

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



May 30, 2018

BARRE MONTPELIER TIMES ARGUS
Small surprises at a Berlin Church
The Times Argus | May 23, 2018

The First Congregational Church of Berlin sits near a bend in the road, tucked behind several farms, the airport and Interstate 89. It's an unassuming church - a small white building that rests between several residential houses, shaded by trees. I almost pass by it at first. The driveway is gravel, stained dark by a recent rain. Inside, the walls are bare, painted baby blue.

I visit the church as part of my volunteer work with Green Mountain United Way. The congregation has collected supplies for Tatum's Totes, a partnership with United Way that gifts foster kids with backpacks, clothing, water bottles and just about anything else you can fit into a bag. Some children are taken into the foster system with nothing more than a garbage bag with their clothes inside. The packs provide items the kids desperately need and helps them transition into their new homes. Since July 2017, the congregation has collected supplies for 100 kids in Barre, Newport and St. Johnsbury.

The magnitude of their generosity is surprising, considering the group of people around me isn't very large. They gather in the back rows of the sanctuary, no more than 25 people. I sit near the middle, wedged into the middle corner of a pew. The woman next to me leans over and introduces herself. "I see you made the decision to visit us today," she says. "I'm glad." I smile and tell her I'm there with United Way, that my visit is for informational purposes. I want to see what the group is all about, to put faces with the great generosity that's helped make Tatum's Totes possible. I don't tell her that I'm not a church person, that I've always felt uncomfortable in places of worship, even though I'm deeply spiritual and believe in a higher power.

I'm uneasy at the beginning of the service, hesitating to rise for psalms and hoping no one will notice when I don't recite along with the prayers. I tell

myself to get through the service as best I can, and then I'll get to the good stuff - getting to talk with people about their work in the community. But as the sermon begins, something changes.

Pastor Laura Cadmus radiates calmness. Her timing and measured pauses give each of her statements a sense of incredible weight. They seem more like open-ended questions for the congregation to linger on. She opens her sermon by quoting Gloria Steinem and acknowledges how systemic racism impacts the world. She talks about truth, and about the discomfort that sometimes accompanies confronting our own truths. Pastor Cadmus refers to God as "She," and near the end of the sermon, quotes one of my favorite authors, Annie Dillard. I sit in shock. Am I smiling? In church? It doesn't seem possible, but somehow it's true.

After finishing her sermon, she invites members of the congregation up front to talk about their gifts -the parts of them that bring positivity to others. One of the women speaks about her love of painting. She says she was initially hesitant to try it. She didn't want to mess up the pristine canvas in front of her. She didn't want to make mistakes. But eventually she began to put her brush to the canvas. She shares two beautiful paintings with us, one in dark blues, purples and blacks, and the other in vibrant oranges, yellows and reds. "I realize now," she says, "that from far away, you can't even see the parts I messed up."

When the service is over, I find myself in deep thought. The experience, I realize, felt authentic in a way I didn't expect. The messages were universal. They reached across belief systems and in doing so, made me feel welcome in a way I have not felt welcome in church before. We are all works in progress, they said. We are constantly learning, growing and being given opportunities to give back to others.

It's funny. I showed up at church with this idea about what it would be like and was completely surprised by how it actually was. I was impressed not only by their incredible support of Tatum's Totes and United Way, but by their authenticity, their understanding and their willingness to be vulnerable. I may not believe in God the way they do, but I'm a firm believer in giving and compassion, and in the strength that communities have when they band together.

While I have been surprised by many things in the Vermont community since moving back here in September, this experience was one of the nicest and most encouraging.

Chelsea Catherine is a writer living in Montpelier.

VT CONFERENCE

NEWS

PEACEMAKERS PULPIT MAY 2018

MEMORIAL DAY, A DAY TO GRIEVE

A Memorial Day sermon is certainly difficult to write and deliver for anyone who is a Disciple of Peace. The parade that goes by the church and the speeches in the Town Square lean heavily toward nationalism and militarism. Many in the congregation have served, or have relatives who served or are serving in the military, some killed or injured. Some in the congregation believe that this nation was ordained by God. The roots of Memorial Day during and after our Civil War are in both the South and North. An early name for Memorial Day was Decoration Day in recognition of the decoration of graves not only with flags, but also with flowers to express grief. In a few cases graves of enemy soldiers in the same cemetery were also decorated. That fact is almost always overlooked in present day festivities. I propose that these actions in the early roots of Memorial Day should be the basis of our remembrances. We should also grieve that our leaders, and/or those of the "enemy", could not, or chose not to avoid violence.

But what of other harms done by war? Harm to cultures and civilization for example. War diverts the path of history from the acceptance of all; it diverts us from the path of common good.

In the actions of war and its aftermath there are people, families, communities, cultures, and more that are destroyed or made to suffer in ways and to an extent they otherwise would not.

Let us grieve each Memorial Day for those combatants killed or injured. But also grieve for noncombatants, families, communities, cultures, and more whose destiny is destroyed by our inability to work for the common good and the acceptance of each other.

Let us grieve for civilization, its cultures and all humanity.

John LaRue, member, Richmond Congregational Church UCC

UCC NEWS

UCC NEWSFEED

Interfaith religious leaders and scientists join together to fight climate change
More than 500 religious leaders and scientists from across Massachusetts have joined together to demand action, calling on politicians to "address the climate crisis with the boldness and urgency it requires."

UCC mourns Marilyn Breitling, denomination's first woman national executive
The United Church of Christ lost a strong leader and role model with the death of Marilyn Breitling. The first woman to lead the denomination on a national level, as Executive Director of the Coordinating Center for Women (CCW), passed away on Tuesday, May 22.

**UCC minister arrested as Minnesota Poor People's Campaign takes on ICE
A United Church of Christ minister was one of eighteen people arrested on Tuesday
at an immigration protest in Minnesota tied to the Poor People's Campaign.**

**Commentary: Winnie Madikizela-Mandela: A Movement of Her Own
Since the passing of Winnie Madikizela- Mandela, I have listened, at least once a
week, to Sweet Honey in the Rock, a female African-American acapella ensemble,
sing "Ella's Song."**

**Six Massachusetts Conference members arrested at Poor People's Campaign action
Six of the 16 people arrested during a Poor People's Campaign action at the State
House in Boston on Monday were from Massachusetts Conference churches, there to
call attention to systemic racism, immigration justice, and voting rights.**

**Texas chaplain offers support, love following deadly high school shooting
A Houston chaplain, invited to comfort witnesses and survivors of the deadly
shooting at Santa Fe High School, asks a central question facing faith leaders: "How
do we be the living instruments of Christ in a world so focused on death?"**

Weekly Seeds

Focus Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

**Eric Samuel Timm, Static Jedi: The Art of Hearing God Through the Noise, 21st
century**

"Little decisions over time make a big impact on our lives."

William Stringfellow, Count It All Joy, 20th century

**"Listening, in other words, is a primitive act of love, in which a person gives self to
another's word, making self accessible and vulnerable to that word."**

Alfred Brendel, 20th century

"The word 'listen' contains the same letters as the word 'silent'."

Chaim Potok, The Chosen, 20th century

**"I've begun to realize that you can listen to silence and learn from it. It has a quality
and a dimension all its own. It talks to me sometimes. I feel myself alive in it. It talks.
And I can hear it."**

Vernon Howard, 20th century

**"Inner guidance is heard like soft music in the night by those who have learned to
listen."**

Hafiz, 14th century poet

**"I wish I could show you, when you are lonely or in darkness, the astonishing Light of
your own Being."**

and

"No one could ever paint a too wonderful picture of my heart or God."

Nanette Sawyer, 21st century (in The Hyphenateds)

**"Imagination opens up possibility, but sometimes we do not dare to imagine
something as beautiful as God."**

Albert Einstein, 20th century

**"He who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead;
his eyes are closed."**

Lao Tzu, 5th century B.C.E.
"From wonder into wonder existence opens."

Thomas Carlyle, 19th century
"Wonder is the basis of worship."



BE THE CHURCH



**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT
CONFERENCE**

Here...



HAPPENINGS

Dear Friends,

It is time once again to prepare a new edition of Southwest Breezes.

The summer edition 2018 deadline is Friday, June 15, 2018

Please feel free to send news from your churches, such as events, celebrations, highlights, stories, photos, etc. Please include all your summer publicity. Please contact me with any questions.

Is your congregation working on a special mission project? I'm sure everyone would love to read about it. Don't forget to send the stories and photos in!

Have you read a good book or watched a great movie? Send in your suggestions, we are glad to spread your suggestions with others.

Do you have photos from your Easter and spring events?

Are you planning a special summer event at your church? Send us the details.

Do you hold a summer supper/ concert? We'd love to share the news with others.

Please feel free to send photos of past events along with the story that goes with it. It's great to read about others successes!

Please let me know if there is someone from your church that these notices should be sent to. I am happy to extend participation to a bigger group. The more we spread the news-the better the newsletter can be!

With peace,
Jane

Jane A. LoBrutto, Licensed Minister - Administrator
United Church of Dorset and East Rupert
PO Box 263
Dorset, VT 05251
802-867-2260
Jane@dorsetchurch.org



Dear Central VT Pastors and Lay Leaders,

On June 7th, there will be a showing of the film *Happening: a Clean Energy Revolution* at 7 pm at Jaquith Public Library (122 School St.) in Marshfield. The showing will be followed by a discussion. A flyer to publicize the event is attached. Please help us spread the word by including it in your newsletter and/or bulletin and posting the flyer.

The film showing is sponsored by Salmon Falls Sangha, Marshfield Energy Committee, Jaquith Public Library, and VT Interfaith Power & Light.
Dear Central VT Pastors and Lay Leaders,

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



Sunday, July 22, 2018, 1:00pm

PRAY 4 FREEDOM

The 4 FREEDOMS FESTIVAL closes the weekend's events with an Interfaith ceremony at Norman Rockwell's home and studio in West Arlington at 1:00pm. The event brings together spiritual and religious leaders, with a non-denominational focus on Freedom of Worship. FESTIVAL organizers join regional inter-faith leaders in their commitment to Grateful Hearts, community food cupboards and local food

banks, by encouraging all participants to donate food, upholding Freedom from Want.

Friday, July 20, 2018, 4:00pm
RING 4 FREEDOM

On July 20, 2018, the 4 FREEDOMS FESTIVAL presents RING 4 FREEDOM. RING 4 FREEDOM is a unified bell-ringing at across towns large and small in the state of Vermont, to signify and honor the Four Freedoms; the first ever event of this kind will take place at 4:00pm Eastern, for 4 minutes.

Here is the festival website with more details: <https://www.themillvt.com/4freedomfestival/>

Jami Poe
4 FREEDOMS FESTIVAL
(802) 768-1303

WEBINARS

UCC Open and Affirming

The ONA Coalition's webinar series is designed both for Open and Affirming congregations, and for churches taking their first steps towards an ONA covenant. We're providing four webinars in spring 2018, and will add three new webinars in the fall. Dates and a link to the registration page for each webinar are provided below. All webinars are on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Eastern, 6 p.m. Central, 5 p.m. Mountain, 4 p.m. Pacific and 1 p.m. Hawaiian, and run for about 90 minutes. The webinar includes time for questions and conversation. We offer discounts when more than three participants participate at one computer, so consider gathering a group and projecting the webinar on a screen. Contact Andy Lang at ed@openandaffirming.org for more information!

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

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Trustworthy insights into current insurance concerns for churches



At the heart of every church beats the willingness to forgive and accept. Perhaps the greatest obstacle for a church to overcome is when a convicted sex offender wants to be a member of the church.

This is not a decision to take lightly and churches may find it is a divisive decision; struggling with the role of the church and the safety of its congregants. Insurance Board recognizes that many of churches face this decision on a regular basis. We believe it is good for a church to be pro-active and have these conversations before that person approaches your doors.

We have invited Heather E. Kimmel, General Counsel of the United Church of Christ, to address issues related to sex offenders in congregations, including safe conduct policies, limited access agreements, and disclosure to congregations.

**Unique Risks Preventing Sexual Abuse in the School Environment  
(Praesidium)**

**Wednesday, August 8, 2018  
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM (Eastern Time)**

**Trending Risk Management Concerns for Churches (The Insurance Board)**

**Wednesday, September 12, 2018  
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM (Eastern Time)**

**<http://anymeeting.com/insuranceboard>**

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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
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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[Original worship resources for local churches...because Sunday's coming.](#)

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VERMONT OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

[SEE THE LATEST CAMP NEWSLETTER HERE.....](#)

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

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

[Preview 2018 Camp Brochure here!](#)

[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](mailto:Laurie.Chipman@fccej.org)

or

[Nancy Fowler fowler5vt@myfairpoint.net](mailto:Nancy.Fowler@myfairpoint.net)



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

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

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## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

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The Congregational Church of South Hero, VT, UCC is looking for a part-time (or full time) organist. This person would be responsible for playing for Sunday services at least every other week (sharing with another organist), as well as additional services such as Christmas Eve, Ash

Wednesday , etc. The organist would also accompany the choir at rehearsals. The sanctuary contains an Allen Protegé L321i/e organ with 3 manuals, 38 stops, and 266 voices and a piano.

This position is available after June 1, 2018.

If interested please contact the church office at 802-372-4962 or ccshvt@gmail.com

for a full job description.

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**MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST** Active community church of 400+ members seeks a vibrant music director/organist. Responsible for adult choir, youth choir, and all liturgical services. Time commitment averages 20 hours per week. Range of compensation \$30,000 - \$35,000 dependent on experience. Submit cover letter, resume with 3 references, and any other material you feel would support your candidacy to: Music Director Search Committee, United Church of Dorset and East Rupert, P.O. Box 263, Dorset, VT 05251 [dorsetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetchurch@gmail.com)

**BOOKKEEPER AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** The Dorset Church is currently seeking a Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant skilled in digital and internet communications for a 3 days a week part time job. The applicant should be a friendly team worker and good multi-task worker ready to fulfill the mission of a vibrant growing church. To apply, please submit by email a cover letter and resume stating your qualifications and your interest in the position to [dorsetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetchurch@gmail.com)

Jane A. LoBrutto, Licensed Minister - Administrator  
United Church of Dorset and East Rupert  
PO Box 263  
Dorset, VT 05251  
802-867-2260  
[Jane@dorsetchurch.org](mailto:Jane@dorsetchurch.org)  
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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
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.**

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 | 802-728-4999 | VTConference@vtcucc.org | <http://www.vtcucc.org>



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

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