

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

# Vermont Conference



March 21, 2018

Dear Vermont Conference,

These next few days are the days when we need to decide how it is that we will enter the days of Holy Week. It's not like we can't anticipate that it will be a holy week - like the first disciples and followers. In fact, it would turn out to be the worst week of their lives. Only with hindsight would it become holy. But we know the rest of the story, don't we?

How then will we enter these days? How can we enter these days as if we are walking in the sandals of the followers for the first time? To enter this story of following Jesus for ourselves? Because this story is OUR story!

As we bring our hosannas to Palm Sunday - as we stand by the side of the road watching for Jesus' to come by and look deeply at each one of us - can we know what it means to be filled with all our pent-up hope that this Jesus will be the Savior who will free us from all the violence and hate that permeates our world?

As we sit around a table with Jesus - remembering all that Jesus has taught and showed us about what it means to be at work building God's kingdom on earth - person by person - situation by situation - and realizing that this work is like moving the mountains of oppression and inequality - of poverty and hunger - or greed and power - with teaspoons - can we know what it feels like to see Jesus break bread and tell us that his body must be broken to set us free from all that is in us that contributes to those mountains? The ways that we betray Jesus in our words and actions? The ways that we deny that we even know Jesus? The ways that we doubt that Jesus is enough?

What will we bring to the cross? Will we bring our tears of sorrow with Mary and the women? With John, do we bring the despair of empty dreams and lost hope and helplessness? For it is only when we stand beneath the cross - with all our regrets and failures, all our emptiness and darkness, all our demons and despair of ever making a

dent in all that is so wrong in our world - it is only then that we are made ready for God to be able to touch and transform our very souls.

So that in the darkness of Easter morning - even when we still cannot see for our tears or our blinders - we will hear our name spoken with gentleness and love. it is then that the resurrected power can open our eyes and our ears - to receive the power to 'carry on' the ministry of Jesus - even in the midst of the giant mountains - armed only with a teaspoon - it will be enough - one person at a time - one situation at a time. The tipping point WILL come. In God's good time. And we do not need to be afraid!

In Kenya, I am told, there are those who have a custom of designating a cave in the countryside as the 'Tomb'. Early on Easter, worshippers wake up, throw on clothes and rush out in an attempt to reach the destination first. Upon arrival, they peek inside and exclaim 'He's not here!' The begin singing as they run back to their homes, telling those they pass, 'He's not there! He's not there!. Of course, others must see for themselves and proclaim, 'Truly, he's not here!' They too, dance and sing on their way back home to tell the stragglers. When they gather for the Easter Service - they share the good news that they have seen for themselves. 'Christ has truly risen!

Were you there? Yes, we are there. And we are here and now. And Jesus the Christ is with us here and now - in THIS very real world. And Jesus still invites us to follow him in the ever present work of building the Kingdom of God on earth - person by person - situation by situation. Thanks be to God

Pam Lucas



## **Congratulations.....**

**George Thomson, Principal of Cavendish Town Elementary School in Proctorsville, was named Elementary Principal of the Year for 2018. George is a member and President of our United Church of Ludlow.**

**The United Church of South Royalton. When the Food Shelf in South Royalton closed last year, this church stepped up to find a new home for it, to raise funds to buy and refurbish a property and it has been so successful in meeting the great need in that community - that on Town Meeting Day, when they requested \$6,000 (\$500 a month) to provide community support, the voters increased that amount by \$4,000! Thank you for your ministry.**



**2018 Annual Meeting  
of the Vermont Conference  
of the United Church of Christ  
Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee, Vermont**

**Guest Rooms for the Annual Conference at the Lake Morey Inn  
are already reserved over 50% Occupancy!!!**

**[Information here.....](#)**

**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!**

**Would you like to be an Exhibitor at the Annual  
Meeting? There is Exhibitor Space still available.**

**[Click here for the Exhibitor's Registration Form](#)**

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

~~~~~

**Vermont Conference Check Remittance form**

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

# **VT CONFERENCE NEWS**

## **BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT CONFERENCE**

[Here...](#)



## **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS**

### [UCC NEWSFEED](#)

**New church start in Michigan offers sanctuary to all**  
A small United Church of Christ congregation in West Michigan, planted as an Immigrant Welcoming Church late last year, publicly proclaims its space as place of sanctuary.

**UCC Counsel Warns that Housing Allowance May End**  
United Church of Christ General Counsel Heather Kimmel is advising churches and clergy to recognize that the end of the clergy housing allowance is a possibility.

**Woman facing deportation finds sanctuary in Michigan church**  
A Michigan UCC congregation has made an apartment in its building for a mother facing deportation to Pakistan so she doesn't have to leave her son and the country she's called home for more than 13 years.

**Commentary: The Snake: Anti-Immigrant Propaganda Used to Dehumanize Our Neighbors**  
Our government separated a Congolese woman from her 7-year-old daughter.

### [WEEKLY SEEDS](#)

Focus reading: Mark 14:1-15:47

**Blood-stained kindergarten leaflet with the day's prayer when 4 girls were killed in church bombing in Atlanta in 1963**

**"Dear God, we are sorry for the times we were so unkind."**

**John Green, Looking for Alaska, 21st century**

**"The only way out of the labyrinth of suffering is to forgive."**

**William Blake, 19th century**

**"It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend."**

**Verna J. Dozier, 20th century**

**"The important question to ask is not, 'What do you believe?' but 'What difference does make that you believe?' Does the world come nearer to the dream of God because of what you believe?"**

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 20th century**

**"The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy that recognizes the dignity and worth of all God's children."**

**G.K. Chesterton, 20th century**

**"The Christian faith has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult, and left untried."**

**Brennan Manning, 21st century**

**"For those who feel their lives are a grave disappointment to God, it requires enormous trust and reckless, raging confidence to accept that the love of Jesus Christ knows no shadow of alteration or change....He had no romantic notion of the cost of discipleship. He knew that following Him was as unsentimental as duty, as demanding as love."**

~~~~~

## **ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

### **Righteous Anger**

What comes to mind when hearing righteous anger expressed is Mathew 21 where Jesus physically throws the merchants and money changers out of the temple. The scribes and pharisees had approved the commercial activity, but Jesus answered to God and followed a higher law about how we treat God's house, creation and each other.

We have been hearing righteous anger from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School students from Parkland, Florida:

**Senior Emma Gonzalez:**

**"Politicians who sit in their gilded House and Senate seats funded by the NRA telling us nothing could have been done to prevent this, we call BS. They say tougher guns laws do not decrease gun violence. We call BS.....They say no laws could have prevented the hundreds of senseless tragedies that have occurred. We call BS." \***

**Sophomore Tanzil Philip**

**"To [NRA Florida lobbyist] Marion Hammer and to everyone at the NRA and everyone affiliated with the NRA: We are not afraid of you, we will not be silenced by anything you have to say. We are here, our voices are loud, and we're not stopping until change happens."\*\***

And we heard from hundreds of thousands of students across the US who walked out or talked out of school this week; their voices plead with us to reduce gun violence.

What comes to mind on hearing these students is people filled with righteous anger fueled by many shooting sprees: victims and their loved ones who are weary of being considered by politicians and lobbyists as collateral damage to be met with "thoughts and prayers". Modern scribes and pharisees rabidly defend gun rights without recognizing the constitutional validity of reasonable safety regulations (\*\*\*), however Jesus calls us to a higher law and to the better angels of our nature.

We can reduce gun violence, no BS.

Christopher Ashley  
Norwich Congregational Church  
March 13, 2018

~~~~~

## Got a History Story?

There is interest in holding a workshop for the VTC Annual Meeting April 27-28 at Lake Morey Resort, celebrating the stories from our church's' history. Many of our churches were established in the 1700s. We know some of the stories. Let's share them with each other in a workshop. Please let Diane Holme know of your interest in participating. The format has not been finalized but at this point we are thinking 3-5 minutes per story. This is going to be a most amazing journey back in time!

Diane Holme, VTC Planning Committee Member

[holmelaw@vermontel.net](mailto:holmelaw@vermontel.net)  
802-875-4392

~~~~~

## Searching for Justice and Peace Workers!

Dear Friends in the Vermont Conference -

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!

## Questions & Suggestions....

Dear VT UCC,

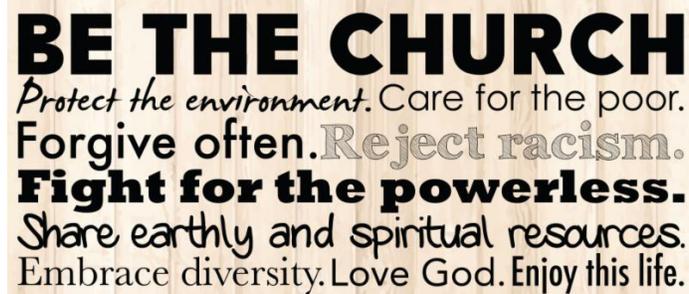
I am writing as part of the Membership Committee at Williston Federated Church in Williston, VT. We are working on our membership rolls and reviewing our archive of membership. We have determined that we will keep our on-going membership information (members, denomination type, dates of membership, marriages, baptisms, etc) both in our computer program (Realm) and in hard copy. I am planning to be the person keeping the hard copies.

I have reviewed various formats for Membership Records and I have looked at both national UMC and UCC resources. I can't find membership record books in any of these resources. Do you know where I might find such recording formats? I even tried Amazon without success!

Any help that you can give me will be appreciated! Thanks, Sally

Have a suggestion? [Send it here...](#)

## HAPPENINGS



**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**

~~~~~

## You are invited to a Sudanese Fellowship Dinner

On Saturday, April 14 at 5:00 PM, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul will be hosting a fellowship dinner with parishioners and friends from the Sudanese community. This is a fundraiser to provide scholarships for the youth of the Sudanese community to attend summer camp at Rock

Point. Our special guest will be the Right Reverend Thomas C. Ely, Tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Vermont.

TICKETS:\$20 on sale Sunday April 8  
(questions? contact Tim Parker @ 512.698.2095)

[Read more here...](#)

~~~~~  
Taizé Evening Prayer at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington - 7:00 PM

Sunday, November 12, 2017

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Monday, March 26, 2018

Note: Episcopal Bishop Thomas Ely and Roman Catholic Bishop Christopher Coyne will both be participating in Taizé evening prayer on Monday, March 26.

Sunday, June 3, 2018

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul is located at 2 Cherry Street, Burlington, VT.

[Read more here...](#)

~~~~~  
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](#)

~~~~~  
**Elisabeth Von Trapp in Concert**

>From the family whose story inspired the Sound of Music  
Malletts Bay Congregational Church  
1672 West Lakeshore Drive  
Colchester, VT  
Friday, April 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.  
Free and open to the public

Suggested donation \$10.00  
For more information contact:  
revsallymbucc@gmail.com  
802-658-9155

[See Flyer here!](#)



---> [What is the New England Women's Celebration?](#)

The New England Women's Celebration takes place every 4 years at various locations in New England. It is held over (or near) the weekend of Mothering Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Lent, which is traditionally a time when the strict observances of Lent were relaxed for a day so church folk could return to the Mother Church of their roots.



[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 28 at 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 28 at 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 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%20Chipman@fccej.org)  
or  
[Nancy Fowler fowler5vt@myfairpoint.net](mailto:Nancy%20Fowler@myfairpoint.net)



# OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION

United Church of Christ

## CLASSIFIEDS



Bayada Hospice is currently seeking compassionate individuals for our volunteer program. Volunteering is a life giving experience and an opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the lives of others. Our volunteers serve in a variety of ways including providing companionship, running errands and office work. I wanted to reach out to your community to see if anyone would be interested in volunteering with us. I would be happy to come in and drop off flyers or provide more information as would be helpful.

Best,

Jessica Rauseo

BAYADA Hospice | Volunteer Coordinator

190 South Main Street, Suite 2, South Side | Rutland, VT 05701

Office: 802-282-4122 | Fax 802-775-5600 | bayada.com

Our employees' reviews made us a Best Place to Work in 2018!  
Spread the word and earn a double bonus by referring a friend.



**Grace Congregation Church, Rutland VT. Saturday March 24, 2018 9:00-3:00**

**Spring Craft Fair with a variety of vendors, basket raffle, Pink Pachyderm Room with gently used treasures, Cafe serving soups and sandwiches, Grace Church crafts, baked goods and food items. All proceeds to support local missions**

**[Gracechurchrutlandvt@gmail.com](mailto:Gracechurchrutlandvt@gmail.com) for more information. Or call 802-775-4301**



## 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:p, 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**

~~~~~

**The Dorset Church**

Our last supper of the winter season will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2018. The menu will be a Meatloaf Dinner with roasted potatoes or a vegetarian Curried Cauliflower Stew (lots of people, call this their favorite!)

Winter Community Suppers are for everyone-Moms & Dads that need a break, people who want a night out in the middle of winter, families rushing from work to sports, people stretching their budget - the suppers are meant to build community for everyone. We hope you'll join us for warm fellowship and a hot meal. All are welcome for FREE great meals! Please bring your family and friends! Take outs available. A free-will offering will be accepted to help fund the dinners of the future. Questions call Jane at 867-2260 or email at [dorsetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetchurch@gmail.com)

~~~~~

**Sugar on Snow Supper  
Saturday, March 17th and Saturday, March 24th  
Serving at 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm**

Greater Hartford United Church of Christ  
Route 14, Hartford, VT  
Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Rolls, Maple syrup on Snow with Raised  
Doughnuts and Pickles  
Adults \$12.00 Children under 12 \$5.00  
Reservations 802-295-2510

~~~~~  
**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**  
~~~~~

### 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 see 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/>

~~~~~

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](mailto:robinsonc@vtcucc.org)



Know someone who might enjoy this email? [Share it](#) with them.  
Did someone share this email with you? [Sign up](#) to receive more of our emails.



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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#).

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [robinsonc@vtcucc.org](mailto:robinsonc@vtcucc.org) in collaboration with



Try it free today

