

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



February 13, 2019

It was great to be with so many of you for the Vitality Event "Reaching New People" at the UCC church in Springfield with consultant Paul Nickerson on Saturday. There were 85 of us gathered from 16 churches! The room felt nice and crowded and full of energy! And the food the Springfield folks prepared for us was such a gift!

Paul talked to us about how many people in our communities view our churches as "fortresses", and they have no idea what goes on in our buildings. At the same time, we often rely as churches on the "attraction" model, which means that we wait for people to show up at our church, a model



that is obviously not working well in our current day culture. So he encouraged us to get out and reengage with our communities! He urged pastors to spend at least 20% of their time away from their office and out in the community meeting people, either joining community organizations or engaging in activities that we enjoy doing anyways. And he encouraged churches to support their pastors when people complain that they are "not in their office working", since they are working when they are out building relationships with people.

He also encouraged our lay people to be "invitational". First he said that if your town or community is having a festival, have the church door open and make sure your church has a booth where you can share your story with others. Secondly, don't be afraid to invite someone to church-85% of people say they first came to a church because someone invited them. This is where our ministry of hope and healing can begin! All in all, it was a good day, and I certainly enjoyed meeting so many of you! Thank you!

Joyfully yours,

Here...



**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT
CONFERENCE**

VT CONFERENCE NEWS



- Bujnakl@vtucc.org - Conference Minister emails
- Sangreep@vtucc.org Associate Conference Minister emails
- Coordinator@vtucc.org Jesse Davis Office Management emails
- Ministriescoordinator@vtucc.org - Search & Call & Ministry Info. emails
- Robinsonc@vtucc.org Charri Robinson Finance/E-Kit emails

ATTENTION

Important Dates for Churches

UCC Yearbook and Data Hub

The UCC Data Hub is open for the annual Yearbook information upload by local churches. What is the UCC Yearbook and Data Hub? Read on to learn more...

What is the UCC Yearbook?

The Yearbook is the annual collection and publication of the nuts and bolts of the United Church of Christ. It lists all of its ministries from the local church on up to the national setting as well as the demographics and all authorized ministers. In addition, the financial information provided by local churches, associations and conferences helps to inform the UCC in its annual filings with the federal government to meet the requirements to keep the UCC's nonprofit status.

What is the UCC Data Hub?

The Data Hub is the national database in which all personnel, church and financial information is held. For much of the year, only one person on the Vermont Conference staff has access to the Data Hub. This is to ensure a single point of contact for any changes to the Conference's churches, ministers and financial information. However...

..once per year (January through mid-March) the Data Hub is opened to the local churches to enter their demographic, ministerial and financial data. That time is now!

How do we enter this information?

The UCC has provided instructions in the data to be collected as well as how to access the Data Hub here:

<http://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/Church-Instructions.pdf>

Yearbook Help Line

2019

The Center for Analytics, Research, and Data is offering a telephone help line to churches for any assistance needed with completing Yearbook annual data submissions.

Please call us with questions related to using the Data Hub or any other Yearbook-related questions you have.

Phone: 1-866-822-3837

Hours: Monday - Friday from 10 am - 4 pm (Eastern Time)

Dates: January 8th - March 6th (excluding holidays & Jan. 30-31)

If your call is unanswered please leave a message and we will do our best to return your call within two business hours.



Dear Friends & Colleagues,

At last year's Annual Meeting, we unanimously passed a resolution calling for deeper engagement and bold action with regard to addressing climate change.

The text of the resolution can be found at the following link:
http://vtucc.org/mt-content/uploads/2018/12/2018-yearbook-vt-conference_5c1bd018d38a8.pdf

The Conference Department of Missions, the sponsoring body of the resolution, would like to hear from any of you who may have implemented responses to this resolution; i.e. conversations in your churches, bible studies, workshops, preaching, local actions, changes in church practices, etc.

Please send your responses and comments to the Chair, Bert Marshall, at bermarsh@msn.com

Thank you! Looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's Annual Meeting.

Peace,
Bert

Rev. Bert Marshall
Interim Minister
Barre Congregational Church UCC

Doug Moore
P.O. Box 234
Sharon, VT 05065

Tita's Church - The Status
February, 2019

To the people and churches who gave so generously, it is with pleasure that I write this first status report on the work on Tita's church.

The Contract: On January 25, 2019, the church in Santurce, PR, entered into a construction contract with RR Construction of San Juan, PR. The total contract is for \$30,999.00. Our contribution to the project is \$21,897.06.

The work is contracted to begin on February 15th. The estimated completion date is May 20, 2019.

According to the contract, the work will be carried out in four phases:

1. Dismantle ceiling acoustical equipment and lighting. Install new lighting and equipment in ceilings. Repair and replace portions of the roof.
2. Rebuild the floor in large room and hallway.
3. Remove damaged sheetrock and hang new sheetrock on walls.
4. Sand and paint entire area.

I know this is only the beginning, but it is very exciting. The newly repaired and renovated space will be wonderful. The work and energy that emanates from this new space into the Santurce neighborhood will be amazing.

Thank you all.
Yours in Christ, Doug



United Church of Christ
**Church Building
& Loan Fund**

Need to energize and revitalize your church's strategies for faithful generosity? Does your church find it hard to talk about money? UCC Church Building & Loan Fund would like to make you aware of the Ecumenical Stewardship Center's (ESC) "Generosity transformed! your mission*your ministry*your money Conference, April 30 - May 3, 2019 in Indianapolis. For complete conference information and to register, visit [ESC's website](#).

UCC Church Building & Loan Fund can help your church with stewardship and much more! For more information, contact Jill White, Regional Mission Interpreter, whitej@ucc.org.



BE THE CHURCH



DISASTER RELIEF DONATION CHECKS**SHOULD BE SENT TO:**

**ATTN: Financial Services
United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Ave. 6th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44115
or
Church World Service
P.O. Box 968
Elkhart, IN 46515**

Thank you!

**Is Race a Social Construct?
And Why Does It Matter?**

**Dr Debra Leonard, Department of Pathology, UVM Medical Center
Human genome research has challenged the notion that white people
evolved from a separate Arian ancestry with the proposition that all
humanity evolved from a common ancestry that originated in sub-
Saharan Africa. Such research also suggests that racial distinctions are
less genetic than they are social constructs. What impact do these
findings have on the present reality of race relations in America?**

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

[Aspiring Social Justice....](#)

[Racism in America...](#)

Active Shooter Workshop

**Non-Violence, by Carl Fredrk Reutersward, at the United Nations Headquarters, New
York City
For Faith Communities**

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

A Night of Jazz to Benefit the United Church of Northfield

Pianist Daniel Bruce, along with special guests Ronald White on bass and Andy Gagnon on drums, will present an evening of jazz to benefit the United Church of Northfield on Saturday, February 16th, at 7:00 pm.

A professional pianist and founding music director of the Burlington Civic Symphony, Bruce is also music director for the church and has taught music for thirty years. He has performed in many diverse genres - from classical to gospel, jazz, pop, and Broadway, and in venues ranging from concert halls to intimate cafes and nightclubs. Refreshments in Howe's Hall will follow the evening of traditional jazz.

Admission by donation (\$15 is suggested). There will also be a food collection for the CERV Food Shelf. They are in need of tuna, cereals, soups, diapers, and peanut butter. For more information call 802 485-8347.

The United Church of Northfield is located at 58 South Main Street in Northfield, Vermont.

DISASTER RELIEF DONATION CHECKS

SHOULD BE SENT TO:
ATTN: Financial Services
United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Ave. 6th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44115
or
Church World Service
P.O. Box 968
Elkhart, IN 46515

Thank you!

Continuing Education

[Theological Education for a Changing World](#)



<http://www.voicesonstewardship.com>

UCC NEWS

UCC clergy speak out, lobby Senators in support of Green New Deal
UCC executives and environmental advocates are joining other allies concerned about climate change in speaking out for the Green New Deal.

The Green New Deal - Legislating Environmental Justice... Hooray!
The Executive Leadership of the United Church of Christ laud the introduction of the Green New Deal Resolution, legislation "that creates an opportunity for America to commit to goals, aspirations and specifics that are consistent with the UCC's decades-long advocacy of environmental justice."

Commentary: Ending the HIV Epidemic by 2030
With the 2019 National Week of Prayer for the Healing of HIV and AIDS just around the corner (March 3-9), the President's State of the Union commitment to ending the HIV epidemic by 2030 is welcomed.

The United Church of Christ will be presenting four Justice Leadership Awards at this year's General Synod in Milwaukee, Wisc., in June, and is looking to the wider church for nominees.

WEEKLY SEEDS

Focus Scripture: Luke 6:17-26

E.A. Bucchianeri, 21st century
"Be wise today so you don't cry tomorrow."

Carl Gustav Jung, 20th century
"The Wrong we have Done, Thought, or Intended Will wreak its Vengeance on Our SOULS."

Robert G. Ingersoll, The Christian Religion An Enquiry, 19th century
"There are in nature neither rewards nor punishments--there are consequences."

Jamie Arpin-Ricci, 21st century
"Forgiveness and consequences are not mutually exclusive."

Jane Addams, 19th century
"The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life."

Paulo Freire, 20th century
"Washing one's hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful, not to be neutral."

Albert Camus, 20th century
"You are forgiven for your happiness and your successes only if you generously consent to share them."

Pyotr Kropotkin, The Conquest of Bread, 19th century
"Everywhere you will find that the wealth of the wealthy springs from the poverty of the poor."

Bryan Stevenson, Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption, 21st century
"We need more hope. We need more mercy. And we need more justice."

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...](#)



United Church of Christ
GENERAL SYNOD 32
June 21st - 25th, 2019

[Read more here!](#)

Church World Service



New stoves for a school in northern Vietnam

Hoang Thi Vien and Quan Thi Tham have a big job ahead of them every day: cooking two meals for more than 200 students!

The women work at the Hoa Trung primary school, which is a boarding school for ethnic minority children who travel to a central village for school. The students live in remote mountain villages, where only some parents see the value in making sure their children get an education.

"It's not an easy job to cook for 210 students every day," Vien says. "Our kitchen used to have five wood-burning stoves, and cooking the rice was the hardest work because we used three huge pots on three of the five stoves to cook about 30 pounds of rice in each pot for each meal."

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

Adam Smedberg
Community & Congregational Engagement Specialist



Be Invitational

Church World Service
PO Box 749
West Springfield, MA 01090
Phone: 413-279-4039
Skype: asmedbergcws
Email: asmedberg@cwsglobal.org



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

DINNERS AND SOCIAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Community Suppers



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

Every Friday, 6 pm at the United Church of South Royalton

The Danville Congregational Church hosts a community dinner on the third Monday of every month at 6:00 pm.

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

**The Waitsfield United Church of Christ Village Meeting House has free community suppers on the last Friday of every month, at 5:30 PM.
4335 Main Street, Waitsfield VT 05673**



FREE WINTER COMMUNITY SUPPER AT THE DORSET CHURCH ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2019

We will be serving (and eating!) a delicious FREE supper at The Dorset Church, 143 Church St. (off Route 30) on Thursday, February 28, 2019. Dinner will be held from 5:30 PM-7:00 PM. This is our second supper of the winter season-please come and enjoy!

This month we will be serving a Roast Pork Dinner complete with apple sauce, red cabbage, potatoes, peas and salad. Our vegetarian offering will be Minestrone Soup. Of course, assorted desserts will be offered as well. We offer both wheat and gluten free choices.

Our last supper of the winter season will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2019. 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

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Tuesday March 5, 2019

Come to a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 5, from 5 to 7 PM at the Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd, Shoreham, VT. Enjoy Pancakes or French Toast with Vermont maple syrup, Sausages, Latkes with applesauce or sour cream, and beverages. The cost is only \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, and \$20 for a family, and the meal is open to all.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday. The name Shrove comes from the old Middle English word 'Shriven' which meant to go to confession to repent for the wrong things you've done. Lent always starts on a

Wednesday, so people went to confessions on the day before. This became known as Shrove Tuesday and then Shrove Tuesday.

The other name for this day, Pancake Day, comes from the old English custom of using up all the fattening ingredients in the house before Lent, so that people were ready to fast during Lent. The fattening ingredients that most people had in their houses in those days were eggs and milk. A very simple recipe to use up these ingredients was to combine them with some flour and make pancakes!

Event #2:

St. Patrick's Day Breakfast - Saturday March 16, 2019

Celebrate St Patrick's Day by coming to a special Breakfast on Saturday, March 16, from 8:30 to 10:30 AM at the Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Rd, Shoreham, VT. Enjoy Corned Beef Hash or Sausages with your Pancakes or French Toast, Egg Dishes, Home Fries, Irish Soda Bread, and Beverages. The cost is only \$8 for Adults, \$4 for children, and \$20 for families. Please bring a non-perishable item for the Food Shelf to help those in need.

[Shoreham - Shrove Breakfast click here](#)

[Shoreham St. Patricks Day click here](#)

~~~~~  
**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**  
~~~~~

Open Positions - UCC National Offices

[See posting here...](#)

**VERMONT OUTDOOR
MINISTRIES**

2018 brought our third great week of UCC camp at Rock Point! Many thanks to all our campers, volunteer staff and camp staff that lead our UCC week!
We are looking forward to filling our camp week with 24 campers in 2019 and connecting with God, nature, friends - old and new, and reaching out in service...along with all the fun things you can do at camp. We hope you will mark your calendars and join us!

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

Click on the following links for information

[2019 Camp Counseling Information](#)

[2019 Camp Nurse Information](#)

[2019 Camp Lifeguard information](#)

SAVE THE DATES

Save the Date for Annual Meeting!

The Vermont Conference Annual Meeting takes place on Friday & Saturday, April 26 - 27, 2019 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee, VT.

Our keynoter is The Rev. Dr. Rob Voyle of the Appreciative Way and a leader in appreciative inquiry.

~~~~~

~~~~~

Join UCC and Episcopal church leaders to share stories and discover ways to bring your congregation's values, principles and practices into your outreach and evangelism efforts. Enjoy good food, rest and renewal, in a beautiful setting. Ideally, two or more members of a faith community will participate together.

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

~~~~~



**Save the Date**  
**April 30th - May 2nd 2019**  
**Pilgrim Pines, Swanzey, NH**

**Welcoming Keynote: Rev. Traci Smith**  
**Author of Seamless Faith and Faithful Families**  
**Check out Traci's website**  
**[www.traci-smith.com](http://www.traci-smith.com)**

**Join Rev. Traci Smith as she guides those gathered - Christian educators, pastors, parents, and children's ministry leaders through effective ways to encourage the spiritual lives of families. Leave with a copy of Traci's book, Faithful Families, practical tips and ideas for developing age appropriate faith practices, fostering rich worship experiences for all ages, and nurturing sacred space even in busy times. Open to everyone who is interested in learning child-centered ministry practices.**

**Focus scripture: 1 Corinthians 3**

**Registration information coming soon!**

**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](mailto: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](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