



## E-Kit March 25, 2020

**DONATE**

### We Need Each Other

This morning, I was part of the Vermont Conference Clergy Zoom call, which is happening every Tuesday at 10:30 AM during this Coronavirus Crisis, however long it goes on. For clergy, if you have not participated in the call yet, I really encourage you to do so. For laity, I would suggest that it would be good to encourage your clergy to participate - I promise you that they and your church will benefit. In our Zoom call, we started off sharing ideas of how to do online worship and how to reach out into our communities, and there were so many great ideas shared of how to step outside our comfort zones and do ministry in ways that we have not done so before. It is amazing really to see the creativity of so many of our churches!



We then moved into questions like "How do you do Communion online?", and "Where can you find worship resources for Easter?" (check out our Vermont Conference worship site [worshipwell.church](http://worshipwell.church) for ideas!) And then we got to the challenge of Pastoral Care during this time of social distancing. One pastor shared about a member of her church who was just diagnosed with lung cancer, and how challenging it was to try to be a pastor to her when she cannot be physically near her. Another shared about a member of her church who just tested positive for Coronavirus. What impact will this have on her church community? We closed with a time of prayer, where we held each other up during this challenging time to do ministry.

The call reaffirmed for me that we need each other. WE NEED EACH OTHER! We will never be the churches we are called to be during this time without each other. And we need each other to remind ourselves of who our God is: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging...Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:1-3, 10)

Faithfully yours,  
Paul

**COVID - 19  
Information &  
Resources**

**Gov. Scott issues "Stay home,  
Stay safe" order**

**COVID-19 FAQ's for churches**

**The Vermont  
Conference office is  
closed, but we're**



Jesse Davis' home office

## still hard at work for you!

You can reach any of the staff members by using the information below.

Be safe, be well, take good care...



Jesse Davis' supervisor

## Vermont Conference COVID-19 office protocol

*The Vermont Conference office is closed for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis.*

Staff are able to check their voicemail and are available on email.

Rev. Lynn Bujnak: 802-728-4999 ext. 4#

Rev. Paul Sangree: 802-728-4999 ext. 5#

Jesse Davis: 802-728-4999 ext. 0#

Email Conference Minister Lynn Bujnak

Email Associate Conference Minister Paul Sangree

Email Operations & Ministries Coordinator Jesse Davis

Contact Vermont Conference Disaster Ministries chair Rev. Adrienne Carr

## Learning opportunities while you are home during COVID-19

Called to Teach: Basics for Sunday School Teachers of Children - [Register here](#)

[Recorded webinars from Practical Resources for Churches \(PRC\)](#)

### Pastoral Transitions

- Rev. Elissa Johnk was installed as Pastor and Teacher at First Congregational Church in Burlington.
- Lava Mueller was granted the status of Ordination Pending Call by the Windsor-Orange Association following an ecclesiastical council.
- Rev. WendyJane Summers has been called as Pastor of Second Congregational Church of Hyde Park.

[Click here for full list of transitions](#)

### Prayers and Thanksgivings

Please hold health care workers and first responders in your prayers as they stand on the front lines responding to COVID-19.

Please hold Rev. Lucia Jackson in your prayers as she cares for her husband Michael Heaney who is facing a health crisis. Lucia and Michael are not able to accept visitors but are grateful for prayers and well wishes.



## Useful Links

- [UCC Newsfeeds](#)
- [UCC Weekly Seeds](#)
- [2020 Tax preparation resources](#)
- [Pension Boards rate calculator](#)
- [UCC Yearbook](#)
- [Stewardship blog](#)

## Who should I contact for...?

- Conference Minister: Rev. Lynn Bujnak
  - [bujnakl@vtcucc.org](mailto:bujnakl@vtcucc.org)
- Assoc. Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangree
  - [sangreep@vtcucc.org](mailto:sangreep@vtcucc.org)
- Search & Call, operations, events: Jesse Davis
  - [vtcoordinator2018@gmail.com](mailto:vtcoordinator2018@gmail.com)
- Finance: Tanya Frazier
  - [vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com](mailto:vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com)
- E-Kit postings
  - [vermontconference@gmail.com](mailto:vermontconference@gmail.com)

## 2020 Census has begun

The numbers that are returned in the 2020 Census - which began on March 12 - will determine the amount of federal funding that Vermont receives for programs that help the most vulnerable among us: Medicare and Medicaid, school lunch programs, emergency housing assistance, SNAP, WIC, special education, and more. Every person counts!

The Vermont Conference calls upon our local churches to help spread the word about the Census with the downloadable bulletin insert and flyer. Responding to the Census will help ensure funds for vital services to Vermonters are not threatened by an inaccurate population count.

Thank you!

[Census flyer](#)

[Bulletin insert](#)

## New Podcast Available

Rev. Josh Simon (First Congregational Church of Essex Junction) and Rev. Sally May (Malletts Bay UCC, Colchester) are proud to present the podcast *Faith in Vermont: Conversations with LGBTQ Religious and Spiritual Leaders*.

*On this week's episode of Faith in Vermont: Conversations with LGBTQ Religious and Spiritual Leaders:*

*In this episode, Sally interviews Pastor Josh on his experience coming out and being a pastor who is gay and how he understands Jesus to be. He serves as associate pastor at First Congregational church of Essex Junction.*

[Click here for the latest podcast](#)



**Our Faith, Our Vote, Our Voice: A call to the Church to be a place of civil dialogue**

## Racism in America symposiums



## It's Tax Season - Beware of Scams!

*This is something that happens to other people.....  
And it happened to me..*

It is Monday, March ninth. Like a lot of us, I am sitting here at my desk in my home office, working away. There are not enough hours in the day - and my phone rings. I did not pick up, so they left this message:

*...Security number for fraudulent activities. So when you get this message kindly call back at the earliest possible on our number before we begin with the legal proceedings, that is dead 470-276-7965. I repeat 460-276-7965. Thank you and have a nice day.*

Voice transcription being what it is, what most caught my attention was "legal proceedings." What?! When I call the individual back, he says he is with the Social Security administration and that there have been a lot of complaints filed on my social security number. Have I heard from the police yet? While one part of my brain goes on "Spidey - alert" there is, in limbic system, a reflexive fission of fear. What could this be?

**AVOID PHONE SCAMS**

## Seminar to help eradicate Human Trafficking

Join us at the Waterbury Congregational Church on May 9 from 10 AM to 3 PM for a free seminar to learn how the faith community can help and become part of the initiative to eradicate human trafficking in Vermont. More than 4 million people across the globe have experienced the horrors of human trafficking, many right here in Vermont. Learn about the intersections with addiction, the use of force, fraud and coercion tactics that traffickers use, as well as the signs and red flags to be aware of in your own community. This will be a broad overview of Human Trafficking the training will be presented by a multi-disciplinary team led by Ms. Kira Krier, the Human Trafficking Victim Services Director for the state and will include representatives from the areas of Law Enforcement, the Department of Children and Families, Disability Rights and Victim Services.

Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to [peter@waterburyucc.com](mailto:peter@waterburyucc.com) if you'd like to attend.

Waterbury Congregational Church  
8 North Main St.  
Waterbury, VT 05676  
(802) 244-6606

## Outdoor Ministries



**Learn more about @ the Lake Camp**

@ the Lake Camp week at Rock Point

July 26 - July 31

**Registration is open**

**Register for camp here**

# website (click the buttons below)

**Click  
here  
for  
local  
church  
events**

Vermont Conference Annual Meeting - April 24 & 25 at Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT - [CANCELLED](#)

Eradicate Human Trafficking seminar - May 9 at Waterbury Congregational Church - [Click here to register](#)

Save the date! *Our Clergy Convocation this year will be Sept. 14th-16th at the Bishop Booth Conference Center in Burlington.* We will be talking about "How to stay Centered in a Time of Deep Change" with noted retreat leader and pastor Barbara Lemmel. Hope we can all gather by then, and that we will see you there.

**Search & Call  
Resources**

**Lay Ministry  
Openings**

## Visit our partners



**Worship  
Well**

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



**Church World Service**

Adam Smedberg  
Community &  
Congregational  
Engagement Specialist  
[Email Adam](#)

PO Box 749  
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## Connect with us

