



E-Kit March 11, 2020

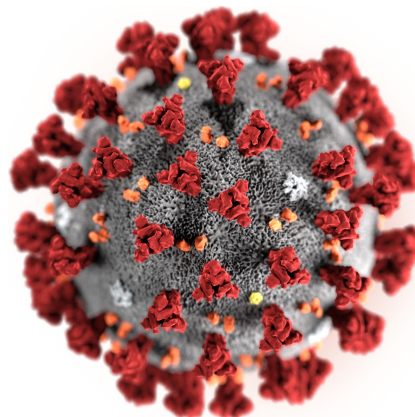
DONATE

*Beloved, let us love one another; for love is
of God.*

I John 4:7

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont
Conference,

These are stressful days we are living. There is so much fear around the novel coronavirus. Should we hoard antibacterial hand wash? What about toilet paper? Should we cancel travel plans or even church? What is the right thing to do? I hope we can think and feel our way to making decisions when we remember that we are called to love one another.



In this time of crisis and uncertainty what is the loving thing to do? First, we must take a deep breath and let God calm our fear. We need to take care of one another. For me, that means following the protocol to reduce my risk of both getting and transmitting this disease. It means being willing to be creative about how we do church because physically gathering may not be the best option. Can we stream a church service, use technology to pray together and check in with one another? We need to think about how we can be present with those who are the most vulnerable, those who live alone and those who may not have enough resources and food to get through these days and weeks. Does your church have a method for calling to check in on members and friends? Set up a way to ensure that every person is being checked in with daily, if possible, but at least weekly. Use your electronic communication to share news and post prayer concerns. If you do gather for worship, be mindful of ways to lessen the risk of spreading the virus.

Instead of concentrating on making sure we have enough, we can ask how we can share so everyone has what they need to minimize their risk. And, let us support one another in making decisions. In the midst of uncertainty we are all trying to make the best decisions we can with the information we have.

Here is a collection of resources and suggestions from the UCC:

https://www.ucc.org/disaster_coronavirus_resources_from_the_ucc

May the Holy One, close to us as the breath we draw, calm our anxious thoughts, remind us of the love we are called to share with one another and lead us through these difficult days.

In peace,
Lynn

COVID-19 resources and
information from the UCC National
Setting

VT Dept. of Health COVID-19
information

U.S. Centers for Disease Control information

COVID-19 - You, the Church and Being Prepared

United Church of Christ, National Setting
A Faithful Response, with Worship, to the Coronavirus
Compiled by Justice and Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ

As we look at how we are responsive to the health needs of our local communities, many churches are making the decision whether to host worship together in person; or virtually to have connection digitally if not possible in person. Congregations are looking towards what their county health officials and local school districts are deciding, and often following suit.

This document serves as a resource for faithful tips and considerations for congregations.

We will be adding more information in days to come. But to get started:

Resources and advice from the National Setting of the UCC

Contact Vermont Conference Disaster Ministries chair Rev. Adrienne Carr

225th Annual Meeting



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

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

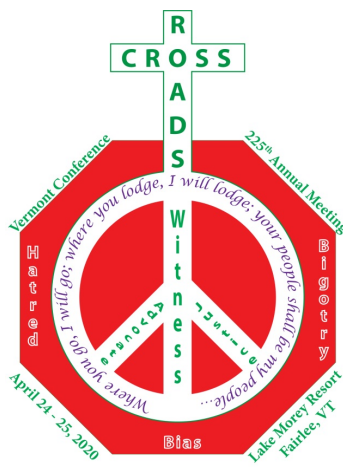


See Rev. Traci
Blackmon preach at
Riverside Church

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](#)

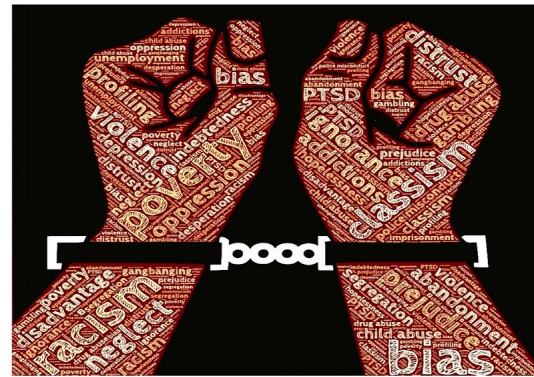
[Read the full Invitation to Annual Meeting](#)

Racism in America symposiums

Hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
273 Vermont Route 15, Jericho, Vermont, at 6:30 pm

Moderated by the Reverend Dr. Arnold Isidore Thomas, Pastor

How far have we come as Americans in confronting racism? This is a topic that remains so intimidating and painful that we prefer not to talk about it in public for fear of what we might say or reveal, or how others might see or treat us. In this forum series, we wish to create a safe space where we can speak openly and honestly as people of good intent who seek the best for each other and our nation as we honestly face the racial divisions of our past and present with the hope of reconciliation.



[Download the Racism in America symposium series flyer here](#)

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.

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

Voice transcription being what it is, what most caught my attention was “legal 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?

AVOID PHONE SCAMS

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



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

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

2020 Census starts March 12

The numbers that are returned in the 2020 Census - which begins 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!

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!

[Bulletin insert](#)

[Census flyer](#)

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

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:

In this episode, Sally interviews Pastor Josh on his experience coming out and being a pastor who is gay and how he understands Jesus to be. He serves as associate pastor at First Congregational church of Essex Junction.

[Click here for the latest podcast](#)

Update on Puerto Rico earthquake

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](#)

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 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.

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](#)

Who should I contact for...?

- Conference Minister: Rev. Lynn Bujnak
 - bujnakl@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

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 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](#)

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 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**

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](#)

Spring Breakfast - March 21st, 8:30 - 10:00 at Shoreham Congregational Church - [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**

New opportunity at Norwich
Congregational Church!

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
[Email James](#)

P.O. Box 9031
Springfield, MA 01102-9031
413-788-4531
[Website](#)

Connect with us

