

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



February 27, 2019



If one member suffers, all suffer together (1 Corinthians 12:26)

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

Many of us have been watching and praying for our sisters and brothers in the United Methodist Church as they met in a special General Conference. The issues were the performing of same-sex marriages and the ordination of LGBTQIA clergy. These are issues many denominations have struggled with including our own at one point. The vote went against those who believe in a more inclusive church and for those who hold more traditional views. In fact as the resolution currently stands there is a doubling down on punishment for those who defy the Book of Discipline. It is not clear whether those additions will survive. It is not clear if the UMC will survive in its current form.

The Body of Christ is hurting. Once more those who are LGBTQIA and their allies have been told they do not belong in the denomination of their heart. This is heart-breaking. I admire those who will continue to advocate for a more open and inclusive church and know many of us will stand by their sides. I also know that for others, their spirits have been crushed by rejection.

Our Federated UCC/UMC Churches and pastors are especially caught in this painful division. Please keep our UCC clergy who pastor Federated Churches in your prayers: Rev. Kathy Clark, Rev. Marisa Laviola, Rev. Paul Eyer, Pastor James Mirriam, Rev. Jared Hamilton, Rev. Alyssa May. There are probably more and I apologize if I've left someone off this list. Pray for all of our Federated Churches and all UMC churches. Let us extend a welcome for safe space and a listening ear. Our congregations will continue to proclaim and live: no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here.

**In peace and hope,
Lynn**

Here...

DONATE

**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

What in God's name is going on in Vermont?

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.

Visit our website for information for Annual Meeting
VTCUCC.ORG

Registration is now open!
[Click here for Registration Information...](#)

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

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**Greetings,**

**As chair of the Stewardship Committee of the United Church of Northfield, we recently completed our annual Stewardship Campaign and Annual Meeting. As with many churches, our membership is on the decline as is active participation in church events. With that as context, I have two questions:**

**1) Do you have access to or are you aware of a survey tool that can be given to active members and to those who are members, but not active participants in the work of the church to understand what's working and not working for them?**

**2) Do you have access to or are you aware of a survey tool that can be used with the wider community to understand what would bring them to ours or any church community?**

**Any help would be appreciated.**

**Many thanks,  
Peter**

**[petermevans53@gmail.com](mailto:petermevans53@gmail.com)**

**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](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](mailto: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**

## **CONGRATULATIONS!!!!**

**Dear Pastor Sherry and all our family at United Church of Northfield, VT!**

**On behalf of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, I'm proud to welcome you as ONA congregation #1586! You are now part of the largest and fastest-growing LGBTQ-affirming church movement in the world!**

**Later this year, we'll celebrate United Church as a new member of our ONA family on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and in our email newsletter, RIPPLES.**

**Blessings as you continue your journey of faith as an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ!**

**Andy Lang  
Executive Director  
Open and Affirming Coalition  
United Church of Christ  
216-736-3789**

[ed@openandaffirming.org](mailto:ed@openandaffirming.org)  
[www.openandaffirming.org](http://www.openandaffirming.org)

## **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...](#)**

### **PEACE PULPIT**

**Do you know about the Zienzele Foundation? In 2000 when Earthwatch discontinued its research project studying the nutritional status of women and children in Zimbabwe, Prisca Nemapare, a native of Zimbabwe who led the project, and Nancy Clark, a nurse from Vermont who volunteered with the project, decided to continue on their own. Prisca and Nancy focused on the plight of children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Many of these children were left in the care of widowed mothers or grandparents financially and emotionally unable to care for them. Many of them existed in child-headed households because caregivers had died or had become too old and infirm to care for them.**

**Several years ago, our church in Roxbury invited Nancy Clark to visit us and to talk about the work of the Foundation. Nancy and her husband, Jim, live and work in West Topsham. As a result of Nancy's presentation, our church decided to provide funds to support a household where grandparents are raising their two grandsons who were orphaned by HIV/AIDS. We continue this support each year. We love helping the Foundation make it possible for women and children to gain the ability to support themselves and their neighbors. From basket-making, garden, and sewing projects,**

women and children are learning to become self-sustaining, creating businesses that provide income and self-empowerment to those who are marginalized and at risk. Visit the Foundation's website at [zienzele.org](http://zienzele.org) to learn more about its work. You can contact Nancy and Jim to visit your church and tell you the story of the Zienzele Foundation and its work in Zimbabwe.

From Sue Church, pastor at the Roxbury Union Congregational Church, U.C.C.

### **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.



**West Dover, VT - The West Dover Congregational Church, UCC is pleased to present a special worship and music program on Sunday, March 3rd from 10-11 a.m. Music Director and Ethnomusicologist Christopher Bakriges presents world class musicians, guitarist Joe Carter and flutist Ali Ryerson who will enact the sacred rhythms of Candomblé which tied their way into folkloric music. All Brazilian music can trace its origins to the melding of European, African, and Native American traditions that includes North and South American bossa novas and sambas of Africa and Brazil.**

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



**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....](#)**



<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**

**'Rise Up Hagerstown' to offer a new start**

**A Maryland new church start is starting something new, in an effort to change lives of men and women in its community.**

**Ohio Hymn Sing to help Puerto Rico disaster relief**

**An Ohio church is hosting an old fashioned Hymn Sing on Sunday to raise money for disaster relief work in Puerto Rico.**

**Commentary: Resist**

**As I sat down to write this piece, the notification came in that the president declared a national emergency in order to access close to \$8 billion in funds to build a wall at our southern border.**

**New UCC Lent devotional created by youth and young adults  
In preparation for Lent, the UCC Faith INFO team has released a new resource, one that traverses the season of reflection and repentance through the writings and experiences of diverse group of youth and young adults from across the Church.**

## **WEEKLY SEEDS**

**Focus Scripture: Luke 9:28-36 (37- 43)**

**Thomas Merton, 20th century**

**"We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all the time."**

**Sofia Cavalletti, 20th century**

**"Help me draw nearer to God by myself."**

**George MacLeod, founder of the modern-day Iona Community, 20th century**

**"Show us the glory in the grey."**

**Hafiz, 14th century**

**"An awake heart is like a sky that pours light."**

**Geraldine Brooks, The Secret Chord, 21st century**

**"I understood that I was being shown the future: shards of what would come to be. Often, I cried out for the pain of it. But other times, I was comforted, because I saw, for an instant, the pattern of the whole."**

**Neal Stephenson, The Diamond Age, 21st century**

**"...he liked his transcendence out in plain sight where he could keep an eye on it -- say, in a nice stained-glass window -- not woven through the fabric of life like gold threads through a brocade."**

**Irenaeus, 2nd century**

**"The glory of God is a human being fully alive; and to be alive consists in beholding God."**

**Barbara Brown Taylor, 21st century**

**"Fortunately, the Bible I set out to learn and love rewarded me with another way of approaching God, a way that trusts the union of spirit and flesh as much as it trusts the world to be a place of encounter with God."**

**Franz Kafka, 20th century**

**"Life's splendor forever lies in wait about each one of us in all its fullness, but veiled from view, deep down, invisible, far off. It is there, though, not hostile, not reluctant, not deaf. If you summon it by the right word, by its right name, it will come."**

**Marilynne Robinson, Gilead, 21st century**

**"The moon looks wonderful in this warm evening light, just as a candle flame looks beautiful in the light of morning. Light within light...It seems to me to be a metaphor for the human soul, the singular light within that great general light of existence."**

**and**

**"It has seemed to me sometimes as though the Lord breathes on this poor gray ember of Creation and it turns to radiance--for a moment or a year or the span of a life. And then it sinks back into itself again, and to look at it no one would know it had anything to do with fire, or light....Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like transfiguration. You don't have to bring a thing to it except a little willingness to see. Only, who could have the courage to see it?"**

**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**

**Clean water and clean latrines for Hanh and her mom**

**Our team met 5-year-old Mai Hanh during a recent visit to her preschool. Hanh and her mom live in a poor rural village about 135 miles northwest of Vietnam's capital, Hanoi.**

**When we met Hanh, she had no idea what a toilet was. Where she lives, people still use fields, bushes and streams as their bathrooms. Many people Hanh has grown up around don't wash their hands after using the bathroom or before eating, either.**

[Read more here...](#)



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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](http://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 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**

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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](#)

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**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](mailto: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

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Sugar on Snow Party in West Brattleboro Saturday March 9th

[SEE FLYER HERE...](#)

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**Mardi Gras Event at the United Church of Northfield- Say Whaaaat!!!**

**Join us for a Mardi Gras feast to benefit the United Church of Northfield,  
58 So. Main St., Northfield, Vermont, March 9, 2019, 5:30- 7:00 PM.**

**Mardi is the French word for Tuesday, and gras means "fat." In France, the  
day before Ash Wednesday came to be known as Mardi Gras, or "Fat  
Tuesday."**

**Traditionally, in the days leading up to Lent, merrymakers would binge on  
all the rich, fatty foods-meat, eggs, milk, lard, cheese-that remained in their  
homes, in anticipation of several weeks of eating only fish and different  
types of fasting.**

**So loosen your belts! Join us for this home cooked menu:**

**Gumbo (Louisiana stew featuring the "Holy Trinity" of vegetables-celery,  
bell pepper, onions)**

**Jambalaya-chicken, sausage and vegetarian**

**Rice and Beans**

**Cornbread**

**King Cakes**

**Bread Pudding**

**Beverages (coffee, tea, water)**

**All for \$12.00. Take-out available. For more details contact Karen at 485-  
8335.**

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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.

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**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**  
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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

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!



**FAITH AND NATURE CAMP Sponsored by Southwest Association of the VT UCC
Committee on Spirituality and Education**

[Read about this camp here...](#)



**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL Weekend Retreat for Youth in Grades 8-
12 May 17-19, 2019**

[Read More here about Environmental Justice for all!](#)

**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.
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emails. Visit our Website**

<http://www.vtc.org>

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

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2/28/2019

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