



E-Kit March 4, 2020

DONATE

I have an old tattered Bible in my office at the Conference, which was given to me by my father. It belonged to my grandfather, who was a Congregationalist and then UCC pastor in the 1920's-1960's. He has several notes throughout the Bible, but the one that is most striking is the one by John 17:1-12, Jesus' words about eternal life. My grandfather was drafted for World War I, and while he was in New Jersey waiting to be shipped over to Europe, he along with many others got hit with what was called the "Spanish Flu".



[Continue reading](#)

[Download COVID-19 information](#)

225th Annual Meeting Registration now open!



Lake Morey Resort (800-423-1211 for reservations)
April 24 - 25, 2020

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



[See Rev. Traci Blackmon preach at Riverside Church](#)

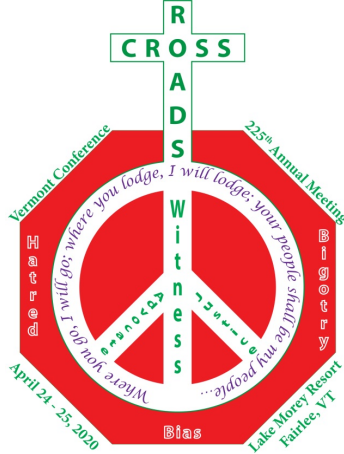
Youth at Annual Meeting is here! Y@AM 2020 takes place on April 25th and includes dedicated time with Rev. Traci Blackmon as well as participation in worship and their own dedicated workshop. Cost is \$60 per church. Click the Y@AM 2020 button to learn more and to register your church's youth group.

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee is proud to present a special panel discussion: *"What is the minority experience in Vermont?"* Our panelists come from diverse backgrounds and will offer their perspectives on the challenges they face living in our state. This is a special opportunity to examine the privilege enjoyed by the majority of Vermonters.

Make sure to reserve your room at Lake Morey Resort early - they go fast! Call to reserve your room at 802-423-1211.

[Click here to learn more about Annual Meeting](#)

[Who can vote at Annual Meeting?](#)



[Click here for the latest Racism in America installment](#)

[Read the full Invitation to Annual Meeting](#)

COVID-19 - You, the Church and Being Prepared

Grace and peace to you! By now we are all aware that the probability of COVID-19 spreading in our country is very high. Two things I hope we will do and encourage others to do are: don't panic and intervene when you observe or hear someone blaming or targeting people from other ethnicities with fear, anger and/or violence of any kind.

We can be leaders of compassion and also leaders in helping our churches and communities develop common sense, practical ways to reduce the rate of infection. Attached are two resources we offer to assist you and your congregations to be prepared and to think through how we can adapt our church practices to be safer in these next weeks.

The Vermont Conference does have a Disaster Preparedness Committee chaired by the Rev. Adrienne Carr (carr.adrienne@gmail.com)

[Download the COVID-19 packet with information for prevention and links for more information](#)



Advocate for low income Vermonters at the Statehouse

Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council (VLIAC) invites Vermont's UCC churches to do justice by attending the annual day at the Vermont State House, Friday, March 13. This is an event the Vermont Conference has supported for many years. For the first time, VLIAC and

Vermont's Community Action Agencies are teaming up for Legislative Day. Karen Lafayette, the lobbyist for low-income concerns, has remarked that our presence will play a crucial role because the Governor's proposed budget includes the elimination of two key economic programs that benefit low-income Vermonters. So please mark your calendars to join your UCC family at the Statehouse that day.

[Contact Theresa Lever for more details](#)

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 if you'd like to attend.

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

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

From the UCC officers: The 2020 election cycle is stirring strong interest and concern across the United States and around the world. In these difficult and challenging times, this is not surprising. There is much at stake as we head to the voting booth this November.



Divisive, mean-spirited rhetoric dominates the airwaves and the public dialogue. Thoughtful, respectful, constructive exchange across differences on the key issues of the day is becoming more difficult to achieve. This is precisely why our voice and efforts as people of faith are needed. We can play a unique role in this election cycle by encouraging respectful, informed dialogue that builds community and a hope-filled vision of the future that includes all people.

[Read more from the UCC officers: Our Faith, Our Vote, Our Voice](#)

[Our Faith, Our Vote resources](#)

Outdoor Ministries



[Learn more about @ the Lake Camp](#)

@ the Lake Camp week at Rock Point

July 26 - July 31

Registration is open

Recruiting for 2 Deans, 4 Counselors, Nurse, 2 Lifeguards & Daytime Volunteers

Looking for our lead team of Deans & Counselors!

[Register for camp here](#)

[New Podcast Available](#)

[Update on Puerto Rico earthquake](#)

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:

Rev. Laura C. Engelken is the Coordinator of the UVM Interfaith Center. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

[Click here for the latest podcast](#)

Pastoral Transitions

- Rev. Cass Poulos has been called as Pastor of the Post Mills Congregational Church.
- 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](#)

Useful Links

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

Justice & Witness Ministries news

The VT Conference Department of Justice and Witness Ministries is contacting all the local churches in the Conference to gather information and

Here is a small report received Jan. 20th, from Lydia Rosaly, our on the ground coordinator, who lives in Ponce, one of the towns hit by the recent earthquakes:

"The aftershocks are continuing - around 3 or 4 a day registering 4.0. There are still thousands of people sleeping outside their houses and thousands of refugees in camps...

[Click here for more info](#)

[Donate to UCC Puerto Rico recovery](#)

Prayers and Thanksgivings

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.

Please hold Associate Conference Minister Rev. Paul Sangree in your prayers as he mourns the passing of his mother.

Who should I contact for...?

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

Disaster Case Manager Training

In cooperation with the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont and your Disaster Ministries Committee, The Vermont Agency of Human Services and Vermont

offer support and information. We do not have e-mail contact info for each church, but we would like to hear from everyone. A letter with a link to a brief survey is available. Please identify your church when answering the first question of the survey. Please contact Mary Brownlow if you would like to receive the letter or pass it along to a committee in your church.

[Contact Mary Brownlow](#)

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters are offering a 2-day training program in Williston on March 12 and 13 to teach anyone how to assist with case management during a disaster.

Is this a ministry that might interest you? If you'd like to help your community in the event of a disaster but don't want to or are not capable of physical labor, learn how to be a key support by providing case management services. A case manager serves as the primary contact for a person or family suffering loss due to a disaster and assists with coordinating the necessary services and resources to recover.

[Learn more & register](#)

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

Click here for local church events

Grafton-Orange-Sullivan Association spring meeting - March 8, 2:00 at Bradford Congregational Church

Vermont Low Income Advocacy Legislative Day - March 13 at the Vermont Statehouse - [Contact Theresa Lever for details](#)

Disaster Case Management training - March 12 & 13 at FEMA Joint Field Office, Williston - [Click here for more information](#)

Sugar on Snow Supper - March 14th at First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro. Call 802-257-7557 for reservations.

Mindfulness Retreat hosted by Bethany UCC (Randolph) - March 21 at Vermont Technical College - [Click here for more information](#)

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

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

Search & Call Resources

Lay Ministry Openings

Visit our partners



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because Sunday's coming.
[Website](#)



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