



E-Kit April 1, 2020

DONATE

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

We are standing on the threshold of Holy Week. We are standing on threshold of Holy Week in the midst of a world-wide pandemic. Most of us are worshipping through technology, either seeking to involve our congregation through ZOOM or another video conferencing platform or we are watching the service as it is streamed through YouTube or on Facebook live. Some do not have access, bandwidth or even the equipment to worship in this way and so are coming together by reading shared worship bulletins and through the lifeline of phone calls. I think of an anthem I have heard sung by the combined choirs of the Warren and Waitsfield UCC churches that begins, "We are a church. We are a congregation." And so we are - gathered or scattered, in good times and trying times, with or without technology we are the church.



[Continue reading...](#)

**COVID - 19
Information &
Resources**

COVID-19 FAQ's for churches

**Resources curated by the
Southern New England
Conference**

CARES Act: Churches Eligible for Payroll Relief ACT NOW!

Attached is the loan application and fact sheet from the SBA. If you have churches interested in applying for this loan, they need to apply NOW, as the available funds are expected to be exhausted quickly. The attached application should be submitted directly to a lender identified as a participating lender on the SBA's website ([sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov)), rather than seeking the application from the lender.

Application Form

Borrower factsheet

CARES Act information courtesy of the Southern New England Conference

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



*Your Conference staff
working for you*

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...



Well, most of us are...

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. **Please send
all documents to staff by email only.**

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

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 Lava Mueller in your prayers as she mourns the passing of her mother.

Please hold Rev. Lucia Jackson in your prayers as she cares for her husband Michael Heaney who is facing a health crisis.

Useful Links

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

Who should I contact for...?

- Conference Minister: Rev. Lynn Bujnak
 - bujnakl@vtcucc.org
- Assoc. Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangree
 - sangreep@vtcucc.org
- Search & Call, operations, events: Jesse Davis

- [Stewardship blog](#)

- vtcoordinator2018@gmail.com
- Finance: Tanya Frazier
 - vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com
- E-Kit postings
 - 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](#)

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: Cantor Steve Zeidenberg from Ohavi Zedek joins us for a conversation on being an LGBTQ cantor.

[Click here for the latest podcast](#)



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

[Our Faith, Our Vote resources](#)

Racism in America symposiums



[Watch the videos of Racism in America series](#)

It's Tax Season - Beware of Scams!

This is something that happens to other

Seminar to help eradicate Human Trafficking

Join us at the Waterbury Congregational Church on May 9 from 10 AM to 3 PM for

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

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 if you'd like to attend.

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



Planning for VT @ the Lake week continues!

July 26 - July 31

Registration is open

Learn more about @ the Lake Camp

Register for camp here

We are living in different times and seeking God wherever we can find the divine. The VT Outdoor Ministry Team is moving ahead and holding in prayer our summer camps as we long for the first day of camp and us able to meet in God's great outdoors all together and in person. We've had a change in deans for this year. Come join Laurie Chipman (CE Director at First Cong Essex Junction) and Ed Sunday-Winters (Pastor at Greensboro UCC) at Rock Point Camp for a week of @ the Lake fun for all 5th- 8th graders on Sunday, July 26th - Friday, July 31st. VT Scholarships are available and Horton Center has a refund policy in place. Please help the VTOM Team as we search for two female counselors and a nurse. Interested? Know someone who might be, please contact Laurie Chipman, chair at lchipman@fccej.org.

[Continue reading the news from Horton Center ...](#)

Resources from the Vermont Conference 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
West Springfield, MA 01090
Phone: 413-279-4039
Skype: asmedbergcws
[Website](#)



INSURANCE BOARD
Partners in Protection

Local Agent
James Stewart
[Email James](#)

P.O. Box 9031
Springfield, MA 01102-9031
413-788-4531
[Website](#)

Connect with us

