



## ***Saturday Workshop Offerings for the 221<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference, UCC***

### **Fighting for the Powerless: Supporting Refugee Resettlement in Vermont with Amila Merdzanovic and Rev. Lise Sparrow**

Amongst all of the tempest tossed humanity, refugees are perhaps the most without power, having been stripped of roots and livelihood but, most importantly, of choice.

Churches are uniquely positioned to support refugees and their families by providing both personal connections and basic needs. Emina Merdzanovic, herself a Bosnian refugee from the wars in the former Yugoslavia, will offer her own story of resettling in Vermont and her experience helping to settle refugees from 28 different cultures here in Vermont as the current director of the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program. Rev. Lise Sparrow will facilitate the discussion to follow Ms. Merdzanovic's presentation. With the anticipated arrival of Syrian refugees in Vermont in the next few years, this is an opportunity to learn how churches can be a part of the support network welcoming them to Vermont.

### **Worship Choir Rehearsal with Peter & Mary Alice Amidon**

Peter & Mary Alice will teach two or three anthems to participants who wish to offer their choral gifts in the final worship of the 2016 Vermont Conference Annual Meeting.

### **Building Vermont's Moral Economy with Rev. Debbie Ingram**

Even in progressive Vermont, our economic indicators are all heading in the wrong direction: real wages are down, the number of Vermonters on food stamps and the number of homeless are up, and the percentage of single mothers with children under the age of 5 is close to 50%. If we think these trends are morally unacceptable, what can we do to reverse them? This workshop will offer some concrete ideas and join participants together with other people of faith.

### **Youth Group Mission Trips—a week of sweat, laughter and faith with Rev. Lucia Jackson**

Do you want a youth group activity beyond bowling and sardines? Do you want youth to experience faith in a dynamic, exciting way? Do you want to engage the youth of your church and your town? Then plan a youth mission trip! How? Who? Where? What? Why? Come to this workshop to learn about youth mission trips! You can do it!

## **God's Good Work in Guatemala and Around the World with Gloria Vicente and Rev. Kim McKerley**

Gloria Vicente, a young UCC missionary of Mayan descent, will share about her seven years of work in Guatemala with women, organizations for communication among groups in conflict, the Healthy Stove Project and more. Rev. Kim McKerley, Pastor of Bethany UCC in Randolph and a long-time member of the national Common Global Ministries Board (UCC and Disciples) will share about the global context of Gloria's work.

## **Worshipping Well: A *WorshipWell* Beta Test with Rev. Jared Hamilton**

Crafting worship that matters in our local settings can be challenging. This workshop aims to share stories of worship triumphs and worship flops, identify best practices and introduce a resource put together by local UCC pastors and lay people called *WorshipWell*. We hope this time will be of special interest for clergy and those that serve on local church worship teams.

## **Meditative Walk around Lake Morey with Nancy McHugh**

Take time to immerse yourself in the beauty of Lake Morey while contemplating the gifts of the Great Creation we are called to be a part of as faithful stewards.

## **Faith Formation with Rev. Pam Lucas, Rev. Tracy Weatherhogg & Rev. Lee Moore**

Our Reality: “Churches are caught, today, in the practices of the modern world, struggling with radical shifts in culture, church and technology of the post-modern world. This time of change calls for a significant study of how Christian Faith Formation can best be practiced and shaped to address the spiritual and cultural challenges that the church faces.”

Our Hope: Come help spin a vision of how the Vermont Conference might enable and equip our churches and members of all ages ‘to be growing in faith, theologically conversant and active in the global mission of the church’...and then ask yourself ‘How will I commit myself to turn the dream into our new reality?’