

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



February 20, 2019

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference:

Today I want to highlight some of the exciting things we have planned for this year in our Conference. We now have a stable staff consisting of Jesse Davis, our Ministries Coordinator, Charri Robinson, our part-time bookkeeper and Communications Coordinator, Associate Conference Ministry Paul Sangree and me, your Conference Minister.

- **Conference Search Consultants**

We have begun deploying our trained Consultants to churches in search who do not have the benefit of a trained Interim Pastor. We will continue to deploy more CSCs and also seek to learn and adapt the program from feedback.

- **Small Church Search**

More of our small part-time churches are using the model of having six "Congregational Conversations" and then writing a narrative Church Profile. These churches are most likely looking for a settled pastor nearby instead of with a national search. So far we have been able to use our pastors who are trained in this model as consultants to churches who may not have an Interim Pastor to facilitate these Conversations.

- **Annual Meeting (April 26-27)**

I am excited to welcome Rob Voyle, ordained Episcopal priest and founder of the Clergy Leadership Institute to our meeting. We will be using a different format in order to allow time for Rob to lead us through some "Appreciative Inquiry" exercises that will help us focus as a Conference and are also

applicable to your own church. Please come - this promises to be a very worthwhile meeting! See more details elsewhere in this EKit.

- **Clergy Convocation (September 23-25)**

We have just received confirmation that Maren Tirabassi has agreed to be our keynote speaker and facilitator. More information will come out this summer.

- **Congregational Vitality and Stewardship**

In the coming weeks, Paul Sangree will be outlining some ways the Conference can directly support our churches of any size that wish to be more engaged and alive. Watch for more information from Paul.

We will offer Boundary Awareness 1 and 2 during 2019. We are also exploring another House Church workshop for congregations considering changing to a lay-led worship format.

So, there will be plenty of opportunities to learn and grow together this year. I hope to see you at an upcoming event!

**In peace,
Lynn**

Here...



**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT
CONFERENCE**

**VT CONFERENCE
NEWS**



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

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.

Registration to open soon!

Rev. Devon Thomas' installation as Pastor of the Jeffersonville, Bakersfield and Waterville Union churches will take place at the Waterville Union church on Sunday, April 7th at 3pm

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://vtcucc.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**

**William Sloane Coffin Weekend of Events
March 22-24, 2019**

**at the United Church of Strafford, Vermont Announcing a
celebration of Bill's life, work and words to keep his legacy alive
and reflect on how we are doing at fulfilling the prophetic role that
he modeled and called the church to embody.**

[READ MORE HERE...](#)

**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

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>

**CHANGE IN HELP LINE PHONE NUMBER
PLEASE USE 1-216-736-3837 DO NOT USE THE NUMBER BELOW.**

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.



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



**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....](#)

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>

THE STEWARD WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Does your church have a policy addressing sexual harassment, bullying and abuse?

READ IT HERE.....

UCC NEWS

**UCC extends hospitality to BLGTA college students
Almost 1,000 college students from around the Midwest traveled through snow and ice for up to 16 hours to converge in Wichita, Kansas the weekend of February 16-17.**

And the UCC was there, to offer an extravagant welcome.

**Connecticut congregation envisions big impact
A Connecticut congregation makes a remarkable transformation, by doing what
"we're supposed to do."**

**Commentary: Black History Month Reflection: Making Room in the Mess
I must say that writing about African descent ancestry, culture, and identity, is one of
my passions.**

WEEKLY SEEDS

Focus Scripture: Genesis 45:1-15 and Luke 6:27-38

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 20th century

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 19th century

"All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen."

Richard Rohr, 20th century

"If we do not transform our pain, we will transmit it."

Mary E. Hanks, Winter's Past, 21st century

"My gut feeling says he needs a second chance. Like we all do."

Krista Tippett, Speaking of Faith

**"Truth can be told in an instant, forgiveness can be offered spontaneously, but
reconciliation is the work of lifetimes and generations."**

Rachel Naomi Remen, 21st century

**"Wounding and healing are not opposites. They're part of the same thing. It is our
wounds that enable us to be compassionate with the wounds of others. It is our
limitations that make us kind to the limitations of other people. It is our loneliness that
helps us to find other people or to even know they're alone with an illness. I think I
have served people perfectly with parts of myself I used to be ashamed of."**

St. John of the Cross, 16th century

"In the evening, we will be judged on love."

Dorothy Day, 20th century

**"We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is
love and that love comes with community."**

Jean Vanier, Community And Growth, 20th century

**"One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and
help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share
the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress,
and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing."**

M. Scott Peck, *The Different Drum: Community Making and Peace*, 20th century
"The overall purpose of human communication is--or should be--reconciliation. It should ultimately serve to lower or remove the walls of misunderstanding which unduly separate us human beings, one from another."

Marcus J. Borg, *The God We Never Knew: Beyond Dogmatic Religion to a More Authentic Contemporary Faith*, 20th century
"God wills our liberation, our exodus from Egypt. God wills our reconciliation, our return from exile. God wills our enlightenment, our seeing. God wills our forgiveness, our release from sin and guilt. God wills that we see ourselves as God's beloved. God wills our resurrection, our passage from death to life. God wills for us food and drink that satisfy our hunger and thirst. God wills, comprehensively, our well-being--not just my well-being as an individual but the well-being of all of us and of the whole of creation. In short, God wills our salvation, our healing, here on earth."

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
 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.essexeatsoout.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 Community Dinners - No Reservations required at Bethany Church in Randolph

[Read About them here.....](#)



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 Shriven 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](#)

~~~~~

**United Church of Dorset and East Rupert to hold Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Mardi Gras Dinner on March 5, 2019**

The community is invited to the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras at the Dorset Church on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm.

Tickets: Adults \$15.00, Family Tickets (Mom , Dad & kids) are \$30.00  
Tickets may be ordered by calling the church office at 867-2260 or by emailing the church at dorsetchurch@gmail.com.

The menu will include Gumbo, Jambalaya, Cheese Grits, Fried Fish, Tossed Green Salad, and Jim's Buttermilk Pancakes and sausage gravy. Assorted desserts and beverages will be served.

The church is located at 143 Church St. (Off Route 30), Dorset, VT

~~~~~

**Sugar on Snow Party in West Brattleboro
Saturday March 9th**

[SEE FLYER 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@vtucc.org](mailto:robinsonc@vtucc.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



Try it free today