

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



June 27, 2018

This June I have been taking a class with the Maine School of Ministry. It's called 'Practicing Torah: The Branches of Judaism'. The last class is this coming Saturday where we will be talking about 'Preaching without Contempt.'

Included as part of the class have been three field trips to visit Saturday Shabbat services in three settings: Orthodox, Conservative and Reform. Along with history and biblical scholarship through the last 3,000 years in a classroom, these visits were a first-hand experience of the power of a small verse in Deuteronomy at the beginning of the Wilderness Journey in the life of the Hebrew people.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

(Deut. 6:4-9)

In the Orthodox service all men present took part in leadership - in prayers and in Torah reading. This included three teenagers who led with maturity and poise and were seen as equals and full participants. One man brought his five year old son with him when he came forward for his portion of the Torah - and they chanted that portion together. And although most of the service was in Hebrew the chanting and the singing created a holy ground of prayer. The service was two and a half hours.

In the Conservative service everyone participated and there was much more English. However, after the Torah reading, the Rabbi came down from the pulpit and sat down - and led a participatory response to the scripture -what it

meant then and now - what questions or wonderings do you have. The service was two hours.

In the Reformed Service the same thing happened after the chanting of prayers and Torah - when the rabbi asked, 'what do you think?' a gentleman answered and the Rabbi said 'Defend yourself.' And a free-wheeling, lively conversation ensued. In this case, after about 15 minutes, the Rabbi said, 'let's go downstairs'. We all went down, had coffee and goodies and sat around a table continuing the conversation for another hour.

I have learned that Judaism is in the same quandary as mainline denominations. Fewer participants, aging members, and people being too busy.

Interestingly, in the Reform service, when we went downstairs for the 'second hour', there were three persons who joined the conversation at that point. One of them told me that she doesn't get much from the service upstairs, but the conversation downstairs is what feeds her.

Could it be that as we are dis-established from being a mainline denomination we are being invited by the Spirit into re-claiming the deep reading of Scripture that has always been the well-spring of church renewal.

The study of scripture is foundational to a teaching ministry that re-claims scriptural images and allusions in order to reclaim the language of our particular heritage and our unique perspective on life - to re-claim that which distinctively marks our congregations as Christian communities. But critical study of the Word is not enough. The whole point of studying scripture is asking the question: "What is God saying to the church today through the particular text in front of us?" "What is God saying to US?" The community use of lectio divina as a way to engage the text certainly needs to stand hand in hand with historical-critical exegesis.

Our churches' ministry must be transformed into continuing Christian formation for members old and new. What does it mean for us to worship God? How can we pray in a way that makes a difference? What kind of life does a Christian life look like, not just on Sunday but on Monday as well?

Even as the Hebrew washed over me in each of these services and took me to a deep place in my soul, Is this call of the Spirit inviting us all into recovering our first language - the language of God, of bible, of theology - so that we might speak about it with others - in and out of the church.

June 27, 2018
Pam Lucas

UCC NEWS

Pension Boards Employer Adoption Agreements Due Back by June 30

(The conference was just made aware of this yesterday 6/26/18)

[If you do not have the form, click here to get it!](#)

Nimsi Guzman at The Pension Boards informed me yesterday that they sent out a new Employer Adoption Agreements to all churches, and associations that use any of the Pension Boards benefit plans, so you should have received one in the mail.

This includes the life & disability plan, the annuity plan, the medical plan, the dental plan, the vision plan, and the long-term care plan. If you offer any of these plans, you need to respond to the Pension Boards.

You need to fill out the Employer Adoption Agreement form (available above)
You need to list which employees are eligible for any of these plans.

Call Nimsi Guzman at the Pension Boards at 800-642-6543
extension 2864, With any questions.

The deadline for this response is the end of June.

You can email the completed form to their secure email
address

info@pbucc.org

UCC NEWSFEED

To youth at UCC West Central RYE, Faith Equals Action
The young people who made up the United Church of Christ's West Central Regional Youth Event put their faith in action in many ways as they gathered at Grinnell College, Iowa, during the week of June 19-22.

UCC leadership sickened, angered by Supreme Court ruling upholding Muslim travel
ban

The national leadership of the United Church of Christ continues to condemn President Trump's September travel ban, which restrict citizens from predominantly Muslim countries from traveling to this country. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the ban this morning.

Poor People's Campaign pushes to change public policy, starting with Saturday mass rally in D.C.

Thousands rallied on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, lifting up the message of the Poor Peoples Campaign, calling for a 'moral revival' - a change in public policies to care for the most vulnerable Americans.

Ohio church brings people together to oppose immigration policies
A Canton, Ohio pastor, angered by the "immoral and inhumane" treatment of migrant children and their families at the hands of the U.S. Border Patrol, opened the doors of Congregational United Church of Christ Saturday evening, for a community prayer vigil and rally.

UCC Minister: Pope Francis affirms ecumenism at World Council of Churches 70th Anniversary Celebration

Pope Francis called prayer "the oxygen of ecumenism," during a landmark visit to the World Conference of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland on June 21, part of the commemoration of the WCC's 70th anniversary. Under the theme of "Ecumenical Pilgrimage - Walking, Praying and Working Together", Francis' visit to Geneva was only the third by a pope, and the first time that such an occasion was dedicated to visiting the WCC.

UCC momentum grows in the movement to Keep Families Together
As the movement for immigrant justice grows, UCC advocates pray with children in the Senate office building and unite electronically to share additional ways to stand with migrant families on the truth of the Gospel.

Commentary: Collective Responsibility

We now know the death toll in Puerto Rico is estimated at nearly 5,000 people.

UCC advocates heartened but undeterred by executive order ending family separations at border

After President Trump issued an executive order reversing a policy to separate migrant families at the border, UCC General Minister and President the Rev. John Dorhauer is urging people of faith to keep up the pressure - pushing the government to change the 'zero tolerance' immigration policy.

Weekly Seeds

Focus Reading: Mark 5:21-43

Pope Francis, The Name of God is Mercy, 21st century

"The fragility of our era is this, too: we don't believe that there is a chance for redemption; for a hand to raise you up; for an embrace to save you, forgive you, pick you up, flood you with infinite, patient, indulgent love; to put you back on your feet. We need mercy."

William Paul Young, The Shack, 21st century

"Grace doesn't depend on suffering to exist, but where there is suffering you will find grace in many facets and colors."

Flannery O'Connor, Mystery and Manners: Occasional Prose, 20th century

"Our age not only does not have a very sharp eye for the almost imperceptible intrusions of grace, it no longer has much feeling for the nature of the violences which precede and follow them."

Anne Lamott, *Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith*, 21st century
"I wish grace and healing were more abracadabra kind of things. Also, that delicate silver bells would ring to announce grace's arrival. But no, it's clog and slog and scotch, on the floor, in the silence, in the dark."

C.S. Lewis, 20th century
"Miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see."

Sue Monk Kidd, *The Secret Life of Bees*, 21st century
"I realized it for the first time in my life: there is nothing but mystery in the world, how it hides behind the fabric of our poor, browbeat days, shining brightly, and we don't even know it."

Cecelia Ahern, *The Gift*, 21st century
"What is it with science these days? Everyone is so quick to believe in it, in all these new scientific discoveries, new pills for this, new pills for that. Get thinner, grow hair, yada, yada, yada, but when it requires a little faith in something you all go crazy.' He shook his head, 'If miracles had chemical equations then everyone would believe.'"

Noah Benshea, *Jacob the Baker: Gentle Wisdom For a Complicated World*, 21st century
"A miracle is often the willingness to see the common in an uncommon way."

David Kinnaman, *UnChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity...and Why It Matters*, 21st century
"Surprisingly, the Christian faith today is perceived as disconnected from the supernatural world--a dimension that the vast majority of outsiders believe can be accessed and influenced."

Gary Rudz, 21st century
"No one ever sees or hears a miracle when they are talking over it."



BE THE CHURCH



**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT
CONFERENCE**

Here...

DONATE

VT CONFERENCE NEWS

**Prayers for Rev. John Nutting, former Associate Conference Minister of VTCUCC, suffered a stroke a week ago. He is presently at Barre Gardens, 378 Prospect Street, Barre, VT. He is in Room 165.
Cards and Visits are appreciated!**



Congratulations to Elizabeth Holland-Searcy, wife of Rev. Daniel Cooperrider, pastor of the Weybridge Congregational Church And who recently received her Phd in Art History!



**Please accept and share this invitation to a new model for worship,
a new way of creating
sacred space in community:**

Sacred Spaces is starting the summer with a series on Worship. What is worship? Why do we worship? What makes worship meaningful... or not?

As we look to the future of "church," this new series will create space for us to think critically about one of its key elements - worship- and explore ways to make it meaningful and relevant for where people are in their lives today.

We are looking forward to a time of rich discussion and growing closer as a community. Join us every Sunday at 5 p.m.(get there early for snacks and drinks!). Community Ministries Coordinator, Ava Kelly sends out a weekly email update with themes, music, and materials for reflection.

If you'd like to be on that list, email her at ava@firstchurchburlington.org. Weather permitting... we'll enjoy the church grounds as our Sanctuary for "Sacred Spaces" during the summer months.

Pride Interfaith Worship Service this year, and in years to come, returns to National Pride Month - June - commemorating Stonewall.

Please join us:

When: Thursday, June 28, at 7:00 PM

Where: The First Congregational Church in Essex Junction

First Congregational in Essex Junction invites you to an Interfaith LGBTQ+ Worship Service, hosted on June 28th at 7pm. It is said, that the modern LGBTQ+ movement for rights and acceptance began with the Stonewall Inn Riots in June 1969. In 2018, LGBTQ+ people have much to celebrate, and yet we must continue to fight for acceptance. Join us to honor the righteous rabble-rousers of the Stonewall Inn Riots and celebrate LGBTQ+ people and the movement for rights and acceptance of the last 49 years.

Link to Facebook event page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/624999644501305/permalink/625000821167854/>

New single copies of mostly 4-part anthems that have come from various choral review services to give away to a choral director looking for new anthems.

How many you ask? Three+ bags full!

Please call me at (802) 496-4849 or e-mail me at standor@gmavt.net to arrange to pick them up.

Dorothy Peck, Director of Music, Waitsfield United Church of Christ

If you have thoughts about peace and justice that you'd like to share through the Peacemakers' Pulpit, please contact Betty Edson, at bedson30@gmail.com.

Dulce et Decorum Est
BY WILFRED OWEN

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.
Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots,
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys!-An ecstasy of fumbling
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime.-
Dim through the misty panes and thick green light,
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams before my helpless sight,
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,-
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est
Pro patria mori.

Notes:

Latin phrase is from the Roman poet Horace: "It is sweet and fitting to die for one's country."

I found Wilfred Owen's poem on line while searching for some truths, a daily exercise for me, whether in person or print or observation. Dulce et Decorum Est spoke to me of our personal and social need to strengthen our search and efforts for peace by not allowing lies to cover the realities, through which lived truths we are called to develop a world that rejects war and pursues peace. What might one do in the summer of 2018? 'Tis the season of war and other holidays: Mothers' Day, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, "9/11", Indigenous People's Day, Armistice Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Each day has been

diminished from its meaning. Julia Ward Howe wanted all the mothers of the world to gather and strengthen their resolve for peace, like a "Christian" army carrying love not guns. Indigenous People's Day is an attempt to recover the truth from the hero-Columbus lies. Armistice Day is an honest attempt to recall us to a life that respects one another and leads us to see that one's greatest enemy is one's self. Christmas helps us mourn the slaughter of innocent children, today by remote drone warfare. Thanksgiving may remind us that even we, the insurgent invader, may grow up to live as friends to formerly feared neighbors. How may I best use this gift of summertime reflection to develop peace?
Dave Ransom, Waterville, Vermont, May 29, 2018

Convocation Dates 17th-19th September, 2018

Bethany Church in Randolph is seeking 4 metal covers for communion service trays that carry the juice/wine please contact bethanyucc@gmail.com

News from the New Hampshire Conference

**Save the Date for Basic Boundary Awareness Training
Thursday, October 25, 2018**

Basic Boundary Awareness Training will be offered on Thursday, October, 25, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Conference Center (140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH).

**The facilitator will be Charles Lindner.
More information and registration will be forthcoming.**

VERMONT OUTDOOR MINISTRIES



SEE THE LATEST CAMP NEWSLETTER HERE.....

We will be receiving a \$1000 Deering Grant to help with the cost of paddle boarding at Rock Point next summer!



We have our Counselors!

Currently still looking of a RN and a Lifeguard!

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

Job Inquires and questions about camp can be sent to:

Laurie Chipman

lchipman@fccej.org

or

Nancy Fowler

fowler5vt@myfairpoint.net

WHAT CAN CHURCHES DO TO PROMOTE CAMP?

- Promote camp in your bulletins and newsletters & hand out the brochures
 - Invite campers that have been to camp share stories in worship.
 - Support our VT OM program & Camper Scholarships with a Special Offering on a Sunday
 - 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
- Check out the website at www.hortoncenter.org

[Preview 2018 Camp Brochure here!](#)

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



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



**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.essexeatsout.org

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



Looking for some great home-baked goodies? You're in luck! These ladies and many more will be preparing a variety of home-made delicacies for the United Church of Dorset and East Rupert Fellowship Semi-Annual Bake Sale on Saturday, June 30, 2018 from 8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon at the Dorset Post Office on Route 30 in Dorset. Stock up on pies, cakes, breads and other assorted goodies for friends and family who will be joining you for the 4th of July. We hope to see you there on Saturday, June 30th ! Questions, call 867-2260.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



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.

~~~~~

**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)

~~~~~

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>



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/>



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

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

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

Sent by robinsonc@vtcucc.org in collaboration with



Try it free today