



Vermont Conference, UCC Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

November 2, 2017

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Greetings!

Vermont Conference News

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**Lynn Bujnak will be in Essex Junction for the John Dorhauer worship**

**Pam Lucas will be at St. Albans Congregational for Church Worship and Meet with Visioning Team**

**Southwest Association Of Churches and Ministers Vermont Conference- United Church of Christ Announces and Welcomes you to the Installation of Joseph J. Will As the Pastor of First Congregational Church of Wallingford, Vermont  
November 12, 2017 2 PM**

**Good Luck Jesse - we will miss you!**

## The Challenge of Paul Gift Program

Thanks to a generous donation, FaithandReason® will be able to provide copies of "The Challenge of Paul", Themes 1 & 2 at no cost to churches who agree to use the resource in their classes. "The Challenge of Paul" is a production of FaithandReason® and features the work of John Dominic Crossan, an Irish-American New Testament scholar and historian of early Christianity. Dr. Crossan previously collaborated with FaithandReason® to create "The Challenge of Jesus", currently available on [faithandreason.org](http://faithandreason.org).

We're asking interested churches and organizations to fill out this form, commit to use the product, and share their feedback with us. Each theme is created with church group resource leaders in mind, and includes downloadable Participant Guides. As a part of the Gift Program, we are also including a fully-designed PDF transcript.

[read more here...](#)

**Consult XXI at Silver Lake**



**BUILDING BRIDGES  
WITH OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS  
BEGINS WITH YOU**

Click image for more information.

Care for the poor.

*God is still speaking,*

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



[UCC News and Updates](#)

2017 Digital Stewardship  
Materials...

[read more here!](#)

Massachusetts Immigrant  
Welcoming Congregation takes  
father of three into sanctuary

UCC opposes religious  
exemptions in Supreme Court  
case

Tennessee interfaith counter-  
protesters outnumber white  
supremacists

Commentary: Your Health  
Matters: Get Covered

Tennessee interfaith leaders  
come together against hate  
and white supremacy

Vermont church Earth  
Advocates march on local  
bank

Join us for Consult XXI Monday, November 6 through Friday, November 10 as we are reminded and explore "Be Not Afraid for I am With You." We will gather at Silver Lake Conference Center (Sharon, CT) as colleagues and partners in Outdoor Ministries. Consult is a bi-annual gathering of camp directors, board members and chairs, site supporters, and advocates for Outdoor Ministries, especially within the UCC. We will explore what it means to "Be Not Afraid for I am With You", when the "I" is God, Jesus, self, and partners we may work with at camp.

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



**Tending the Fire**

## Do you ever feel like your church gets "stuck"?

Do you find the same conversation happening in meeting after meeting, without resolution? Or are there topics so touchy that no one brings them out at all? Do a few people do almost all the work of the church while others seem to do very little? Are you one of those people doing everything, and you're not sure how much longer you can do it? Is there a lot of worry and not much joy in your ministry?

If so, then Tending the Fire will help you understand why people in your church act the way they do, especially when they are anxious. You'll discover how important your role as leader can be, and how to live into that role in ways that are sustainable and life-giving for you and for the church. You'll learn how to assess the best changes for the place you serve, and how to implement those changes so that they last.

Tending the Fire: Maine will be offered in Barre Vermont beginning in January 2018; register online at [www.tending-the-fire.com/register](http://www.tending-the-fire.com/register). For more information, contact Rev. Barbara Lemmel at 802-881-3267 or [barblemmel@mac.com](mailto:barblemmel@mac.com).

### Peacemakers' Pulpit

Countless people have noted and bemoaned that degeneration of our public discourse into angry name-calling, and tirades that we would not want our children to hear. It feels both

Food for Thought

Focus Reading:  
Matthew 23:1-12

Leo Tolstoy, 19th century

"Hypocrisy in anything whatever may deceive the cleverest and most penetrating man, but the least wide-awake of children recognizes it, and is revolted by it, however ingeniously it may be disguised."

Charles de Montesquieu, 18th century

"To become truly great, one has to stand with people, not above them."

Ambrose Bierce, 20th century

"Hypocrisy: prejudice with a halo."

Edwin Hubbel Chapin, 19th century clergyman

"Ostentation is the signal flag of hypocrisy."

Friedrich Nietzsche, 19th century

"It is easier to cope with a bad conscience than with a bad reputation."

Albert Einstein, 20th century

"Whoever undertakes to set himself up as a judge of Truth and Knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of the gods."

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 19th century

"A great man is always willing to be little."

newly depressing and depressingly familiar. I am reminded of a Shaker song, written in the 19th century, which proves that this is not a new concern:

With a new tongue I now will speak  
and keep the valley lowly  
I'll watch my thoughts and words this week  
and have them pure and holy.  
Old cross and crabbed I will shun:  
they make me feel so ugly!  
I'd rather speak with Mother's tongue  
and keep her blessings snugly.

This song was accompanied with some rather expressive movements, including foot-stamping.

Is it possible to make peace with our words, while maintaining our integrity and convictions? Can we speak with a new tongue to counteract the flood of hateful speak coming over our airways?

I found insight in the words of Parker Palmer, a Quaker activist (Shakers and Quakers can be inspiring with words): "Anger isn't the problem. The problem is getting hooked on anger - addicted to an emotion that gives you a fleeting high but leaves you feeling worse, all the while robbing you of well-being and creating an insatiable desire for the next hit. Being hooked saps me of energy and harms my health. Worse still, it diverts me from taking personal responsibility for what's going on right now."

Let's get unhooked from unhealthy anger and unproductive speech. Our prophetic traditions offer us a vision of anger channeled into peacemaking. May we have the grace to learn and speak with Mother's tongue.

Mary Brownlow

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Save the Date!

**Eastern Regional Youth Event (ERYE)
July 19-22, 2018 at California University of
Pennsylvania.**

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[Tom Kinder](#) / United Church of  
Strafford is wondering if anyone in  
the conference has boxes of  
Pilgrim Hymnals looking for a  
home. I need 50 or so.

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**Norm Williams, mountain
dulcimer player and instructor
will be in Vermont on November
11th.** (website:
awayfarer@normw.com) He will
offer three workshops for novice
through intermediate players. If
there is enough interest a
beginner course will also be
offered. The venue is the
Congregational UCC church in
Berlin, just off exit 7 on I89. Norm
and friends will perform a concert
at 7:00PM at the church. A free
will offering will go to support the
mission and ministry of that
congregation. Questions? Want to
register for workshops? (\$15.00 for
1, 35.00 for all three. Call Lynn at
802-505-3980.

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### **Resources from WorshipWell**

Be sure to check  
out the worship  
resources  
available at:



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

Worship / play / pray / learn / serve / sing /  
dream

ERYE is a chance to grow your spirit through  
workshops, worship, recreation, and service!  
Registration information will be posted  
soon. Estimated cost is \$350 per person for  
event registration, housing, and meals. This  
does not include transportation. The Southern  
New England Conferences (RI, MA, and CT) will  
be collaborating to provide bus transportation.

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"Lethal Logic" by Dennis Hannigan (Review by
Betty Edson)

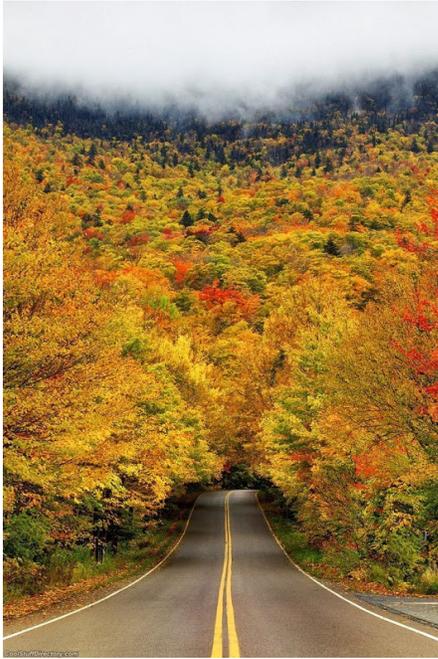
Recently, our Gun Violence Task Force asked
someone who has long been active regarding
this issue, if there were new books coming out
that it would be well for us to read. He
responded with some "oldies" that he felt were
important, and I chose to read "Lethal Logic"
with the idea of writing a review, in mind.

[Read more here...](#)

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**The Congregational Church of Middlebury**  
invites you to a discussion of the new book by  
our Theologian-in-Residence, Dr. James Calvin  
Davis, *Forbearance: A Theological Ethic for a  
Disagreeable Church*. In his newest work, Dr.  
Davis offers the church a way out of divisive  
disagreements through the embrace of a  
"theological ethic for faithful disagreement."  
The event will feature remarks by the author,  
and reactions to the book from readers in the  
community. Copies of the book will be  
available for purchase, and the author has  
agreed to sign them. The event takes place  
on Tuesday, 7 November, at 7:30 PM in Unity  
Hall (in the Congregational Church's new  
addition). Light snacks and beverages will be  
served.

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Race begins and ends Barre Town Clerk
Office, 149 Websterville Road, Barre, VT 05641

This race benefits local mission and outreach
efforts for Barre Congregational
Church. Fabulous prizes will be awarded for the
overall Male and Female winner, and for the
Male and Female winners in each age group.
Registration at [www.bccgobblewobble2017.
eventbrite.com](http://www.bccgobblewobble2017.eventbrite.com)



Thank You for Reading
An Open and Affirming Conference

