



Vermont Conference, UCC

Electronic Keeping in Touch

EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONS FOR CHRIST'S
MINISTRY AND MISSION TODAY AND TOMORROW

E-Kit

June 14, 2017

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Vermont Conference News

Sunday June 18, 2017

Lynn Bujnak will be leading worship at the Warren United Church and attending the Installation of Kelly Donahue at the East Corinth Congregational Church

Installation of Kelly Donahue at the East Corinth Congregational Church at 3:30

Celebrate with the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ as we welcome our newest Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation: United Church of Bakersfield and Fairfield; Bakersfield, VT. Congratulations!

Asking for continued prayers for For Allan Baer, husband of Sherry Baer of the United Church of Northfield as he recovers from surgery.

Greetings!

THREE IDEAS FOR A SUMMER'S DAY!

What does it mean to be a Reformed and Re-Forming Church? How much do we know and value about the Reformation? What does it have to do with the United Church of Christ?

This coming October 31st marks the 500th Anniversary of the publishing of Martin Luther's 95 complaints against the Catholic Church and the launching of the Protestant Reformation. What a great opportunity to revisit some of the founding principles of our identity.

Last Sunday I worshiped in the Plymouth Congregational Church in East Charleston, VT. Rev. Stuart Brush, a retired UCC pastor from Connecticut (who once did field ed and summer ministry in Vermont) summers in that area and will be leading worship this summer. He introduced the "Reformation Moments" which he will include each week. Last week it was an introduction to Martin Luther himself! So that might be one way of weaving in a reflection on who we are and why.

OR consider a fall study series. The United Church of Christ has a new resource - a four session small group study of the Reformation entitled - "[500 | A Study Guide for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation](#)" - and then perhaps the following Sunday someone in the group might share a short reflection with the whole congregation.

"This study guide celebrates the United Church of Christ's Reformation heritage by lifting up some of the Reformation's central claims. There is beauty here.

And ugliness too. In as much as ideas can thrill, these ideas are thrilling. Brace yourself."
-from the Foreword

Last week at a Church and Ministry meeting with a licensed pastor I was reminded of how diverse the Orders of Worship are in our churches. Each congregation uses a variety of hymnals and responses, prayers and readings, translations, trespasses or debts. This pastor who has been doing supply preaching in a number of churches is paying attention! As the 'visitor' she has discovered how unwelcoming many of our church bulletins are - not just for visitors passing through - but for those who may wander in seeking for whatever it is that they think the church might offer for a particular need in their lives.

How might our bulletins/programs be more user-friendly. Don't forget the children who might be worshipping with you on summer Sundays. How might we help them navigate the pages of the Bible or Hymnal - learn the words of the Doxology and Gloria - or God Be with You Until We Meet Again! Or perhaps a "Word for ALL Ages" on why we do each of those things we do in worship!

What does it mean to be A2A - Accessible to All? It means much more than a ramp or a spot for a wheelchair in the midst of the worshipping congregation instead of on the edges, a handicapped accessible bathroom and a lift. It means more than large print bulletins or hearing devices. It might mean signing for the deaf. It also means providing access to Jesus and his teachings across the ages and stages of faith development - and across multiple learning styles. I recently came across a CE curriculum called [Rhythms of Grace](#). There are now three years of material available.

Come and join us to hear a bible story, interact in therapeutic arts and crafts projects and share communion in a child-friendly environment. Our program especially supports children on the Autism Spectrum, but children with other special needs are encouraged to attend.

Here's what some families say about our program:



[UCC News and Updates](#)

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Forgive often. Reject racism.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

Isn't that exactly what we pray that everyone will find for themselves when they bring themselves and their lives to holy ground. May they know that they are safe. May they meet the Living God.

Pam Lucas

49 Bells' vigils remember lives lost at Orlando's Pulse nightclub

General Synod resolution calls the church to more disability justice

Commentary: Never Again

UCC churches in D.C. respond to acts of hate, racial intimidation

Commentary: 21st Century Race Matters

Guests from Cuba to provide personal perspective on proposed resolution at General Synod

[More UCC news](#)



Click image for more information.



Food for Thought

Focus Reading:

Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

Michael W. Smith, 21st century
"I think if the church did what they were supposed to do we wouldn't have anyone sleeping on the streets."

Clarence Jordan, 20th century
"The proof of Easter is not a rolled-away stone but a carried-away church."

James Forbes, Whose Gospel?,
21st century

"The progressive spirituality I believe in is deeply rooted in the conviction of Dr. King that God's

"...finally! A place where I feel comfortable in church!"

"The activities and pace are just right...and the format is flexible."

"It's OK if my son just wants to watch.

He knows that he is safe."

"Surely, God is in this place."

-from the website

Last Call for El Salvador Pilgrimage!

We are ready to book our flights for the August 11-19 trip to El Salvador.

We represent 3 Vermont Conference churches: Bethany (Montpelier),

Berlin, and Castleton. We'd love to have you join us to:

visit the village that is Bethany's sister parish

celebrate with Salvadorans the 100th birthday of the late and

still beloved Archbishop Oscar Romero

visit sites that commemorate the martyrs who lost their lives in the

struggle for justice learn about the church, society, economy,

and much more in this developing country

During worship, do you ever sing the hymn "This Is My Song,"

with these first-verse lyrics?

This is my song, O God of all the nations, A song of peace for lands

afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is,

Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine. But other hearts in other

lands are beating, With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

The El Salvador pilgrimage will bring these lyrics to life and change you forever.

Join us!

Cost: Approximately \$1,300 including airfare.

Contact Theresa Lever (Now!) 802-229-0415, thelevers@comcast.net

2017 Information Reviews for Authorized Ministers Are Due!

The 2017 Information Review for all Authorized Ministers in the Addison, Champlain, Northeast, Grafton-Orange-Sullivan, Washington, Windsor-Orange and Windham-Union Associations are due!

If you have not yet completed this requirement for good standing; please take the time in the next few days to do so. **The grace period deadline for submitting your 2017 Information Review is Tuesday, June 20, 2017.** You may submit your Information Review as an email attachment to Jesse Davis or snail mail it to the Vermont Conference office.

[Click Here to Download the 2017 Information Review \(Word document\)](#)

Thank you!

River of Life Pilgrimage on the Connecticut River: May 31-July 9

The River of Life Pilgrimage, which was announced at Annual Meeting,

We will proceed down the Connecticut River for the next forty days.

This exciting venture in watershed awareness,

spirituality and stewardship is sponsored by the NH and VT

Diocese of the Episcopal Church, and welcomes people of all faiths to participate.

[Read more here](#)

Who is Jesus for Muslims?

"According to Islam, Jesus always speaks the truth. The question is how we understand it."

Amy Frykholm interviews Zeki Saritoprak

dream of the Beloved Community sets the agenda for the church."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison, 20th century

"We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer."

Mother Teresa, A Gift for God: Prayers and Meditations, 20th century

"I would rather make mistakes in kindness and compassion than work miracles in unkindness and hardness."

Henri J.M. Nouwen, 20th century

"Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish.

Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears.

Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless."

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#### For Sale

**Puffer United Methodist Church in Morrisville Vermont is fully engaged in the process of merging with the First Congregational Church in Morrisville. We have decided to use the First Congregational building for our worship and fellowship needs.**

**Therefore, we have several items that are available for sale to churches and individuals. These items need to be removed no later than the last week of June.**

**35 wooden folding chairs \$5.00 each  
10 wooden 8-foot-long folding tables \$10.00 each  
50+ Church pews \$10.00 each  
Church communion rails best offer**

**Pulpit best offer  
Communion table best offer  
70 cereal bowls, 70 cups & saucers, 120 dinner plates, 125 glass ice cream dishes, 50 oval platters, 40 oval serving bowls best offer  
12 Restaurant sized pots \$10.00 each**

**If you would like to purchase any of these times, please**

May 23, 2017

Zeki Saritoprak's book Islam's Jesus examines the role of Jesus in the Qur'an and in Islamic theology. He has written about many Islamic theologians, mystics, and scholars, including the 13th-century poet and Sufi mystic Rumi and the early 20th-century Turkish Muslim scholar Bedi'üzzaman Said Nursi. A professor of Islamic studies at John Carroll University

[Read Article here.....](#)

## Employment Opportunities!

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SEEKING DIRECTOR(S) OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - The United Church of Underhill (a vital, diverse, and growing congregation in covenant and connection with the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church) is seeking a part-time Director of Christian Education. She/he will be responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive education plan, in conjunction with our Ministry in Christian

Education and our pastor, for children, and youth. Our Sunday School enrollment is approximately 30 students. Candidates should be energetic, possess strong interpersonal, collaborative and communication skills, and have a deep Christian faith. We are also open to the possibility of two people sharing this 8 hour/week position. If interested, please email Janet Grant at: grantferald@comcast.net. The United Church of Underhill is located at 9 Park Street in Underhill, VT (approximately 15 miles east of Burlington along Rt. 15). You can also find more information about us at unitedchurchofunderhill.com

~~~~~ CHURCH MUSICIAN Job Opening, Thetford Hill, VT First Congregational Church of Thetford

Progressive, Open and Affirming UCC congregation seeks Choir Director/Accompanist to provide keyboard music (piano and/or Rieger organ) and direct our choir for Sunday services.

Come join with our community and create music in our beautiful, acoustically wonderful sanctuary. Begin September 2017 More details at our website thetfordhillchurch.org. office@thetfordhillchurch.org or call 802-785-2915

~~~~~ Music Director Needed!

Job Description/Offer: Charlotte Congregational Church, U.C.C. seeks PT Music Director.

Church is GLBTQ friendly. Job includes: Accompanying congregational singing, leading Thursday night rehearsals, conducting the adult choir for Sunday morning worship services at 10am and for other occasional services. Regular planning meetings with the senior and associate pastors are part of the position. Email: scookekitt@mac.com

~~~~~ Administrative Assistant Wanted! First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro 8-10 hours/week

Position includes: Composition, compilation, and printing of the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. Maintenance and updating of the signs, bulletin boards, church website and Facebook page. Compilation of the Annual Report and the yearly statistical report for the Vermont Conference. Facilitation of communication between members, committees, church leadership, and lay persons. Maintenance of attendance and membership records. Receiving, sorting, and passing along electronic, voice, and paper mail; placing orders as needed; filling out check requests. Co-ordinating rentals of the church space and advertising church events. Preparing materials and personnel for funerals and weddings. Sweet-talking the cantankerous copier.

Applicants should possess reliability, an organized mind, and good language and computer skills. Compensation competitive.

Contact Jeff Brewer: grmtbrew@comcast.net
or 802-380-8184

~~~~~ Organist/Choir Director Needed!

Application

Email:

welcome@fccej.org

contact Dot and Larry Bliss
(802-521-7111)

Pictures are available to view.
Email calavis@comcast.net to
receive a picture via jpg file.

We also have an Allen Church
organ, with speakers. It is a
1985 digital organ, ADC
model.

It will sell in the range of
\$3000.

For more information on the
organ, contact Clark Callender
(888-7972)

The Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola,
Pastor and Teacher
First Congregational United
Church of Christ and
Puffer United Methodist
Church
Morrisville, VT
(802-888-2990)

Resources from
WorshipWell

Be sure to check
out the worship
resources
available at:



worshipwell.church

Job Description/Offer: First Church of Essex Junction, U.C.C. seeks PT Organist/Choir Director. Church is GLBTQ friendly. Job includes coord. music program, directing adult choirs, and playing organ & piano @ 2 services [beautifully refurbished 1928 Estey organ / Young Chang baby grand].

Email cover letter and resume to FCCEJmusicsearch@gmail.com or mail to FCCEJ Music Search, 1 Church Street, Essex Junction VT 05452.

Church office 802-878-5745.
First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
Website:
www.fccej.org

Music Director
Second Congregational Church, Hyde Park, VT

We are an active and friendly congregation of people who love our church and our music. We are looking for an individual with a love of music, and a musical background, to lead our music program. We are blessed with a beautiful pipe organ, baby grand piano and vibrant choir. Our ideal Music Director would be proficient with, and enjoy playing the organ and piano, be able to sight read music and direct and grow our Choir and music program. Part time, paid position. If this sounds interesting, we would love to talk with you about our program and what we can create together. Please email: Second Congregational Church 2congo@myfairpoint.net

Lake Champlain Action Cruise

The cruise portion of the day is now full, (June 16) but we wanted to make sure that everyone was aware that the afternoon seminars, beginning at 12:15 p.m. are open to everyone for free! Please come join in the conversation, we would love to see you!

For your convenience, I have attached the day's [schedule in PDF format](#). Also, we don't want to clog your inboxes, so this will be the last email. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out here, to Richard directly at butzra042@gmail.com, or give us a call in the office at 802-862-8866.



Thank You for Reading
An Open and Affirming Conference
[For the E-Kit Archive](#)

