

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



April 18, 2018

The word for this week is from Doug Moore

First Congregational Church in Thetford members, Judy and Doug Moore, are traveling to Puerto Rico this week as UCC Partners in Service to join the Island recovery effort.



Along with several ongoing projects, UCC Disaster Ministries is working with the Iglesia Evangelica Unida de Puerto Rico, (IEUPR), to begin rebuilding church facilities and homes in eastern Puerto Rico. IEUPR is a partner church of the UCC/Disciples Global Ministries.

Doug and Judy have committed to serve several months to move the collaborative work along, acting as liaison between the UCC and the IEUPR Disaster Recovery Coordinator. UCC Disaster Ministries is providing financial support to the IEUPR to hire this coordinator and will purchase a vehicle to be used for construction. Disaster Ministries will also establish and oversee the housing and general leadership for volunteer groups.

Beginning in June, UCC Disaster Ministries will deploy recovery work groups for one-week periods in Puerto Rico. These groups will work on churches and homes, possibly in a regional hospital, and in the IEUPR church camp that is being made ready to house volunteers. Registration for work groups of up to 15 will open in April. Go to: http://www.ucc.org/disaster_disaster-volunteers to request an email notifying you when registration opens.

If you would like to donate money towards the recover effort, go to <https://transactions.ucc.org/CampaignForm/UCChrist/Hurricane+Relief>
You may also put a check in the offering to United Church of Christ with Puerto Rico Disaster Recovery in the memo.

Much is being done by many. Go to <http://www.ucc.org/disaster> for additional information.

VT CONFERENCE NEWS

Dear Friends,

Are you excited yet? I know I am! I can hardly wait for this year's Vermont Conference Annual Meeting. Some of my favorite phrases are "Once upon a time..." "Did you hear about..." "There was this woman who..." "A priest, a rabbi, and an Imam..." These are clues that a story is to follow and nothing communicates better than a good story. This is why I'm so elated. The theme of this year's Annual Meeting, "Sharing Sacred Stories," might just prove to be monumental.

Most every preacher I know is familiar with Frederick Buechner's *Telling The Truth, The Gospel As Tragedy, Comedy & Fairy Tale* and Benedicta Ward's *Sayings of the Desert Fathers*. Early on these small volumes inspired me to include stories in my preaching. A good story can delight, challenge and transform the listener. After all, Jesus was the master storyteller himself. His parables continue to inspire and challenge believers and nonbelievers to this day.

This past Sunday I included as part of my Easter sermon the illustration "Sunday's A Coming," made famous by Tony Compolo. (you can find it on Youtube) I first heard him tell this story early in my ministry and since then I have been keenly aware that "a good story well told" is a powerful tool.

At the end of April I'm retiring from the pastoral ministry after thirty-six years of service and two churches, but I'm not retiring from telling stories. At this year's Annual Meeting all of us who attend will have a unique opportunity to improve and hone the skill of storytelling. We live in a turbulent and divisive time. Progressive Christians, more than ever need to share the Good News, as we understand it in effective and powerful ways. Susanne Schmidt, our keynote speaker and facilitator, will share with us her knack for "telling a good story." Our world needs our message. Our world needs healing. Our world needs storytellers.

If you have yet to sign up for this year's Annual Meeting on April 27, 28 at Lake Morey Inn, it is not too late. See below for links for Annual Meeting.

David Vanderlinde-Abernathy
Pastor, Barre Congregational Church, UCC

**WE WANT EVERY CHURCH TO BE AT ANNUAL
MEETING THIS YEAR!**

WE WANT TO HEAR EVERY CHURCH'S STORY!

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

In this time when every penny counts and our churches are struggling to even cover the operational budget we want to help!

We want to let all of our churches know that there are scholarships available for the registration cost of the Annual Meeting. We especially want to encourage our smaller churches to take full advantage of this. If your church has delegates please contact the VT Conference Office and get the information to apply. We look forward to having everyone who can attend to be part of this important time of Fellowship, Worship, Workshops, Speakers, and Conference business.

Please feel free to reach out!

It's time to register for the Annual Meeting!!!

Registration Closes on April 22, 2018.

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

Rooms at Lake Morey Resort are going fast there are

5 left for our Annual Meeting!

To reserve your room, call the
Lake Morey Resort 802-333-4311

Annual Meeting [Information here.....](#)
(Information is listed on the website that you will
**need to read and print prior to the Annual
Meeting**)

Exhibitor Tables are full! How exciting!

[Read About the Annual Meeting Workshops Here.....](#)



I will come with stories of Your great acts, my Lord. Psalm 71.16

Did you know that every check you send from your church needs to have a Remittance Form to accompany it? Please click below for a form if you don't have one.

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



Faith Story Café

**9 PM - Friday, April 28, 2018
The Lounge at Lake Morey**

After the plenary sessions are done, join us in the Lake Morey Lounge for an evening of storytelling by you - the attendees of the 223rd VT UCC Annual Meeting. Susanne Schmidt, our Keynote Speaker and The Moth VT's Story Slam Producer will be leading our first ever Faith Story Cafe. Interested story tellers will put their names into a hat and be randomly selected. Please lend your support as we share stories of grace together.

Seeking Story Tellers

Do you have a short story to share at our Faith Story Café? It can be funny, poignant, sad, life-changing, or anything in between. But it needs to be true, it needs to be your story, and there will be a time limit (probably 8 minutes). The theme is Grace, so your story should touch on the theme in some way.

If you'd like to further hone your story before the Faith Story Cafe, Susanne Schmidt will be leading a Story Telling Workshop on Friday afternoon, and will also be available for one on one consultation during the Friday afternoon break from 3:00-5:30 PM.

Sunday April 22, 2018 is
Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy's last Sunday and there will be worship
at 9:30 am followed by an Open House Reception from 11:30-2:30.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Annual Meeting is almost upon us, and, as always, we are
anticipating the **Peacemakers' Gathering!**

Annual Meeting will formally begin at 9:30 AM on April 27, and there
will be a break in the agenda mid-afternoon.

**The Peacemakers' Gathering will be held from 4 to 5:30, in the
Terrace Ballroom.**

Please be in touch if your church - or one you know about - has a
peace or justice-related program that could be shared during the
gathering. There is so much that pulls our spirits down these days,
and it is always balm for the soul to hear of the many things that are
happening that allow us to be God's hands, feet and voice in the
world, bringing us closer to a realization of God's Realm among
us.

Please be in touch with Betty Edson (bedson30@gmail.com or 728-
4057) or Bev Anderson (brandx@vermontel.com or 422-3484) if you
would like to be on the agenda. Thank you!

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## UCC NEWS

### UCC NEWSFEED

### WEEKLY SEEDS

Focus reading: John 10:11-18

William Sloane Coffin, 20th century

"Human unity is really less something we are called on to create than simply to recognize and make manifest."

Archbishop Oscar Romero, 20th century (Champion of the poor and prophet of peace and justice in El Salvador, he was fatally shot on March 24, 1980, while saying mass. He had just read from John's Gospel: "Unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains only a grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit" (Jn. 12:23-26), and had preached about the need to give one's life for others as Christ did.)

"A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed--what gospel is that?"

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 20th century

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

John O'Donohue, 20th century

"The hunger to belong is not merely a desire to be attached to something. It is rather sensing that great transformation and discovery become possible when belonging is sheltered and true."

Jean Baptiste Lacordaire, 19th century

"We are leaves of one branch, the drops of one sea, the flowers of one garden."

Reinhold Niebuhr, 20th century

"Nothing we can do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we are saved by love."

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, 20th century

"Driven by the forces of love, the fragments of the world seek each other so that the world may come into being."



**BE THE CHURCH**



**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT  
CONFERENCE**

Here...



## HAPPENINGS



**We would like to make individuals and communities of faith in Vermont aware of the Convocation 2018 event we will be having on April 20-22, 2018.**



**See the BTS Convocation 2018 Flyer**



**SAVE THE DATE for THE most fabulous shopping experience of the spring season which will take place in Dorset on April 28, 2018 when the Dorset Church holds its Spring Rummage Sale from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Outside sales begin at 8:30 a.m. There will be no EARLY-BIRD SHOPPING!! The bag sale will take place from 12:00 Noon-1:00 PM.**



**The beautiful steeple on the landmark Williston Federated Church must be replaced after 100 years overlooking our community. We are asking the community to help. All are invited to a concert Saturday, May 5 at 7:30pm at the Williston Federated Church, 44 N. Williston Rd. to benefit the steeple replacement. The concert will feature a wide range of sacred and secular music by the Williston Federated Church Choir, The Social Band - classical and folk traditions and special guest Williston native Helen Lyons performing opera and Broadway songs. A goodwill offering will be collected. Contributions may also be made at: [www.steeple.org](http://www.steeple.org)**

**The 26th Annual New England Summer Institute, 2018  
United Church of Christ History, Theology, and Polity  
Camp Calumet, Freedom, NH**

**Sponsored by the six New England Conferences  
of the United Church of Christ  
Week 1: May 29-June 1, 9:00-3:00  
Week 2: June 4-8, 9:00-3:00**

**There is NO SUBSTITUTE for learning about the UCC in direct, face-to-face  
conversation with others-and in beautiful, spirit-filled surroundings!**

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



**ONLINE  
UCC History, Theology and Polity Course  
June/July 2018**

**A UCC History, Theology and Polity Course that meets the requirements as set forth  
by the UCC Polity Teacher's Network will be offered online in June/July 2018. The  
instructor will be Rev. David Gaewski, Conference Minister of the New York  
Conference, UCC. Classes will begin at 9:30am and end at 3:30pm on the following  
dates: June 16, 23, 30 and July 7. The platform utilized will be Zoom Video  
Conferencing (zoom.us) The tuition will be \$475. For more information contact course  
administrator, Ms. Diana Pelletier, at [dkluscombe@msn.com](mailto:dkluscombe@msn.com).**

**This polity course is sponsored by the Oneida Association of the New York  
Conference. Payments should be sent no later than May 23rd to: Diana Pelletier, 114  
Munro Dr., Camillus, NY 13031. Make checks payable to Oneida Association UCC.**

**A syllabus is available upon request. Laity, Members in Discernment and Privilege of  
Call candidates are all invited! Class size is limited to the first fifteen to register. The  
course will be cancelled if we do not obtain seven registered students. A student is  
considered registered when full payment has been received. Students who cancel  
enrollment will receive reimbursements up until June 13th. Please note the last three  
online classes reached maximum capacity.**

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



**Worship  
Well**

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



# VERMONT OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

## HC Goes to VT!

We have 4 campers already registered for the week of July 29-August 3. We are hoping to get 24! Follow Horton Center on Facebook to see some great photos and videos of a week of summer camp!

### WHAT CAN CHURCHES DO TO PROMOTE CAMP?

- Promote camp in your bulletins and newsletters
- Hand out the brochures
- Have campers that have been to camp share stories in worship.
- Have a camp Sunday- Children's time, Smores for coffee hour, or camp songs in worship.
- Someone from Outdoor Ministries can come to your church to talk about camp with the children or share a sermon about Outdoor Ministries
- Let campers know there is scholarship money available
- Support the scholarship fund with a special gift of offering to Outdoor Ministries
- Check out the website at [www.hortoncenter.org](http://www.hortoncenter.org)
- Look for our table at the Vermont Conference Annual Meeting in April

### Camp Openings

#### RN Nurse

July 28at 2pm to August 3 at 6pm  
Position is paid through the  
VT UCC Conference and applicants need to:  
VT certified  
Play an active role in the program  
Complete all staff/volunteer paperwork  
Attend a camp week training in the Spring

#### VOLUNTEER COUNSELORS

July 28at 2pm to August 3 at 6pm  
2 Male and 2 Female Counselors  
Must be 18yrs or older  
Experience working with kids/youth this age  
Complete all volunteer paperwork  
Attend a counselor training in the Spring

#### CERTIFIED WATERFRONT LIFEGUARD

July 28 at 2pm to August 3 at 6pm

Position is paid through the VT UCC Conference  
and applicants need to:  
18yrs or older and have experience  
working with youth this age  
Be VT certified  
Play an active role in the program  
Complete all staff/volunteer paperwork  
Attend a camp week training in the Spring

For questions or to apply: CLaurie Chipman lchipman@fccej.org  
or Nancy Folwer fowler@gmail.com

**[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.**

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

**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 lchipman@fccej.org)  
or  
[Nancy Fowler fowler5vt@myfairpoint.net](mailto:Nancy Fowler fowler5vt@myfairpoint.net)**



# OUTDOOR MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION

United Church of Christ

## DINNERS AND SOCIAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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



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

**Pot Luck and Hymn Sing - third Tuesday of every month, 6:pm, at the Roxbury Union Congregational Church.**

**Essex Eats Out Community Dinners Continue... 1st Friday of Every Month**

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

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

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Spring is finally here! Celebrate by enjoying Breakfast on Saturday, April 21 from 8 to 10 AM at the Shoreham Congregational Church, 28 School Road, Shoreham, VT. Feast on Blueberry Pancakes or French Toast with Vermont Maple Syrup, Sausages, Home Fries, Egg Casseroles, beverages and more, thanks to our support from Maple Meadows Farm, Monument Farm, Halfway House Restaurant, Vermont Trade Winds Farm, and Champlain Orchards. Bring your family and friends - the cost is only \$8 for adults, \$4 for children up to 12 years old, and \$20 for families. Your donation of non-perishable items for the Food Shelf is always appreciated.

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**Baked Potato Bar Dinner**  
**Eat In or Take Out**  
**Saturday, April 28, 2018**  
**4:30-6:30 p.m.**  
**Pittsford Congregational Church**  
**Rt. 7**  
**Pittsford, Vermont**  
**\$8.00 per potato**  
**Includes potato toppings, dessert and beverage**  
**Proceeds Benefit the**  
**Community Out Reach Program**  
**Pittsford Congregational Church**

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
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**MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST** Active community church of 400+ members seeks a vibrant music director/organist. Responsible for adult choir, youth choir, and all liturgical services. Time commitment averages 20 hours per week. Range of compensation \$30,000 - \$35,000 dependent on experience. Submit cover letter, resume with 3 references, and any other material you feel would support your candidacy to: Music Director Search Committee, United Church of Dorset and East Rupert, P.O. Box 263, Dorset, VT 05251 [dorsetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetchurch@gmail.com)

**BOOKKEEPER AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** The Dorset Church is currently seeking a Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant skilled in digital and internet communications for a 3 days a week part time job. The applicant should be a friendly team worker and good multi-task worker ready to fulfill the mission of a vibrant growing church. To apply, please submit by email a cover letter and resume stating your qualifications and your interest in the position to [dorsetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetchurch@gmail.com)

**Jane A. LoBrutto, Licensed Minister - Administrator**  
**United Church of Dorset and East Rupert**  
**PO Box 263**  
**Dorset, VT 05251**  
**802-867-2260**  
[Jane@dorsetchurch.org](mailto:Jane@dorsetchurch.org)

**The First Congregational Church UCC of Burlington,  
Vermont**

**Invites candidates for two part-time positions:**

**Children's & Family Ministries Coordinator:** Dynamic innovator needed to grow programming for children (pre-K to gr.5) and families at Open & Affirming, mission-centric church. Be passionate about leading children into faithful, loving and hopeful lives. Start at 15hr/wk, \$20/hr. Work closely with staff and volunteers.

To apply, send resume and cover letter to: [info@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:info@firstchurchburlington.org)  
Details: <http://firstchurchburlington.org/?s=hiring>

**Youth and Young Adult Ministries Coordinator:** Thoughtful relationship builder needed to grow youth ministry for, with and by youth. Be proactive guiding middle and high school students to develop identity and apply their passion for social justice in the world. Start at 15hr/wk, \$20/hr. Work closely with staff and volunteers.

To apply, send resume and cover letter to: [info@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:info@firstchurchburlington.org)  
Details: <http://firstchurchburlington.org/?s=hiring>

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Youth Ministry Leader wanted

College Street Congregational Church in Burlington is seeking a leader for our Christ-centered peer group of 6-12 graders who can guide youth in Christian discipleship through theology, service, fellowship, and fun. Our church is growing - especially our youth program - and we seek someone who can continue to support our youth as we grow. This is a part-time (20 hour) position.

For more details, go
to

<http://www.collegestreetchurch.org/youthministryleader/>

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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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Vermont Conference, UCC, 36 N Main St, Randolph, VT 05060

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