



VERMONT CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



E-Kit

October 29th, 2020

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Article

Dear Members of the Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

As we draw near to the presidential election, I hope we will all take time for prayer, to remember what voting means for us and what it means to those long denied the right to vote. Some of our siblings in faith have long struggled to exercise their right to vote. First, by not being recognized as human. Then being deceived, intimidated and beaten to represent their vote. Lest we think of this as history only, there are multiple tactics being used to suppress the voting rights of black men and women and other people of color right now.



There are three things I ask us all to do. First, vote. Voting is a privilege, a right, and a way we express our deepest values not merely personally, but

as an expression of loving our neighbors as we love ourselves. We need to ask ourselves, what is the good, the just for all of God's children, for we are our siblings' keeper.

Second, please watch this video production by Rev. Dr. Otis Moss. The Rev. Traci Blackmon who will be our speaker at our 2021 Annual Meeting says, "I cannot stop weeping. We have permission to use it liberally in whatever ways we wish. It's 11 minutes well spent." It is indeed.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/czq3y42k9pl0hvw/otisdream%20final%20102420%20h264%204k.mp4?dl=0>

Lastly, do everything you can to get out the vote and when you have, pray. Remember we have the "20 Days of Nonpartisan Prayer" resource on our website. Our Conference has used newspaper ads and Letters to the Editor to invite others to join us in prayer. There is information about an Election Sabbath elsewhere in this Ekit. I know my small weekly meditation group will be meeting the day before, the day of and the day after the election to hold this nation in Love. I hope you will find your way to do so as well.

People of God, may we always be found in those places that require courage in the struggle for justice and peace. May we always be found rooted and grounded in Love. May we always remember that we are never alone.

In hope and peace,
Lynn

Rev. Lynn Bujnak
Conference Minister
llbvtc@gmail.com

Boy Scouts of America Bankruptcy Document

What is Chapter 11 bankruptcy?

The Boy Scouts of America filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on February 18, 2020, largely in response to the large number of sexual abuse claims made against the organization.

Chapter 11 bankruptcy is also referred to as reorganization. It allows businesses time to restructure or reorganize their debts, while the business continues to operate.

[Read more...](#)



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

Visit the [UCC Our Faith Our Vote website](#) for resources and action ideas

on voter registration, issue education and voter empowerment.

[Check your registration](#) and [make a voting plan](#).

Support and encourage a first-time voter. Make sure they know how to register and have a voting plan.

[Pledge to be in regular contact](#) with 3 voters between now and the election making sure they have checked their registration and have a voting plan.

Facilitate virtual conversations in your congregation [on critical election issues](#).

[Volunteer to be a poll worker](#).

Check your state's secretary of state website for details about elections guidelines in your state and create a "voter bill of rights" for your state.

Daily Prayer for the Election Season

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

Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ, Fall 2020

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. 15th.

[Click here for Week 1](#)

[Click here for Week 2](#)

[Click here for Week 3](#)



Prayer and Contemplation for the Election Season

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

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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.

[Read more...](#)

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.

Fredrick Douglass' famous speech regarding the celebration of American independence

[Read more](#)

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

[Read more...](#)

Racism in America symposiums



[Watch the videos of Racism in America series](#)

Peacemaker's Pulpit – October 2020



Rev. Kim McKerley
Pastor, Bethany United Church of Christ in Randolph

The wonderful Willem Lange tells of a group of eight-year-old boys in a Sunday School class playing a game called “I Can Stop the Hurt”. The boys stood in a circle, shoulder to shoulder. The game began when one boy punched the shoulder

of the boy next to him, who then did the same (a little harder) to the one next to him, and on it went.

When they'd made it once around the circle, the teacher said to them, "When it is your turn, you can end the game by saying, 'I can stop the hurt. Do that and the game will be over.'"

Round two began and then round three, the blows landing with increasing force. It seemed it would never end.

Finally, one of them blurted out, "I can stop the hurt!" With that, the game was over. And the boy who ended it, instead of being shamed, was celebrated, and became a hero to his peers.

"Kids recognize courage at least as quickly as the rest of us", Lange observed.

Indeed, making peace takes courage.

It takes courage to break the cycle of violence.

It takes courage to refrain from repaying evil for evil.

It takes courage to speak truth to power.

Around our tables, across our nation, throughout our planet...may we summon the courage to stop the hurt.

I pray you courage in the struggle...

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.

Click Here

[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

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 , 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"**](#)

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

Rooting out Structural Racism in American Agriculture

November 8 - 4:00 p.m.

[Read 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](#)

An invitation from First Congregational Church 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/FirstChurchBTV> - 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 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.](#)

Pastoral Transitions

- Rev. Elisa Lucozzi has

Prayers and Thanksgivings

Please hold Rev. Roger and

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](#)

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 or sandy.daly13@gmail.com.

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

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](#)

Resources from the Vermont Conference website

Who should I contact for...?

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

Assoc. Conference Minister: Rev. Paul Sangree
sangreep@vtcucc.org

Search & Call, ministerial matters: Rev. Jackie Lingelbach
vtconmincoor@gmail.com
802-505-5110

(click the buttons below)

Search & Call Resources

Lay Ministry Openings

Business operations, events, website

vtcoordinator2018@gmail.com

Finance: Tanya Frazier

vtcfinanceucc@gmail.com

E-Kit postings

vermontconference@gmail.com

Ministerial Standing & Standards Committee chairperson: Rev. Christine Boardman

vtcmssc@gmail.com

Visit our partners



Worship Well

Original worship resources for local churches... because Sunday's coming.
[Website](#)



Church World Service

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INSURANCE BOARD
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