



**E-Kit**  
**September 23, 2020**

**DONATE**

## Prayer for the Election

This week in our clergy Conference call, a number of people shared about the anxiety they and so many other people in their churches are feeling right now before the election, and a sense of hopelessness about our country and where it is going with all the division that is present among us. Then Pastor Paul Eyer of the Williston church shared something concrete that he has been pondering the past couple of days. He remembered how he invited the people of his church to pray together for 20 days a couple of years ago before he began his ministry at the church. At that time, he provided a prayer prompt for each day, and invited people to pray in their own personal devotions for the church and his ministry.



So he wondered, what if we were to do something similar before the election? Invite people to pray for our nation for 20 days, (since we are in 2020!), and provide them with non-partisan prompts of what to pray for each day. Other pastors in the group were very interested in the idea, and someone asked about whether we could make this a Conference wide initiative? Could all of us as the Vermont Conference invite our congregations to pray for 20 days before the election for our nation and for our state? What would it look like if we were to do that?

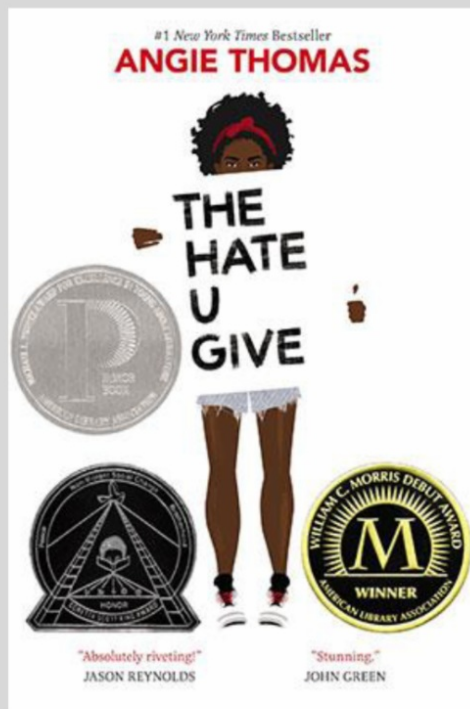
To help shape the answer to that question, we will have a Zoom meeting this coming Tuesday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> at 930 AM to talk about how the churches of the Vermont Conference could join together to pray at this important time in our nation's life. If you would like to be part of this conversation, please email me at [sangreepucc@gmail.com](mailto:sangreepucc@gmail.com). I then pray that many of us will feel led to participate, for we believe in the power of prayer!

Faithfully yours,  
Paul

# Black Lives Matter

From our partners at Vermont Interfaith Action

# Let's talk -- and act on -- racial justice...



Do you want to engage with others about systemic racism? Do you want to learn more about what an active bystander is and how you can be one? Then [now is the time to register](#) for "The Hate U Give" book discussion and active bystander training sponsored by Vermont Interfaith Action.

The Vermont Humanities Council chose "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas to be the *Vermont Reads* book of 2020. Through the council, we were able to secure a number of books to be distributed as part of our fall book discussion and training series. When you register, we will be happy to give you a free copy.

We will spend a month, from mid-September to mid-October, reading the book. During this time, we will train 7-14 of you to facilitate the book discussion with a group of 10. Beginning in October, we will schedule a series of book discussion groups. Each group will meet twice for one hour each time. After all the discussion groups have finished, we will hold a virtual "Active Bystander" training for you to participate in if you

so choose.

Below is a tentative schedule of events. All trainings and discussions will take place virtually.

- **September 8th-29th:** Registration -- see link above
- Facilitator Trainings have been completed.
- **September 11th - October 11th:** Read book
- **October 11th - November 29th:** Several 2-part book discussions (We will send out dates/times that you can sign up for.)
- **November 29th - December 13th:** Active Bystander Training

Contact us at (802) 651-8889 or [melissa@viavt.org](mailto:melissa@viavt.org) for more information.

## Read Fredrick Douglass' famous speech regarding the celebration of American independence

[Click here for the statement from the Vermont Conference staff, Board and ministers living and serving in Vermont](#)

## Beginning conversations about race and white privilege

Has your church begun an education or reflection program about white privilege and systemic racism? If so, tell the Conference about what you are doing so we can highlight your program.

Contact the Conference at [vermontconference@gmail.com](mailto:vermontconference@gmail.com) to tell us about the programs you are doing and the journey you have begun.

- Old South Church in Windsor continues to hold weekly vigils on Wednesday evenings 6-6:30 followed by 30 minute discussions about local racial inequality issues.
- Mallets Bay Congregational Church is now reading *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. They have been joined in their online discussions by members of First Congregational Church of Essex Junction.
- The United Church of Strafford helped launch a town-wide discussion forum about race and being an anti-racist.

- Newfane Congregational Church has been using the UCC curriculum for examining white privilege.

## Say their names...

Each week, we will publish names of our sisters and brothers of the Black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) communities who have been murdered by police and/or white supremacists.

**Shantel Davis - 23, shot by NYPD officer who claimed she was attempting to escape.**

**Kenneth Johnson - 60, denied medical care in custody of Vermont Dept. of Corrections ([more information here](#))**

**Rekia Boyd - 22, shot in back of the head by off-duty Chicago police officer**

**Jacob Blake - 29, tased and shot seven times in the back in Kenosha, WI. He remains hospitalized.**

## The UCC and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

The American Missionary Association, a predecessor body of the United Church of Christ, was a visionary organization dedicated to education and racial equality. The AMA founded six college that continue to relate to the UCC Council for Higher Education. These schools are historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and are racially diverse, welcoming students from a wide range of races and ethnicities.

- Dillard University, New Orleans, LA; [www.dillard.edu](http://www.dillard.edu)
- Fisk University, Nashville, TN; [www.fisk.edu](http://www.fisk.edu)
- Huston-Tillotson University, Austin, TX; [www.htu.edu](http://www.htu.edu)
- LeMoyne-Owen College, Memphis, TN; [www.loc.edu](http://www.loc.edu)
- Talladega College, Talladega, AL; [www.talladega.edu](http://www.talladega.edu)
- Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, MS; [www.tougaloo.edu](http://www.tougaloo.edu)

## Do you know of protests and rallies that are taking place?

Have you attended protests, vigils or rallies? Please let the Vermont Conference know about them so we can post them on our website and social media. Email them to Jesse at [vermontconference@gmail.com](mailto:vermontconference@gmail.com)

- Silent Vigil Against Racism. It has been happening every Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. in Arlington on Route 7A in front of St. James' Episcopal Church that the Federated Church of East Arlington is participating in. Folks are asked to mask, are spaced 6 feet apart and encouraged to bring signs. All are welcome to join!





## Fall Leadership Fest - Registration open!

The Vermont Conference will be holding its first annual Fall Leadership Fest for lay leaders and ministers on October 24th from 8:45 to noon. This will be held virtually on ZOOM. The registration fee is \$25.



Our training sessions will consider:

- Pastoral relations committees
- Youth programming development
- Racial justice in our churches and communities
- Stewardship in the pandemic era

[Click here for more information about our classes and instructors](#)



Racism in America symposiums

**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**



**Watch the videos of Racism in America series**

**The Vermont Conference has two exciting opportunities for you - our ministers and churches.**

Both of these resources are made possible through the financial support offered to the Vermont Conference by local church support of Our Church's Wider Mission and private donations to Friends of the Vermont Conference. Thank you!

**A gift of music and photos  
from Rev. Kathy Wonson Eddy**

Kathy is offering permission for Vermont Conference UCC Churches to use music from her website in virtual worship.

Her website address is: [kathywonsoneddy.com](http://kathywonsoneddy.com)

Kathy asks three things:

1. That churches always include the text ( visible to worshippers as they listen), the text author's name, and her name as composer
2. That churches make a donation to the Vermont Conference UCC or Black Lives Matter when a piece of her music is used
3. That churches email her at [kathywonsoneddy@gmail.com](mailto:kathywonsoneddy@gmail.com) , naming the piece used each time and which donation was made.

**The Gift of Revitalization: 6-week interactive online worship learning  
with Dr. Marcia McFee - Free to You**

We care about resourcing the churches in this area, and we are pleased to offer you the chance to participate in Dr. Marcia McFee's "Reboot Your Worship" training at no cost to you starting on September 20th, 2020. Our participation gives you access to 6 weeks of downloadable resources (articles and videos) and 6 live webinars (also recorded for your archives) with Dr. McFee, a renowned worship designer, consultant, and educator ([www.marciamcfee.com](http://www.marciamcfee.com)). She will be training churches in five basic ways to improve their worship immediately, no matter the size or style of worship and without a big budget or drastic change. Just as we have an occasional need to reboot our computers, "rebooting" your worship is simply a way to look through fresh eyes and get some fresh skills.

This course is also tailored to approach worship practices during the pandemic and will explore the basics of sensory-rich worship design while emphasizing safety protocols and getting creative for online expressions without burning out.

AND Dr. McFee will be getting you ready for your best Advent season ever all along the way! All you need to do is register (at no charge) to receive the emails. You can

invite unlimited members of your worship team (or potential worship team members) to receive these communications as well. We encourage you to take advantage of this free offer (usually \$99 per church) made possible through our area's registration.

Our registration link: <https://ny163.infusionsoft.com/app/form/vermont-conference-ucc-reboot-2020>

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## Does your church have an investment policy?

The United Church Fund is one of the financial ministries of the United Church of Christ and offers its expertise to local churches regarding investment strategies, policies and general expertise.

This downloadable guidance offers ideas and information to consider when developing or revising your local church investment policy.

[Click here to download the Investment Policy guidance from the United Church Fund](#)

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## Reminder

Your local church needs your financial support more than ever. If you have been fortunate to still be employed please consider making regular gifts to your church. Your congregation is doing vital ministry through online or written worship opportunities, caring for one another, feeding hungry people and fighting for justice. Summer is always a slow time in terms of giving, but the church expenses stay steady.



Please also remember the Vermont Conference. We need the support of our congregations and friends so we can continue to resource pastors and congregations through these strange and important days.

*Thank you so much!*

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## Holding space for difficult conversations

How do we have difficult conversations - whether about race, finances or anything else - within our congregations and people with differing perspectives? College Street Congregational Church developed "Communication Guidelines to Strengthen Our Community" and have kindly shared it for other churches to consider. The Vermont Conference Annual Meeting also adopts "A Covenant for Dialog" at the beginning of each Annual Meeting. Please feel free to use these documents in your local church.

**Download College Street  
Congregational Church:  
"Communications Guidelines to  
Strengthen Our Church"**

**Download Vermont Conference  
Annual Meeting: "A Covenant for  
Dialog"**



United Church of Christ  
Church Building Loan Fund  
Present:

**BUILDING CHURCH DIFFERENTLY**

Partners in Building  
2020 Web Seminar Series

Registration Opening Soon!

September 17th  
**"MAKE AN IMPACT"**

September 24th  
**"LEAD WITH TECHNOLOGY"**

October 1st  
**"TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES"**

Three 90 minute power-packed webinars 2PM - 3:30PM EDT  
\$25.00 total cost.

Click the image above to learn more

## COVID - 19 Information & Resources

Re-opening checklist developed  
by Centre Congregational Church

Are you holding services  
according to CDC protocols?

COVID-19 resources from the UCC  
Insurance Boards

## NY School of Ministry (NYSOM) Fall Courses open Featuring Supply Preaching certificate program

The New York Conference's School of Ministry (NYSOM) fall course listing is available and features the Supply Preacher Certification Program. This program is designed especially for lay members who feel called to preaching at churches when their pastors are away or while they are transitioning between pastors.

Click the buttons below for more information.

Supply Preacher Certification  
Program

NYSOM Fall Course offerings

## Kipah, Kufi, and Collar

As part of an interfaith effort at modeling peace, Rabbi Amy Small of Ohavi Zedek, Imam Islam Hassan of the Islamic Society of Vermont, and Pastor Ken White of College Street Congregational Church in Burlington have released a podcast called "Kipah, Kufi, and Collar". Each 30 minute segment starts with Amy, Islam, and Ken having a conversation about an everyday issue (week 1 is "how to deal with difficult people") and then interviewing a local figure about that same topic (week 1's guest is former Vermont Governor, U.S. Ambassador, professor and author Madeline Kunin). New episodes are available every Monday.

You can access it at [kipahkufiandcollar.com](https://open.spotify.com/show/OMpaNQRVMA1claeP2y5Ot0) or you can look for it on Spotify (<https://open.spotify.com/show/OMpaNQRVMA1claeP2y5Ot0>), iTunes (<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/kipah-kufi-collar/id1523653268>) or wherever you access podcasts.

## Curating services and sermons for pastor vacations

Would you be willing to share your sermons or services with others in the Conference, so that they might use them on a Sunday they want to take off? Let

Jesse in the Conference office know if you would be willing to do that, and we will list all the churches in the Conference that encourage you to use sermons and services in Ekit. Then you can simply go to their website and use them with their permission. Thanks!

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## Lancaster Seminary accepting Doctor of Ministry applicants

As a Seminary, we continue to adapt to the needs and realities of these times, as we prepare faith leaders for ministry in a complex and ever-changing world. [We are still accepting applications for the Doctor of Ministry.](#)

Due to COVID-19, our Doctor of Ministry will look a little different, but will still offer the same high-quality educational experience. For the upcoming semester, the one-week intensive has moved to a completely online format (through Zoom). Also, additional classes are scheduled periodically throughout the semester to maintain the cohort experience and ensure academic accountability. I would be happy to meet with anyone you know that might be interested in starting their Doctor of Ministry this Fall.

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## Spiritual Direction

By popular request, a list of Spiritual Directors is now available. [Download the list here.](#)

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### Pastoral Transitions

- Rev. Elisa Lucozzi has been called as Pastor of the Guilford Community Church. She will succeed Rev. Lise Sparrow who is retiring.
- Rev. Leigh McCaffrey has been called as Pastor of the Barre Congregational Church.
- Rev. Mark Wilson has been called as Pastor of Waitsfield United Church Christ. His ministry will begin in October.
- Rev. Lava Mueller was ordained by the Windsor-Orange Association on August 21st.
- Amy Davin has been called as the Pastor of First Congregational Church in Hartland. Her ministry begins in October when she succeeds Rev. Lucia Jackson who is retiring.

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

### Prayers and Thanksgivings

Please hold Rev. Roger and Sandy Daly in your prayers as Roger begins his recovery from a stroke. Well wishes may be sent to: 107 Shore Rd., Edgecomb, ME 04556 or [roger.daly13@gmail.com](mailto:roger.daly13@gmail.com) or [sandy.daly13@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.daly13@gmail.com).

Please hold Rev. Bill Bartholomew and his partner in your prayers as they have just been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Please hold Rev. Kurt Shaffert in your prayers as he mourns the passing of his mother.

Please hold Rev. Margo Marrone in your prayers as she and her family mourn the sudden passing of her husband Tom Marrone.

Please hold our Black, Indigenous and other people of color (BIPOC) sisters and brothers murdered by police and white supremacists in your prayers. Say their names...

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



### 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)

## Resources from the Vermont Conference website (click the buttons below)

**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  
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413-788-4531  
[Website](#)

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