

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

# Vermont Conference



March 7, 2018

## 'RULES' FOR LIVING TOGETHER

*Then Joseph died, and all his brothers, and that whole generation. (Exodus 1:6)*

From invited guests to oppression...

*Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. (Ex. 1:8)*

From the freedom to make a living...

*Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the region of Goshen; and they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied exceedingly.*

*(Gen. 47:27)*

To building cities for their oppressors...

*Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. (Ex. 1:11)*

Except -

That 400 years later

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was but a dim memory.

Who are the Israelites now?

Brickmakers?

Brick after brick after brick?

Where was that God of their ancestors now?

Who are they now?

Whatever family stories had been handed down

Generation after generation

Offered little to guide them.

Family stories of

Deception and blame...

*The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." (Gen. 3:13b)*

Violence...

*...when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him.*

(Gen. 4:8b)

Failure of responsibility..

*"Am I my brother's keeper?"* (Gen. 4:9b)

Lying and self-preservation...

*Abram said to Sar-ai "Say you are my sister, so that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared on your account."*

(Gen. 12:13)

Familial favoritism...

*Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.*

(Gen. 25:28)

Jealousy...

*But when his brothers saw that their father loved [Joseph] more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.*

(Gen. 37:4)

Living among the Egyptians

It was only natural that the Israelites would observe that

Power...

Money...

Status...

Violence

and Hatred...

Appeared to bring success!

So it was only natural that they might at least consider

The possibility that the gods of Egypt

Had more power than that ancient dusty God

Of Abraham Isaac and Jacob!

Except -

It becomes apparent that

The God of the Israelites is stronger than

Hapi - the god of the Nile -

Nut - the goddess of the sky -

Shu - the god of the air -

Geb - the god of the earth -

Ra - the god of the sun -

And Osirus - the god of death.

As the plagues continued

The Israelites prepared to follow Moses

Into the wilderness

And freedom.

Except -

When they got there

How would they make a new life together?

All they had was this newly met God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob -

Who had brought them safe thus far -

What did they really know about this God?

What did this God require of them?

All they had were

The family stories of dysfunctional relationships -

Would their lives reflect the dysfunction of systemic repetitive behaviors?

All they had was their experience of the culture they had escaped.  
Would their lives reflect the culture of building empires -  
the power of intimidation to put people in their place -  
the power of money to buy influence -  
the power of status to overlook 'the others' -  
the power of violence to preserve a fragile peace?

Or -

Would they be able to reflect the dream that God has had from the beginning -

*"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son."*

(Hosea 11:1)

God knew that these people were as children

Who needed 'rules' for how to be with one another.

*"Yet it was I who taught [them] to walk...I led them with cords of compassion,"*

(Hosea 11:3-4)

God said -

"I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt...

I yearn for you to

Love me with all your heart, soul, strength and mind...

If you do -

You will be so filled with love that

You will love everyone the way I love them.

That means you shall not

Steal/covet/desire/take away

The life, property, possessions or loved ones of anyone -

You shall not undermine/belittle/shame/intimidate/bully/bribe/hurt

In order to take away the reputation, freedom, gifts or skills of others -

You shall love your neighbor as yourself

So that all people will be blessed to be all God has created them to be."\*

Out in the wilderness

Perhaps they would learn

How to be God's people -

Who would live a way

Of love -

Of peace -

Of justice -

Of compassion -

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.* (Ephesians 2:19-22)

## **PONDERINGS**

*What worldly gods, imps or demons may be tempting the hearts and souls and minds of your congregation to behave like the world outside of the*

*doors of your church?  
If your congregation's leaders were to write down a list of four ways  
God yearns for people to love God - and six ways God yearns for your  
congregation to behave with one another - what would they be?*

*\*Loosely based on Deut. 6:4 and Exodus 20:1-17*

From Lessons From the Wilderness  
Rev. Pamela Y Lucas

~~~~~

## **Associate Conference Minister Search Underway**

The Board of Directors has authorized a search for a new Associate Conference Minister after much consultation with the Personnel Committee and the Conference Minister. You can view the new Position Description; [Here](#)

As you can see, the position combines some of what was in Jim Thomas' position and some of what is currently in Pam Lucas' position. Some tasks will remain the same, some will drop away and others will be both organized and done differently.

Why? The primary answer to that question is to equip our congregations for mission and ministry today and tomorrow. The church is changing, the culture in which we minister is changing and our churches need for leadership and ministry skills going forward is changing as well.

[Please see a letter from Pam Lucas; Here](#)

[Please see a letter from your Board of Directors; Here](#)

If you know someone who might be interesting in the ACM position, please have them request their updated Ministerial Profile to be sent to the Vermont Conference.

Please pray for your conference leadership - the Board of Directors, the ACM Search Committee and current staff. God is doing a new thing in our midst!

~~~~~

**Prayers...**

~~~~~

For Margo Marrone, pastor of the Tyson Congregational UCC, as she recovers from knee surgery.

~~~~~

For Bruce Bishop, former ABC regional minister who has worked with and preached in many of our churches who is hospitalized and gravely ill.

~~~~~

~~~~~

**UCC Yearbook Data Collection Time is Over!**  
**Please check with your Clerk and or your Administrator - this is a critical deadline. Please contact me if you did not make the deadline.**  
[Contact Charri here...](#)

**40 Churches made the deadline as of 4:00 pm March 7, 2018. Thank you !**

**Your 2017 DataHub Yearbook information MUST be submitted  
NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7th!!**

The reporting cycle for the UCC 2018 Yearbook & Directory officially opened January 2nd at noon and **will close on March 7, 2018 at midnight.** The process for entering your church's 2017 data is done completely online!

~~~~~

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

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

**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](#)

[UCC Youth planning to join March for Our Lives](#)  
Two Conferences of the United Church of Christ will be sponsoring youth participation in the March for Our Lives event in Washington, D.C. on March 24.

[White Privilege curriculum fueling justice initiative in Kansas Oklahoma Conference](#)  
UCC churches in Kansas and in Oklahoma, doing work around white privilege, are living into a conference-wide commitment to a three-year justice initiative launched in 2015.

[Commentary: The Power of "Never Again"](#)  
The students who are currently mobilizing around the country for sensible gun violence prevention truly believe it when they say "Never Again" will there be

another mass school shooting. In this they are united with generations of advocates who dare to believe another world is possible.

UCC, other faith groups mobilize for April ACT to End Racism Rally in DC  
UCC congregations are mobilizing to participate in the ACT NOW! Unite to End Racism Rally on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

## **WEEKLY SEEDS**

Focus reading: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Thomas Merton, 20th century

"There is not an act of kindness or generosity, not an act of sacrifice done, or a word of peace and gentleness spoken, not a child's prayer uttered, that does not sing hymns to God."

Philip Melancthon, 16th century

"Trouble and perplexity drive me to prayer and prayer drives away perplexity and trouble."

Victor Hugo, 19th century (in Les Miserables)

"Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees."

Meister Eckhart, 14th century

"If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, 'thank you,' that would suffice."

Anne Lamott, 21st century

"Here are the two best prayers I know: 'Help me, help me, help me' and 'Thank you, thank you, thank you.'"

Mechtild of Magdeburg, 13th-century mystic

"When I can no longer bear my loneliness, I take it to my friends. For I must share it with all the friends of God. 'Do you suffer?' 'So do I!'"

### **UCC Planning and Evaluation Survey**

The UCC's Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD) is seeking your direct feedback and assistance on a new denomination-wide survey. The purpose of the UCC Planning and Evaluation Survey is to gather information about the various types of planning and evaluation tools, strategies, and processes utilized across settings of the church, as well as the prevalence and frequency of planning and evaluation initiatives. The results will guide CARD's work in assessing needs and creating/curating the most helpful resources for effective planning and evaluation for local churches, middle judicatories, and other settings.

The survey will take between 15-20 minutes to complete. Responses are anonymous, although the name of your setting is asked to reduce overlap in response. The results of the survey will be shared with various stakeholders across the United Church of Christ.

Please **complete the survey** by Friday, March 16.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your valued feedback!

## ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### 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!

## HAPPENINGS



[BE THE CHURCH](#)



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 folks could return to the Mother Church of their roots.



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



**VERMONT OUTDOOR MINISTRIES**

# Camp Brochures have arrived!

## [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_Chipman@fccej.org)

or

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

~~~~~

Sugar on Snow Supper  
First Congregational Church West Brattleboro  
Our church's Sugar Supper will take place on Saturday, March 10  
with seatings at 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.  
Our Sugar Supper is around the corner!

In recent years, our annual Sugar on Snow Supper has been held the second Saturday of March. That means that this year's event will be Saturday, March 10. So make sure you save that date on your calendars! Seatings will be 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. Please contact Alice McClellan at 257-7557 for reservations

~~~~~

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 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/>

~~~~~

### Bethany Church United Church of Christ Randolph, Vermont

<http://www.bethanyuccvt.org> Coordinator for Youth and Family Ministries Bethany Church, a lively congregation of the United Church of Christ, is seeking a half time (20 hours a week) Coordinator for Youth and Family Ministries. The candidate we are seeking is a person of faith who is committed to the church and to nurturing the spiritual needs of children, youth and families. They will have strong organizational and communication skills. They will have training and/or experience in providing educational ministries in a local church setting. They will understand and honor confidentiality and appropriate boundaries. This staff person will work closely with our pastor, Rev. Kim McKerley, and will have the strong support of the Christian Education Committee and the members of our congregation. Together we will work to continue our excellent youth ministry programs consisting of three fellowship groups (Grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12) which provide fellowship, spiritual formation and outreach programs for our youth. This staff person will work with us all to strengthen our Sunday School ministry to children and youth (ages three through grade 12) and their families. They will also be asked to reach out to our Bethany Church and Randolph Community families. We are a UCC congregation eager to move boldly forward in Educational/Faith Formation ministries. We would love to hear from all interested persons that we might talk together to see if the Spirit has a mutual path forward for us. We ask that references be provided if requested. Compensation will be commensurate with experience.

Contact: Wendy Ross, Chair of the Christian Education Committee  
[Rosspol.w@gmail.com](mailto:Rosspol.w@gmail.com) Bethany Church United Church of Christ 30 North Main Street  
Randolph, Vermont 05060

~~~~~

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



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

**Constant Contact** 

Try it free today