

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



July 4, 2018

Copley Hospital names chaplain employee of the year

Alden Launer provides health care for soul

By Tommy Gardner | News & Citizen June 21, 2018

Copley Hospital in Morrisville is one of the largest employers in the county, with hundreds of nurses, surgeons, physical therapists and other medical professionals, along with the cooks, receptionists, janitors and administrative staff that makes the whole place work.

But this year's hospital employee of the year concerns himself with something a bit more esoteric - a patient's spiritual health. That employee, hospital chaplain Alden Launer, believes that every person at Copley plays a part in the climate of spiritual care.

"I'm a small part of the care that goes on here," he said. Hospital chaplains see to the spiritual and religious needs of patients and their families, inside or outside of Copley's walls. Often, a home visit means the patient doesn't have much time left, and Launer makes the most of that time.

Chaplains are also available for staff. After all, hospital workers see a lot of traumatic stuff. And those workers are the ones who nominated Launer for the employee of the year honor, according to Leah Hollenberger, the hospital's community relations specialist.

"The employees lean on Alden quite a bit," she said. "He's very cherished." Although Launer is a Copley employee, he's not tethered to the hospital. He often makes homecalls as part of a partnership with Lamoille Home Health and Hospice, and he's on call 24 hours a day for those end-of-life patients, as well as their loved ones.

Patients who need some spiritual guidance, or someone to simply pray for them, call on

Launer. "He does not hesitate for a second if he gets a call," said Kathy Demars, head of Lamoille Home Health and Hospice. "And you are the most important person in the world when you're with him."

Churches praise him

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

UCC NEWS

Pension Boards Employer Adoption Agreements

[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

**UCC leadership: Janus decision threatens collective voice of American worker
The national leadership of the United Church of Christ is denouncing the U.S.
Supreme Court decision in Janus v. AFSCME, which they say "will be recorded as one
of the most far-reaching rulings of 2018."**

**'Love will triumph someday' - California pastor opens up about immigrating to U.S.
The Rev. Rhina Ramos knows all too well the fear and the struggle facing migrants coming to the United States, hanging on to the hope of building a better life. She lived it.**

At DC immigration rally, Traci Blackmon calls on people of faith to live by moral law of love

The Rev. Traci Blackmon brought greetings from the UCC to 30,000 people gathered at Lafayette Square across from the White House, site of the "Families Belong Together" rally in Washington, D.C. on June 30, urging them to keep fighting for love.

Voices at DC immigration rally speak up, speak out against family separations people across America, young and old, lifted up their voices at more than 700 'Families Belong Together' rallies on June 30, calling for change in the government immigration policies, and the immediate reunion of migrant families separated at the border.

Commentary: Similar Stunt, Different Day, Still Barbaric

The story of the involuntary separation of vulnerable children from their parents seeking refuge in the U.S. has dominated the global news cycle for nearly a month.

**UCC minister: Smiles bring hope to Lakota Reservation in South Dakota
Hope blooms on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota, planted by a partnership of the Dakota Association of the United Church of Christ and Simply Smiles.**

Traci Blackmon featured in CBS Interfaith Special on religion and African-American women

The Rev. Traci Blackmon is one of three women religious leaders featured in a CBS Interfaith Special, "Reclaiming History: A Movement for Equality," that is scheduled for broadcast around the country beginning Sunday, July 1.

**Asylum seeker and her sons find refuge in Arizona pastor's hospitality
Arizona pastor the Rev. Randy Mayer has spent almost two decades ministering to his migrant neighbors. He and his church, Good Shepherd UCC on the U.S border with Mexico, are now sponsoring an asylum seeker and her sons hoping to make a better life in the U.S.**

Weekly Seeds

Focus Reading: Mark 6:1-13

Jamie Arpin-Ricci, Vulnerable Faith: Missional Living in the Radical Way of St. Patrick, 21st century

"The mission of God's people is not simply directed at saving people's souls from a bad life-after-death into a good life-after-death, but it addresses and hopefully touches the injustice and violence around us--poverty, racism, sexism, economic exploitation, war, environmental destructionówhere salvation, justice, and peace can merge."

Augustine of Hippo, Confessions, 5th century C.E.

"Run to and fro everywhere, holy fires, beautiful fires; for you are the light of the world, nor are you put under a bushel. He whom you cleave unto is exalted, and has exalted you. Run to and fro, and be known unto all nations."

Donald Miller, Blue Like Jazz: Nonreligious Thoughts on Christian Spirituality, 21st century

"Most Christians have enormous respect for the space and freedom of others, it is only that they have found a joy in Jesus they want to share. There is the tension."

Joseph Campbell, *The Hero's Journey: Joseph Campbell on His Life & Work*, 20th century

"The imitation of Christ is the joyful participation in the sorrows of the world."

Antoine de Saint-Exupery, 20th century

"If you want to build a ship, don't herd people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

Theodore M. Hesburgh, 20th century

"The very essence of leadership is that you have to have vision. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet."

Tierney Gearon, 21st century

"Even in the familiar there can be surprise and wonder."

Mae West, 20th century

"Those who are easily shocked should be shocked more often."

Harlan Ellison, 20th century

"If you make people think they're thinking, they'll love you; but if you really make them think, they'll hate you."

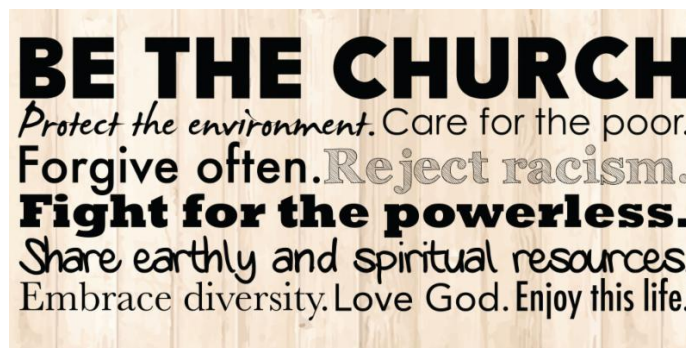
Voltaire, 18th century

"Our wretched species is so made that those who walk on the well-trodden path always throw stones at those who are showing a new road."

Oscar Romero, 20th century

"Let us not forget: we are a pilgrim church, subject to misunderstanding, to persecution, but a church that walks serene, because it bears the force of love."

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**BE THE CHURCH**

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**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT
CONFERENCE**

Here...

DONATE

VT CONFERENCE NEWS

**Rev. Margaret Stoddard's Funeral Service
will be at 2:00 pm on Thursday, July 12, 2018
at the Greater Hartford UCC
Route 14
Hartford, VT**

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!

John is looking for audio cds of theology or scary adventure stories to listen to! Stop by and bring him a smile or two, he'd love some visitors!

If anyone happens to have anything on Cd by Carl Barth, he would Love to listen to it!

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

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.....](#)



CHURCH WORLD SERVICES

In Guatemala, our team works with the Conference of Evangelical Churches of Guatemala -known as CIEDEG - to strengthen the food security and income-generating activities of 700 members of local indigenous associations.

Source: CWS Annual Report 2017

Magdalena Perez Gallego is the coordinator of a greenhouse in her community of Pulay, Nebaj, Guatemala. She and her husband live on the same land they inherited from her in-laws 40 years ago. Their community was heavily affected by Guatemala's deadly civil war, which raged for 36 years. Most families fled from the armed conflict into the mountains, only returning after the peace accords were signed in 1996.

Outside of her home, Magdalena tends a flourishing garden, with cabbage, greens, medicinal

[READ MORE 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.essexeatsoout.org

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



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.

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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/>



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](mailto:robinsonc@vtcucc.org)



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



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

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