

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS 1:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

1. **BIBLICAL STORYTELLING FOR JUST ABOUT EVERYONE** – A how-to experience on telling/presenting/performing biblical texts in worship using live spoken word techniques, music & singing, solo and ensemble, memory and scripted. Examples by presenter and group participation, plus conversation about how speaking the texts alters and deepens interpretation. *Bert Marshall is a musician, songwriter, recording artist, and storyteller. He has performed the whole Gospel of Mark from memory all over the country since 2003. He is ordained in the UCC and just completed a 3-year interim ministry gig at Centre Church in Brattleboro.*
2. **STORY TELLING WORKSHOP ON CONGREGATION DISASTER RESPONSE** – Through use of stories of past response which goes back as far as 1917 and the Influenza Epidemic, the workshop encourages Church communities to draw on the experiences and envision what can be done in future crises. *Rev. Adrienne Carr is not a first responder but has attended several disaster training workshops. The Committee is seeking to create a role for churches in response to potential environmental disasters in Vermont.*
3. **THE ART AND SCIENCE OF STORY TELLING** – A follow up to the key note presentation that focuses on individual and small group coaching designed to help participants apply the skills they have learned to craft their own stories. Emphasis during this workshop is on; how to shine a light on your stories of faith, editing your story to highlight the most important elements and preparing to tell your story in front of a live audience. *Sue Schmidt, MS, LCMHC is the Key Note speaker the VTC UCC Annual Meeting. (Workshop is available both days)*
4. **TELLING STORIES WITH FLOWERS** – This workshop will explore the use of flowers, props and accessories and the use of symbolism in telling stories and how they help make the written and spoken word visible. *Ned has been in the floral industry for 45 years and has taught at his school the Vermont Academy of Floral Design for 31 years, Vermont's only professional floral design school. He is an accreted member of the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) and is an AIFD Laureate. He is also the only Commissioned Minister of Liturgical Floral Design in the United Church of Christ.*

5. **STEWARDSHIP AS STORYTELLING** – Stewardship tells the story of a congregation. This workshop will engage participants in determining what is important in their respective congregation's stewardship story and how to most effectively tell the story to one's church's benefit. We will discuss tools for an effective stewardship campaign. And please bring your own ideas to share! *The Rev. Lucia Jackson serves as Pastor of the First Congregational Church of Hartland and the Rev. Kathy Clark serves as Pastor of the Federated Church of East Arlington. Both Lucia and Kathy were active members of the Stewardship Committee of the Vermont Conference for a number of years and they still think stewardship speaks volumes as to what is important to local churches.*

6. **THE WARRIOR CONNECTION (TWC) A COMMUNITY BASED MINDFULNESS AND EXPRESSIVE ARTS PROGRAM** – Workshop participants will learn the elements of this veteran-centered model and sample its powerful multi-modal approach. The retreat program is designed for each veteran to more authentically reconnect with the truth of whom they are (their souls) so as to then reconnect with their families and more easily engage in the civilian world. *Anne Black, PhD. Anne holds a doctoral degree in community psychology and thanatology, a master's degree in education and certificates of study in art therapy and the expressive arts. In 2010 Dr. Black founded The Warrior Connection, a non-profit organization for combat veterans and military sexual trauma survivors and to test the efficacy of using mindfulness and the expressive arts to resolve loss, repair moral injury and mitigate the effects of post-traumatic stress.*

7. **SHARING THE STORY, SHARING STORIES: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE** – We will explore how we can use children's literature in a variety of settings in congregational ministry. Through stories, we will make connections to our faith story and our own stories. *Tracy Fye Weatherhogg. Tracy is the Associate Minister at Grace Congregational UCC in Rutland where she serves with John Weatherhogg, husband and colleague. Tracy has worked for over for over 30 years in the area of Christian Education and Faith Formation. Tracy loves books of all kinds but especially children's books!*

8. **THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S: CLIMATE CHANGE RESOLUTION AND SHARING STORIES OF CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITMENT** – This workshop will explore ways our faith can inspire us to take action on climate change. We will discuss the resolution on climate change that will be presented to Annual Meeting for

approval. We will also share stories about our connection with the Earth, and how that can inspire us to act on its behalf, as an expression of the resolution's call for prophetic witness and action. *Fred Taylor teaches Environmental Studies (including Ethics and Activism) and writing at Keene State and CCV. He has an M.Div., and a PHD in "Religion, Literature and the Environment." In addition to teaching, he writes and leads workshops about the spiritual dimensions of climate change. Judi Joy has a Bachelor's Degree in Spiritual Ecology, which didn't earn her any more money professionally, but allowed her to read many amazing books on environmental activism and care for the Earth. She is the Shelter Manager at the Good Samaritan Haven Shelter for the Homeless so is blessed to be able to care for people, in addition to the environment.*

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS 11 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

9. **"READING SCRIPTURE IN A WAY THEY CAN HEAR"** The stories, and The Story, we have to tell from Scripture are good...really good. Statistics tell us, though, that fewer and fewer of us, know these stories. Through theory and hands on practice, this workshop will provide participants with skills to enhance their reading of Scripture in worship in ways that people can hear. *Kevin Goldenbogen is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and Senior Pastor of Charlotte Congregational Church. He has been active in the Vermont Conference for 10 years and believes in what we are doing together. Kevin is part of a team who, in 2016, began making original worship resources available to the Vermont Conference through WorshipWell.church...a resource for congregations in the Vermont Conference, by worship leaders in the Vermont Conference.*

10. **INTERWOVEN STORIES OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE** – The panelists will tell their stories of career dedication to Restorative Justice, the importance of volunteers, the care and feeding of volunteers and stories for two volunteers and a Dismas House resident. *Jeanne is a member of the Second Congregational Church, Londonderry, the vice chair of the Department of Mission and the chair of the Department's Restorative Justice Committee. Jeanne has been serving as a Dismas House volunteer for nine years and has*

served on two Circles of Support and Accountability. She has also been leading worship at the Springfield Prison for eight years, and was recently called to be a volunteer chaplain there as a licensed minister. **Terese** moved to Vermont in 1991 and began volunteering almost immediately as a cook at Rutland Dismas House. Terese also served on the Board for many years, became House Director in 2004, and, remaining passionate about the work of Dismas, is now in her 15th year as the Director. **Michael** is a retired UCC pastor, writer, sugarmaker, soccer official, and volunteer Reparative Board member at Lamoille Restorative Ctr in Hyde Park. **Susan** is the Reentry and Community Development Coordinator for the Community Restorative Justice Center in St. Johnsbury. She has worked in the Human Services field for 34 years throughout the Northeast Kingdom, serving Vermonters from all walks of life, especially low-income Vermonters and people with disabilities. **Bobby** is the Director of Post Adjudication Services and Volunteer Supports at the Lamoille Restorative Center in Hyde Park. Her responsibilities include the oversight of Re-entry Services including CoSA, and the Reparative Program and the coordination and support of the 35 volunteers at LRC. There will be one resident from Dismas House telling a story of reintegration into society and two volunteers, including Alice Kitchel, member of St. Johnsbury Community Church

11. **THE ART AND SCIENCE OF STORY TELLING** – A follow up to the key note presentation that focuses on individual and small group coaching designed to help participants apply the skills they have learned to craft their own stories. Emphasis during this workshop is on; how to shine a light on your stories of faith, editing your story to highlight the most important elements and preparing to tell your story in front of a live audience. *Sue Schmidt, MS, LCMHC is the Key Note speaker the VTC UCC Annual Meeting.* (Workshop is available both days)

12. **OUR CHURCHS' STORIES OF THE PAST** – Sharing stories always binds us to each other in ways that last for generations. Springfield's church was founded in 1781. Like your church, we have stories of the Pastors and members of our church living in times that called for creativity and faith. Sharing these stories brings us together in thanksgiving for their gifts to us. In remembering our past, we can take courage for our future. *Diane Holme, Facilitator and*

member of the First Congregational Church United Church of Christ will be joined by other “church historians” from Vermont.

13. TWO YEARS WITH GLOBAL MINISTRIES IN RURAL SRI LANKA – We will share photos and stories about our experience and our relationship with Global Ministries. The meeting will be informal—questions and comments are always welcome. *Rev. Susan (Andy) Jepson and Lindley Kinerk. Andy and Lindley, under the auspices of Global Ministries, lived and participated in life in northern Sri Lanka. Andy was attached to the Christian Theological Seminary and Lindley worked with a church-run after-school program.*

14. WILD AND PRECIOUS (FILM) - Wild & Precious is a theatrical memoir in original songs, stories, photos, costumes celebrating 60 years of gay liberation through one of our stories: a gay man who grew up in rural Vermont. It’s entertaining and affirming and nails the struggle we’ve all been through. From the moment the curtain goes up until the final bow, you’ll connect with Steve Cadwell’s tale: the sissy boy playing with dolls; teen discovering his sexuality, the chaos and trauma of the closet, bursting Out at Stonewall, disco fever, the tragedy of AIDS; the victory of our freedom to marry, His story is OUR story. Cadwell’s vulnerability, authenticity and integrity bring it home. Plus it’s funny and engaging and a great night OUT! This well-tuned roller coaster shoots its riders through tumults, joys, tears, and celebration. Dare to be different! *Jeffery Tuper-Giles is the Consultant for Open and Affirming of the Vermont Conference and a member of Barre Congregational Church.*

15. ENGAGING CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES IN IMPROVING THE REFUGEE EXPERIENCE IN VERMONT– For more than twenty years, annually, more than 300 men, women and children, from many refugee communities, have been resettled in Vermont. The workshop will address the needs of newly arriving refugees, and the concerns of “New Americans” who have been here for several or many years. The panelists will discuss creative ways that individuals, congregations and communities can improve the refugee experience in Vermont. *Cleoplace Mukeba, a member of First Congregational UCC/BTV, came to VT as a refugee from the DR Congo in 2005; now a U.S. Citizen, he is the founder and director the Vermont Ibutwa Initiative and works full-time with “New American” students and families in the Winooski Vermont School District. Lucy Samara, has worked with New*

Americans in Chittenden County for many years and served First Congregational Church UCC/BTV in outreach and mission for 27 years; she is now their Communications Coordinator

16. THE CROSS NO ONE SHOULD BEAR: SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE – Faith communities have the

potential to be an important resource of support for those who have experienced the trauma of domestic or sexual violence. This workshop will help congregations understand and respond to survivors of intimate partner violence and their children as well as the support and connect with advocacy programs in their communities. *Rev. Elisa Lucozzi is pastor of United Community Church in St. Johnsbury. Before being called to serve the church, she worked as Program Manager of the Advocacy Program at Umbrella which supports survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Caledonia, Orleans and Essex counties. Rev. Kathy Clark is the pastor of the Federated Church of East Arlington. She is also currently serving as the faith leader representative to the Governor's state-wide Council on Domestic Violence. Earlier in her career, she worked as Executive Director of Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) which serves survivors in Bennington county.*