, academics and people of faith, the day promises dynamic conversations about the state of creation and how we can work together for a sustainable future.

[Click here for further details](#)

~~~~~

**The Wells River Congregational Church, UCC,** Main Street, Wells River VT. has 110 like new hymnals "United Church of Christ" Contact Marion Zambon:(802)-584-3857

Ideal for start-up church: over 100 year old Steinway upright piano in very good condition- Pay to move from Groton \$500.00 plus/minus- piano mover out of Barre, VT Contact Marion Zambon in Groton, VT (802) 584-3857

~~~~~

Employment Opportunities All these are all still open!

(If you have a job listed, please try to remember to let me ([Charri](#)) know if it has been filled!)

Tyson Congregational church - located on the Ludlow/Plymouth border. Part-time organist needed to job-share with our current organist for some Sunday Morning Worship services.

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.



Click image for more information.



Food for Thought

Focus Reading:
Exodus 3:1-15

Parker J. Palmer, 21st century
"Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am."

Thomas Merton, 20th century
"Vocation does not come from a voice 'out there' calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice 'in here' calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God."

and

"For each one of us, there is only one thing necessary: to fulfill our own destiny, according to God's will, to be what God wants us to be."

Mother Theodore Guerin, 19th century

"We are not called upon to do all the good that is possible, but only that which we can do."

Evelyn Waugh, Brideshead Revisited, 20th century
Cordelia: "I hope I've got a vocation." Charles: "I don't know what that means. Cordelia: "It means you can be a nun. If you haven't a vocation it's no good

Please contact Ann Rose at gms@tds.net if interested.

Music Director

Second Congregational Church, Hyde Park, VT
We are an active and friendly congregation of people who love our church and our music. We are looking for an individual with a love of music, and a musical background, to lead our music program. We are blessed with a beautiful pipe organ, baby grand piano and vibrant choir. Our ideal Music Director would be proficient with, and enjoy playing the organ and piano, be able to sight read music and direct and grow our Choir and music program.

Part time, paid position.

If this sounds interesting, we would love to talk with you about our program and what we can create together. Please email: Second Congregational Church 2congo@myfairpoint.net

Organist/Choir Director Needed!

Application

Email:

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 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

Music Director Needed!

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

however much you want to be;
and if you have a vocation, you
can't get away from it, however
much you hate it."

Anne Lamott, 21st century
"I'm here to be me, which is taking
a great deal longer than I had
hoped."

Phillips Brooks, 19th century,
Trinity Church, Boston
"Do not pray for tasks equal to
your powers. Pray for powers
equal to your tasks! Then the
doing of your work shall be no
miracle. But you shall be a
miracle. Every day you shall
wonder at yourself, at the
richness of life which has come to
you by the grace of God."

~~~~~

**Resources from  
WorshipWell**

Be sure to check  
out the worship  
resources  
available at:



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

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)

~~~~~



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

