



## E-Kit October 7, 2020

**DONATE**

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference:

For several weeks now twenty plus clergy have met weekly by ZOOM for support, sharing of ideas and prayer. Recently, we explored the polarization of our nation and the upcoming elections. We asked, "What could we do?" Rev. Paul Eyer shared an idea calling us to 20 days of prayer. On our website ([www.vtcucc.org](http://www.vtcucc.org)) there is a button on the top left of the homepage that will take you into devotions and prayers written for each of the 20 days leading to the election.

In addition, the Conference churches will be running the following ad (shown at right) in print and electronic news outlets.

**Grasping for Much  
Needed Grace:  
20 Days of  
Nonpartisan Prayer**



Our nation and society are deeply divided. The churches of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ invite you to unite in prayer for our country.

Beginning on October 15th, during the 20 days preceding the presidential election, we urge you to join our prayer initiative as we daily petition God for wisdom, patience, courage, healing, justice and peace.

Daily prayers available at:  
<http://vtcucc.org/election-prayers/>



***How can you support this important witness?***

- Commit to using the devotions in your own daily prayers
- Invite others to do the same
- Ask your pastor or church council to submit a letter to the editor on this initiative (samples will be sent out to clergy tomorrow morning)
- Consider contributing to the cost of this public witness to our faith

We do not know what his election will bring us, but we know that we are committed to bridging the divides and witnessing to our faith.

In peace and hope,  
Lynn

## Fall Leadership Fest - Registration closes Thursday!

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](#)

# Black Lives Matter

**Click here for a more thorough, but by no means complete, list of our BIPOC sisters and brothers slain at the hands of police and white supremacists**

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

**UCC Council of Conference Ministers calls upon local churches to consider the UCC and its predecessors' roles in racial segregation and justice**

## **Grasping for Much-Needed Grace: Twenty Days of Nonpartisan Prayer in a Polarized Political Season**

Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ, Fall 2020

**Daily Prayer  
for the  
Election Season**

At a time when our nation and society are deeply divided-so much so that democracy itself seems under threat-the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ invites you to a time of fervent prayer. For the 20 days preceding the 2020 presidential election, we urge you to join in this intensive prayer initiative as we daily petition God for wisdom, patience, courage, healing and peace. We will be providing a “prayer prompt” or daily devotion for each day of this twenty day undertaking. Feel free to share these devotionals with others and encourage others to join in this time of prayer. We need it. Next week in Ekit, we will make available the first week of devotions, which will begin Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

[Click here for Week 1](#)

[Click here for Week 2](#)

## **“Goodbye, Farewell and Amen”**

Dear partners in ministry,

Yes, Jesse’s last day as VTCUCC Ministries Coordinator is Friday, October 16th.

With gratitude for Jesse’s service, please join in a time of

“Goodbye, Farewell and Amen” via Zoom.

Join the ZOOM session:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87523162913#success>

Meeting ID: 875 2316 2913

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87523162913# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,87523162913# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)



**Meeting ID: 875 2316 2913**

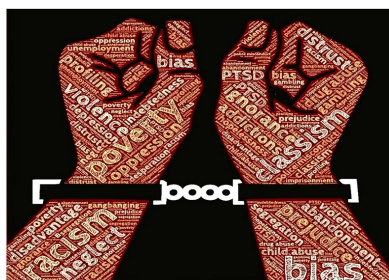
In gratitude,  
Rev. Kurt Shaffert



**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](#)

## The Vermont Conference is hiring!

The Vermont Conference is seeking an Administrative Assistant to manage the business operations of the Conference office, assist with events, be a resource to our local churches and other responsibilities. Click the button below to learn more.

[View Administrative Assistant opportunity](#)

**The Vermont Conference has an exciting  
opportunity for you - our ministers and churches.**

This resource is 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.

## 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](#)

## 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"**

## NICKERSON COACHING

Congregations Moving Forward



Rev. Paul Nickerson  
[Nickersonp@comcast.net](mailto:Nickersonp@comcast.net)  
Nickersoncoaching.com  
8 Iverson Road, Beverly, MA.  
01915  
508-930-9327

### Reaching New People in the "New Normal"

A webinar with follow-up coaching sponsored by the Vermont Conference, UCC

**Date and Time:** Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 12 Noon and 1:00 to 3:00 PM

**What will be covered:** How churches reach new people both in person and online. Learn of the best practices from churches around the country:

- Reintroduce the church to the community
- How the Pastor networks
- How the church learns to invite
- Develop an Action Plan and receive 6 months of follow-up coaching.

**What is required?** Recruit a Team of a Pastor and at least three lay people.

## Vermont Interfaith Power & Light's 2020 Climate Justice Series



### Kiss the Ground Film Event

**October 18 - 4:00-7:00 p.m.**

Join this in-person and virtual viewing of the documentary film *Kiss the Ground* at Mission Farm (Killington, VT). Learn how we can turn back the clock on climate change through regenerative agriculture...and enjoy some food from American Flatbread. Limited seating in-person and in your cars. To RSVP and for more information, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kiss-the-ground-at-mission-farm-tickets-119273392929>

### Creation Justice Conversation

**October 11 - 4:00 p.m.**

Lutheran Pastors Nancy Wright and Arnold Thomas will present on climate justice including toxic exposures, health, water, and the responsibility of faith leaders to respond to the crisis. A Climate Reality Leadership Corps "slide presentation" will be shared during this weekend designated as a worldwide 24 Hour of Reality-Countdown to the Future. A Q & A will follow the presentation.

<https://us02wcb.zoom.us/j/89289030540>

Meeting ID: 892 8903 0540

### Rooting out Structural Racism in American Agriculture

**November 8 - 4:00 p.m.**

Join VTPL for a viewing and discussion of, *Rooting out Structural Racism in American Agriculture*, a presentation of the Vermont Law School's Center for Agriculture and Food Systems. This panel features Monica Armster Rainge, Stephen Carpenter, Sherri White-Williamson and is moderated by Emily Spiegel. For info about VT Law School: [vermontlaw.edu/cafs](http://vermontlaw.edu/cafs)



### Vermont Interfaith Power & Light

For more information visit: <https://vtipl.org/climate-justice-series-2020/>

Or contact Donna Roberts: [info@vtipl.org](mailto:info@vtipl.org)

With thanks to our co-sponsors: Mission Farm, Vermont Sierra Club, and Virginia IPL.

## 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



## An invitation from First Congregational Church of Burlington

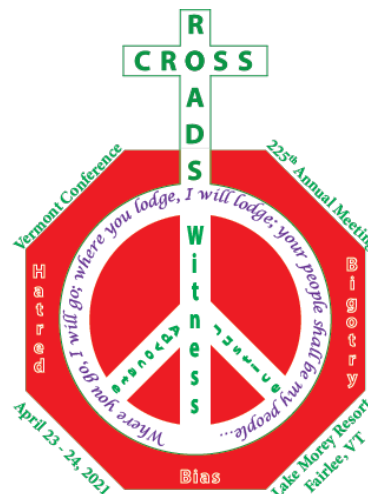
First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington (<https://firstchurchburlington.org/>) extends an open invitation to any congregation in need of a respite Sunday for your pastor.

- Our worship services are recorded and streamed at 10am on Sunday morning on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/FirstChurchBTB> - past services are available on our YouTube channel as well. Simply share the link with your congregation and know that all will be welcomed.

- **SILENT VIGILS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE:** All are invited to gather on the front lawns of First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington (38 South Winooski Avenue) on Sundays November 1 and December 6 from 1:00 to 1:30 to be in solidarity for racial justice. Bring a mask and a sign (a chair if you want) and join in this ongoing, first Sunday of the month, community advocacy initiative for racial justice.

## Annual Meeting Resolution guidelines

The 225th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, UCC is scheduled for April 23 - 24, 2021 at Lake Morey Resort. Resolutions to be offered for consideration by the Annual Meeting must be submitted in accordance to guidelines set forth by the bylaws of the Vermont Conference and the Board of Directors. You may find the guidelines on the Annual Meeting page of the Vermont Conference website by clicking the logo.



## 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/0MpaNQRVMA1claeP2y5Ot0) or you can look for it on Spotify (<https://open.spotify.com/show/0MpaNQRVMA1claeP2y5Ot0>), 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!

## Spiritual Direction

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



- 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. She has been called as a Hospice Chaplain with Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Vermont & New Hampshire.
- 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](#)

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, ministerial matters: Rev. Jackie Lingelbach
  - [vtconmincoor@gmail.com](mailto:vtconmincoor@gmail.com)
- Business operations, events, website
  - [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)
- Ministerial Standing & Standards Committee chairperson: Rev. Christine Boardman
  - [vtcmssc@gmail.com](mailto:vtcmssc@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  
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P.O. Box 9031  
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