

Vermont Conference, UCC

Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

September 20, 2017

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**Vermont Conference**  
**News**

### THIS SATURDAY!!!!

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

### Greetings!

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

What are the things, the practices, the habits that renew and restore you, especially when you are feeling overwhelmed, especially in



these days of anxiety and uncertainty? While

Pam Lucas will have much more to say about the Clergy Convocation just ended, I want to

reflect on one aspect I

found nurturing and life giving over these past few days.

The theme of water and living water was woven throughout our time together. For many of us, being around, on or in water is in and of itself renewing. One of our clergy brought her kayak for the free time. Another road his bike out the Causeway in Lake Champlain. Some of us fish. Some swim. The sound of a tricking fountain accompanied our time. Many of us shared stories of healing and hope found beside still (and not so still) waters.

All of us have places, activities or practices that as the Psalmist says, "restore our souls." The challenge is making the time and space to do those things that we know bring renewal and respite to our souls. We all know we "should" do these things but often do not make the commitment to the very things that will help us to approach life and ministry with renewed energy and even insight.

As the busy fall washes over us with commitments, emails, responsibilities, carve

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

Rev. Lynn Bujnak will be preaching in Newfane

Rev. Pam Lucas will be worshiping and meeting with the search committee with Lyndonville and East Burke

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Peacemaker's Pulpit

"Nothing is so important to the church as human life, as the human person, above all, the person of the poor and oppressed, who, besides being human beings, are also divine beings, since Jesus said that whatever is done to them he takes as done to Him. - Oscar Romero

I recently returned from El Salvador - an amazing and sobering trip. We spent time with Bethany's Sister Parish and traveled around the country. While signs of economic progress are clear, large divisions between the rich and the poor remain. The minimum hourly wage is \$2.50. Gang violence has subsided, settling into less violent methods of organized crime. Government corruption remains a problem. Abortion is completely illegal, and even the Archbishop of El Salvador admitted the law disproportionately affects poor women.

[Read the entire article here](#)

out a space to do that which gives you joy. For those of you who knew Rufus Cushman, a saint of this conference, this was his never flagging question, "What gives you joy?" Go for a walk, go through Smuggler's Notch before the snow flies, use these precious warm days to enjoy living water, play music, better yet, play music with friends, build a bonfire, drink some cider and know that the work and ministry will be there for you with or without these breaks.

Blessings on your lives and the rhythms of work and renewal, activity and rest, weariness and refreshment. Let us be good about this balance for ourselves and let us gently remind our friends and loved ones when the balance is lost.

In the peace that passes understanding,
Lynn

Annual Annuitant Luncheon

September 28, 2017
10:30 to 3:00

Bethany Church, UCC, Randolph, VT

The Vermont Conference invites all of you to lunch and a program at Bethany United Church of Christ in Randolph.

[Read the agenda here](#)

Click the link below to RSVP online
[RSVP by September 21 to Conference Office](#)

Saturday, October 28
First Congregational Church, UCC
39 Main Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452

A Worship & Song Leading Workshop with Paul Vasile, Executive Director of Music that Makes Community

Nepalese Lunch provided by The Vineyard Nepali Fellowship

Cost: \$15 person payable at the door, for all coming from churches outside the Champlain Association UCC

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



[UCC News and Updates](#)

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

A Tiny House aims to provide
big solutions for South Carolina
LGBTQ community

Love Them Back to Life

North Carolina church
reluctantly accepts pastor's
unexpected resignation

UCC continues push to ban
work, housing and public
discrimination in Ohio

Disaster Ministries prepares
pastoral planning mission in
Texas, Florida

Early assessment in Florida
finds damage to two UCC
churches

Commentary: Our Displaced
Neighbors
Corpus Christi congregation
aids disaster distribution on
Texas coast

UCC clergy lead protest
denouncing Nashville
Statement outside Chicago
evangelical school



Please RSVP at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/workshop-songs-of-transformation-reformation-and-liberation-tickets-37928359745>

****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
- 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...](#)

Click image for more information.



Food for Thought
Focus Reading:
Exodus 16:2-15

*From a penitential prayer offered
in Jewish homes at the start of
Sabbath:*

"Days pass and years vanish, and
we walk sightless among
miracles."

*Marilynne Robinson, Gilead, 21st
century*

"Sometimes I have loved the
peacefulness of an ordinary
Sunday. It is like standing in a
newly planted garden after a warm
rain. You can feel the silent and
invisible life."

Thomas Kempis, 15th century

"Be faithful to your secret place,
and it will become your closest
friend and bring you much comfort.
In silence and stillness a devout
person grows spiritually and learns
the hidden things of the Bible.
Tears shed there bring cleansing.
God draws near to the one who
withdraws for a while. It is better for
you to look after yourself this way
in private than to perform wonders
in public while neglecting your
soul."

Henry Ward Beecher, 19th century

"A world without a Sabbath would
be like a man without a smile, like
summer without flowers, and like a
homestead without a garden. It is
the most joyous day of the week."

Wendell Berry, 21st century

"Sabbath observance invites us to
stop. It invites us to rest. It asks us
to notice that while we rest, the
world continues without our help. It
invites us to delight in the world's
beauty and abundance."

Mahatma Gandhi, 20th century

"There are people in the world so
hungry, that God cannot appear to
them except in the form of bread."

Church Bulletin Board

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

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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

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The Bradford Congregational Church is seeking
to buy used copies of the New Century
Hymnal. If your church would like to meet
their need please contact Marcia Tomlinson
at m3site@charter.net

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## 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.  
Please contact Ann Rose at [gms@tds.net](mailto:gms@tds.net) if  
interested.

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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

Henry David Thoreau, 19th century
"It is not enough to be busy. So are the ants. The question is: What are we busy about?"

Aristophanes, 5th century B.C.E.
"Hunger knows no friend but its feeder."

Elie Wiesel, Night, 20th century
"Bread, soup--these were my whole life. I was a body. Perhaps less than that even: a starved stomach. The stomach alone was aware of the passage of time."

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, 20th century
"The belly is an ungrateful wretch, it never remembers past favors, it always wants more tomorrow."

Frank McCourt, 20th century
"After a full belly all is poetry."

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### Resources from WorshipWell

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:



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

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](mailto:2congo@myfairpoint.net)

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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

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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)

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

