

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



January 10, 2018

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference,

Many of our recent UCC initiatives try to say what we believe and why in a short, precise way. My current favorite is **BE THE CHURCH**. I like it because there are concrete ways to DO as well as BE. At the moment I am both disturbed and challenged by the rise of overt racism, white power movements and the violent speech and actions that have accompanied these things. I am disturbed because my faith tells me that we are all created in the Divine image and scripture reaffirms God's delight in diversity. I am challenged because I know the sin of racism is lodged not only out there in other people but within me as well. I benefit every day from white privilege.

Our UCC General Minister and President, the Rev. John Dorhauer, is co-chairing a Task Force through the National Council of Churches for a nation-wide action to name and resist the sin of racism. Here are the emerging details:

Unite to End Racism
What: A Rally and a Call to Action

A - Awaken the nation to the truth that racism hurts us all
C - Confront the ways in which we have been complicit, complacent, or coerced
T - Transform - as stories are shared and truth is revealed, name the ways we can change and be transformed: as individuals, families, neighborhoods, communities of faith, and society as a whole.

Where: At sites across Washington, DC, including the Lincoln Memorial and the National Mall

When: April 3-5, 2018

- April 3, 7 PM - St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral - Ecumenical Service of Repentance in the tradition of Orthodox Holy Tuesday
- April 4, 9-10:30 AM - Lincoln Memorial - Interfaith Service of Prayer and Preparation
- April 4, 10 AM-2PM - Washington, DC Mall - Rally to gather, protest, motivate, learn - to Awaken, Confront, Transform our hearts and our institutions - to free them from racism
- April 5 - Lobby Day - Make our voices heard!

This action is taking place to coincide with the nationwide commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination and be part of this clarion call to the nation! What might we do here in Vermont to "awaken, confront and transform our hearts and institutions?"

To learn more about the National Council of Churches events, please follow this link:

<http://nationalcouncilofchurches.us/actnow/>

In peace,
Lynn

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# VT CONFERENCE NEWS

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As you read this it will be in the evening of January 10th, the deadline for OCWM and Per Capita Donations for 2017! If you have not sent in your 2017 OCWM donations or your 2017 Per Capita Dues, please give me a call. Charri at 802-728-4999.

**DEADLINE IS JANUARY 10, 2018!
ANYTHING RECEIVED AFTER TODAY, JANUARY 10,
2018 WILL BE CONSIDERED A 2018 DONATION.**

Thank you, Charri

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## **UCC Yearbook Data Collection Time is Here!**

If you are the pastor, clerk, administrator, or treasurer for your local church, **it is now time to submit your 2017 Annual Yearbook data.** The reporting cycle for the UCC 2018 Yearbook & Directory officially opened January 2nd at noon and will close on March 7, 2018 at midnight. The process for entering your church's 2017 data is done completely online!

The national office of the UCC has created Church Yearbook Instructions to help guide you through the process.

Should you have any questions or need assistance as you work through this process, please contact Sherri at

[ministriescoordinator@vtucc.org](mailto:ministriescoordinator@vtucc.org)

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Please Pray....

Please pray for Margo Marrone's niece who is undergoing treatment for an aggressive glioblastoma. Let us keep the whole family in our prayers. Margo is the pastor of our church in Tyson.

Please keep Alan Baer, Sherry Bear's husband and their family in your prayers as his surgery was moved again.

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## **BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT CONFERENCE**

[Here...](#)



# **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS**

## **NEWS HEADLINES**

**UCC mourns justice advocate Juanita Helphrey**

**The United Church of Christ and the world lost a fierce justice advocate with the death of Juanita Helphrey, former national staff member, and minister in the Northern Plains Conference UCC.**

**Little girl in North Carolina lives into a great love of her neighbors**

**A child will be celebrating her birthday this week by spending some time with her homeless friends, sharing her Christmas presents from Santa. Gifts she requested on their behalf.**

**Commentary: Uprooting the Sources of Harassment**

**Sexual violence against women is not new.**

**Maine congregation's 'liturgy of hospitality' feeds friends at the Neighborhood Café**

**A Maine congregation does church every Tuesday and it looks like a restaurant. A liturgy of hospitality, about welcome, affirmation, community building and delicious, healthy food.**

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WEEKLY SEEDS

Focus Reading: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Hafiz, 14th century poet

"I wish I could show you, when you are lonely or in darkness, the astonishing Light of your own Being."

and

"No one could ever paint a too wonderful picture of my heart or God."

Nanette Sawyer, 21st century (in The Hyphenateds)

"Imagination opens up possibility, but sometimes we do not dare to imagine something as beautiful as God."

Albert Einstein, 20th century

"He who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead; his eyes are closed."

Lao Tzu, 5th century B.C.E.

"From wonder into wonder existence opens."

Thomas Carlyle, 19th century

"Wonder is the basis of worship."

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## **ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

**Oracle / January, 2018 / Michael Caldwell**

**The Restorative Justice Committee of the VT Conference, UCC, Department of Mission, advocates for restorative rather than retributive approaches with offenders in the criminal justice system. Here's one anonymous story from one of the twelve restorative justice centers in**

Vermont. It involves the rather unusual intervention of a volunteer member in a Reparative Board meeting with an offender who was referred by the local court as an alternative to jail.

[Read More Here.....](#)

## HAPPENINGS



**BE THE CHURCH**

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Ecumenical Prayer Service celebrating Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed in the octave of the Christian feasts of St. Peter and St. Paul, January 18-25, in recognition of Jesus' hope, expressed in the Gospel, that the followers of Christ might all be one (John 17:21).

Observance of the Week is supported by The Graymoor Ecumenical

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

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## Films and discussions on Race at Kimball Library (Randolph, VT)

Race-the Power of an illusion is a documentary about race in society, science and history, produced by California Newsreel, which has aired on PBS. The third episode of the film, The House We Live In, asks, "If race is not biology, what is it?" This episode uncovers how race resides not in nature but in politics, economics and culture. It reveals how our social institutions "make" race by disproportionately channeling resources, power, status and wealth to white people. Two segments of this episode will be shown on consecutive Tuesdays at Kimball Library. The segment on January 16th will be about the early 20th century; our obsession with race, immigrants, and the denial of citizenship for certain groups of non-whites. On January 23rd, the film will be about post World War 2 and the denial to Black Americans of many benefits from the GI Bill.

For more information about these films and discussions contact the Kimball Library at 802-728-5073 or [info@kimballlibrary.org](mailto:info@kimballlibrary.org)

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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.

Building a Culture of Peace
CAMPAIGN NONVIOLENCE

End War, Poverty, Racism
& Environmental Destruction



More than "Thoughts and Prayers"...

*We can respond to the violence
and hate in our world in a different way.
Come and be a part of a different response!
Come to learn, practice, and experiment
with the power of creative nonviolence
to transform our lives and our world.*

From violence to wholeness...

Training in Nonviolence
Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend
Sunday, January 14 - Monday, January 15, 2018

Sunday, January 14, 2018

Session 1 – Exploring Nonviolent Power - 3 - 6 p.m.
DINNER - 6 p.m.
Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship Service - 7 p.m.

Monday, January 15, 2018

PANCAKE BREAKFAST - 8 a.m.
Session 2 – Structural Violence and Nonviolent Power 9 a.m.– noon
LUNCH - Noon
Session 3 – Putting Nonviolent Power into Action - 1- 4 p.m.

Grace Congregational UCC
8 Court St. Rutland, VT 05701

All Welcome! Registration is appreciated
by calling 802-775-4301 or email: graceucc@gracechurchvt.org

Suggested donation:

\$25 for entire weekend's activities; \$10 per session; \$5 each meal

*Let's be part of an unprecedented movement-of-movements for a culture of
nonviolence free from war, poverty, racism, and environmental catastrophe.*

This event is sponsored by the Southwest Association
within the VTCUCC, in cooperation with Pace e Bene,
Campaign Nonviolence, Global Meetinghouse Enterprises,
Americans Take Action, longshotproductions.org, SolarFest.org and GrassrootsSolar.com

pace e bene
peace+all good



Worship
Well

**Original worship resources for local churches...because Sunday's
coming.**

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## Vermont Outdoor Ministries

It's not too early to think about Summer Camp Rock Point 2018 - July 29-August 3 We have our volunteer Deans!

Thank you to Rev. Katelyn Macrae and Laura Labrie for saying yes to directing this week of camp for campers 5th-8th graders. If you would like to volunteer this week as a counselor or lifeguard please contact Nancy Fowler at [fowler5vt@gmail.com](mailto:fowler5vt@gmail.com) Nancy Fowler and Laurie Chipman had a great time at the Outdoor Ministry Association Consult Gathering at Silver Lake, CT in November. Rev. John Dorhauer was at this event and listened to some of our camping stories. We applied and were awarded a \$1000 Deering Grant to help with the cost of paddle boarding at Rock Point next summer.



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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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Keeping Kids safe in the Digital Age

With kids growing up in a digital age, it can be a challenge for modern parents to monitor their activity on the Internet without becoming overly protective and spy-like. According to [TeenSafe](#)

<https://www.safehome.org/resources/kid-safety-digital-age>

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

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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.essexeatsoout.org](http://www.essexeatsoout.org)

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CHURCH NEWS

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**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.**

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
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**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**



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Vermont Conference, UCC | 802-728-4999 VTConference@vtcucc.org | <http://www.vtcucc.org>



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