

# Vermont Conference, UCC

## Keeping in Touch

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

E-Kit

October 4, 2017

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Greetings!

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Vermont Conference  
News



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

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference, UCC:

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

My heart is breaking as we mourn yet another large scale action of violence. It is hard to comprehend that mass shootings have become part of our lives and, God help us, a shock and grief that lessens with each one. I force myself to read, to see, to remember the loss. There were people who died in their loved one's arms, one who shielded their loved one and lost their own life. There were some who died holding a stranger's hand and some with no one to comfort them. Some died immediately and others hover now between life and death. Each person there is some's beloved. The scars of body, mind and soul will transform the lives of survivors and families and friends of those lost and those who must pick up the pieces of their lives.

**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!**

In my devotions this morning, I read Psalm 102 and found these words:

Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
 Let my cry come to you.  
 Do not hide your face from me  
 In the day of my distress.  
 Incline your ear to me;  
 Answer me speedily in the day  
 When I call.

**Take this opportunity to**  
**learn from other**  
**congregations about**  
**their innovative outreach**  
**and community**  
**partnerships, large and**  
**small including:**

I am grateful for the raw honesty of the Psalms in times like these that give voice to and permission for cries of grief, anger, pain and a longing for God's presence and help. These are not only cries of individuals but of whole communities who share in the loss and the search for a compassionate and present God.

- **Creating new ministries**
- **Leading conversations on major local issues;**
- **Launching a major "community-wide" capital campaign;**

This is not a time to wring out hands as if there was nothing to be done by people of faith. Is there a word from God to share, to offer? What can we do? In addition to prayer, we can:

- We can speak out against gun violence and work for sensible legislation for both background checks for gun ownership and a ban on weapons whose only purpose is killing large numbers of people.
- We can remind ourselves and others that when it is said, "Guns don't kill, people do" that the guns are nevertheless often the means and what makes it possible for someone to kill many people very fast.

- **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. 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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**Pam Lucas will be worshipping and meeting with the search committee at the First Congregational Church in West Brattleboro**

**Lynn Bujnak will be attending the Board of Director Meeting on Saturday**

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**Webinars for ONA and not-yet ONA churches this fall**

Is your ONA church looking for ways to strengthen your Open and Affirming mission? Is your UCC congregation taking its first steps towards an ONA covenant? We've a webinar for you! ONA 101 and ONA and the Bible help non-ONA congregations design a plan for their church that will build consensus and reduce the

- Here are some UCC resources: <http://www.ucc.org/gun-violence>. Also, here is current release from our UCC leaders: [http://www.ucc.org/commentary\\_it\\_is\\_up\\_to\\_us\\_to\\_stop\\_gun\\_violence\\_10022017](http://www.ucc.org/commentary_it_is_up_to_us_to_stop_gun_violence_10022017) There is also an article from our Conference Gun Violence Committee here:
- If you feel a need to be with others at this time, there are vigils happening throughout the state.

Changing the narrative about gun violence and getting sensible, effective legislation passed in our nation seems nearly impossible. So remember that we follow a God who gave water and food to God's people in the desert, who rescued God's people from slavery and brought them to freedom, who conquered even death and brought new life and hope into this world. Let us go from this horrific experience of death with compassion, courage, determination and hope.

In peace,  
Lynn

**The VT Conference Task Force on Reducing Gun Violence** reports that the UCC's 31st General Synod approved a resolution calling for Congress to recognize and study gun violence as a public health emergency.

We live in an age when public health emergencies are on-going: infectious diseases, opiate overdoses, storm and flooding impacts, and gun deaths. For many years the federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has done excellent work to reduce injuries and deaths in both medical and non-medical areas: automobile safety, safeguards for children's toys, ebola and zika outbreaks, and tobacco education for example.

For decades over 30,000 people have died each year as a result of gun violence; Americans die from gun violence at a rate 5 times that of most European countries. In June 2016 the American Medical Association adopted a position that the United States is facing a 'public health crisis in gun violence' that requires a comprehensive public health response and solution.

Yet since 1996 Congress has forbidden the CDC to study this issue. In a faith response to this research ban the 31st General Synod passed a resolution including this language:

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod encourages the Congress of the United States to allocate federal funding for scientific research of gun violence by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health and to openly debate methods to improve gun safety, training and storage to reduce gun deaths;

Be it finally resolved that the Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges members and other settings of the United Church of Christ to actively speak out against restrictive legislation that seeks to silence or stifle the scientific and medical community from providing sound methods to save and improve the lives of all of God's people.

The Task Force on Reducing Gun Violence believes that we can find ways to reduce gun violence while safeguarding second amendment rights. But our conversation needs to be based on both faith and researched conclusions.

The entire resolution is at the link below:

<http://synod.uccpages.org/res10.html>

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Saturday, October 28

danger of conflict. ONA 201 is for congregations looking for the best practices for church growth, including tips on marketing, communications, advocacy and personal evangelism. And don't miss our new webinar: Trans 101! We'll help you understand the trans experience, and share ways you can stand with your transgender neighbors and members when their rights and human dignity are under attack. We've kept the cost of these informative webinars low so you any church can afford then, and there are discounts when multiple participants gather around a single computer.

[Learn more >>](#)



Click image for more information.



[UCC News and Updates](#)

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

UCC clergy, part of interfaith prayer vigil in Las Vegas, mourn 59 lives lost to gun violence

Rev. John Dorhauer: What does it mean to be a reforming church?

North Carolina mother leaves sanctuary after deportation order cancelled

Rev. Traci Blackmon: It is up to US to stop gun violence

UCC national leaders, executives explore immigration and race issues during European trip

First Congregational Church, UCC  
39 Main Street  
Essex Junction, VT 05452

A Worship & Song Leading Workshop with Paul Vasile, Executive Director of Music that Makes Community

Nepalese Lunch provided by The Vineyard Nepali Fellowship

Cost: \$15 person payable at the door, for all coming from churches outside the Champlain Association UCC

Please RSVP at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/workshop-songs-of-transformation-reformation-and-liberation-tickets-37928359745>

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**Vermont Interfaith Power and Light**

P.O. Box 209

Richmond, VT 05477

[info@vtipl.org](mailto:info@vtipl.org) 802-434-3397 [www.vtipl.org](http://www.vtipl.org)

Vermont Interfaith Power and Light (VTIPL) will hold it's annual conference, Building Local Resilience - Inspiring Climate Action!, on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017, 10 am - 4 pm, at First Congregational Church in Manchester, VT. It's going to be great - please come!

Deb Markowitz, former Secretary of Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources will be the Keynote Speaker. She has long been speaking out about the climate crisis and the need for quick and effective action to address global climate change. Her bio and much more about the conference is on the event page on VTIPL's website:

[www.vtipl.org/node/364](http://www.vtipl.org/node/364).

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**Employment Opportunities**

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

Bethany Church United Church of Christ  
Randolph, Vermont  
<http://www.bethanyuccvt.org>

Coordinator for Youth and Family Ministries

Bethany Church, a lively congregation of the United Church of Christ, is seeking a half time (20 hours a week) Coordinator for Youth and Family Ministries. The candidate we are seeking is a person of faith who is committed to the church and to nurturing the spiritual needs of children, youth and families. They will have strong organizational and communication skills. They will have training and/or experience in providing educational ministries in a local church setting. They will understand and honor confidentiality and appropriate boundaries.

This staff person will work closely with our pastor, Rev. Kim McKerley, and will have the strong support of the Christian Education Committee and the members of our congregation. Together we will work to continue our excellent youth ministry programs consisting of three fellowship groups (Grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12) which provide fellowship, spiritual formation and outreach programs for our youth. This staff person will work with us all to strengthen our Sunday School ministry to children and youth (ages three through grade 12) and their families. They will also be asked to reach out to our Bethany Church and Randolph Community families. We are a UCC congregation

UCC general minister and president responds to grief of a community, nation, after Las Vegas shooting

Commentary: No Ban, No Raids, No Wall: Sanctuary for All

UCC sending first round of assistance to partners in Puerto Rico

UCC leaders angered by White House decision to slash refugee admissions by half

Clean up bucket collaboration puts more than 1000 kits in the hands of hurricane victims

Food for Thought  
Focus Reading:  
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Martin Luther King Jr., 20th century

"It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, but it can stop him from lynching me, and I think that's pretty important."

Horace Greeley, 19th century

"It is impossible to enslave, mentally or socially, a bible-reading people. The principles of the bible are the groundwork of human freedom."

Dorothy Soelle, 20th century

"God dreams for us today. Today, at this moment, God has an image and hope for what we are becoming. We should not let God dream alone."

Immanuel Kant, 18th century

"Live your life as though your every act were to become a universal law."

Calvin Coolidge, 20th century

"I sometimes wish that people would put a little more emphasis upon the observance of the law than they do upon its enforcement."

eager to move boldly forward in Educational/Faith Formation ministries. We would love to hear from all interested persons that we might talk together to see if the Spirit has a mutual path forward for us.

We ask that references be provided if requested. Compensation will be commensurate with experience.

Contact: Wendy Ross, Chair of the Christian Education Committee

[Rosspol.w@gmail.com](mailto:Rosspol.w@gmail.com)

Bethany Church United Church of Christ  
30 North Main Street  
Randolph, Vermont 05060

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Tyson Congregational church - located on the Ludlow/Plymouth border. Part-time organist needed to job-share with our current organist for some Sunday Morning Worship services. Please contact Ann Rose at [gmshtds.net](mailto:gmshtds.net) if interested.

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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](mailto: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.

Church office 802-878-5745.

First Congregational Church of Essex Junction

Website: [www.fccej.org](http://www.fccej.org)  
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## Consult XXI at Silver Lake

Join us for Consult XXI Monday, November 6 through Friday, November 10 as we are reminded and explore "Be Not Afraid for I am With You." We will gather at Silver Lake Conference Center (Sharon, CT) as colleagues and partners in Outdoor Ministries. Consult is a bi-annual gathering of camp directors, board members and chairs, site supporters, and advocates for Outdoor Ministries, especially within the UCC. We will explore what it means to "Be Not Afraid for I am With You", when the "I" is God, Jesus, self, and partners we may work with at camp.

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

Isadora Duncan, 20th century

"We may not all break the Ten Commandments, but we are certainly all capable of it. Within us lurks the breaker of all laws, ready to spring out at the first real opportunity."

John Adams, 18th century

"The Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount contain my religion."

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**Resources from  
WorshipWell**

Be sure to check out the worship resources available at:



[worshipwell.church](http://worshipwell.church)



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

