



## E-Kit April 8, 2020

**DONATE**

### Ring the Bells

We are now in the midst of Holy Week, in partnership with Christians all over the world. Our Jewish sisters and brothers are celebrating Passover this week as well. It is always the most central time of the Christian year, the time when we especially reflect on the meaning of Jesus' suffering and death as well as to rejoice in the resurrection. It obviously takes on a different dimension for us in the midst of the Covid19 Pandemic. Somehow, Jesus' suffering and death feel a little more real this year, the whole Passion story a little closer. We don't have to try so hard to imagine the feelings of desperation and pain in so much of the populace at the time of the Passion story-it describes who we all are now.



[Continue reading...](#)

[Answer the call and volunteer in response to COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 FAQ's for churches](#)

**COVID - 19  
Information &  
Resources**

[Resources curated by the  
Southern New England  
Conference](#)

[Utilities and COVID-19: Help &  
information from VT Dept. of  
Public Utilities](#)

## 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](#)



*Your Conference staff working for you*

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

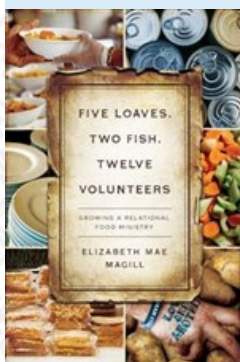
**Email Operations & Ministries Coordinator Jesse Davis**

**Contact Vermont Conference Disaster Ministries chair Rev. Adrienne Carr**

## **Per Capita rate for 2020**

The Vermont Conference per capita rate has been established at \$13.00 per member.

## **Growing a Relational Food Ministry**



Does your church have a food ministry for the food-insecure, would you like to start one, or did you have one once? Pastor Liz will present stories from eight congregations that share ministry with the people they serve and show how your congregation can do the same. Hear stories and learn about growing relationships at your meal program or pantry. You may find you have deepened your experience of church along the way.

Plans are being made for a Zoom presentation with Pastor Liz on Friday, April 17, at 2 PM. Those interested may register at: [cmagillvt@aol.com](mailto:cmagillvt@aol.com)

*The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Mae Magill (Liz) is a writer, pastor, and workshop leader and the author of Five Loaves. She is the founder of Worcester Fellowship, an outdoor church, reaching adults without homes. She is pastor of Ashburnham (MA) Community Church. [www.elizabethmaemagill.com](http://www.elizabethmaemagill.com).*

## 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](#)
- [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)

## Department of Justice & Witness Ministries

This pandemic, this season of social distancing should not mean social isolation or neglect of the vital work of witnessing to the love of God and neighbor through acts of compassion and advocacy. But it does present challenges. The necessary cancellation of Annual Meeting is one such challenge. Our Department had hoped to connect with many of you then. At our last meeting (via Zoom) we came up with an idea. What if we had a *virtual* Peacemakers Breakfast, where people could share and learn about all the important efforts our churches are making for compassion and for justice? Hearing from your churches about your programs and aspirations, through this survey, would help us plan this. The details of that breakfast are TBA.

[Read the full notice](#)

## 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!

## 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](#)



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](#)

**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  
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

## 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

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?

and Victim Services.

Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to [peter@waterburyucc.com](mailto:peter@waterburyucc.com) if you'd like to attend.

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

### AVOID PHONE SCAMS



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](mailto: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**

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## Visit our partners



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## Connect with us

