

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



October 10, 2018

Agents of Change

One of my favorite sayings in the UCC, and I have a lot, is the "Be The Church" banner that reminds us what we stand for as a church. I love the saying so much that I have a mouse pad that I have carried with me through my work contracts in the past few years that reminds me of "Be The Church" especially when faced with the challenges of working in social services. Psalm 90 is a reminder of this charge to our denomination. It speaks of Jesus's steadfast love creates a bond in humanity and it reflects on the wide vision of our church services, mission, and social justice work. We are all servants of Christ. We are all children of God, created in the image of God, and all hope to have wise hearts that will lead us to being the church. Being part of the Vermont Conference many of us are greeted by so familiar Opening and Affirming (ONA) statements when we are at church and worship. When I speak to someone who describes their church as ONA often, they state that their church is "a church where all feels welcomed." That word "All" covers a broad spectrum of individuals. When the word "All" is used, in that context, the intent and purpose of the statement is to accept all as children of God, servants of Christ.

When I reflect on what "All is Welcomed" means it includes more than acceptance of a person's sexual or gender identity which is proven that a church affirms when receiving an ONA certification. During October, I receive multiple emails daily from the UCC Disabilities Ministries board I serve on. There is a steady stream of reminders about Access Sunday that is occurring on October 14, 2018, Disability Awareness facts, and activities. When asked where I want to see the church to be at on disability justice in ten years, we I often respond that I hope our denomination does not need a board for Disabilities Ministries because we will be "a church where all feels welcomed." That dream is not the reality. I do live in a reality where my board encourages local congregations to take part in Access Sunday and partner with the National Church in disability awareness programming throughout October. What is access? For me, it's a place where people can reach and be comfortably. It's far more than building an addition on to your building as to include a ramp. It's more than a technical change in our houses of worship when it becomes a necessity. Disability is both visible and invisible. It goes beyond our instinctual need for proof when someone asks for an accommodation. As an individual living with Asperger Syndrome, a severe anxiety disorder, and clinical depression no amount of ramps or elevators makes being part of the life of a church housed in a brick-and-mortar

building easier. Sharing these challenges vocally invites the missed opportunity that occurs when the response to statements on challenges of access is "This is challenging for everyone".

We are missing opportunities of becoming agents of change. We miss these moments that create opportunities to take steps toward creating access to more welcoming congregational community towards people living with disabilities.

I want to challenge us that the next time we find ourselves saying "That is a challenge for everyone" to stop before saying it. Question yourself awareness of potential reasons for this challenge without requiring proof of a disability or mental health challenge. By saying this we are invalidating a person's struggle and avoiding a meaningful faux pas on awareness. Supplying company for perceived misery a conversation non-starter.

Does it make someone a bad person when we fall into a faux pas of lack of awareness? Absolutely not. Not recognizing that there is room for improvement in awareness can foster a situation where we delineate which situations are worthy of discussion and which are worthy of looking the other way. Encouraging those to stay quiet by reasons why something may happen, while tip toeing over the concern originally presented, it can leave the individual who is feeling challenged feel like a child in the back seat constantly asking, "are we there yet?" For some who live with invisible disabilities or mental health challenges that may be a constant question on how comfortable and accessible our local congregations are. "Are we there yet?" I am exceptionally grateful that I do have colleagues who embody the Social Justice Warrior, along with the talents and gifts that go along with that call, when those moments call their name. We may not all be SJWs as the talents we possess as Christ servants but, as corny as this sounds, we are the change that we want to see in this world. "That is challenging for everyone" is a call for everyone to find the changes that can be made out of the challenges.

Danielle Rochford
BoD UCC Disabilities Ministries - Social Media Coordinator
VT Conference UCC Diversity Committee Member
Champlain Association Member At Large for Disabilities Ministries

Resources for Disability Justice and Access Sunday
Want to become more involved in disability justice work in the Vermont UCC?

Contact Danielle Rochford at
Dannir86@gmail.com

Interested in materials for Access Sunday 2018?
<https://tinyurl.com/AccessSunday2018>
Top 10 Ways Churches Can Include People With Disabilities

<https://uccdm.org/3048/top-10-ways-churches-can-include-people-with-disabilities/>
Is your church ready to become Accessible to All?
<https://uccdm.org/a2a/how-to-become-a2a/>

info@vtipl.org 802-434-3397 www.vtipl.org
Vermont Interfaith Power and Light
P.O. Box 209
Richmond, VT 05477

Vermont Interfaith Power and Light's 2018 conference, A Just Economy to Achieve Climate Goals, will be on Saturday, Oct. 13, 10 am - 3:30 pm, at Faith United Methodist Church (899 Dorset Street) in South Burlington. Don't miss it!

George Lakey, author of *Viking Economics: How the Scandinavians Got It Right - and How We Can, Too!*, will be the Keynote Speaker. Six workshops are offered including action for a just economy, advanced wood heat, and climate impacts on health. The conference also features a delicious catered lunch, music, a "bookstore", sponsors' exhibits and more! The registration link follows. Fall Conference Registration Register by Oct. 6th. Learn more at VT IPL Fall Conference 2018 Contact: Betsy Hardy 802-434-3397 or email: info@vtipl.org

[See Flyer here!](#)



BE THE CHURCH



BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT CONFERENCE

[Here...](#)



VT CONFERENCE NEWS

Tita's Church Santurce, Puerto Rico

Two months ago, we issued a call to Vermont churches to help us raise \$20,000.00 to rebuild "Tita's" church. The project is to establish a Mission Center by rebuilding four hurricane-damaged rooms in the Iglesia Evangelica Unida Puerto Rico de Santurce (The United Evangelical Church in Santurce, PR. This church is in the poor section of the business center of San Juan. The pastor is a woman of amazing energy named Arcadia Ortiz Ramon, a/k/a "Tita". To date, eight churches, the UCC Disaster Relief Ministries, and more than 25 individuals have contributed. We have raised \$18,170.00

We had a wonderful August evening at the Norwich Church, explaining the situation in Puerto Rico and the needs and potential of Tita's church. Last Sunday, I preached and led an engaging discussion in Bethany, Randolph. The warm welcomes and generous responses from Bethany and Norwich are amazing.

We are thrilled with the response to date. We are very close. Now, we must finish what we started so Tita can begin the work she is called to do. If you are reading this message, please take a moment to send in your tax-deductible contribution to support Tita's church. If you want to learn more, please call or email either Judy or me. If you and your church have the time, we would love an invitation to come and join you for worship and/or for an informative discussion. We are confident that once you know Tita's story and the work to be done, you will want to help.

What happens if, and when, we surpass the \$20,000 mark? Your money will be used to completely finish the reconstruction and as seed money to assure the outreach programs started in the new rooms get off to a strong and sustainable beginning.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Peace, Judy and Doug Moore
(802) 299-6152
dsmoore66@yahoo.com

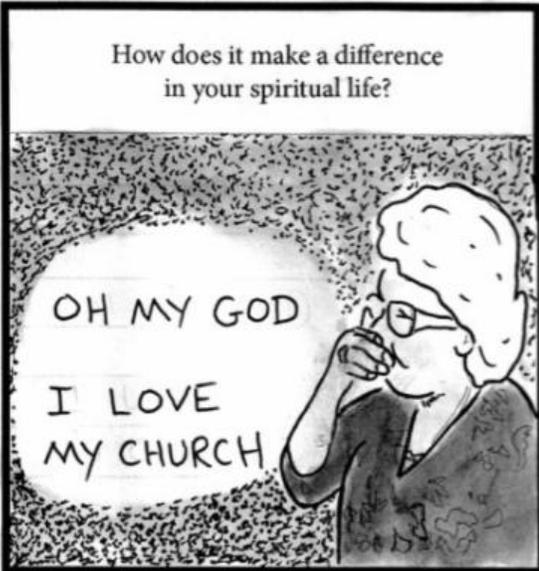
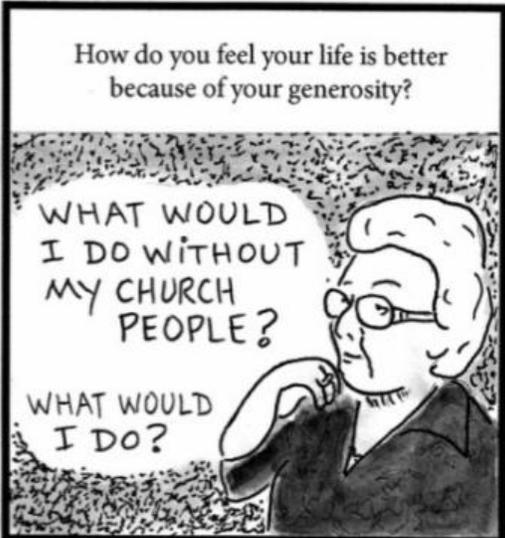
Make out your check to: Norwich Congregational Church, UCC
Mark "Tita's Church" on the memo line.

Send to:
Norwich Congregational Church, UCC
Attn: Amy
P.O. Box 236
Norwich, VT 05055

Dr. Francois Clemmons, Vocalist You are invited to Brandon Congregational Church, Sunday, October 21 at 4:00 p.m. for a concert Celebrating our Church Life and the Leadership of the Reverend William L. Bartholomew, Pastor. Gospel, Spirituals, Dixieland Jazz along with the Brandon Congregational Church Choir, all under the direction of Mr. Gene Childers. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall. Free-will Offering to benefit the Historic Brandon Congregational Building Fund.

[See Flyer here...](#)

**“Growing our Faith through Generosity”
Warren United Church (UCC)
Fall 2018**



**Racism in America
And Why We Should Care?**

October 23, 2018
[Click here....](#)

We have NIV & Good News Bibles here that we are giving away. We have slowly moved them out of our rooms and replaced them with NRSV Bibles. They are looking for a home. Please advertise and spread the word.

33 hard cover Children's NIV Bibles (congregation used to give this translation away to 3rd graders...picture attached)

23 hard cover Good News Bibles (gold and black cover)

Plus a box of 24 or so paper back Good News Bibles.

Interested congregations or individuals can connect with me for questions, etc.

**Peace,
Laurie**

Laurie Chipman, Christian Education Director

First Congregational Church, UCC

1 Church Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452

802-878-5745 ext 103

802-881-3691 cell

www.fccej.org

~~~~~ Peacemakers Pulpit ~~~~~

Peacemakers Pulpit

**The way of peace they do not know,
and there is no justice in their paths.
Their roads they have made crooked;
no one who walks in them knows peace. - Isaiah 59:8**

In protest marches and rallies since the 1980's, one might hear the chant "No Justice, No Peace!" To some, this sounds like a threat, as in, "If you don't give us justice, we will become violent." But really it echoes prophetic words from the Hebrew Scriptures. Isaiah tells us that violence is built into any unjust system. Neither the oppressed nor the oppressor knows true peace.

Whenever people peacefully gather to speak their truth to power, whether it is speaking to a senator at the door of an elevator, or holding a candlelight vigil

for victims of gun violence, or meeting to strategize responses to climate change, we are, in effect, saying, "No Justice, No Peace."

The ways of peace elude us so often. So I offer a few signposts, or GPS coordinates, to help us on our path:

Peacemaking is something actively done; we cannot simply wait for it to happen.

Using violence to bring about peace is unacceptable.

Peacemaking is God-centered and rooted in prayer.

Remember the presence of the divine spark in everyone.

Peacemaking means calling on people to forgive one another and move ahead together.

Realize that often conflict comes about because of an unjust situation.

**Grace and Peace to you,
Mary Brownlow**



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

**VERMONT INTERFAITH
POWER & LIGHT
2018 October 13 CONFERENCE
in South Burlington:**

Registration is open for VT Interfaith Power & Light's conference, A Just Economy to Achieve Climate Goals. Register now and encourage friends to come too! The conference will be on Saturday, Oct. 13 at Faith United Methodist Church in South Burlington (899 Dorset St.). From George Lakey's Keynote, to the six workshops, music by a Counterpoint quartet, delicious catered lunch, wonderful sponsors with exhibits and information, the "bookstore", and more - it's going to be great!

[Read here...](#)

Register for Basic Boundary Awareness Training October 25, 2018

Basic Boundary Awareness Training, based upon "A Sacred Trust", a curriculum designed for clergy serving congregations, covers issues of power, dual relationships, transference, and personal needs.

The workshop will be led by Dr. Charles Lindner, who recently retired as a pastoral counselor and psychotherapist in Lebanon, NH. He has facilitated clergy groups in NH and VT, and has taught basic boundary training for the NHCUCC for more than fifteen years.

This workshop fulfills the boundary awareness training requirement for all authorized ministers.

[Visit the registration website here](#)

Environmental Safety, Pre-attack Indicators, and De-escalation Techniques
October 13th 10:00 - 11:30 am At the First Congregational Church of Fair Haven. Learn how to be safe within your environment, and what to look for when someone is presenting a danger to others and themselves. Gain insight into people's lives and learn techniques for verbally de-escalating a threatening situation.

[Read more here](#)



The Roots of Stewardship: Serving Fellow Christians
By Philip Nation

Serving one another within the body of Christ means using our spiritual gifts. In 1

Corinthians 12-14, Paul described how we are to use our spiritual gifts. It is here that we learn that the Holy Spirit has empowered us for works of service to build up the church. We use our gifts to express ...

[Read more »](#)

UCC NEWS

2019 Pension Board Insurance Rates

Click here for individual 2019 Pension Board Rate Assessment

[Click Here...](#)

To see the PBUCC Explanation Letter and Rate Charts for 2019 Pension Board Rates [Click Here...](#)

Church World Services

A 5.9-magnitude earthquake struck near Port-de-Paix, Haiti, this past weekend. At least 10 people have been killed and over 100 were injured.

This is a part of Haiti where we support farmers associations and have been helping families rebuild houses that were damaged or destroyed in Hurricane Matthew in 2016. We have heard the good news that houses we have constructed stood strong through the quake, but unfortunately many other houses were damaged. Our team is assessing the situation, and we will have more information in the coming days regarding our response plan.

[Click here to learn more about the homes CWS has been rebuilding in Haiti.](#)



Adam Smedberg
 Community & Congregational Engagement Specialist
 Church World Service
 PO Box 749
 West Springfield, MA 01090
 Phone: 413-279-4039
 Skype: asmedbergcws
 Email: asmedberg@cwsglobal.org

UCC NEWSFEED

N.Y. UCC youth group makes bold statement on civic responsibility to 'Get Out the Vote'

A New York UCC youth group launches a website to offer young, first time voters information and an easy way to register. It's all about civic responsibility.

UCC leadership, clergy condemn injustice, partisan politics in Kavanaugh confirmation

As the United States Senate votes by the slimmest of margins in American history to confirm Brett Kavanaugh as the next Justice of The Supreme Court in a 50 to 48 vote, national leadership and local clergy of the United Church of Christ express deep concern in the decision and vow to use their voices and voting power for the betterment of what they see as a deeply divided nation.

Wisconsin church sponsors, grows meal program for children

I For Saint Stephens United Church of Christ in Merrill, Wis., adopting the local "Food For Kids" program was a giant leap of faith: a leap made easier because of the church's commitment to the UCC 3 Great Loves initiative.

Commentary: Blessed are the Storytellers
In Washington D.C., there is no shortage of issues to focus on these days. No lack of political and moral crises to keep one up at night.

New Hampshire church members await word of family, friends in Indonesia after earthquake
The members of a UCC congregation in New Hampshire are anxiously awaiting word from family and friends in Indonesia after Friday's powerful earthquake and resulting tsunami which decimated entire communities, displaced tens of thousands of people, and left scores of victims unaccounted for.

Weekly Seeds

Focus Reading: Mark 10:17-31

Oscar Wilde, 19th century
"Ordinary riches can be stolen, real riches cannot. In your soul are infinitely precious things that cannot be taken from you."

Ernest Hemingway, 20th century
"Fear of death increases in exact proportion to increase in wealth."

Princess Diana, 20th century
"They say it is better to be poor and happy than rich and miserable, but how about a compromise like moderately rich and just moody?"

Ernesto Tinajero, 21st century
"If you read the Bible and it does not challenge you, then you are reading yourself and not the Bible."

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, 19th century
"Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least."

Daisy Goodwin, 21st century
"[A]nyone can acquire wealth, the real art is giving it away."

Epictetus, 2nd century
"Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants."

Stephen Richards, 21st century
"Minds are like flowers, they only open when the time is right."

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 19th century
"Money often costs too much."



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

DINNERS AND SOCIAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Community Suppers

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**

United Church of Underhill hosts community dinners on the second Thursday of each month from 5:00-6:30 pm



Old South Church

Save the Date! Dorset Church Rummage Sale

The most fabulous shopping experience of the fall season will take place in Dorset on Saturday, October 13th when the Dorset Church holds its Fall Rummage Sale from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Outside sales begin at 8:30 a.m. There will be no EARLY-BIRD SHOPPING!! The bag sale will take place from 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM

We may accept by approval some larger items. Please contact Sandi at sandihedman@yahoo.com at 362-1459 or Ellen atellen5150@gmail.com or 362-3610 to discuss the item or if you have any questions about donations.

Donations will be accepted from Monday, October 8th through Wednesday, October 10th, from 9 a.m. til 7 p.m., and Thursday, October 11th until noon. Please note, we cannot accept donations after noon on Thursday.

The church is located at 143 Church Street, off Route 30 in Dorset. Call 867-2260 with questions or for more information.



COFFEE HOUSE

Sat. October 13, 2018 6:30 PM-9:30 PM

Live Music and Readings featuring:

- MALAYNA JOHNSON-pop/contemporary
- VERMONT FIDDLE ORCHESTRA- old and new fiddle and dance tunes
- DONNA THUNDER and the STORM- country/rock/bluegrass
- ...and many more

Coffee donated by CARRIER ROASTING CO. of Northfield. "Fresh, ethically sourced, single origin coffees."

United Church of Northfield
58 So. Main Street
Northfield, Vermont

SUGGESTED DONATION \$10, includes snacks and beverage
Proceeds to benefit the Howe's Hall Restoration Project.



Soup-A-thon & Pie Pourri
Roxbury Church
Saturday, October 20th - 5-7 pm



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.



Open Positions - UCC National Offices

[See posting here...](#)

VERMONT OUTDOOR MINISTRIES





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.



OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION
United Church of Christ



We hope you enjoy E-Kit! 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. Visit our Website

<http://www.vtc.org>

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