



The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ



Purpose (from the Gospel of Matthew):

To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves

Vision:

United in Christ's love, a just world for all

Mission:

United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all

Weekly E-News Summer Edition

June 16th, 2022

Table of Contents

- 1) Message from the Conference
- 2) Latest News
- 3) Prayer Concerns

- 4) Around the Conference
- 5) Save the Date & Cont. Ed Resources
- 6) VTCUCC Classifieds

Message from the Conference

Last night, I took what for me is a long run, about 6 miles. It was a glorious summer-like evening, just about the right temperature for running. I was a runner in high school, on both the cross-country and track team, but honestly, I didn't like it that much, and stopped soon afterwards. But a few years ago, my daughter got into running, and I started to join her, and to my surprise, found that I was enjoying it! I enjoy the chance to exercise outside, to see Creation. Sometimes, as was the case last night, I am not feeling so good near the end, and I did cheat and walk a bit, but it all felt so good after I finished!

St. Paul does use running as an analogy for the Christian life. In I Corinthians 9:24-25, he says that "Surely you know that many runners take part in a race, but only one of them wins the prize. Run, then, in such a way as to win the prize. Every athlete in training submits to strict discipline, in order to be crowned with a wreath that will not last; but we do it for one that will last forever." I imagine from these verses that Paul was a runner, and a pretty competitive one at some point in his life! I am less anal, and far more interested in getting in shape and what I am going to experience when I run than in winning prizes.

As you and I live the Christian life this summer, let us enjoy the journey! Let us treasure these summer days and nights and get outside if you can. And let us remember with gratitude the prize that awaits us, a life beyond this life that will last forever.

Joyfully yours,
Paul



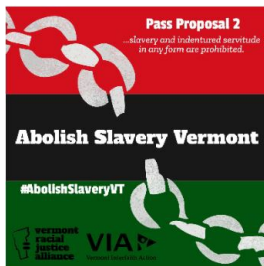
A little boy stopped his mom in the cereal aisle in front of the Fruit loops.

“Look! Pride Cheerios!”

...and now I will never think of them any other way.

Vermont Interfaith Action

Transforming People and Communities



Abolish Slavery VT Campaign Launch!

There will be a whole slate of events to highlight the importance of passing Prop 2!

Campaign Launch: Community Cookout

Fri, June 17 from 11 am to 2 pm on the lawn of First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, 152 Pearl St, free community BBQ. Food, music, remarks by VRJA and VIA Directors, lawn signs, stickers, and T-shirts available, and Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Free-will donations gratefully accepted. [Register online](#) to receive a complimentary meal (please pick up your food by 12:30 pm). If you're willing to help us by volunteering to staff this event for a one-hour shift, please [fill out this form](#).

[Read more about events all around the state HERE!](#)

Love Church



Just now ♥ Just you ♥ Just love

Please help us welcome Love Church to the Vermont Conference!

Love Church was welcomed into the Windsor Orange Association of the Vermont Conference on June 13th, 2022. The founder and pastor of this church is Rev. Lava Mueller. You can find Love Church in Randolph Center, Vermont. They feature services such as yoga church and dinner church!!!

[You can read more about them HERE!](#)

Installation of Rev. Elliot Munn!!!

After two years of serving Vergennes Congregational Church, Rev. Elliot Munn was officially installed June 12th, 2022!!! He is pictured here with his wife, Rev. Elizabeth Gleich and their daughter Lydia!!

Congratulations!!!



Installation of Rev. Dan Haugh!

Rev. Dan Haugh was installed at Stowe Community Church on June 12th, 2022! Our Associate



Conference Minister, Rev.
Paul Sangree, had the
opportunity to join him!!
Congratulations!!!

2022
CLERGY
CONVOCAATION
IS COMING

Oct. 3rd- 5th
Craftsbury Outdoor Center
SAVE THE DATE!!!

[PRC's June 2022 Online Events!!!](#)

All webinars are recorded. Click the title to register or read the description.

Best Practices for Church Accounting

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

2:00 - 3:00 PM EDT

Leader - [Elaine Sommerville](#)

Missional Confirmation

Thursday, Jun 23, 2022

2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern

Leader - Mark D. Hinds

How to Recognize and Deal with Church Bullies

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Leader - [David Woolverton](#)

How Broad Based Community Organizing Might Transform the Church

Thursday, Jul 28, 2022

2:00 - 3:00 PM EDT

Leaders: Chris Dela Cruz, Shani McIlwain, Katrina Pekich-Bundy

[READ MORE HERE!!!](#)



Welcome Rev. Andrew Ponder Williams!!

United Community Church UCC, (St Johnsbury) welcome our new settled pastor Rev. Andrew Ponder Williams and his husband Ashton Beebe!!!

VCC Seeking a Church Musician!!!!

The Vergennes Congregational Church, United Church Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation of 135 members that is seeking a Church Musician. We are a vibrant, Christian community—full of life, music, and laughter. We have a long history of deeply appreciating the gifts of our staff in supporting an inclusive, loving, and compassionate ministry in the heart of our small city. We seek a skilled musician that is comfortable with the classics and new pieces that grow our appreciation of the diverse ways to worship God through music. The successful applicant will be a team player, eager to collaborate with other musicians inside and outside of our community to enrich our music ministry.



[Read More Here!!](#)



Introducing the **Rev. Andi Lloyd!**

Andi was ordained Sunday, June 5th, at The Congregational Church of Middlebury (see video below!), and we are all glowing from the holiness of that service.

Congratulations!

"By the grace of God, she is worthy! Let us ordain her. Come, Holy Spirit, come!"



One of our pastors, Rev. Sara Rossigg in Brandon, is looking for some temporary rental housing. If your church has a parsonage or some other rental housing that could be available, please be in touch with Paul Sangree at sangreepucc@gmail.com.

Thanks!!

Resources for Speaking to Children about the School Shooting in Texas

A Personal Note in Response to Uvalde's School Shooting - Fred Meade

After hearing the news of the mass murder of students and teachers in Texas, many of us will experience a range of reactions. This

Dear children of the world

It's not supposed
to be like this.



is especially true for children.

Reactions may include emotions (sadness, anger, shock, fear, etc.), changes in thoughts (difficulty concentrating, repetitive thoughts of the situation), physical reactions (feeling sick, headaches, not sleeping well, etc.) and behaviors (returning to older behaviors such as bedwetting, needing physical closeness with parents, fighting more, etc.).

Traumatic events often lead people to feel they have lost control of their sense of safety.

Here are resources on how to help children cope with the frightening news and their reactions:

- [Talking with Children About Traumatic Events](#)
- [Talking to Children About a Shooting \(from nctsn.org\)](#)
- [Children and Trauma](#)

We hope these resources provide a source of comfort and support during this difficult time.

Rev. Caryne Eskridge, Pastor of the Weybridge Congregational Church has also provided an extensive and incredibly comprehensive resource to help children at this deeply troublesome time. We thank them immensely for sharing it with us.

You can find it [HERE](#).

**STATEMENT FROM
GUNSENSE VERMONT
ON THE ROBB
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SHOOTING**

Today we mourn the deaths of 19 children and 2 teachers in Uvalde, Texas. It was the deadliest school

shooting in the state's history, nearly the worst in U.S. history, and it was the second mass shooting in America this week. Our deepest sympathies go out to the families that lost their children yesterday and to the communities reeling from senseless and unfathomable loss.

A horror like yesterday's massacre brings the reality of gun violence to our hearts and minds in technicolor. But it is not just yesterday or last week. Our hearts break for the 110 people who lost their lives to gun violence each day in 2020- the majority of them Black and Brown young men. We grieve for those families and neighborhoods as well.

In our gun-obsessed culture, we have prioritized the right to have unfettered access to firearms over the lives of our own children. We no longer live in a free country - freedom is the expectation that you can send your kids to



school, or the store or down the block and know that they'll return home safely each day. Today, no parent in America has that certainty.

This is not normal. It does not have to be this way. No other developed country comes close to this level of gun violence. And no other country comes close to allowing guns to be purchased and carried with as few restrictions as this country does.

What will be the result of 19 more innocent children shot dead in their classrooms? The answer will be not nearly enough unless we finally hold our elected leaders accountable and demand change. Each and every one of us has a part to play in ending gun violence and the only way to honor these victims is through actions, not words.

Robb Elementary School could be any school in Vermont. Tops Friendly Markets in Buffalo could be your local grocery store. The time for passive activism is over. All of us are responsible for taking action and demanding change.

What You Can Do:

- **Volunteer**
- **Contact lawmakers and demand action**
- **Educate yourself on the issues**
- Raise awareness and engage others to speak out
- **Contact us and other gun violence prevention organizations for more ways to get involved**

<http://www.gunsensevt.org/>



A gathering for spiritual directors and spiritual companions with Rev. Dan Wolpert, Rev. Eileen Gebbie, and Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert

Thursday, June 23 • 1.00 – 4.30pm Eastern • Online

\$25 per person (scholarships are available – please contact ash@thebtscenter.org to inquire

[Learn More!!](#)

[Register Here!!](#)



Lynn's Sabbatical

Lynn will be on Sabbatical beginning June 9th for three months. During that time, Paul will be serving in the executive role. Lynn will return to the office on September 6th.

We wish Lynn well on her time off and thank Paul for taking on added responsibility during this time.



The East Coast Inspirational Singers are coming to Greensboro!

The East Coast Inspirational Singers will be celebrating and performing on Juneteenth with us at the Greensboro United Church of Christ **June 19th at 10 am**, as well as performing outdoors at the Highland Center for the Arts on June 18th. The East Coast Inspirational Singers hail from Harlem and use gospel, R&B, jazz and the blues as their medium, sharing their passion for raising awareness about Black history with audiences. We are excited to welcome them back to our church and invite the community to join us in this celebration.

PRAYER CONCERNS



Please keep the family, friends, and colleagues of Rev. Richard Bingham in your prayers.

All those experiencing war and violence
All those dealing with illness and pain
All who are grieving

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

(Please let us know what your Congregation is up to by sending an email to

Farewell, Welcome and Blessings

Pastoral Transitions since the 2021 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting

[For the most up to date information click here](#)

On February 6, 2022 at an Ecclesiastical Council held by the Addison Association
Andrea (Andi) Lloyd was approved for ordination pending call.

Celebrate!!

Happy Birthday to our Clergy!

June 17th

Harvey Bartlett

June 19th

James Gray

Happy Ordination Anniversary to our Clergy!

June 16th

William Nelson

June 18th

David Brown

Joan O'Gorman

June 20th

Richard Crocker

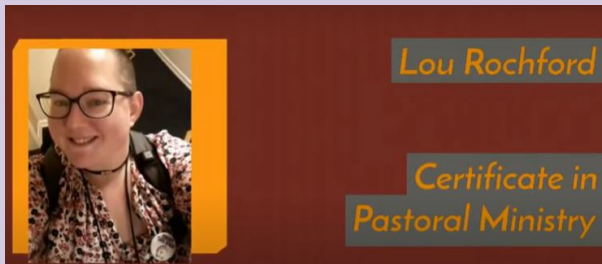
Matthew von Behrens

David Norling

June 22nd

William Bartholomew

Ken White



Lou Rochford
Graduated on May 21st
2022 with a **Certificate
in Pastoral
Ministry** through their
Center of Ministry and
Lay Training from Phillips Seminary!

Congratulations from all of us!!!



Do you love children and youth? Do you have good communication and organizational skills? Are you someone with a strong affinity for teamwork and collaboration? Are you craving a supportive work environment?

The Congregational Church of Middlebury is searching for a part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries (DCYM).

This new staff member will carry on a rich tradition. Our congregation's Church School (est. 1815) was one of the first programs of its kind in New England, and it continues to serve and inspire children of all ages.

The DCYM has five main areas of responsibility:

- Administer Church School

- Engage children, youth, and families in the worship life of the church

- Lead Jr. Youth Group (6th-8th grades)

- Assist with Sr. Youth Group (9th-12th grades)

- Oversee Nursery

We encourage interested applicants to visit our church website, <https://www.midducc.org>, to learn more about our children and youth program offerings.

Hours:

30 hours a week on average. Flexible schedule.

6 weeks off in the summer.

Compensation:

Negotiable. Commensurate with professional/life experience.

Projected start date:

The ideal candidate would be available for an initial orientation/training during a few weeks in the month of June, and then transition fully into their role by August 15, 2022.

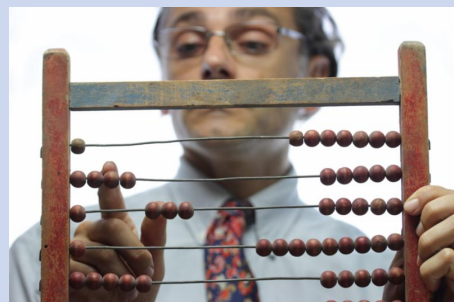
We will begin reviewing applications on May 1, 2022. Candidates should send a cover letter and resume to Rev. Andy Nagy-Benson: andy@midducc.org

Bookkeeper Job Description May 2022 United Church of Hardwick, VT

The bookkeeper position is part-time, approximately 10-15 hours per month.

Candidates must have bookkeeping training and are experienced in Quick Books Online. This person reports to the

Pastor and Financial Officer in maintaining the financial records of the United Church of Hardwick. The compensation will be paid at an hourly rate commensurate with experience.



The job entails the following:

- Record and post all receipts by class provided by the Financial volunteers
- Prepare checks for disbursement of funds by class with appropriate authorizations and post them to the appropriate accounts
 - Reconciliation of all bank and investment accounts
- Manage donor accounts and print biannual statements to donors
 - Print reports for Finance Team/Church Council when needed
- Attend Finance Team meetings when requested (usually a Wednesday evening).

Please send resume to Rev. Evelyn Lavelli: elavelli@comcast.net

Don't forget to click below in your email to view the entire newsletter



SAVE THE DATE!

FREE ONLINE TRAINING AND INFORMATION FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Church extends beyond any four walls. From human resources concerns to legal questions and property maintenance, Insurance Board offers a variety of resources to protect the church and its ministries. [Click here](#) for interactive webcasts that address a wide variety of topics essential to keeping churches and ministries safe; these trainings are led by industry experts from Insurance Board and its partners, including our denominational partners.

VTCUCC CLASSIFIEDS

VT CONFERENCE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Christian Education:

[Christian Education Coordinator- United Church of Hinesburg](#)

[Faith Formation Coordinator- Barre Congregational](#)

Administration & Finance:

Music & Other Lay Ministries:

[Music Director- North Pomfret Congregational](#)

[Church Musician- Tunbridge Church](#)

[Music Director- First Congregational, Burlington](#)

[Music Director- Charlotte Congregational Church](#)

UCC | NEWS

[Visibility matters at Texas church and in UCC push for transgender rights](#)

[Fair Food advocates target Wendy's in a march through Palm Beach](#)

'Praising Plate,' now in Indiana, is first chapel item to find a new home

Climate summit speakers urge churches to act now — and act like a jazz band

For more news click here

The Online Learning Platform of the United Church of Christ

How to Contact Vermont Conference Staff

Conference Minister: Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak llbvtc@gmail.com

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Ministries Coordinator: Rev. Jackie Lingelbach vtconmincoor@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Tanya Frazier vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com

DEADLINE for E-Kit News must be received by **Tuesday of each week.**
Please send any and all information to vermontconference@gmail.com.

Thank You for Your Support!

**Our Churches Wider Mission Basic Support, Association Dues, and
Friends of the Vermont Conference make this communication possible.**

Donate

Connect with us



visit our website at <http://www.vtcucc.org/>
