

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



February 7, 2018

Dear Beloved Community in the Vermont Conference:

As I write this article it is snowing and I have settled in for the storm. Firewood - check. Extra gallons of water just in case - check. Enjoy the beauty and the forced stillness - double check. With the aid of technology I am able to work from home, participate in two "ZOOM" meetings (a kind of video conferencing), return phone calls and write this article to be sent by email for posting. Even so, there's a different quality to my time as I watch the wood fill up with snow.

On snowy days, God slows me down, makes me more meditative, more grateful for life, an invitation to be "lost in wonder, love and praise." I need these times like our earth needs the snow, to nourish and refresh, to restore depleted reservoirs come Spring. Though the world around me goes on with its alarming and sometimes heartbreaking news and the stock market continues its wild ride and there is always more on the "to do" list than can be done in a day, still, there is



something of hope that quietly emerges. Perhaps the slowing down enables me to concentrate beyond the doings of day and lose myself in the long slow strides of nature and of seasons.

Next week we begin Lent although how we got here so quickly is beyond me. Lent is like a snowy day filled with invitation, beguiling us with the promise of renewal, enticing us to slow down, to find the rhythm of the earth as it turns once more towards the sun and we return to the Source of Life and Hope. I trust it will be so for you. That the order of the day will not rob you of the opportunity to be fed, to contemplate, to be restored. May the journey be a slow one, a local and not an express so there is time to take in the scenery and know the value of the journey itself and not only the destination.

Blessings on what is seen and not seen, blessings so you may find and embrace your courage and compassion, blessings on your snowy days of delight.

In Peace,
Lynn

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# VT CONFERENCE NEWS

Pam Lucas will be preaching at Jim Thomas' Installation on Sunday at Atkinson Congregational Church in Atkinson, New Hampshire.

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Please keep Patricia "Pat" Harwick and her family in our prayers.

Pat passed away on January 27 with her soulmate Ray at her side.

A celebration of Pat's life will be held at First Congregational Church, 38 South Winooski Ave, Burlington, VT 05401. The service will be at 2:00 pm on Saturday, February 10. Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to the Vermont Youth Orchestra. Pat's full obituary to follow.



**2018 Annual Meeting
of the Vermont Conference
of the United Church of Christ
Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee, Vermont**

Dear Members and Friends of the Vermont Conference,

I want to warmly invite you to the Vermont Conference Annual Meeting to be held at the Lake Morey Inn on April 27-28, 2018.

Our conference theme is I Love to Tell the Story - Sharing Stories of Faith in the 21st Century.

We are excited to welcome Susanne Schmidt as our keynote speaker/facilitator. Sue is a comedic storyteller, a sought after speaker and teacher and the regional producer for The Moth of NPR fame. As a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor, trainer and speaker, Susanne's compelling and humorous presentations assist listeners to understand the power of stories to heal. In 2013, Susanne launched her latest endeavor, Say It Forward Productions. Designed with the intention of promoting the power of stories for good, Susanne works with organizations to tell their own stories. We look forward to hearing Susanne as a presenter and workshop leader. She will also be organizing a "story slam" for Friday evening.

In addition to the important work of the Conference, we have an abundance of workshops for learning, spiritual renewal and living out our

faith in actions of justice. Worship will be woven throughout the meeting and incorporate what we learn as telling the stories of our faith and life.

Registration will be open by March 1st. You can make your room reservations directly with Lake Morey at any time. There is scholarship money available. Churches with under 50 members can get a scholarship including full registration and meals for one person.

I look forward to seeing you at Lake Morey!
Lynn



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@vtcucc.org



Got a History Story?

There is interest in holding a workshop for the VTC Annual Meeting April 27-28 at Lake Morey Resort, celebrating the stories from our church's' history. Many of our churches were established in the 1700s. We know some of the stories. Let's share them with each other in a workshop. Please let Diane Holme know of your interest in participating. The format has not been finalized, but at this point we are thinking 3-5 minutes per story. This is going to be a most amazing journey back in time!

**Diane Holme, VTC Planning Committee Member
holmelaw@vermontel.net
802-875-4392**



Vermont Conference Check Remittance form

[Find a new remittance form here....](#)

**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT
CONFERENCE**

[Here...](#)

Donate Now

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS

UCC Disaster Ministries Adds Harvey Work Site

UCC Disaster Ministries is partnering with the Southeast Texas Community Development Corporation, or SET CDC, in Port Arthur, Texas, to repair low-income rental apartments damaged in Hurricane Harvey. A volunteer work site will open there in February. Work may include but will not be limited to light carpentry, drywall, insulation, flooring, trim and painting.

[Learn more about how you can help >>](#)

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**Welcome to Exploring UCC History, Polity, and Theology, a curriculum resource for the church offered by the Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization (MESA) Ministry Team of the United Church of Christ.**

This resource is for confirmation. It's for adult small groups. It's for retreats. It's for new member courses. It's for Committees on Ministry. It's for conference boards. It's for any gathering of folks who are curious about what it means to be a part of the UCC. Within this resource, you will find learning sessions designed around several different themes. Each learning session includes a facilitator guide, video, resources, and activities to help you explore more fully the unique history, governance structure, and theological commitments of the UCC as well as how the story of this denomination is still unfolding. You are invited through this resource to enter into the story and to make it your own. In the United Church of Christ, we believe in a still speaking God. Our prayer for you as

you make use of this resource is that you will experience God's voice and presence in new and perhaps unexpected and surprising ways. Enjoy this journey!

**READ MORE HERE.....**



**UCC NEWS HEADLINES**

**UCC interns making their mark in Connecticut community**  
Three young women spending a year in service, hosted by a Connecticut congregation, are already injecting new ideas, life and love into the church and its community.

**UCC mourns the loss of theologian, teacher, author, activist Gabe Fackre**  
The United Church of Christ is mourning the loss of an eminent theologian, respected teacher, prolific author and passionate activist with the death of the Rev. Gabe Fackre on January 31.

**Pennsylvania lay leader creates traveling road show around UCC's 3 Great Loves**  
A UCC lay leader in Pennsylvania is on a spiritual journey, spending his Sundays with several different congregations, spreading the word about the 3 Great Loves (3GL) initiative

**Commentary: Shutting Down Did Not Shut Us Up**  
Our government shut down long ago. But we who believe ...will not stop crying aloud.

**Commentary: Time to give ourselves to the struggle until the end**  
UCC Executive Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries the Rev. Traci Blackmon shares a story of struggle, and issues a call to action. Join the effort to build a just world for all people.



## **WEEKLY SEEDS**

**Focus Reading: Mark 9:2-9**

**Abraham Joshua Heschel, 20th century**

**"In my youth, growing up in a Jewish milieu, there was one thing we did not have to look for and that was exaltation. Every moment is great, we were taught, every moment is unique."**

**Huston Smith, 20th century**

**"Might we begin then to transform our passing illuminations into abiding light?"**

**Sofia Cavalletti, 20th century**

**"Help me draw nearer to God by myself."**

**Ken Follett, The Pillars of the Earth, 21st century**

**"His aim was the glory of God, but the glory of Philip pleased him too."**

**Geraldine Brooks, The Secret Chord, 21st century**

**"I understood that I was being shown the future: shards of what would come to be. Often, I cried out for the pain of it. But other times, I was comforted, because I saw, for an instant, the pattern of the whole."**

**Richard Rohr, Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life, 21st century**

**"Whatever good, true, or perfect things we can say about humanity or creation, we can say of God exponentially. God is the beauty of creation and humanity multiplied to the infinite power."**

**Walter Brueggemann, 20th century (The Prophetic Imagination)**

**"It is evident that immunity to any transcendent voice and disregard of neighbor leads finally to the disappearance of passion."**



**William Wordsworth, 19th century**  
**"But trailing clouds of glory, do we come from God, who is our home."**

**Jonathan Edwards, 18th century**  
**"Grace is but glory begun, and glory is but grace perfected."**

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ARTICLES OF INTEREST

PEACEMAKER'S PULPIT
February 2018

Bonhoeffer for Lent

In this dark time of new Herodian feudalism and militarism, American Christians have a stark new call to salvage the Body of Christ from its sins of indifference and complicity.

The ministry and martyrdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, following the ministry and martyrdom of Christ, give us practical inspiration for Lenten focus. (For more, see Feb. '18 "Sojourners" at sojo.net)

Bonhoeffer, with Barth, Niemoller, and others faithful to the gospel in 1930s Germany, protested - like good Protestants - the evils of nationalism, white supremacy, and genocide perpetrated by the Nazi regime. In the 1934 Barmen Declaration, the "Confessing Church" challenged the Deutschen Christen, a movement of German Christians explicitly complicit with Hitler. They were the SS officers and Nazi sympathizers who sat in the pews of the majority of German churches.

The Confessing Church did not succeed in changing the course of disaster and genocide. But we have it as an example for protesting today's new heresies and hypocrisies of the "Christian" Right, waking us up from our

egregious institutional indifference cloaked in the robes of apolitical piety. Lent gives us a timely opportunity for confession, repentance and activism.

Peacemaking as disciples of Christ often involves nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience. A new Barmen Declaration is urgently needed to set the stage for confronting and reversing the Trump regime's Herodian brutality. It is also needed to rebuke the unconscionable active complicity of current errant evangelicalism analogous to 1930s Deutsche Christen.

Who is calling for the declaration? Who will write it? Where will it happen? Online through social media in a more creative way than we've seen so far?

In Lent may we join hearts, hands, and voices to make it happen before it's too late.

Michael Caldwell, United Church of Craftsbury

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**Diane Holme, VTC Planning Committee Member**

[holmelaw@vermontel.net](mailto:holmelaw@vermontel.net)

802-875-4392

# **HAPPENINGS**

# 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.*

## BE THE CHURCH

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Southwest Association of the

Vermont Conference UCC

Resistance Bootcamp

Training Event

Monday, February 19 from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Grace Congregational UCC - Fellowship Hall

On the heels of our successful Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolence Training Weekend at Grace Congregational Church in which we had 80 participants, we are now moving forward to have a Presidents Day Action Event at Grace sponsored by the SWA. This event is called Resistance Bootcamp and will be led by Ryan Clayton, president of Americans Take Action. The Resistance Bootcamp trains activists and committed civic minded persons, new and old, in some of the best practices for political organizing that are used by community organizers around the country, employing techniques used by Dr. King, Gandhi and others.

[See flyer here...](#)

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## FAITH FORMATION RESOURCES

**This is the time of year when churches begin to look toward Vacation Bible School - whether a week of mornings or evenings - a series of Saturday mornings - or even on summer Sunday mornings.**

**One free resource which could easily become an intergenerational experience and opens up our eyes to what's happening in the wider world. You can download them at Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples). They are directly related to where our UCC missions are on the ground around the world. And they are an example of where some of your OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION offerings are going.**

**[http://www.globalministries.org/kids\\_to\\_kids\\_vbs\\_curriculum](http://www.globalministries.org/kids_to_kids_vbs_curriculum)**

**Secondly, again there is a chart offering comparisons of a number of VBS curriculums available from a number of sources. This Chart can be accessed**

**[here....](#)**

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Dear Vermont Conference friends:

Please do take note of this announcement about the annual Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council Legislative Day. For many years, the Vermont Conference has given financial support to the work of the Vermont Low-Income Advocate, presently, Karen Lafayette. Karen is much respected by Legislators and Advocates, for her work on behalf of the Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council. The day is always inspiring, and offers us the opportunity to witness to the importance of this work. We hope those who have attended in the past, and others for whom it will be a first, might give it a priority - this year, especially, when the possibility of cuts to programs which offer a hand-up may be in peril. Thanks for considering joining us.

Beverly Anderson and Betty Edson

VLIAC Annual Legislative Day

Friday, February 23rd

~ Vermont State House

Co - Sponsored by the Vermont Conference United Church of Christ

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Come to the VT Statehouse

**Visit Legislative Committees, Listen to Debates in the House and Senate.
Meet with your Legislators, State Officials, Community Action, and other Advocates.**

VLIAC and Advocates Displays in the Card Room

9:30 - 10:00 - House session opening and introduction of VLIAC and guests. You can stay for House deliberations.

Coffee and Doughnuts in Cafeteria, with Karen

10:00 - 10:30 - Join us for a legislative orientation with Karen Lafayette, Legislative Liaison for VLIAC supported by VT Conference.

10:30 - 12:00 - Visit Legislative Committee meetings of Interest

Have Lunch on Us (provided by Bethany UCC Montpelier)

12:00 - 1:30 Bag Lunch in Room 10 with legislators and advocates to discuss concerns of low-income Vermonters.

**FY 2018 Proposed Budget CUTS! ~ Healthy Kids Meals S.70~ Raise the Wage Campaign ~ Paid Family Leave
Sample some Healthy Kids Meals, while there.**

1:30 - 3:00 - Visit Committees of Interest

Park wherever you can, or at the Dept. of Labor parking lot along Memorial Drive next to the grounds of Montpelier High School, and take the shuttle bus to the State House; it leaves every ten minutes and there is no charge.

The Capital Shuttle: http://ridegmt.com/wp-content/uploads/CapitalShuttle_January.pdf

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## **Sermon Challenge Launched**

**Check out the website devoted to the call for more than a thousand sermons in solidarity with the 21 youth who have taken our federal government to court over**

climate change. Clergy and youth are encouraged to make a pledge to preach a sermon in the coming months. Help us spread the word about the challenge on social media. Also, read this wonderful reflection on the case by Peter Sawtell of Eco-Justice Ministries.

[See Creation Care Video here...](#)

[The Earth is the Lord's](#)

[United Church of Christ speaks out on climate change](#)



---> [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.



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

New England Youth  
Environmental Justice  
Summit

Sponsored by the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ  
April 7, 2018 ~ 9 AM-4 PM  
Brookside Congregational Church  
Manchester, NH

[READ MORE HERE.....](#)

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Worship
Well

[Original worship resources for local churches...because Sunday's coming.](#)

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## VERMONT OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

**Camp Brochures have arrived!**

[Preview 2018 Camp Brochure here!](#)

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, please contact Nancy Fowler at [fowler5vt@gmail.com](mailto:fowler5vt@gmail.com)  
Nancy Fowler or Laurie Chipman [lchipman@fccej.org](mailto:lchipman@fccej.org).

Rev. John Dorhauer was at the Outdoor Ministry Association Consult Gathering at Silver Lake, CT in November 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.

**[See Camp Job Opportunities here.....](#)**

Job Replies to:

[Laurie Chipman lchipman@fccej.org](mailto:Laurie.Chipman@fccej.org)

or

[Nancy Fowler fowler5vt@myfairpoint.net](mailto:Nancy.Fowler@myfairpoint.net)



**OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION**  
United Church of Christ



**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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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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**Grace Congregation Church, Rutland VT. Saturday March 24, 2018
9:00-3:00**

Spring Craft Fair with a variety of vendors, basket raffle, Pink Pachyderm Room with gently used treasures, Cafe serving soups and sandwiches, Grace Church crafts, baked goods and food items. All proceeds to support local missions

**Gracechurchrutlandvt@gmail.com for more information. Or
call 802-775-4301**

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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)

## **Sugar on Snow Supper**

### **First Congregational Church West Brattleboro**

Our church's Sugar Supper will take place on Saturday, March 10 with seatings at 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

Our Sugar Supper is around the corner!

In recent years, our annual Sugar on Snow Supper has been held the second Saturday of March. That means that this year's event will be

Saturday, March 10. So make sure you save that date on your calendars! Seatings will be 5 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. Please contact Alice McClellan at 257-7557 for reservations

**Bradford Congregational Church**

**The Community Suppers are the  
4th THURSDAY of each month**

**Shoreham Congregational Church**

Come to a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13, from 5 to 7 PM.

Enjoy Pancakes or French Toast with maple syrup, Sausages, Latkes with applesauce or sour cream, and beverages. The cost is only \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, and \$20 for a family, and the meal is open to all.

**The Dorset Church**

Winter Community Suppers are for everyone-Moms & Dads that need a break, people who want a night out in the middle of winter, families rushing from work to sports, people stretching their budget - the suppers are meant to build community for EVERYONE. We hope you'll join us for warm fellowship and a hot meal. All are welcome for FREE great meals! Please bring your family and friends! Take outs available. Questions call Jane at 867-2260 or email at dorsetchurch@gmailcom . This winter we will hold additional FREE dinners on Wednesday, February 28th and Wednesday, March 21st - please make a note on your calendar - we look forward to seeing you!



**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](mailto:robinsonc@vtcucc.org)



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