

Welcome to E-Kit! Charri

Vermont Conference



May 16, 2018

Dear Friends,

Amos 5:24

English Standard Version (ESV)

*24 But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*

On Monday, May 21, 2018, Two VT UCC pastors, the Rev. Elisa Lucozzi and the Rev. Judy Waible, were arrested at the Vermont State House while gathering in the State House to participate in the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. The Poor People's Campaign is based on the work begun by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fifty years ago to change the moral narrative of our nation. Vermont's campaign is one of 37 state's PPC's organizations taking part on Moral Mondays throughout our nation for 6 weeks in May and June. (Actually 5 Monday's and 1 Tuesday (Memorial Day is omitted). The primary narratives we would like to change regard Poverty, Racism, a Military Economy, and Ecological Devastation. Participants gather at 10:00 a.m. to meet one another and discuss the agenda for the day. We address issues of purpose, safety, responsibilities and sharing the load. At around noon, we often dine at the UU's weekly church luncheon where we meet locals, some of whom are folks directly confronting these issues in their lives. At 1:00 we regather to finalize responsibilities and clarify any questions. At 2:00 p.m. we host a rally on the State House steps where speakers relay why or how these justice issues concern them. We learn chants and sing songs to address our thoughts and feelings about the need for change. At 3:00 p.m. we begin an action to focus our concerns for the day. Last week we blocked State Street for a period of time. This week we entered and refused to leave the State House. Fourteen individuals were arrested. Other UCC clergy present at the event were the Rev. Dr. Ed Sunday-Winters, the Rev. Dr. Arnold Thomas, the Rev. Rona Kinsley, and the Rev. Elissa Johnk. While I cannot be certain about the denomination of each lay person, I am grateful for the support of Judy Dunnan and Roger Waible of the Greensboro UCC who performed peacekeeping, chanting, and keepers of belongings responsibilities {for those providing the moral witness} this week and for Roseanne Hebert who is working as our street medic using her RN skills directly with and for the people.

Please join us in this effort to revive the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through the work of The Rev. Dr. William Barber and his and our associates who believe that more than passing a particular bill we need to transform the narrative of a country obsessed with wealth and belongings to a country whose narrative is focused on freeing and sharing and transforming lives for the betterment of the individual, the nation and the world.

<https://www.poorpeoplescampaignvt.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VTPPC/>



VT CONFERENCE NEWS

Three Celebrations at the United Community Church of Morrisville this past week!

Our Stained-Glass Windows are now fully restored, after a 4-year project, thanks to the donations of many in our congregation and a historic preservation grant from Vermont. These windows were made and inserted in our sanctuary during the latter half of the 19th century, to the glory of God and with thanks to the progenitors of Christianity in Morrisville.

(The first congregational church began in 1803 in Jacob Walker's barn).

We celebrated the third anniversary of "Breakfast on us", a 5 day a week program offering free breakfast for anyone from kids on their way to school, to senior citizens who enjoy getting together with others, to people having trouble making ends meet, to homeless individuals or families, to people in the mental health system. Everyone has a different reason for coming. From 5/18/15 thru 5/11/18 we served 16,525 breakfasts! 2409 of them have been since 1/1/18.

We also dedicated our new sign, in celebration of the birth of our new church and our mission to serve and support children and families in our greater community and county. We came together after 4 years of discussion, trial, and transition--a United Methodist congregation joined with a United Church of Christ Congregation--and we are now one as of February 4, 2018.

Please celebrate with us!

The Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola, Pastor



SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM GRANTS -

The Department of Mission is hoping UCC congregations are all currently preparing to help feed hungry children this summer by participating in a local summer lunch program or continuing or initiating your own. Schools are doing their best to help feed children during the school year with not only lunches but breakfast, after school snacks and some are even providing an evening meal. Just imagine the financial impact on a low income family when summer arrives. Children will be hungry. In 2010 approximately 28,000 children in Vermont received free and reduced price meals at school...only 6000 participated in summer lunch programs when school was no longer in session. We don't think these numbers have significantly changed. Please make it a goal to find the other 22,000 children and feed them.

The Vermont Conference strongly supports our churches' involvement in Summer Lunch programs. In 2017, 13 churches received grants for their summer lunch programs through the Vermont Conference Department of Mission Summer Lunch Grant Program.

Your questions about existing summer lunch programs can be directed first to Hunger Free Vermont at www.hungerfreevt.org. The staff members there are working with community and/or church members in most towns in Vermont to establish or maintain/augment summer lunch programs. Vermont 211 also has information on most summer lunch programs in the state.

Secondly, contact the Vermont Conference, Department of Mission, Summer Lunch Grant Coordinator Mary Lou DeCosta (colchsummerlunch@aol.com). She will give you advice and recommendations gleaned from 35 Vermont UCC congregations who participate in Summer Lunch Programs. Mary Lou will sing the praises of the Vermont Food Bank which provides food for a fraction of the store cost.

If your congregation feels called to help and would like additional funding, then click here for the "2018 summer lunch grant application form". Forms must be received by May 28th.

[Find the Application Form here.....](#)

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Just a note from the Conference Office. Any/every check you send from your church to the Conference needs to be accompanied by a Remittance Form. It should clearly state your church name (First Congregational (Town)) and what the funds are to be posted to. Example: If you are paying for three Delegates from your church to Annual Meeting, please state their names. Any description is very helpful.

Thank you!

**<http://www.vtcucc.org/mt-content/uploads/2017/12/remittance-form-for-sending-money-to-the-conference.pdf>**

## UCC NEWS

### **UCC NEWSFEED**

**During Ramadan, love of neighbor evident in small Michigan community**  
A United Church of Christ congregation in Grand Ledge, Mich., with a small public declaration of love for their neighbors, has made a large statement about the type of faith community it is.

**New hires add further depth to UCC national setting program staff**  
The United Church of Christ national setting is growing, with the addition of several program staff hired to better serve the needs of local churches around the country.

**Commentary: Strategies for women's inclusion in church finance decision-making**  
With more ordained clergywomen than men in the United Church of Christ, it makes sense to examine how women can strengthen their financial acumen in order to serve.

**Living out 3 Great Loves, Ohio church youth group rocks!**

**Kindness Rocks! And so do the young people at First United Church of Christ, Sugarcreek, Ohio. They recently left rocks with inspirational messages all around town to share God's love with their neighbors.**

**Commentary: The Ongoing Nakba  
May 15 is known to Palestinians as Nakba ("catastrophe") Day; it comes the day after Israelis celebrate their Independence Day.**

**UCC advocates celebrate Senate vote to protect net neutrality, continue push in House**

**The UCC and other proponents of net neutrality are now lobbying members of the U.S. House of Representatives to preserve a free and open internet, after the Senate moved to save it with a historic 52-47 vote.**

## **Weekly Seeds**

**Focus Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8**

**Huston Smith, 20th century**

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

**Richard Bausch, Peace, 21st century**

**"He turned in a small circle and looked at the grass, the rocks, the river, the raining sky with its tatters and torn places, the shining bark of the wet trees all around. He could not think of any prayers now. But every movement felt like a kind of adoration."**

**Annie Dillard, 21st century**

**"I think it would be well, and proper, and obedient, and pure, to grasp your one necessity and not let it go, to dangle from it limp wherever it takes you."**

**Parker J. Palmer, Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation, 21st century**

**"Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am."**

**Thomas Merton, No Man Is an Island, 20th century**

**"For each one of us, there is only one thing necessary: to fulfill our own destiny, according to God's will, to be what God wants us to be."**

**Albert Einstein, 20th century**

**"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead: his eyes are closed."**

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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



BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VERMONT CONFERENCE

Here...



HAPPENINGS

Dear Central VT Pastors and Lay Leaders,

On June 7th, there will be a showing of the film *Happening: a Clean Energy Revolution* at 7 pm at Jaquith Public Library (122 School St.) in Marshfield. The showing will be followed by a discussion. A flyer to publicize the event is attached. Please help us spread the word by including it in your newsletter and/or bulletin and posting the flyer.

The film showing is sponsored by Salmon Falls Sangha, Marshfield Energy Committee, Jaquith Public Library, and VT Interfaith Power & Light.

Dear Central VT Pastors and Lay Leaders,

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



Sunday, July 22, 2018, 1:00pm

PRAY 4 FREEDOM

The 4 FREEDOMS FESTIVAL closes the weekend's events with an Interfaith ceremony at Norman Rockwell's home and studio in West Arlington at 1:00pm. The event brings together spiritual and religious leaders, with a non-denominational focus on Freedom of Worship. FESTIVAL organizers join regional inter-faith leaders in their commitment to Grateful Hearts, community food cupboards and local food banks, by encouraging all participants to donate food, upholding Freedom from Want.

**Friday, July 20, 2018, 4:00pm
RING 4 FREEDOM**

On July 20, 2018, the 4 FREEDOMS FESTIVAL presents RING 4 FREEDOM. RING 4 FREEDOM is a unified bell-ringing at across towns large and small in the state of Vermont, to signify and honor the Four Freedoms; the first ever event of this kind will take place at 4:00pm Eastern, for 4 minutes.

Here is the festival website with more details: <https://www.themillvt.com/4freedomfestival/>

**Jami Poe
4 FREEDOMS FESTIVAL
(802) 768-1303**

The Vermont Homeland Security Unit (VTHSU) within the Vermont Department of Public Safety (VT DPS)

is seeking applications for the project described in the RFP attached. This funding, provided through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), will offer funding to eligible nonprofit organizations in the State of Vermont to support physical security enhancements and target hardening activities.

The NSGP provides funding support for physical security enhancements and target hardening to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack. The program seeks to integrate the preparedness activities of nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack with broader state and local preparedness efforts. The NSGP also promotes emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration activities between public and private community representatives, as well as state and local government agencies.

All applications must be RECEIVED at the Department of Public Safety office by Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. EST. Proposals received after this date and time will NOT be eligible for consideration. Submit complete application to:

Financial Administrator:
Richard Deschamps (richard.deschamps@vermont.gov)

**[Initial Announcement here...](#)
[Application here...](#)**

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# WEBINARS

## UCC Open and Affirming

The ONA Coalition's webinar series is designed both for Open and Affirming congregations, and for churches taking their first steps towards an ONA covenant. We're providing four webinars in spring 2018, and will add three new webinars in the fall. Dates and a link to the registration page for each webinar are provided below. All webinars are on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Eastern, 6 p.m. Central, 5 p.m. Mountain, 4 p.m. Pacific and 1 p.m. Hawaiian, and run for about 90 minutes. The webinar includes time for questions and conversation. We offer discounts when more than three participants participate at one computer, so consider gathering a group and projecting the webinar on a screen. Contact Andy Lang at [ed@openandaffirming.org](mailto:ed@openandaffirming.org) for more information!

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



## THE STEWARD

Trustworthy insights into current insurance concerns for churches



### FREE WEBINAR

#### *Best Practices for Allowing Offenders in Your Church*

At the heart of every church beats the willingness to forgive and accept. Perhaps the greatest obstacle for a church to overcome is when a convicted sex offender wants to be a member of the church.

This is not a decision to take lightly and churches may find it is a divisive decision; struggling with the role of the church and the safety of its congregants. Insurance Board recognizes that many of churches face this decision on a regular basis. We believe it is good for a church to be pro-active and have these conversations before that person approaches your doors.

We have invited Heather E. Kimmel, General Counsel of the United Church of Christ, to address issues related to sex offenders in congregations, including safe conduct policies, limited access agreements, and disclosure to congregations.

### **Unique Risks Preventing Sexual Abuse in the School Environment (Praesidium)**

**Wednesday, August 8, 2018  
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM (Eastern Time)**

### **Trending Risk Management Concerns for Churches (The Insurance Board)**

**Wednesday, September 12, 2018  
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM (Eastern Time)**

**<http://anymeeting.com/insuranceboard>**

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**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.....](#)

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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....](#)



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

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VERMONT OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

[SEE THE LATEST CAMP NEWSLETTER HERE.....](#)

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

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

[Preview 2018 Camp Brochure here!](#)

[Read more here...](#)

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Nancy Fowler at
fowler5vt@gmail.com
Nancy Fowler or Laurie Chipman
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 Ichipman@fccej.org](mailto:Laurie.ChipmanIchipman@fccej.org)

or

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

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

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The community is invited to attend the Dorset Memorial Day Service and Parade on Monday, May 28th. The service will begin at 1:00 PM at the United Church of Dorset and East Rupert, 143 Church St. (off Route 30). At the end of the service the parade will march to the Maple Hill Cemetery and then return to the Dorset Green for the lowering of the flag. A Pot-Luck Community picnic will be held on the Dorset Church lawn after the event. Please bring a salad or dessert to share and we'll provide the hotdogs! Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration! Questions call the Dorset Church at 867-2260.

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**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**  
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The Congregational Church of South Hero, VT, UCC is looking for a part-time (or full time) organist. This person would be responsible for playing for Sunday services at least every other week (sharing with another organist), as well as additional services such as Christmas Eve, Ash

Wednesday, etc. The organist would also accompany the choir at rehearsals. The sanctuary contains an Allen Protegé L321i/e organ with 3 manuals, 38 stops, and 266 voices and a piano.

This position is available after June 1, 2018.

If interested please contact the church office at 802-372-4962 or ccshvt@gmail.com

for a full job description.

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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)

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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
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
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.

robinsonc@vtcucc.org



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

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