



Vermont Conference, UCC Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

August 23, 2017

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**Vermont Conference**  
**News**  
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Rev. Jim Thomas will be at the
Waitsfield United Church of
Christ for their Homecoming
Service

Rev. Lynn Bujnak will be at will
be at the Waitsfield United
Church of Christ for their
Homecoming Service and
Gary Schulte's Farewell Service
in New Hampshire.

A Farewell Gathering for Jim
Thomas

Greetings!

Synod Reflection
General Synod 31: Make Glad

Submitted by Jeanne Zammataro, Windham-Union
Association

At General Synod 31, streams of individuals marched from the Baltimore Convention Center to the Federal Building in Baltimore in support of Guillermo Morales, an asylum seeker from El Salvador. Those streams formed the river that makes glad the city of God. Although General Synod had many highlights, including the election of Traci Blackmon as Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, the passage of a resolution for economic justice that I co-sponsored, and inspiring worship, workshops, and fellowship, the one highlight that will stand out over time is that stream of individuals making glad the city of God by marching against the oppression of the resident alien who lives amongst us.

Mr. Morales came to the United States twelve years ago seeking asylum. Somehow he missed his asylum hearing. It could be for any of a number of reasons: the asylum notice was never sent, or it went to the wrong address, or Mr. Morales didn't understand it, and I am sure that he didn't have an attorney advising him. So without any followup, Mr. Morales lived in Annapolis for twelve years, working as a carpenter, creating the chicken sculptures that grace downtown Annapolis in the same way that fiberglass moose grace downtown Bennington, raising his family and becoming a grandfather. Recently, a federal judge denied Mr. Morales' petition for a hearing to determine his asylum status, and he is currently being detained by US immigration officials.

As I listened to the speakers, I remembered a similar miscarriage of justice that occurred in a case I worked



On Saturday, September 23, 2017, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, we will be gathering at the Randolph Bethany Church for a farewell gathering for Jim and Lynn Thomas.

This is an "open house" style gathering. Come when you can! At 4:00PM we will share in the Liturgy of Farewell as we send Jim and Lynn Thomas on their way with our gratitude and good wishes for Jim's new ministry as Pastor of the Atkinson Church, UCC in New Hampshire.

Dear Church Members and Friends,

The service for Johanna Harpster is scheduled for Saturday, August 26 at 11:00 AM at the United Church of Ludlow.

Rev. Bruce Bishop will lead the service. An hour to call on the family in the Ladies Parlor will precede the service at 10:00 AM. A luncheon in the social hall will follow the service.

If you would like to assist in providing food for the luncheon, please contact Judi Krieger, Jean Eggleston, or Pat Liao.

I have had a request for Rev. Don Harpster's address: 200 Lower Bartonsville Road, Chester, VT 05143

One means of honoring Johanna Harpster is a donation to the

on as a law student over 45 years ago. An aging, poor couple lost their home to a tax sale on a technicality. They stood ready to pay the back taxes. However, the technicality prevented them from doing so, and so they lost their home. That case and Mr. Morales' case demonstrate that too often our laws do not achieve justice. Instead of deportation for being in technical violation of our immigration laws, Mr. Morales should be allowed a hearing to demonstrate that he is a contributing member of our society, who should not be separated from his family and who should not be sent back to the danger that is El Salvador. It is more than time for our immigration laws to be reformed to achieve justice, rather than the injustice of blindly following technicalities.

If you wish to get a sense of this march for justice, please click on this

link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fPBfZbjspc&list=PL6VgfHt6zEy62_c0N7VOMFpQXz8DTfiau

****Registration Is Now Open****
Fall Vitality Event 2017

Presented by:
 Vermont Conference, UCC &
 Partners for Sacred Places

Join us on October 14, 2017 for a special Vitality event at which we will explore: Growing a congregation's membership, ministry, financial stewardship, leadership and vision through community engagement and outreach! Take this opportunity to learn from other congregations about their innovative outreach and community partnerships, large and small including:

- Creating new ministries
- Leading conversations on major local issues;
- Launching a major "community-wide" capital campaign;
- Or just asking your neighbors how you might work together.

Keynote speaker [Tuomi Forrest](#) is the Executive Vice President of [Partners for Sacred Spaces](#). He has offered technical advice and consultation to thousands of congregations of all faiths on the care and active community use of their historic religious buildings since joining Partners in 1997.

United Church of Ludlow's Memorial Fund in her name.

Please continue your supportive prayer for the family.

Thanks be to God for Johanna's life and service among us,
Robert Kottkamp

Dwight Baker (current site caretaker, longtime volunteer, board member and one of the original architects for camp) suffered a massive cardiac issue at CHCC at the end of a site board meeting on Thursday night, August 17th. He was ambulated to Central VT Hospital and then airlifted to Dartmouth where he underwent a 14 hours surgery. He is still there in ICU. He is now off his sedation medication and is on oxygen. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. Both his daughters have arrived and are with him.

**VERMONT SCHOOL OF
MINISTRY
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
FOR FALL 2017 COURSES**

The Vermont School of Ministry partners with the New York School of Ministry to provide educational offerings for lay enrichment and continuing education opportunities. It also provides the core foundational education for the preparation of supply preachers and authorization for Licensed Ministry.

**SUPPLY PREACHER
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM - Sept.
2017 - June 2018**

The need for supply preachers has become a pressing concern in a number of Associations. This program, which runs every other

These topics and more will be shared and discussed in this interactive day-long educational program. Registration is \$25 per person (which includes lunch!) and you can sign up by clicking the Registration button below.

We look forward to seeing you on October 14th in Montpelier!

[Register here...](#)

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**2017 Convocation Registration has opened!!**

(There was an error on the form initially posted, which says cost \$15.00, this has been changed and now shows the correct cost of \$50.00, sorry for any inconvenience).

[Click here for Registration form and Information](#)

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[Click here to view the recent Pastoral Transitions in 2017 in the Vermont Conference](#)

**UCC History, Polity and Theology Class Offered
Fall, 2017 for Privilege of Call, Ordination,
Commissioning, and Licensing**

The Center for Progressive Renewal is offering a fall semester online UCC History, Polity and Theology class beginning on September 6th and ending December 6th. The class has met the polity requirements of most Committees on Ministry in the UCC. It can be taken either for academic credit or simply to fulfill the polity requirement of Committees on Ministry. It has been accepted for credit in eight seminaries, including Union (NYC), Vanderbilt, Candler, Columbia, Eden, and Lancaster. It is included in the catalogs of both Union Theological Seminary and Lancaster Theological Seminary.

[Read entire article here](#)

Human Genetic Engineering: Dreams & Nightmares

Food for Thought Pot-Luck Forums for the Fall 2017

week from September to June, is entirely web conferenced. It is designed for lay people who want to learn how to preach and lead worship well, so that they can act as supply preachers (able to fill in when authorized ministers are ill or away) in their congregations or in their Associations. This program does not prepare persons for any form of authorized ministry.

The program consists of sixteen 1½ hour webinars and two 3 ½ hour practicum sessions. There are reading/writing components for each session. Participants will work with and receive feedback from a variety of instructors: Rev. Quinn Caldwell, Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias, Rev. Steve Johnson, Rev. David Kaden, Rev. Jonathan Lawrence, and Rev. Marjorie Purnine. A recommendation from one's home church is required to enroll.

Monday evenings - 7:00-8:30 pm
Click [here](#) for a pdf with the full schedule, the books, and the program fees.
[Click here to register](#)

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Those considering Licensed Ministry should be in conversation with their pastors and their Association Committee on Ministry or Ministerial Standing and Standards Committee. Applications for that purpose may be found [here](#). Full information about this program can be found [here](#). The registration system for the New York School of Ministry has been overhauled this summer. Click [here](#) to see our fall Events. Choose the course you want to explore on the left side (not the blue buttons on the right), and you'll see the full course information, with the registration box at the bottom of the page.

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Mount Mansfield Union High School Library

211 Browns Trace, Jericho, Vermont 05465

Sponsored by Mt. Mansfield Union High School and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

[Click here for Forum information](#)

### A Day with Diana Butler Bass Wednesday, October 4th

Clergy and Laity Invited! Cost - \$10.00 to register and \$10.00 for lunch Diana Butler Bass will be in the Plattsburgh Area on October 4th and there will be a gathering from 10 a.m. thru 3 p.m. for area faith communities. The morning and afternoon sessions will be at Plattsburgh UMC - 127 Beekman Street. From 10 a.m. to Noon - we will have a conversation on her recent book, "Grounded" - Finding God in the World - A Spiritual Revolution. Please come having read the book!

[Click here for more information](#)

### Action for Ecological Justice: Celebrating a Year of Creation Conference

Bishop Coyne invites you to this one-day conference hosted by the Catholic Church of Vermont as part of the Year of Creation. Action for Ecological Justice will explore, reflect upon and respond to the message of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home.

Laudato Si' highlights the urgency of the global climate crisis, the embeddedness of creation care within Catholic teaching, the interconnectedness of all that exists, and the moral imperative to act for the benefit of the planet and those who call it home--human and non-human. With perspectives from scientists, politicians, activists, economists, professionals, academics and people of faith, the day promises dynamic conversations about the state of creation and how we can work together for a sustainable future.

[Click here for further details](#)

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Dear Partners in Ministry,

I am one of 4 mother's who have been devastated by the opioid epidemic and we are putting our pain into passion and action and we are organizing a rally in Manchester

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



[UCC News and Updates](#)

2017 Digital Stewardship Materials...
[read more here!](#)

[Boston drowns out racial hatred with faith and love](#)

[Progressive faith community in Arizona readies for Trump rally](#)

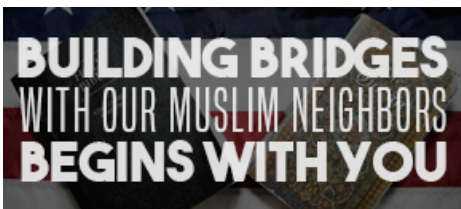
[The Urgency of Our Times](#)

[Rev. Traci Blackmon calling for action against white supremacy](#)

[A week after Charlottesville, UCC clergy ready for Boston](#)

[Commentary: The Love of Children: Advocacy and Agency](#)

[Washington women offer love and listen during ICE Detention Center vigils](#)



Click image for more information.



[Food for Thought](#)
Focus Reading:

Vermont on Thursday August 31, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Factory Point Green. This Rally is Called Fed Up Manchester and in is in partnership with the rally and march in our nation's capital on the same day. There will be many rallies across our nation on the same day and we are coming together to stop the silence, ask for federal assistance and stop this epidemic in it's tracks! Our neighbors, congregations, towns and communities are being crushed by this madness and we are FED UP! I beg you to talk about this issue from the pulpit, talk to your families, neighbors, Dr's, public servants, dentists, etc. This disease is an equal opportunity destroyer and we will all be effected in one way or another.

[Read the entire article here](#)

**This is posted as a request from
Rev. Charles M. Purinton, Jr.
Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ**

**Community Clergy Training to Support Rural Veterans
Recognizing the Challenges of Reintegration and Building a
Pathway to Care and Resources**

September 26, 27, & 28, 2017

[read more here...](#)

The Wells River Congregational Church, UCC, Main Street, Wells River VT. has 110 like new hymnals "United Church of Christ" Contact Marion Zambon:(802)-584-3857

Ideal for start-up church: over 100 year old Steinway upright piano in very good condition-Pay to move from Groton \$500.00 plus/minus-piano mover out of Barre, VT Contact Marion Zambon in Groton, VT (8032) 584-3857

**Employment Opportunities
All these are all still open!**

(If you have a job listed, please try to remember to let me ([Charri](#)) know if it has been filled!)

Tyson Congregational church - located on the Ludlow/Plymouth border. Part-time organist needed to job-share with our current organist for

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Seneca, 1st century C.E.

"Sometimes even to live is an act of courage."

Rebecca Solnit, 21st century,
Storming the Gates of
Paradise: Landscapes for
Politics

"We cannot wish that human beings were not subject to the forces of nature, including the mortality...we cannot wish for the seas to dry up, that the waves grow still, that the tectonic plates cease to exist, that nature ceases to be beyond our abilities to predict and control....But the terms of that nature include such catastrophe and suffering, which leaves us with sorrow as not a problem to be solved but a fact. And it leaves us with compassion as the work we will never finish."

Fred Rogers, 20th century

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in times of 'disaster,' I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers--so many caring people in this world."

John Keats, 19th century

"Do you not see how necessary a world of pains and troubles is to school an intelligence and make it a soul?"

Miles Kundera, 20th century

"...for there is nothing heavier than compassion. Not even one's own pain weighs so heavy as the pain one feels with someone, for someone, a pain intensified by the imagination and prolonged by a hundred echoes."

some Sunday Morning Worship services. Please contact Ann Rose at gms@tds.net if interested.

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Position: **Community Ministries Coordinator** (anticipated opening Fall 2017)

Hours: Full-time salaried (commensurate with experience) with benefits.

Location: First Congregational Church of Burlington,  
Vermont - United Church of Christ  
38 South Winooski Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401  
<http://firstchurchburlington.org/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burlington,\\_Vermont](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burlington,_Vermont)

[read more here.....](#)

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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

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Organist/Choir Director Needed!

Application

Email:

[welcome@fccej.org](mailto:welcome@fccej.org)

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](mailto:FCCEJmusicsearch@gmail.com) or mail to FCCEJ Music Search, 1 Church Street, Essex Junction VT 05452.

Ernest Hemingway, 20th century  
"Never confuse movement with action."

Mahatma Gandhi, 20th century  
"The future depends on what you do today."  
"Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it."

C.G. Jung, 20th century  
"You are what you do, not what you say you'll do."

Evan Drake Howard, 21st century  
"We don't always feel God's presence, just as we don't feel the sun on a rainy day. But the presence never grows dim, and the confidence that it is there and will shine again keeps us hopeful."

e.e. cummings, 20th century  
"Bon Dieu! may I some day do something truly great. amen."

Horace Greeley, 19th century  
"It is impossible to mentally or socially enslave a Bible-reading people."

Francis Xavier, 16th century  
"Be great in little things."

Norman Thomas, 20th century  
"I am not a champion of lost causes, but of causes not yet won."

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Resources from WorshipWell

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:



worshipwell.church

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

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**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](mailto:scookekitt@mac.com)

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

