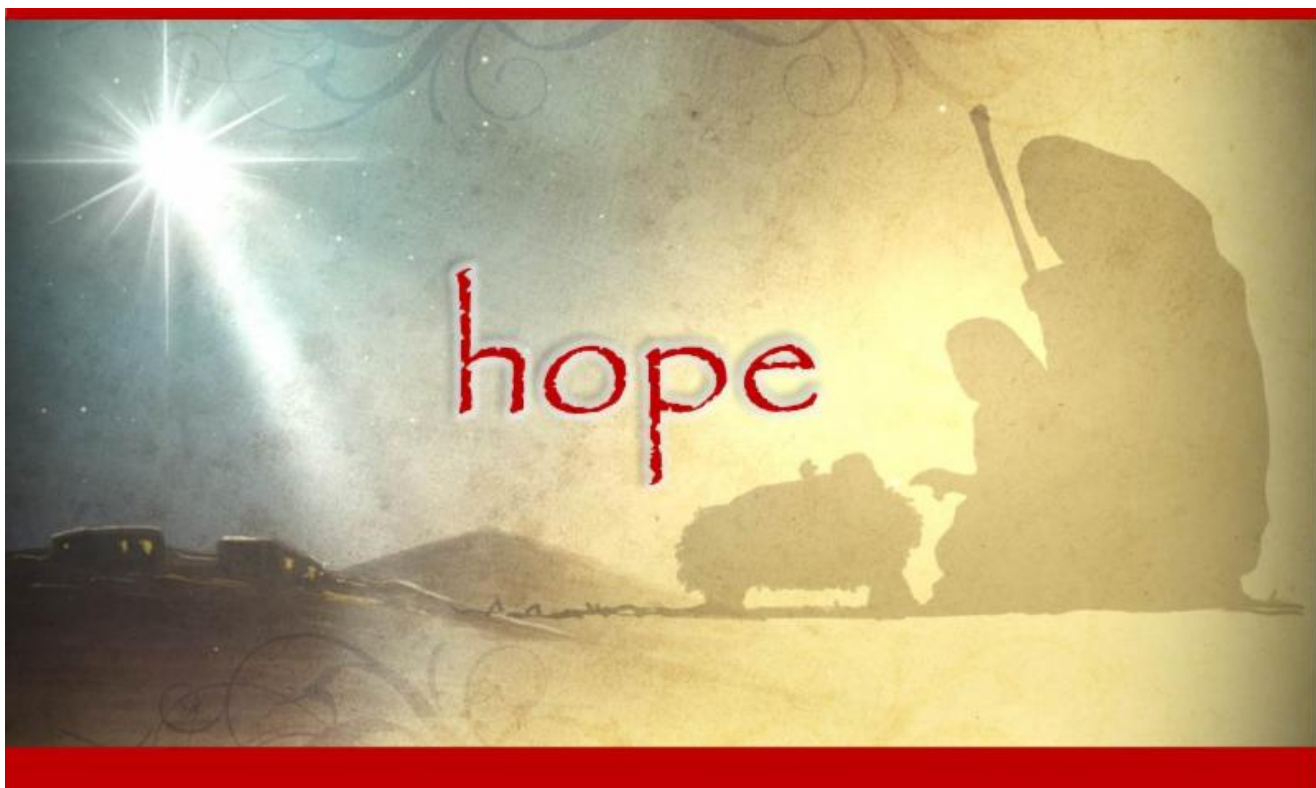


Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

# Vermont Conference



**November 29, 2017**



**Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference:**

**It's time for watching, longing and waiting. It's time to pause our frantic lives. It's time to take a deep, healing breath as we encounter the myriad ways in which those whom God loves - the poor, the marginalized, the sick and elderly, our beautiful and fragile earth are**

being forgotten, neglected and used for other's gain. In other words, it's time to claim th  
precious gift, the tenacious gift of hope. As Emily Dickinson has written:

*Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul  
And sings a tune without words  
And never stops at all.*

*Now hope that I seen is not hope.  
For who hopes for what is seen?  
But if we hope for what we do not see,  
We wait for it with patience. (Rom 8:24-25)*

In the past few days I have attended three meetings of various conference committees where the state of the nation and our world were not on the agenda, but we found ourselves there anyway. We shared about the stress of what feels like the daily erosion of the moral fabric and principles of our nation. We shared about our weariness. About our fears. And then, we began to share stories of hope. We began to remember the substance and strength of the faith we share. We began, as Nancy McHugh said, to "lean in" to each other and to our faith communities. I needed that reminder. We are not alone We have each other and we have the Creator of the Universe promising new life and strengthening us for the road ahead.

As we watch for the simplest signs of the God of Love and peace, of power made perfec among the weak, let us lean in to one another. So that the tune of hope in each of our souls will "never stop at all."

Advent blessings,  
Lynn



# CONFERENCE NEWS

**Don't forget to sign up for the Advent Day Apart!**

**Pastor's Advent Day Apart  
Jesus invites us to 'come apart and rest awhile...'  
Wednesday, December 13, 2017  
United Community Church, Morrisville, Vermont  
(lunch provided)**

**The Vermont Conference theme for 2017-18 is  
TELLING THE STORY**

**Come explore the question  
How do we live in a time such as this?  
because**

**We DO have a story to tell...  
Especially in times such as this.**

Facilitated by  
Lynn Bujnak and Pam Lucas  
RSVP to Charri Robinson [robinsonc@vtcucc.org](mailto:robinsonc@vtcucc.org)

**Time is drawing near.....Please try to submit your OCWM for 2017 so I can get everything in order for the end of the year! If you need a new Remittance Form, you can find one on the website under the Stewardship Section. Thank you, Charri**

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## **The Vermont Conference welcomes a new Ministries Coordinator!**

**We welcome Sherri Caouette to our conference staff. Sherri is the new Conference Ministries Coordinator. She will be working administratively with Search and Call as well as supporting Annual Meeting, MSSC and Vitality Events.**

**Hi!**

**My name is Sherri Caouette. I live in Randolph, VT with my husband Bobby and our Cocker Spaniel; named Sophie. Together we have 5 adult children and 5 grandchildren. I love my family and look forward to working together with all of you.**



**Next time you are in the office be sure to stop by and introduce yourself to her. We're very glad she has joined us!**

**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT CONFERENCE**  
**[Here...](#)**



## **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS**

### **NEWS HEADLINES**

**UCC leaders call on U.S. Supreme Court to protect the rights of all people in Cakeshop case**

**Faith leaders revive MLK's Poor People's Campaign as a national organizing call to end racism, poverty**

**UCC New Hampshire church rejoices after federal judge decision halts Indonesian deportations**

**UCC DC staff warns against 'harmful' tax cut bill up for Senate debate**

**Commentary: Rewriting the Story of U.S.-Philippines Relations**



### **WEEKLY SEEDS**

**Focus Reading:  
Isaiah 40:1-11**

**Joan Baez, 20th century  
"Peace might sell, but who's buying?"**

**E.F. Schumacher, 20th century  
"Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction."**

**Richard Rohr, 21st century, in Falling Upward  
"We need to unlearn a lot, it seems, to get back to that foundational life which is 'hidden in God' (Colossians 3:3). Yes, transformation is often more about unlearning than learning, which is why the religious traditions call it 'conversion' or 'repentance.'"**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 20th century

"Wonderfully secured by a mighty power, we await with confidence whatever may come. God is with us - in the evening, in the morning, and entirely certain on each new day."

Edward Hays, A Pilgrim's Almanac

"Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace."

Finley Peter Dunne, 20th century

"Comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable."

Antoine de Saint-Exupery, 20th century

"Sorrow is one of the vibrations that proves the fact of living."

German proverb

"Joy and sorrow are next-door neighbors."



BE THE CHURCH

## HAPPENINGS

United Church of Christ  
New England Women's

*Celebration* 

**A SEAT AT THE TABLE**  
Come for all things are now ready.  
- Luke 14:17b

 **SAVE THE DATE!**  
**APRIL 6 - 8, 2018**  
Portland, Maine

---> What is the New England Women's Celebration?

The New England Women's Celebration takes place every 4 years at various locations in New England. It is held over (or near) the weekend of Mothering Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Lent, which is traditionally a time when the strict observances of Lent were relaxed for a day so church folks could return to the Mother Church of their roots.



## **"Working for a Second Chance 2.0"**

Join us for "Working for a Second Chance 2.0" on Wednesday, December 13 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry St, Burlington. This event, sponsored jointly by Vermont Interfaith Action and Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility, will bring together the formerly incarcerated with local business owners and the Department of Corrections to explore better ways to provide job opportunities for those who need a second chance. This is a follow-up to the highly successful event last year in which ex-offenders and business owners shared their stories. Call Debbie at 802-651-8889 or email [debbie@viavt.org](mailto:debbie@viavt.org) for more information or to register.



## **Climate Change event**

Come learn "What You Can Do About Climate Change" at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue (188 N. Prospect St, Burlington) on Tuesday, December 12 from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. This event, co-sponsored by Vermont Interfaith Action, will feature suggestions from Mayor Miro Weinberger's office and Burlington Electric as the city and state address this important issue in the wake of the U.S. pull-out from the Paris Climate Accord. The purpose is to help local faith communities to lead the way in engaging individuals and congregations to meet climate change goals. We will also light the candles for the first night of Chanukah, celebrating an earlier solution to an energy crisis! For more information, contact Karen, [kpcorbman@aol.com](mailto:kpcorbman@aol.com).

## **Peacemaker's Pulpit**

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

And in despair I bowed my head.  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1863)

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"It has been five years since the terrible killings of the school children the Sandy Hook School in Newtown CT. The Charlotte Congregational Church will hold a remembrance ceremony on Monday December 11 at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary. The community is welcomed to join us in prayers and readings to offer our empathies to those affected and to pray for policy and cultural actions that will reduce the prevalence of gun violence on our society. Please join us as we ring our Church Bell twenty-eight times, one toll each for those killed; the children, the teachers, the shooter and his mother."

Read more here...



**Working Together To Keep Guns Out Of The Wrong Hands**

read more here...

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## **What can you do to reduce gun violence?**

Let us be clear that reducing gun violence is a matter for our faith. Jesus calls us to love one another and to take care of each other. Jesus consistently tells us to actively respond to our neighbors in the world with love and respect. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

Let us be clear that reducing gun violence is allowed under The US Constitution. The Supreme Court ruled in the Heller Decision (2008) that the Second Amendment both gives people a right to own guns for self defense and other legitimate purposes, and that governments can make reasonable laws for public safety.

Let us be clear that reducing gun violence is a public health emergency; we can reduce the amount of gun deaths, woundings, and trauma to our social fabric by enacting reasonable policies. Universal background checks for all gun purchases, taking guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, providing safe gun storage and use training, and asking the Federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) to study how to reduce gun violence are four effective steps that we can take.

When hundreds die at a concert in Las Vegas, or dozens die in a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, or dozens die at a school in Newtown, Connecticut the media focus on the awful tragedy part of this focus is to point out that our nation seems powerless to prevent these murders. Lost in these mass murder outpourings is the disturbing larger picture that well over 30,000 people die in our country from guns each year; twice that number are wounded. That is 93 people dying each day; 7 of them are children and teens. Two thirds of these deaths are suicides.

Data from 2015:

<https://everytownresearch.org/gun-violence-by-the-numbers>

**So what can each of us do to reduce gun violence?**

**-Attend a local vigil on the 5th anniversary of the Sandy Hook School shooting. Here is a list of Vermont times and places:**

**Middlebury VT  
December 10 at 5:30pm  
Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society  
2 Duane Court**

**Woodstock VT  
December 12 at 5pm  
Norman Williams Public Library  
10 The Green**

**Brattleboro VT  
December 12 at 5:30  
Pliny Park**

**Randolph VT  
December 14 at 6pm  
Bethany Church  
32 Main Street**

**Norwich VT  
December 14 at 5pm  
Norwich Town Green**

**Williston VT  
December 14 at 7pm  
Front Steps of the Old Brick Church  
100 Library Lane**

**Burlington VT  
December 14 at 5:30pm  
First Unitarian Universalist Church  
152 Pearl Street**

**Charlotte VT  
Monday December 11 at 6:00 PM  
Charlotte Congregational Church Sanctuary: remembrance ceremony**

**(A listing of vigils in all 50 states, and any additional Vermont vigils can be found at:  
<http://foundation.newtownaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2017-Nationwide-Vigils-Events-to-EndGunViolence-Sheet1-1.pdf>)**

**-Contact your Vermont Representatives and Senators asking them to support both universal background checks and legislation removing guns from the hands of domestic abusers. This link will connect you to the "Find a legislator page" on the Vermont Government website:**

**<http://legislature.vermont.gov/people/search/2018>**

**-Contact your federal Representatives and Senators asking them to support universal background checks, legislation removing guns from the hands of domestic abusers, and legislation directing the CDC to study how to reduce gun violence. Ask them to oppose legislation making it easier for people to carry concealed weapons across state lines.**

**-Begin a dialog in your church regarding Jesus's call for us to be our brother's and sister's keepers, the tragic level of gun violence in our country, and the rights guaranteed in the Second Amendment and the Vermont Constitution.**



## **Leadership and Anxiety in the Church (LAC)**

**When:** Tuesday, March 6, 2018

**Where:** Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford, CT

**Who:** Clergy members and laypersons who seek to understand congregational dynamics better and to learn ways to calm anxiety and heal broken relationships

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## **Mediation Skills**

**Training Institute for Church Leaders (MSTI)**

**When:** May 7-11, 2018

**Where:** Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, CT

**Who:** Clergy and all persons in positions of church leadership who are interested in learning skills that will equip them to deal effectively with interpersonal, congregational, and other forms of church conflict

Attached please find an LAC brochure, a sample bulletin ad, and a group discount coupon for LAC, as well as a current brochure for all five MSTI workshops in 2018. Please share this information with friends or colleagues who you feel might benefit from this training, whether or not you yourself are able to attend.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me or visit our website at [www.LMPeaceCenter.org](http://www.LMPeaceCenter.org).

Thanks so much for your support!

Pamela B. Eiten LMPC Assistant for Communication Lombard Mennonite Peace Center  
101 W. 22nd Street, Suite 206 Lombard, IL 60148 P: 630.627.0507 F: 630.627.0519

[www.LMPeaceCenter.org](http://www.LMPeaceCenter.org)



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**CLASSIFIEDS**

Starting your holiday shopping online? If you are already shopping on Amazon, you can support Global Ministries at the same time at no additional cost to you. Simply use this link as you shop on Amazon and Global Ministries will receive 4-7% of your purchase.  
Thank you for thinking of Global Ministries as you plan your holiday shopping!

### Shop Here...

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**Marble Baptismal font**  
Best offer--you pick up (we may deliver, if needed)  
United Community Church of Morrisville  
Please contact Pastor Marisa at 888-2990

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## **DINNERS AND SOCIAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Community Supper**  
Every Friday, 6 pm at the United Church of South Royalton



**Essex Eats Out Community Dinners Continue... 1st Friday of Every Month**  
[www.essexeatsout.org](http://www.essexeatsout.org)

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## **CHURCH NEWS**

**DORSET COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING, POT-LUCK SUPPER ON  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6th AT 5:00 PM AT THE DORSET GREEN .**

Again this year we will be joined by the faculty, students, and families of Long Trail School. We'll all begin at the Christmas tree on the Dorset Green for a Christmas Carol Sing-a-long [we have printed carol books--Bring a flashlight]. Then we will head over to the Dorset Church for a Chili and Soup Potluck. Please bring a pot of your favorite chili or soup. We'll provide the bread & drinks. Long Trail School will provide the salad.

Jane A. LoBrutto, Administrator  
United Church of Dorset and East Rupert  
PO Box 263  
Dorset, VT 05251  
802-867-2260  
[Jane@dorsetchurch.org](mailto:Jane@dorsetchurch.org)  
Holiday Craft Fair at Malletts Bay CC  
Dec 9, 2017, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Plan on getting in the spirit of the season and round out your Holiday shopping at our Craft Fair  
Featuring a wide variety of local crafts and vendors, holiday gifts, foods, etc. Raffles and bake  
sale! Hot, homemade soups and sandwiches served at lunchtime. For more information, contact  
Lois Fontaine: 802-343-9767 or [lannfontaine@comcast.net](mailto:lannfontaine@comcast.net). Malletts Bay Congregational Church  
UCC, 1672 W. Lakeshore Dr., Colchester.

Dec 10, 2017, 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Invite your family and friends for a special event to kick-start the spirit of the Season and join us  
in the HOLIDAY DRUM CIRCLE with Saragail Benjamin, [www.SaragailBenjamin.com](http://www.SaragailBenjamin.com). We'll all play  
percussion together to celebrate this joyful season! Drumming! Dancing! Singing! Fun for all  
ages! No prior experience required all level players welcome. Play our drums or bring your own  
A Free Will Offering will be taken as this community event is supported by your donation.  
Contact: Rev. Sally May, [revsallymbucc@gmail.com](mailto:revsallymbucc@gmail.com), 802-658-9155. Malletts Bay Congregational  
Church UCC, 1672 West Lakeshore Dr., Colchester

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**Holiday Carol Sing**

2pm on Sunday December 10th at the Church with  
refreshments to follow at the Dover Historical Society.  
Bring your friends and family!  
West Dover Congregational Church (UCC)  
104 Route 100, West Dover, Vermont  
More information at 802-464-1195

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Breathe in, Breathe out, Repeat  
Peace,  
Laurel Beth Cashman

Let us cook breakfast for you on Saturday, December 16, 2017 before you start your holiday  
activities! **Come to the Shoreham Congregational Church**, 28 School Road,  
Shoreham, VT between 8 and 10 AM and enjoy Pancakes with VT Maple Syrup, Breakfast  
Casseroles, Sausages, Home Fries, Beverages, and a special Surprise! The cost is only \$8 for  
adults, \$4 for children under 12, and \$20 for families with small children. Please bring a  
nonperishable item for the Food Shelf to help spread holiday cheer.

You are invited:  
"Ceremony of Candles: A Cantata for Advent and Christmas"  
by Joseph Martin  
United Community Church of Morrisville  
Sunday December 17, 2017  
2pm  
Featuring our Adult Choir

Shaun Booher, Choral Director  
Marisa Laviola, Pianist  
Reception to follow



**SAVE THE DATE**

Eastern Regional Youth Event (ERYE)  
July 19-22, 2018 at California University of Pennsylvania.

Worship / play / pray / learn / serve / sing / dream

ERYE is a chance to grow your spirit through workshops, worship, recreation, and service! Registration information will be posted soon. Estimated cost is \$350 per person for event registration, housing, and meals. This does not include transportation. The Southern New England Conferences (RI, MA, and CT) will be collaborating to provide bus transportation.



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**



**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 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

We hope you like our ever changing look as we try to make each E-Kit fun to explore! We welcome submissions for the weekly E-Kit. Please submit your submission by Tuesday of each week! We will be running all events and news in this weekly E-Kit. Have you seen our new website? If you have anything you would like to see published on the website, please let me know!

robinsonc@vtcucc.org



Know someone who might enjoy this email? [Share it](#) with them.  
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