

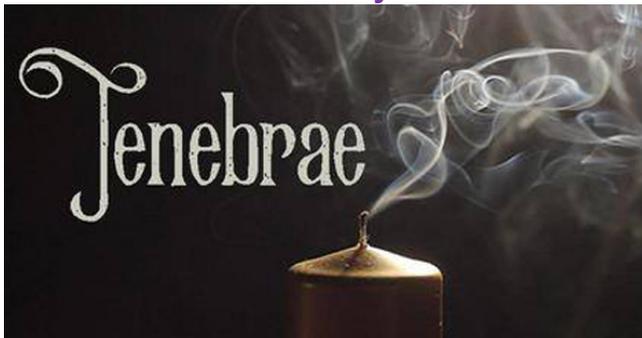
Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



March 28, 2018

Dear Beloved Community of the VTCUCC:



Tomorrow night in our tradition or tonight in other traditions many of us will experience Tenebrae, an ancient service that includes extinguishing candles one by one while hearing the story of Jesus through the crucifixion. Some pastors end the service with only

one candle, the Christ candle remaining lit - a light shining in the darkness.

Others extinguish all light allowing the congregation to experience a place without Light. Either way, these services are an invitation to enter and sit with the dark, the shadows, the not-knowing, the painful, the very places in our world and in our own lives where things are not as they should be. The practice of Tenebrae usually ends in silence, a holy silence that leaves us in the shadow of the cross until we come together once more in the joy of Easter morning.

Tenebrae is a gift that allows us the time and space to come clean with ourselves and to experience the reality of what we proclaim: God loved us so much God was willing to enter into even the most shadowed places of human life.

I hope you will be willing to sit with and in the shadows this week. Take our world, our nation and your own life with you in prayer and in meditative silence. Take your fears, your deepest longing and your own sighs too deep for words into the silent sacred darkness. Sit. Linger. Be.

God is present, God's love and grace are present. As it says so succinctly in the United Church of Canada's Statement of Faith:

In life, in death

In life beyond death
God is with us
We are not alone
Thanks be to God

God be with you. God be with us all in the shadows of this week and in the joy that is waiting on the other side.

In peace and hope,
Lynn

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# VT CONFERENCE NEWS

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

**Rooms at Lake Morey Resort are already over 50%  
reserved for our Annual Meeting!**

**[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....](#)



## **VTCUCC Joins March for Our Lives**

Our conference was well represented by youth and adults from several of our churches, some went to Montpelier, some to Boston and some to Washington DC. Watch E-Kit for the next couple of weeks to read reflections from March participants and see the pictures they took. The first in our series is from Rev. Kevin Goldenbogan, pastor of the Charlotte Congregational UCC.



### **Sounds of the March for our Lives: Montpelier**

On Saturday, March 24, 2018, 14 youth and adults from the Charlotte Congregational Church, (UCC) assembled with thousands of others at the March for Our Lives: Montpelier. It was a solemn event, held simultaneously with similar events all over the country, in the wake of the shootings at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, and in the wakes of countless other mass shootings in the US. I can't speak for others, but I participated in this event because:

1. I lament the deaths at Marjory Stoneman Douglas and too many other places
2. I want to support our courageous young people



- a student acapella group from Brattleboro who sang a song titled, "Shine," written by two student survivors of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas;
  - a student who recited a poem written in response to the Pulse nightclub shooting which said, "this world drunk on hate, decides blood is wine;"
  - a student poet who read his poem about the real dangers of being black in the US;
  - a public school teacher of 30-years, and President of the VT Union of Professional Educators, who asserted, "no guns for teachers, no way;"
  - many speakers who acknowledged that "thoughts and prayers" are simply not enough;
- I heard no hate;
  - I heard no personal attacks;
  - I heard no politics of division;
  - I heard gratitude for the courage of our young people;
  - I heard a diverse cross-section of Vermonters coming together to reduce gun violence in our state and beyond;
  - and when the event was over, and the crowd dispersed, I heard murmurs of hope that the way things are now, are not how they will always be...

Listening to the sounds,  
 Rev. Kevin Goldenbogen, Senior Pastor  
 Charlotte Congregational Church (United Church of Christ)



## BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT CONFERENCE

[Here...](#)



## [UCC NEWSFEED](#)

California congregation committing to 'Community Safety for All' on Good Friday

During Good Friday worship, the people of First Congregational Church of Oakland will hold a 'Seven Last Words' service to mark one of the holiest days

on the Christian calendar. But instead of preaching on the seven last words of Jesus before he died on the cross, worshippers will be sharing the last words of seven people who have been killed in this country by the police.

### **An Easter People's Lamentation of Hope**

In his Easter Message, United Church of Christ General Minister and President the Rev. John C. Dorhauer invites all in the wider church to celebrate the hope of Easter.

Youth, allies issue nationwide demand for gun control during March for Our Lives

In Washington, D.C., and in scores of cities across the country on March 24, the youth of America and their allies delivered a very powerful, very definite message: enough is enough! UCC advocates, urging 'Faith over Firearms,' came out by the hundreds to demand gun reform.

**Commentary: HIV Criminalization Is a Barrier to Ending the HIV Epidemic**  
Laws that criminalize HIV are a barrier to ending the HIV epidemic in the United States.

**Commentary: Help us demand an equitable reconstruction of Puerto Rico**  
Two churches in Manhattan are making a difference in Puerto Rico six months after Hurricane Maria decimated the U.S. territory. They are urging the faith community to demand a reconstruction of the island that is sustainable, transparent and equitable.

Southern New England Conference leaders raise \$3700 through wearing of the green

Leaders of the Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island conferences together raised over \$3,700 for their respective ministries through successful social media challenges that required them to go VERY green for St. Patrick's Day.

**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.

## **WEEKLY SEEDS**

Focus reading: John 20:1-18

Rob Bell, 21st century

"It is such a letdown to rise from the dead and have your friends not recognize you."

Megan McKenna, *And Morning Came: Scriptures of the Resurrection*, 21st century

"The Resurrection is not a single event, but a loosening of God's power and light into the earth and history that continues to alter all things, infusing them with the grace and power of God's own holiness. It is as though a door was

opened, and what poured out will never be stopped, and that door cannot be closed."

Eugene H. Peterson, 21st century

"It is not easy to convey a sense of wonder, let alone resurrection wonder, to another. It's the very nature of wonder to catch us off guard, to circumvent expectations and assumptions. Wonder can't be packaged, and it can't be worked up. It requires some sense of being there and some sense of engagement."

Christian Wiman, 21st century

"Wonder is the precondition for all wisdom."

Pope Francis, 21st century

"Jesus is the everlasting 'today' of God."

Brennan Manning, 20th century

"For me the most radical demand of Christian faith lies in summoning the courage to say yes to the present risenness of Jesus Christ."

Dorothy L. Sayers, *The Whimsical Christian: 18 Essays*, 20th century

"Perhaps [the critics are right and] the drama is played out now and Jesus is safely dead and buried. Perhaps. It is ironical and entertaining to consider that at least once in the world's history those words might have been said with complete conviction, and that was on the eve of the Resurrection."

Arundhati Roy, 21st century

"Not only is another world possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."

Carolyn Heilbrun, 20th century

"Power consists in deciding which story shall be told."

Willa Cather, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, 20th century

"Miracles... seem to me to rest not so much upon... healing power coming suddenly near us from afar but upon our perceptions being made finer, so that, for a moment, our eyes can see and our ears can hear what is there around us always."

John Paul II, 20th century

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair.... We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song."

Frederick Buechner, 20th century

"It has always struck me as remarkable that when the writers of the four Gospels come to the most important part of the story they have to tell, they tell it in whispers. The part I mean, of course, is the part about the resurrection."

Mother Teresa, 20th century

"Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ risen."

Mary Gordon, 21st century

"For me the meaning of the Resurrection is the possibility of possibility. The great perhaps. Perhaps: the open-endedness that gives the lie to death. That opens up the story."

Martin Luther, 16th century

"Be thou comforted, little dog, Thou too in Resurrection shall have a little golden tail."

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ARTICLES OF INTEREST

"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there "is" such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King

[We have 48 Hours to Make History - Please Ask Senate Appropriations to Fund S.281 and PASS it out of Committee NOW!](#)

<http://justiceforallvt.org/>

Systemic Racism Mitigation Bill (S.281) Arrives in House Government Operations

S.281 arrived at the Government Operations Committee in the House today. This bill is important now more than ever and there is some work that the committee should do in reconciling the bill with H.868 (a sister bill). **In order to do anything we must first convince Government Operations Committee to take the bill up for testimony and debate!**

Here is how you can help:

1. Pass this Call to Action to EVERYONE in your network.
2. Call the Statehouse and leave a message for members of the House Government Operations Committee to "please take up the Systemic Racism Mitigation Bill (S.281) for testimony and debate immediately" You can find their names here: [House Government Operations Committee Members](#). Call 828.2228
3. Please send an email to House Government Operations Committee members asking that they "please take up the Systemic Racism Mitigation Bill (S.281) for testimony and debate immediately". Make

sure that S.281 is in the subject line. Use this address: vermont-house-government-operations@googlegroups.com

[Here is the bill](#) and the Coalition systemic [racism research](#) document. We're also providing this [Q&A](#) to verse you in the bill background and details.

Respectfully,

Mark, ED, Justice For All
Racial Justice Reform Coalition

#RacialJusticeReformVT

Follow us on Twitter | Like us on Facebook

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You are on this list because you either opted in or expressed interest in the group.

Our mailing address is:
Justice For All
43 State Street
c/o Local 64
Montpelier, VT 05601



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 at 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 too 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

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### 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

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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 or 728-4057) or Bev Anderson (brandx@vermontel.com or 422-3484) if you would like to be on the agenda. Thank you!

Churches looking for ideas!!

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 Metro
ssmetro9@gmail.com

HAPPENINGS



BE THE CHURCH

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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](#)



## 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](mailto:revsallymbucc@gmail.com)

802-658-9155

[See Flyer here!](#)



United Church of Christ  
New England Women's

*Celebration*

**A SEAT AT THE TABLE**  
Come for all things are now ready.  
- Luke 14:17b

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**APRIL 6 - 8, 2018**  
Portland, Maine

---> [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 folks could return to the Mother Church of their roots.



## 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](http://www.ucnorthfield.org)



## 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.....](#)



**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](mailto: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....](#)



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

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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
- 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

Nancy Fowler or Laurie Chipman

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

or

Nancy Fowler fowler5vt@myfairpoint.net



OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION
United Church of Christ

CLASSIFIEDS



**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 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

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

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:robinsonc@vtcucc.org)



Know someone who might enjoy this email? [Share it](#) with them.

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Vermont Conference, UCC | 802-728-4999 | [VTConference@vtcucc.org](mailto:VTConference@vtcucc.org) | <http://www.vtcucc.org>



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

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