

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



April 12, 2018

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference, UCC:

It is almost time for Annual Meeting. The Planning Committee is putting the finishing touches on the program book integrating our worship and work.



The Power Point images are being organized and the visual design of our space is complete. Very soon, we will have both financial information and a proposed resolution added to the Annual Meeting part of vtcucc.org. Our Administrator, Charri Robinson and Diane Holme are making a list and checking it twice or three times. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee has done a fantastic job of planning and organizing under the very able leadership of Katelyn Macrae.

Why attend Annual Meeting? Let me count the whys:

- It's an opportunity to **network** with leaders from across the Conference.
- There are **exhibitors** from the National Setting of the Church and nearer to hand.
- We have a fantastic theme (I Love to Tell the Story) and Keynote speaker - **Susan Schmidt**.
- The ability to **tell our stories** of the ways in which God has impacted, changed or redirected our lives is vital for the living of these days.
- There are **workshops** on everything from social justice issues to using children's literature in Faith Formation.
- Always late to **Peacemaker's Breakfast**? The Peacemaker's Gathering will be held on Friday afternoon - please come!

- It will be **just plain FUN** - stories, song, worship, talk around the tables at mealtimes, a Story Slam Friday evening

Further Incentive:

- If your church has less than 50 members, there is a **scholarship available** to pay the entire registration and meal costs for the Meeting. The only thing not covered is overnight accommodations.
- There are a limited number of \$65.00 scholarships available on a first come, first served basis.
- **Lake Morey is beautiful.** Perhaps we'll have ice out for our meeting.

Please register soon! We already have great numbers. Be sure to pick your two workshops when you do. Lake Morey guest rooms are filling up. Once they are full, White River Junction is the closest place to find a motel.

I look forward to seeing you there!
Lynn

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# VT CONFERENCE NEWS

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Dear Friends,

Are you excited yet? I know I am! I can hardly wait for this year's Vermont Conference Annual Meeting. Some of my favorite phrases are "Once upon a time..." "Did you hear about..." "There was this woman who..." "A priest, a rabbi, and an Imam..." These are clues that a story is to follow and nothing communicates better than a good story. This is why I'm so elated. The theme of this year's Annual Meeting, "Sharing Sacred Stories," might just prove to be monumental.

Most every preacher I know is familiar with Frederick Buechner's *Telling The Truth, The Gospel As Tragedy, Comedy & Fairy Tale* and *Benedicta Ward's Sayings of the Desert Fathers*. Early on these small volumes inspired me to include stories in my preaching. A good story can delight, challenge and transform the listener. After all, Jesus was the master storyteller himself. His parables continue to inspire and challenge believers and nonbelievers to this day.

This past Sunday I included as part of my Easter sermon the illustration "Sunday's A Coming," made famous by Tony Compolo. (you can find it on Youtube) I first heard him tell this story early in my ministry and since then I have been keenly aware that "a good story well told" is a powerful tool.

At the end of April I'm retiring from the pastoral ministry after thirty-six years of service and two churches, but I'm not retiring from telling stories. At this year's

Annual Meeting all of us who attend will have a unique opportunity to improve and hone the skill of storytelling. We live in a turbulent and divisive time. Progressive Christians, more than ever need to share the Good News, as we understand it in effective and powerful ways. Susanne Schmidt, our keynote speaker and facilitator, will share with us her knack for "telling a good story." Our world needs our message. Our world needs healing. Our world needs storytellers.

If you have yet to sign up for this year's Annual Meeting on April 27, 28 at Lake Morey Inn, it is not too late. See below for links for Annual Meeting.

David Vanderlinde-Abernathy  
Pastor, Barre Congregational Church, UCC

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**WE WANT EVERY CHURCH TO BE AT ANNUAL  
MEETING THIS YEAR!  
WE WANT TO HEAR EVERY CHURCH'S STORY!  
SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!**

**In this time when every penny counts and our churches are struggling to even cover the operational budget we want to help!**

**We want to let all of our churches know that there are scholarships available for the registration cost of the Annual Meeting. We especially want to encourage our smaller churches to take full advantage of this. If your church has delegates please contact the VT Conference Office and get the information to apply. We look forward to having everyone who can attend to be part of this important time of Fellowship, Worship, Workshops, Speakers, and Conference business.**

**Please feel free to reach out!**

**It's time to register for the Annual Meeting!!!**

**REGISTRATION CLOSES IN TEN DAYS!!!**

**2018 Annual Meeting**

of the Vermont Conference  
of the United Church of Christ  
Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee, Vermont

Rooms at Lake Morey Resort are going fast there are  
**12** left out of 110 reserved for our Annual Meeting!  
To reserve your room, call the  
Lake Morey Resort 802-333-4311

Annual Meeting [Information here.....](#)

**Exhibitor Tables are full! How exciting!**

[Read About the Annual Meeting Workshops Here.....](#)



Did you know that every check you send from your church needs to have a Remittance Form to accompany it? Please click below for a form if you don't have one.

[Find a new remittance form here....](#)



## ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Annual Meeting is almost upon us, and, as always, we are anticipating the **Peacemakers' Breakfast**, although, this year, it will be the "Peacemakers' Gathering," as it will not take place at breakfast time. Annual Meeting will formally begin at 9:30 AM on April 27, and there will be a break in the agenda mid-afternoon. The Peacemakers' Gathering will be held from 4 to 5:30, place to be announced.

Please be in touch if your church - or one you know about - has a peace or justice-related program that could be shared during the gathering. There is so much that pulls our spirits down these days,

and it is always balm for the soul to hear of the many things that are happening that allow us to be God's hands, feet and voice in the world, bringing us closer to a realization of God's Realm among us.

Please be in touch with Betty Edson ([bedson30@gmail.com](mailto:bedson30@gmail.com) or 728-4057) or Bev Anderson ([brandx@vermontel.com](mailto:brandx@vermontel.com) or 422-3484) if you would like to be on the agenda. Thank you!

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UCC NEWS

UCC NEWSFEED

Commentary: Anti-Racism Resources for Children and Families

I'm asked often by local church clergy and faith formation staff about resources for talking with children about racism and white privilege. So I'd like to share a few helpful resources.

What's New? CASA awards 12 New and Renewing Spiritual Communities grants in 2017

An investment of more than a quarter million dollars in a dozen spiritual communities around the UCC through New and Renewing Spiritual Communities grants is resourcing inspirational ministries built around love, faith, community, justice and creativity.

Reimagining Theological Formation begins in contemplative community

The 'From the Ground Up: Re-Imagining Theological Formation' summit brought 135 people from across the life of the United Church of Christ to Cleveland, to imagine ways to transform how and what we teach, how we articulate what we believe and how we declare who we are in the world.

Despite mayor's objections, city council votes to support sanctuary, Massachusetts church

The City Council of Springfield, Mass., is offering strong support to a local UCC congregation providing sanctuary to a mother facing deportation, passing an order to keep the city from further involvement.

UCC National Staff spends a day in service to 3 Great Loves

The 3 Great Loves initiative fueled the work of 6 teams of UCC staffers practicing love of neighbor, love of children and love of creation on Thursday, April 5, volunteering their time and talents at several different sites across Cleveland.

Commentary: Alleluia is Our Cry

"We are an Easter people. And Alleluia is our cry." - St. Augustine

Religious leaders come together in D.C. to take on racism, finish work of Martin Luther King, Jr.

UCC congregants and clergy joined thousands of marchers from several faith communities in Washington, D.C., Wednesday, the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to begin a movement to end racism and white supremacy.

UCC launches 'Sacred Conversations to End Racism' curriculum in commitment to racial equity in America

With the launch of Sacred Conversations to End Racism (SC2ER), a restorative justice curriculum, the United Church of Christ adds another tool, another set of resources for congregations working on a sacred mission to eradicate racism.

WEEKLY SEEDS

Focus reading: Luke 24: 36-48

Christian Wiman, *My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer*, 21st century
"What we call doubt is often simply dullness of mind and spirit, not the absence of faith at all, but faith latent with the lives we are not quite living, God dormant in the world to which we are not quite giving our best selves."

Terry Tempest Williams, *Leap*, 21st century
"How do we remain faithful to our own spiritual imagination and not betray what we know in our own bodies? The world is holy. We are holy. All life is holy."

Mahatma Gandhi, 20th century
"In a gentle way, you can shake the world."

John Philip Newell, 21st century
"It is through sharing our fragments of insight that we will come to a fuller picture of the One who is at the heart of each life."

Paul Gauguin, 19th century
"I shut my eyes in order to see."

Bruce Epperly, 21st century
"When author Madeleine L'Engle was asked, 'Do you believe in God without any doubts?' she replied, 'I believe in God with all my doubts.'"

Parker Palmer, 21st century
"The moments when we meet and reckon with contradictions are turning points where we either enter or evade the mystery of God."

Père Armogathe, 21st century
"Churchyards are not urban repositories for garbage but places of sleep and waiting. It's like there are seeds under the ground, waiting for spring to come."

Alice Walker, 21st century
"Wake up and smell the possibility."

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.*

BE THE CHURCH



BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT CONFERENCE

[Here...](#)



HAPPENINGS

Vermont Summit on Sanctuary: Welcoming the Stranger, Our Neighbor - an Introduction to New Sanctuary Movement

The Interfaith Committee for Sanctuary in Vermont invites you to join us for the Vermont Summit on Sanctuary on Sunday, April 15th from 1:30-5:30 PM at Holy Family Parish Center in Essex Junction. (4 Prospect St.) Pastor Vicki Kemper from First Congregational Church, Amherst MA will share her congregation's experience of providing sanctuary. This will be followed by concurrent workshops on Building a Rapid Response Network and Policy & Advocacy in 2018. The last session will be a legal panel covering immigration law, risks to protectors and supporters of undocumented people, and the effort in Vermont to create a fair and unbiased policing policy. Our time together will end with the opportunity to network with other people of faith. This event is free with a suggested donation of \$10-25 to help cover costs.

[Registration can be found here.](#) For more information,
contact Melissa Battah, 651-8889 melissa@viavt.org.

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**We would like to make individuals and communities of faith in Vermont aware of the Convocation 2018 event we will be having on April 20-22, 2018.**



See the [BTS Convocation 2018 Flyer](#)

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SAVE THE DATE for THE most fabulous shopping experience of the spring season which will take place in Dorset on April 28, 2018 when the Dorset Church holds its Spring Rummage Sale from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Outside sales begin at 8:30 a.m. There will be no EARLY-BIRD SHOPPING!! The bag sale will take place from 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM.

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**The 26th Annual New England Summer Institute, 2018  
United Church of Christ History, Theology, and Polity  
Camp Calumet, Freedom, NH**

**Sponsored by the six New England Conferences  
of the United Church of Christ  
Week 1: May 29-June 1, 9:00-3:00  
Week 2: June 4-8, 9:00-3:00**

**There is NO SUBSTITUTE for learning about the UCC in direct, face-to-face conversation with others-and in beautiful, spirit-filled surroundings!**

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

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ONLINE

**UCC History, Theology and Polity Course
June/July 2018**

A UCC History, Theology and Polity Course that meets the requirements as set forth by the UCC Polity Teacher's Network will be offered online in June/July 2018. The instructor will be Rev. David Gaewski, Conference Minister of the New York Conference, UCC. Classes will begin at 9:30am and end at 3:30pm on the following dates: June 16, 23, 30 and July 7. The platform utilized will be Zoom Video Conferencing (zoom.us) The tuition will be \$475. For more information contact course administrator, Ms. Diana Pelletier, at dkluscombe@msn.com.

This polity course is sponsored by the Oneida Association of the New York Conference. Payments should be sent no later than May 23rd to: Diana Pelletier, 114 Munro Dr., Camillus, NY 13031. Make checks payable to Oneida Association UCC.

A syllabus is available upon request. Laity, Members in Discernment and Privilege of Call candidates are all invited! Class size is limited to the first fifteen to register. The course will be cancelled if we do not obtain seven registered students. A student is considered registered when full payment has been received. Students who cancel enrollment will receive reimbursements up until June 13th. Please note the last three online classes reached maximum capacity.

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

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**WEEKEND WITH MARK MILLER**

The Shelburne United Methodist Church and the Vermont District of the New England Annual Conference are pleased and excited to bring Mark Miller to our area on Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29, 2018.

Mark will play an organ recital on Sunday, April 29, on the Trillium Masterpiece Digital-Pipe organ at the Shelburne UMC on the corner of Route 7 and Church Street in Shelburne. The recital will begin at 2:00 p.m. Mark holds a master's degree in organ performance from Julliard School in New York City. There is no charge for this recital.

On Saturday, April 28, Mark will lead a workshop titled " Joyfully Eclectic, Theologically Rich and Relevant" - music resources for the small (and not so small) choir and congregation. The time is from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 P.m. and will give a half CEU credit to those participating. Lunch will be provided. The charge is \$10.00 and you may register by contacting:

Vermont District Office [vmtdistrict@neumc.org](mailto:vmtdistrict@neumc.org) or  
802-485-4724 and speak with Evie Doyon

Mark currently is an Associate Professor of Church Music at Drew Theological School in Madison, NJ, and a lecturer in the Practice of Sacred Music at Yale University. He serves as Minister of Music at Christ Church in Summit, NJ and is very well known for his leadership in the areas of worship and church music and through his hymn and anthem compositions. For additional information, contact Ann Rowell, Director of Music/Organist at Shelburne UMC [lar17g@comcast.net](mailto:lar17g@comcast.net) or 802-388-8410.



Worship  
Well

Original worship resources for local churches...because Sunday's coming.



# VERMONT OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

## HC Goes to VT!

We have 4 campers already registered for the week of July 29-August 3. We are hoping to get 24! Follow Horton Center on Facebook to see some great photos and videos of a week of summer camp!

### WHAT CAN CHURCHES DO TO PROMOTE CAMP?

- Promote camp in your bulletins and newsletters
- Hand out the brochures
- Have campers that have been to camp share stories in worship.
- Have a camp Sunday- Children's time, Smores for coffee hour, or camp songs in worship.
- Someone from Outdoor Ministries can come to your church to talk about camp with the children or share a sermon about Outdoor Ministries
- Let campers know there is scholarship money available
- Support the scholarship fund with a special gift of offering to Outdoor Ministries
- Check out the website at [www.hortoncenter.org](http://www.hortoncenter.org)
- Look for our table at the Vermont Conference Annual Meeting in April

### Camp Openings

#### RN Nurse

July 28at 2pm to August 3 at 6pm  
Position is paid through the  
VT UCC Conference and applicants need to:  
VT certified

Play an active role in the program  
Complete all staff/volunteer paperwork  
Attend a camp week training in the Spring

#### VOLUNTEER COUNSELORS

July 28at 2pm to August 3 at 6pm  
2 Male and 2 Female Counselors  
Must be 18yrs or older  
Experience working with kids/youth this age  
Complete all volunteer paperwork  
Attend a counselor training in the Spring

## **CERTIFIED WATERFRONT LIFEGUARD**

July 28 at 2pm to August 3 at 6pm

Position is paid through the VT UCC Conference  
and applicants need to:

18yrs or older and have experience  
working with youth this age

Be VT certified

Play an active role in the program

Complete all staff/volunteer paperwork

Attend a camp week training in the Spring

For questions or to apply: CLaurie Chipman lchipman@fccej.org  
or Nancy Folwer fowler@gmail.com

**[Preview 2018 Camp Brochure here!](#)**

**It's not too early to think about Summer Camp Rock Point 2018 - July 29-  
August 3 We have our volunteer Deans!**

**Thank you to Rev. Katelyn Macrae and Laura Labrie for saying yes to directing  
this week of camp for campers 5th-8th graders.**

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

**If you would like to volunteer, please contact Nancy Fowler at  
[fowler5vt@gmail.com](mailto:fowler5vt@gmail.com)  
Nancy Fowler or Laurie Chipman  
[lchipman@fccej.org](mailto:lchipman@fccej.org)**



**Rev. John Dorhauer was at at the Outdoor Ministry Association Consult  
Gathering at Silver Lake, CT in November and listened to some of our camping  
stories. We applied and were awarded a \$1000 Deering Grant to help with the  
cost of paddle boarding at Rock Point next summer.**

**[See Camp Job Opportunities here.....](#)**

**Job Replies to:  
[Laurie Chipman lchipman@fccej.org](mailto:Laurie Chipman lchipman@fccej.org)  
or**



**OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION**  
United Church of Christ

**DINNERS AND SOCIAL SERVICE  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**Community Supper**  
Every Friday, 6 pm at the United Church of South Royalton



**Bradford Congregational Church**  
The Community Suppers are the  
4th THURSDAY of each month

**Pot Luck and Hymn Sing - third Tuesday of every month, 6:pm, at the Roxbury  
Union Congregational Church.**

**Essex Eats Out Community Dinners Continue... 1st Friday of Every  
Month**

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

**Bradford Congregational Church**  
The Community Suppers are the  
4th THURSDAY of each month

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**Spring is finally here! Celebrate by
enjoying Breakfast on Saturday, April 21 from 8 to 10 AM at
the Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Road, Shoreham,
VT. Feast on Blueberry Pancakes or French Toast with Vermont
Maple Syrup, Sausages, Home Fries, Egg Casseroles, beverages**

and more, thanks to our support from Maple Meadows Farm, Monument Farm, Halfway House Restaurant, Vermont Trade Winds Farm, and Champlain Orchards. Bring your family and friends - the cost is only \$8 for adults, \$4 for children up to 12 years old, and \$20 for families. Your donation of non-perishable items for the Food Shelf is always appreciated.



Second Annual Coffee House

It's back! Northfield's Second Annual Coffee House-April 14, 2018 at the United Church of Northfield. Come enjoy an evening of live entertainment by professional and local talent while you relax with friends and neighbors, and support a great cause. The evening begins at 6:30 PM and goes until 9:30 PM. This year coffee has been donated by Carrier Roasting Co. of Northfield where they feature "fresh, ethically-sourced single origin coffees."

Performers include folk singer Paula Gills, singers from the recent Battle of Voices presented by the Pegasus Players of Norwich University, country singer Donna Thunders, and many others. We hope to see you there!

Suggested donation \$10. Includes snacks and beverage.

Donations will help support the Howe's Hall restoration project. Besides events like the Coffee House the Hall provides space for many community groups- Men's AA, Bright Futures Play Group, Boy Scouts, Northfield Promise Community, special receptions, community concerts, business trainings and more.

Save the Date:
April 14, 2018
6:30 PM- 9:30 PM
United Church of Northfield
58 South Main Street
Northfield, Vermont
www.ucnorthfield.org



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



The First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington, Vermont

Invites candidates for two part-time positions:

Children's & Family Ministries Coordinator: Dynamic innovator needed to grow programming for children (pre-K to gr.5) and families at Open & Affirming, mission-centric church. Be passionate about leading children into faithful, loving and hopeful lives. Start at 15hr/wk, \$20/hr. Work closely with staff and volunteers.

To apply, send resume and cover letter to: info@firstchurchburlington.org
Details: <http://firstchurchburlington.org/?s=hiring>

Youth and Young Adult Ministries Coordinator: Thoughtful relationship builder needed to grow youth ministry for, with and by youth. Be proactive guiding middle and high school students to develop identity and apply their passion for social justice in the world. Start at 15hr/wk, \$20/hr. Work closely with staff and volunteers.

To apply, send resume and cover letter to: info@firstchurchburlington.org
Details: <http://firstchurchburlington.org/?s=hiring>

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## **Youth Ministry Leader wanted**

College Street Congregational Church in Burlington is seeking a leader for our Christ-centered peer group of 6-12 graders who can guide youth in Christian discipleship through theology, service, fellowship, and fun. Our church is growing - especially our youth program - and we seek someone who can continue to support our youth as we grow. This is a part-time (20 hour) position.

For more details, go  
to

<http://www.collegestreetchurch.org/youthministryleader/>

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We hope you like our ever changing look as we try to make each E-Kit fun to explore!
We welcome submissions for the weekly E-Kit. Please submit your submission by Tuesday of each week! We will be running all events and news in this weekly E-Kit.
Have you seen our new website? If you have anything you would like to see published on the website, please let me know!

robinsonc@vtcucc.org



Know someone who might enjoy this email? [Share it](#) with them.
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Vermont Conference, UCC | 802-728-4999 VTCconference@vtcucc.org | <http://www.vtcucc.org>



Vermont Conference, UCC, 36 N Main St, Randolph, VT 05060

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