



# Vermont Conference, UCC Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

October 11, 2017

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**Vermont Conference News**  
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**Pam Lucas will be leading worship in Brandon and then attending the Southwest Association Meeting**

**The MSSC is in the process of "counting heads" of authorized clergy who have not yet returned their information review forms.**  
 If you know that you have not yet returned the form, you have 2 option wonderful options: return it now, ask Jesse Davis for a form to return now. Just as a reminder: "All authorized ministers are expected to participate in ... Information Reviews in order to maintain their authorization." (United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry ) This document is a means for

Greetings!



Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference, UCC,

In a few hours I will be heading for a long overdue appointment. It's one I have cancelled and rescheduled several times until somehow

it's been over a year since my last appointment. This is not good. I know it is important for my well-being. However, there always seems to be some other task that claims my time. I am going on retreat.

This word means different things for different people. For some, retreat is another name for a planning or visioning meeting. Others love the kind of retreat where old and new friends and colleagues have a chance to catch-up and spend quality time together. The kind of retreat that feeds my soul is silence. It is in silence that I hear God speak to me most directly. Silence is renewing for me and combining that with joining in a community that prays the daily office throughout each day and celebrates Eucharist daily is rest and sustenance and joy.

authorized ministers to participate in the Information Review in order to uphold the covenantal relationship with the Vermont Conference.

We have not been able to contact several of our authorized members. Their names are listed below. If you know how we can reach them, or if you think they've moved away, we would appreciate the info! Please let Jesse Davis know.

John Bixby, Nancy Devor, Norma Drosky, Michael Henkle, Ann Hockridge, Will Hunter, Judith Kennedy, Diana Scholl

Thanks!  
Marisa Laviola, Chair  
MSSC



Click image for more information.



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



[UCC News and Updates](#)

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

[Sonoma congregation  
offering neighbors welcome  
home after wildfires](#)

[Loving interfaith community  
in Kansas stands together  
against suspected anti-  
Semitism](#)

[Commentary: Living out the  
Three Great Loves through](#)

What appointments have you been putting off because your life seems too busy and your work too pressing? What is it that feeds your soul and when was the last time you did it? As the world and national news leaves us anxious and weary, as transitions and concerns in our local churches can weigh us down from time to time, it is time to allow the One who is the Lover of our souls to lead us beside still waters where our souls may indeed be restored.

So, I am stepping away for a few days because I have an important appointment to keep. No more delays. I can't wait! What about you?

In peace,  
Lynn

Dear Friends,

After two blessed years serving as your Vermont Conference Ministries Coordinator, I have been called to serve as the Community Relations Manager for Stagecoach Transportation, a nonprofit transportation service for Orange and northern Windsor Counties ([stagecoach-rides.org](http://stagecoach-rides.org)).

It has been a privilege to work with all of the churches seeking new pastors, our Members in Discernment, authorized ministers and everyone involved with the Vermont Conference Annual Meeting. What I have learned from all of you will serve me well in my new role and I am grateful for the support you have given me as I worked to serve you the best ways I could.

I will be finishing my time at the Vermont Conference on Wednesday, November 1st, but my new office will be just a couple blocks down Main Street in Randolph so look me up if you're in town! Thank you for your work and ministry to bring the love and peace of Christ to Vermont and the world, a world very sorely in need of such divine grace. You will continue to be in my prayers in the time to come.

Your brother in Christ,  
Jesse

STAFF TRANSITIONS

## Just Policies

Rebekah Choate named  
Global Ministries Associate  
for Global Advocacy and  
Education

Raleigh church offers  
sanctuary to father of four



We will be sorry to see Jesse leave our staff but happy that he has found a full-time job with benefits in his field. Jesse has done excellent work for the Vermont Conference and often went the extra mile. He has helped us to better arrange the dissemination of Church Profiles to candidates and Ministerial Profiles to Search Committees. He has served as staff support to the Annual Meeting Planning Committee and also Ministerial Standing and Standards. If you attended an Annual Meeting or a Vitality Event within the past two years, you will have seen Jesse hard at work to make the event a success. Thank you Jesse and Godspeed! - Lynn, Pam and Charri

## Food for Thought

Focus Reading:  
Exodus 33:12-23

Hafiz, 14th century mystic

"An awake heart is like a sky  
that pours light."

Huston Smith, 20th century

"Might we begin then to  
transform our passing  
illuminations into abiding  
light?"

Geraldine Brooks, People of  
the Book, 21st century (one of  
the best books I've ever read)

"When she thought of the  
letter beit, it was not of the  
thickness of lines or the  
exactitude of spaces. It was of  
mysteries: the number two,  
the dual; the house, the house  
of God on earth. 'They will  
build me a temple and I will  
dwell in them.' In them, not in  
it. He would dwell within her.  
She would be the house of  
God. The house of  
transcendence. Just a single,  
tiny letter, and in it, such a  
path to joy."

Karen Armstrong, Jerusalem:  
One City, Three Faiths, 21st  
century

## Vermont Interfaith Power and Light

P.O. Box 209

Richmond, VT 05477

[info@vtipl.org](mailto:info@vtipl.org) 802-434-3397

[www.vtipl.org](http://www.vtipl.org)

Vermont Interfaith Power and Light (VTIPL) will hold its annual conference, Building Local Resilience - Inspiring Climate Action!, on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017, 10 am - 4 pm, at First Congregational Church in Manchester, VT. It's going to be great - please come!

Deb Markowitz, former Secretary of Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources will be the Keynote Speaker. She has long been speaking out about the climate crisis and the need for quick and effective action to address global climate change. Her bio and much more about the conference is on the event page on VTIPL's website: [www.vtipl.org/node/364](http://www.vtipl.org/node/364).

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Saturday, October 28  
First Congregational Church, UCC

"When they have contemplated the world, human beings have always experienced a transcendence and mystery at the heart of existence."

Dag Hammarskjöld, 20th century

"In a dream I walked with God through the deep places of creation; past walls that receded and gates that opened through hall after hall of silence, darkness and refreshment--the dwelling place of souls acquainted with light and warmth--until, around me, was an infinity into which we all flowed together and lived anew, like the rings made by raindrops falling upon wide expanses of calm dark waters."

Albert Einstein, 20th century

"Never lose a holy curiosity."

Anne Lamott, *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*, 21st century

"The thing about light is that it really isn't yours; it's what you gather and shine back. And it gets more power from reflectiveness; if you sit still and take it in, it fills your cup, and then you can give it off yourself."

Dag Hammarskjöld, 20th century

"God does not die when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illuminated by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of a wonder, the source of which is

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

Please RSVP at:

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

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From the VT Conference Gun Violence Reduction Task Force

The Las Vegas mass shooting was a horrible tragedy affecting thousands of people: victims, family members, and friends, and our hearts go out to them. Yet the sadder fact is that every day of the year our nation suffers more gun deaths than occurred in Las Vegas (homicides, accidents, suicides). Over 90 people per day are killed by guns in the US, and twice that number are wounded. Gun violence is a public health crisis.

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

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**Available: Marble baptismal font**

Do you need a baptismal font for your sanctuary? Since the closing of Puffer United Methodist Church that has merged with First Congregational Church in Morrisville, we have a font we are not using. It dates back to the early 20th century. Best offer. You pick up and transport.

call Marisa Laviola 888-2990.

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**Consult XXI at Silver Lake**

beyond all reason."

Meister Eckhart, 14th century

"Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and a book about God. Every creature is a word of God. If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature--even a caterpillar--I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God is every creature."

C.S. Lewis, 20th century

"It was when I was happiest that I longed most...The sweetest thing in all my life has been the longing...to find the place where all the beauty came from.

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....](#)

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## Employment Opportunities

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

### Ministries Coordinator Vermont Conference Office

[Read More Here....](#)

Coordinator for Youth and Family Ministries

Bethany Church, a lively congregation of the United Church of Christ, is seeking a half time (20 hours a week) Coordinator for Youth and Family Ministries.

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

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

First Church of Essex Junction, U.C.C. seeks  
PT Organist/Choir Director.

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

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### Resources from WorshipWell

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:



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



**Thank You for Reading**  
**An Open and Affirming Conference**

