

“And Who Is My Neighbor?”

228th Annual Meeting of the Vermont Conference



April 28-29, 2023
Grace Church, Rutland

Music

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child —Public Domain (arr. Jacqueline Hairston.)

In Christ there is No East or West- Contributors: McKEE, John Oxenham CM; based on Galatians 3:28; John Oxenham, 1852-1941. Music: Spiritual; adapted by Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

Ride On Jesus. arr. Jacqueline Hairston. © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.

Say Say Yes by Melanie DeMore

Shenandoah - Irish traditional (Public Domain)

The Lord's Prayer by Alfred Malotte © 1925 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services)

Wayfarin' Stranger (c) 1999 Somerset Press, a div. of Hope Publishing Company Text: (c) 1999 Somerset Press, a div. of Hope Publishing Company

Lift Every Voice and Sing (Public Domain) Contributors: James Johnson, J. Rosamund Johnson, Stephen DeCesare

Sonata in B minor -JS Bach (Public Domain)

Break Thou the Bread of Life Michael Mazzatenta © 2017 SoundForth, a division of The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services)

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright Cathy Moglebust Arr. ©2010, 2021 Celebrating Grace Music, a division of Celebrating Grace, Inc. All rights reserved. Text: PD

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Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ 228th Annual Meeting Agenda

Friday, April 28rd, 2023

9:45 a.m.-12:00

First Plenary

Morning Prayer Service

Worship Committee

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak

Plenary business

Rev. Peter Plagge

- Call to order
- Confirm quorum
- Adopt definitions and procedures.
- Adopt “Covenant for Dialogue”
- Approve Minutes from VTCUCC Annual Meeting 2022
- Nomination of Parliamentarian
- Nomination of Scribes
- Ordination Anniversaries and Church Celebrations
- Financials
 - OCWM, Hope Fund and 5 for 5 Churches
 - Treasurer’s report
 - Financial Resolutions—Report
 - Ministerial Compensation—Report

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak

Rev. Peter Plagge

Rev. Peter Plagge

Rev. Peter Plagge

Rev. Peter Plagge

Rev. Peter Plagge

Vermont Conference Office

Vermont Conference Office

Laura Nassau

Laura Nassau

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch—meal tickets required

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m Keynote—Bill McKibben
Presentation of Gifts

2:45 p.m.-4 p.m. Peacemakers Gathering

4 p.m.- 5:15 – Workshops Group A

Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ 226th Annual Meeting Agenda

Friday, April 28th, 2023

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Dinner---meal tickets required

6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Second Plenary

Recognition, Transitioning, and Welcome of New Clergy
Speak outs
Global Ministries
Recognition of Members in Memoriam
Speakouts
Closing Prayer

Created by Rev. Jackie Lingelbach
Rev. Amanda Swoyer
Xiomara Cintron-Garcia and Alex Maldonado-Lizardi
Created by Rev. Jackie Lingelbach
Rev. Amanda Swoyer

Saturday, April 29th, 2023

10:15– 10:30 Morning Worship

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Workshops Group B

11:30 a.m. –12:25 Free Time

12:25 p.m.

Grace/blessing of the meal

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Third Plenary

Worship
Disaster Ministries presentation
State of the Conference
Speak outs
Nominating Report
Elections and Commissioning
Presentation of Gavel to New Moderator

Rev. Greg Briggs
Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak and Rev. Paul Sangree
Rev. Amanda Swoyer
Mr. Dick Dale

Thank you
Closing Worship with Communion

Friday, April 28th, 2023

Morning Program

9:45 a.m.-12:00

First Plenary

Call to Worship: Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Paul Sangree

ONE: Sisters and brothers, delegates and friends in faith. We gather as the body of Christ today in this place to discern the movement of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: As the body of Christ, we are mindful that we incarnate Jesus in our work and ministry.

ONE: We bring our sorrows and laments for the past.

PEOPLE: We share our dreams and visions for the future!

ALL: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)

Hymn NCH #394, In Christ There Is No East or West (verses 1-2 [pg. 10](#))

Scripture Reading (adapted from Luke 10:25-29)

Narrator: A legal expert stood up to test Jesus.

Expert: "Teacher, what must I do to gain eternal life?"

Jesus: What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?

Expert: "*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.*"

Jesus: You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.

Narrator: But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus,

All: And who is my neighbor? (to be continued...)

Hymn NCH #394, In Christ There Is No East or West (verses 3-4 [pg. 10](#))

Prayer: Rev. Elizabeth Gleich

Friday, April 28th, 2023

Morning Program

10:00 am– 12:00 pm

Plenary Business

- * Call to Order Rev. Peter Plagge
- * Confirm Quorum Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak
- * Adopt Definitions and Procedures (Document B) Rev. Peter Plagge

Adopt "Covenant for Dialog" (Document C)

We covenant with one another to sustain a congregational culture in which we will communicate with integrity and mutual respect, and in which our creative energy—both individual and collective—will be free to flourish.

We will repeat in our own words what the other has said to confirm that we have understood them, and ask them to do the same if we feel we have not been understood.

We will communicate directly with each other, using the first person, using "I."

We will try to make our meaning clear and say what we mean and mean what we say.

We will identify merit in another person's idea or suggestion before we identify its deficiencies.

We will be willing to inquire into another person's reasons and reasoning and will welcome inquiry into our own reasons and reasoning.

We will listen to understand, but don't necessarily have to agree.

We will not say outside the meeting what we are unwilling to say inside the meeting.

- * Adoption of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes Rev. Peter Plagge
- * Nomination of Parliamentarian
- * Nomination of Scribes Pastor Karen Braeutigam
- * Ordination Anniversaries and Church Celebrations The Vermont Conference

Friday, April 28th, 2023

Morning Program

Financials

- OCWM, Hope Fund and 5 for 5 Churches The Vermont Conference
- Treasurer's report Laura Nassau
- Financial Resolutions (pgs. 11 and 12) Laura Nassau
- Ministerial Compensation Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak and Rev. Elliot Munn

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Lunch

meal tickets required

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Keynote
Presentation of Gifts

Bill McKibben

2:45 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Peacemakers Gathering
(pgs. 14 and 15)

4:00 pm.—5:15 p.m.

Workshops

Group A

In the Sanctuary

Christian Theology & Meaning in a Transhuman Age: Let's begin the Conversation

Rev. Robin Junker-Boyce

Futurists at elite universities consider this the most exciting time in history. Their eschatological hope is to increase safety, decrease crime and end suffering as we know it. In the transhumanistic age, having merged humans with machines, we will no longer be subject to the capricious biological onslaughts due to aging, mental illness, disease, and just plain difficulty. Workplaces will be more efficient, you will be your best self, and the promises of happiness will be endless. As nanotechnology rapidly obtains more and more brain function data, AI will soon decode complex human thoughts. Duke University futurist and legal ethicist Nita Farahany believes these discoveries are extraordinarily exciting. At the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2016, she stated, "The promises of being able to access your own brain, change your own brain, and even potentially access the brains of others is extraordinarily exciting. What we can do as we start to harness what has traditionally been in the black box of our brains is incredibly terrific. But it's also a little bit terrifying."

Join me for an introductory discussion about the implications of advanced nanotechnology on cognitive liberty, bodily sovereignty, human privacy, and the theological implications of a rapidly advancing transhuman society. We will overview Nita Farahany's work as presented at Davos 2023 (moderated by Nicholas Thompson, CEO of The Atlantic). We will define and discuss terms like - singularity, brain transparency, cognitive liberty, AI safety, neuroethics as it relates to the right to privacy of thought, and more.

Friday, April 28th, 2023

Workshops (Group A)

In the Parlor

Hoping for Free Money?

Hope Fund Discernment Team

Join the Hope Fund Discernment Team to talk about how to do a successful Hope Fund application!!!

In the Youth Center

Global Ministries

Xiomara Cintron-Garcia and Alex Maldonado-Lizardi

Be a Storm. On political formation in Christian-evangelical churches: an exercise of popular and communitarian Bible reading in the Colombian context. Through an exercise of popular and communitarian Bible reading we will be sharing experiences of political formation of Christian-evangelical communities in Colombia that have been affected by the armed conflict. This political formation process considers the impact that the conflict is having on the different territories and biodiversity where evangelical-Pentecostal communities are a part of.

In the Chapel

Micro Churches

Rev. Pam Lucas

In the Choir Room

Connecting the dots between The Environment, Covid and Community

Prof. Fred Taylor

These last three years have challenged our sense of community in many ways, and they have also offered tremendous opportunities to "connect the dots" and explore on a deeper level the questions Bill McKibben is posing for us. In this discussion-oriented workshop, we'll be exploring a variety of connections between the environmental crises we face as a planet, with the challenges covid has presented for us. How have we faced these interrelated challenges in our personal lives and our faith communities?

In particular, we'll explore how Arundhati Roy's idea of "the pandemic as a portal" invites us to explore new connections between our health as persons, the health of our communities (church and otherwise) and the health of the planet. How might we view these crises as opportunities for moving through these "portals" into new ways of visioning our lives as faith communities, and as advocates for environmental and racial justice? How in our personal lives and the lives of our faith communities, have we already begun to explore these connections?

CHRISTIAN UNITY

394

In Christ There Is No East or West

1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14-22

John Oxenham, 1908; alt.
St. 3, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a bass line. The vocal line contains four verses of lyrics. The second system also has a vocal line and a bass line, with lyrics for the continuation of the song. The bass line provides a harmonic accompaniment throughout.

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and nei - ther slave nor free;
4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;

But one com - mu - ni - ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.
God's ser - vice is the gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
For men and wom - en live in God, and all are kin to me.
One joy - ous, true com - mu - ni - ty through - out the whole wide earth.

Singer and composer Harry T. Burleigh studied at the National Conservatory of Music from 1892 to 1896. He is recognized as the first African-American composer to employ spirituals in concert arrangements. This tune is named after the rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in New York City, where Burleigh served as baritone soloist for more than fifty years.

Tune: McKEE C.M.
African-American melody
Arr. Harry T. Burleigh, 1939
Alternate setting: ST. PETER

DOCUMENT F

Resolutions Recommended by the Board of Directors Pertaining to the 2024 Budget

- 1 1.) That the division of undesignated Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission
2 income for 2024 be 70% for the Vermont Conference and 30% for the United Church
3 of Christ beyond Vermont.
- 4 2.) That the Vermont Conference share with the national setting of the United Church of
5 Christ 70% of any Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission budget surplus at
6 the conclusion of the 2024 fiscal year.
- 7 3.) That the Conference continues to encourage each church to increase its Basic Support
8 for Our Church's Wider Mission by 1% per year of its operating budget expenses;
9 moving toward a full tithe (10%) and beyond if possible.
- 10 4.) That the 2024 Vermont Per Capita be set a \$14.94. (Note: The association portion of
11 Per Capita is in addition to the Conference amount.)
- 12 5.) That the churches be encouraged to pay Basic Support for Our Church's Wider
13 Mission and Per Capita at least quarterly.
- 14 6.) That the Board of Directors be authorized to take funds from the unrestricted reserves
15 for any emergency deficit in 2024.
- 16 7.) That the Board of Directors be authorized to adjust the 2024 operating budget as
17 unforeseen circumstances require, within the spending limits established in the
18 budget.
- 19 8.) That the Conference adopt a 2024 Operating Budget of not more than \$634,284 in
20 expense and not less than \$634,284 in income, with the goal of ending 2024 with a
21 balanced budget.

Vermont Conference United Church of Christ
2023 Annual Meeting Peacemakers Gathering
Friday, April 28, 2023 – 2:45-4:00 p.m.

*In Memory of John Nutting, Betty Edson
and all the saints who demonstrated courage in the struggle for justice and peace*

2:45 Welcome

Bev Anderson – Grace Congregational Church UCC, Rutland – brandx@vermontel.net

2:50 Act 250/Good fences make good neighbors

Dwayne Johnson, Guilford Community Church – dwayne.johnson0519@gmail.com

2:55 Bicycle Ministry

Chris Heintz, Bristol Federated Church –chrisheintz56@gmail.com

3:00 Grace Church's partnership with Companions in Wholeness

Sarah Pulcer, Grace Congregational UCC Rutland – sehenry2001@yahoo.com

3:05 Waitsfield UCC Racial and Social Justice Projects

Rev. Mark D. Wilson – revmarkdwilson@gmail.com, 802-522-8922

3:10 Witnessing the US Asylum Process: Standing with Pastor Steven Tendo

Rev. Jessica Moore, First Congregational Church of St. Albans
pastorjessica@firstcongregationalstalbans.org, 207-632-5544

3:15 Bridge to Rutland Asylum Support Update

Ellen Green, Grace Congregational UCC – bridgetorutland@gmail.com

3:20 Doing Justice Together: Vermont Interfaith Action

Rev. Elissa Johnk, First Congregational Church, Burlington, VIA Board member
ejohnk@firstchurchburlington.org

3:25 PFLAG (LGBTQ+ support and advocacy)

Rev. Dr. James Gray, Dorset Church – revjim@dorsetchurch.org, 802-867-2260

3:30 Racial Justice Project of Black Music Workshops

Fred Taylor, VTCUCC Racial Justice Task Force – rtaylor@antioch.edu, 802-254-2675
Sandy Soho, sohos@comcast.net; Sally May, revsallymbucc@gmail.com
Register for workshop at vermontconference@gmail.com

Vermont Conference United Church of Christ
2023 Annual Meeting Peacemakers Gathering
Friday, April 28, 2023 – 2:45-4:00 p.m.

*In Memory of John Nutting, Betty Edson
and all the saints who demonstrated courage in the struggle for justice and peace*

3:35 Connecting the Dots: Justice Witness Ministries Committee

Connecting the Dots: Justice Witness Ministries Committee

Rev. Debbie Ingram, Vermont Interfaith Action – debbie@viavt.org

Rev. Sally May, Malletts Bay Congregational Church –
revsallymbucc@gmail.com

3:40 Poor People's Campaign

Rev. Ed Sunday-Winters, Greensboro UCC – edsundaywinters@gmail.com

3:45 Green Church Activities at Weybridge Congregational Church

**3:50 VT goes to NYC! Second Congregational Church of Londonderry
and the 'Midnight Run' program... an invitation to other VT churches!**

Rev. Laurie Krooss – PO Box 77, Londonderry 05148, lkrooss@yahoo.com, 802
-824-6453

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our Creator, we're one family.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!

Friday, April 28th, 2023

Evening Program

6:30 pm.—8:00p.m.

Second Plenary

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child (pg. 17)

Performed by Gretchen Doiron, Julia Wyman and Diane Chartrand

Call to Worship: Rev. Tracy Weatherhogg

Come, people of God, let us gather in God's presence.

Make a way so that all can come together.

**Jesus said, "Let the children come ... do not stop them;
for it is to such as these that the realm of God belongs."**

Come, people of God, let us gather together.

Let us open ourselves to the gifts that each brings,

Recognizing and seeing God in each person.

As Jesus engaged with the woman at the well, the Syrophoenician woman, Mary who anointed his feet, and many others; may we too engage with each other and receive the gifts that each person brings.

Come, people of God, let us gather with all of creation.

Let us open ourselves to the sacred that surrounds us,

Taking our place in the mysterious, complex system that is God's world.

**Let us take our place as we together seek to do justice, love kindness,
and walk humbly with our God.**

Come, people of God, and let us worship God together!

I'm Gonna Tell God All o' My Troubles

Performed by Gretchen Doiron and Diane Chartrand

Friday, April 28th, 2023

Evening Program

Scripture (adapted from Luke 10:30-37)

Narrator: Jesus replied,

Jesus: A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days' worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, 'Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.' What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?"

All: The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.

Jesus: Go and do likewise.

Ride On Jesus

Performed by Gretchen Doiron, Julia Wyman and Diane Chartrand

Recognition, Transitioning, and Welcome of New Clergy Created by Rev. Jackie Lingelbach
Speak outs Rev. Amanda Swoyer
Global Ministries Xiomara Cintron-Garcia and Alex Maldonado-Lizardi
Recognition of Members in Memoriam Created by Rev. Jackie Lingelbach
Speak Outs Rev. Amanda Swoyer
Closing Prayer

88B Spiritual: Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child



1 Some - times I feel like a moth - er - less child.
 2 Some - times I feel like I'm al - most gone.



Some - times I feel like a moth - er - less child.
 Some - times I feel like I'm al - most gone.



Some - times I feel like a moth - er - less child, a
 Some - times I feel like I'm al - most gone, a



long ways from home, a long ways from home.
 long ways from home, a long ways from home.

Words: Afro-American spiritual
 Music (MOTHERLESS CHILD): Afro-American spiritual

Saturday, April 29th, 2023

Program

10:15a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Morning Worship

Barbershop Quartet: Wayfarin' Stranger; Shenandoah; Get Happy
Performed by Ben Green, Alex Niquette, Russell Green, and Alastair Stout

Call to Worship: James Mills

One: "I am the God of your ancestors. I have indeed seen the misery of my people."

Many: I have heard them crying out because of their oppressors

One: So, I have come down to rescue them.

Many: We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; Persecuted, but not forsaken; Cast down, but not destroyed.

One: Oh Lord Almighty.

Many: The history of marginalized peoples tells the story of a people whose faith in God, hope in the future, and love for one another sustained them through every generation.

One: As You gave them strength to fight, give us power to break the chains of mass incarceration, poverty, violence, and the sins that so easily beset.

Many: As we gather for worship, we remember the sacrifices and faith of these courageous men and women.

All: Guide our feet, focus our minds, and sustain our hearts as we strive to serve this present age in unity and brotherhood.

Barbershop Song: Say Say Yes (BLM Commissioning Project)

Saturday, April 29th, 2023

Program

10:15 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Morning Worship

Scripture

Psalm 13

1 How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

4 and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

5 But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation.

6 I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me.

Lift Every Voice and Sing NCH #593 (pg 24)

Prayer: Rev. Amy Davin

Barbershop Song: The Lord's Prayer

Saturday, April 29h, 2023

Program

10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Workshops Group B

In the Sanctuary

Intergenerational Ministry

with Rev. Andrew Ponder Williams

In the Youth Center

Unpacking Privilege

with Pastor Michelle Fountain

In the Parlor

Blue Collar Ministry

with Rev. Cass Poulos

In the Choir Room

Climate Change

with Rev. Andy Nagy-Benson

In the Chapel

Justice and Witness Ministries

with Rev. Debbie Ingram

Racism, Climate Change, LGBTQ+ Rights, Reproductive Rights, Gun Violence: poverty; hunger; homelessness; access to healthcare, safe housing, education; livable wages; clean air and water. All of these justice issues may have more in common than you think.

Do you or your congregation feel alone in your work to Do Justice; to respond to the needs of those who suffer. Do you know what your neighbor church in the VT Conference is doing to alleviate suffering? What issue(s) are they are focused on? It may be you have more in common than previously thought. Are you interested in finding ways to collaborate rather than duplicate, extend efforts rather than burnout.

This workshop is offered so as to explore the intersectionality of that which undermines the ability for healthy, productive bodies, minds, and souls. At the same time we will learn how individual churches within the Vermont Conference are addressing these issues, and the ways in which greater collaboration and intersectionality among the congregations might enhance efforts currently often replicated. Along with sharing what your church is doing, take part in a activity that offers a visual in how the problems we seek to alleviate and our churches are connected.

Saturday, April 29th, 2023

Program

12:30-1:30 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 pm.—2:30 p.m.

Third Plenary

**Sonata in B minor by J.S. Bach
Performed by Emma Hileman**

Prayer: Rev. Terry Hanley

Hymn: NCH #570 We Shall Overcome 1-4

(found on page 25)

Scripture: Rev. Amy Davin

- Disaster Ministries presentation Rev. Greg Briggs
 - Speak outs Rev. Amanda Swoyer

 - State of the Conference Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak and Rev. Paul Sangree

 - Nominating Report
 - Elections and Commissioning
 - Presentation of Gavel to New Moderator
 - Thank you
- Closing Worship with Communion

Down by the Sally Gardens arr. by Benjamin Britten

Saturday, April 29th, 2023

Program

Call to Worship: Pastor Michelle Fountain

One: It is a privilege to gather here together united in our devotion to the Still Speaking God.

Many: Let us lift up those who cannot be here, those who do not have that privilege.

One: Many of us come dressed in the privilege of a race that did not always acknowledge itself as one. A race that assumed itself as the norm and everyone else as “other”.

Many: Let us acknowledge the privileges we have but work to stop using them. Let us step back so the beautiful voices of Black, Indigenous and People of Color can be heard and understood.

One: Many of us come dressed in the privilege of a gender or sexual orientation that society has deemed more acceptable than others.

Many: Let us be guided by the God of All who loves and accepts each of us exactly as we are. Let us lift up the voices of all who are gay, lesbian, bi, transgender, queer and questioning.

One: It is a privilege to have the security of a safe, warm home and an abundance of food.

Many: Let us remember those who do not have this privilege and work to provide the dignity and safety of food and shelter for all. Let us listen to those who are economically disadvantaged.

One: It is a privilege to have clean water to drink and clean air to breathe.

Many: God of all Creation, Let us work to protect and restore this beautiful earth that you created with enough resources for all. Help us to hear and help those who live in places where resources are few.

All: Holy One, Holy Three, help us to recreate the balanced world that you intended where all voices are heard and all privileges are shared. Amen.

Saturday, April 29th, 2023

Program

Scripture

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak

Message

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak

Holy Communion

Hymn: NCH #330 Let Us Break Bread Together
Performed by Andrew Loose
(Found on page 26)

Communion Prayer

Sharing of the bread and cup

Communion: Handbells: Vasylyna's Tears by Dan Edwards
(in honor of the people of the Ukraine)

Eternal by Jason Krug

Forever Rejoice by Linda Scholes

Prayer of Thanksgiving

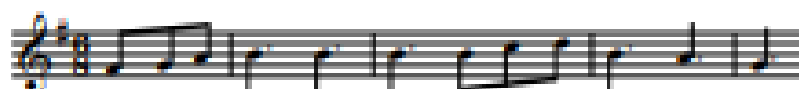
Hymn: NCH573 Lead On Eternal Sovereign
(Found on page 27)

Benediction

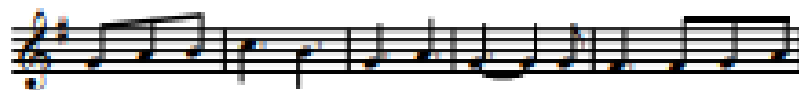
Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak

Postlude Alleluia, Christ is Risen by John Behnke

Lift Every Voice and Sing



1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing till earth and hea - ven ring,
2 Sto - ry the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tering rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of li - ber - ty; let our re -
flect in the days when hope un - born had died; yet with a
thou who has brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast



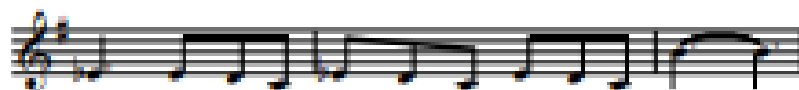
joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening skies, let it re -
sua - dy beat, have not our wea - ry feet come to the
by thy might, led us in - to the light, keep us for -



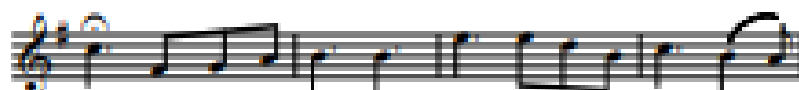
sound loud as the rol - ling sea. Sing a
place for which our peo - ple sighed? We have
e - ver in the path we pray. Lest our



song fall of the faith that the dark past has taught us, sing a
come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered, we have
feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we met thee, lest, our



song full of the hope that the pre - sent has brought
come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get



us; fa - cing the ri - sing sun of our new day be -
tered, out from the gloo - my past, till now we stand at
thee; sha - dowed be - neath thy hand, may we for - e - ver



gun, let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
but where the white - gleam of our bright star is cast
stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

We Shall Overcome

570

United States traditional

John 8:12-33; Rom. 12:17; 1 Cor. 15:57

1 We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver -
 2 We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in
 3 We are not a - fraid, we are not a -
 4 Our God will see us through, our God will see us

come, we shall o - ver - come some day,
 hand, we'll go hand in hand some day,
 fraid, we are not a - fraid to - day,
 through, our God will see us through some day;

(1-6) Oh, deep in my heart, I do be - lieve,
 our

we shall o - ver - come some day.
 we'll go hand in hand some day.
 we are not a - fraid to - day.
 our God will see us through some day.

- 5 The truth shall make us free . . . some day.
 6 We shall live in peace . . . some day.

This anthem of the 1960s civil rights movement was frequently sung at mass meetings and marches. Several sources have been cited as its origins, including the spiritual "We were a nation black for me" based on the tune known as Skellan Marjorie; an old Baptist hymn "It Is All Right"; and part of the text from C. A. Tinsley's gospel hymn "It Overcome Someday."

Tune: WE SHALL OVERCOME. In.
 United States traditional
 Warr. J. Jefferson Cleveland, 1961

HOLY COMMUNION

330

Let Us Break Bread Together

Act 2-4

African-American spiritual

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 * 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

* "Share the cup" may be substituted for "drink wine."

The earliest version of this spiritual probably began with the current stanza three, and was a song some of the enslaved in Virginia used when gathering for secret meetings. The commemorative stanzas were added some time after the Civil War.

Tune: LET US BREAK BREAD
1618, with refrain
Notes: David Hood, 1987

Music transcription Copyright © 1989 by GIA Publications, Inc.

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; alt.

1 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low in your way;
2 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low not with fear,
3 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,

loud rings your cry for jus - tice, your call for peace this day:
for in each hu - man con - flict your words of strength we hear:
and all your saints to - geth - er will sing a hymn of peace;

Through prayer - ful prep - a - ra - tion, your grace will make us strong,
That when we serve with glad - ness, you will not let us fall,
Then all in your do - min - ion will live with hearts set free,

to car - ry on the strug - gle to tri - umph o - ver wrong.
our trust is in your prom - ise that love will con - quer all.
to love and serve each oth - er for all e - ter - ni - ty.

At Andover Seminary, fellow students asked Ernest W. Shurtleff to write a hymn for their graduation. This is the result. Shurtleff became a Congregational minister and in his last years established churches in Europe and did relief work during World War I.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry T. Smart, 1836

And Who is My Keynote Speaker?

Bill McKibben

Author, Educator, Activist, founder of Third Act

Bill McKibben is a contributing writer to The New Yorker, and a founder of Third Act, which organizes people over the age of 60 to work on climate and racial justice. He founded the first global grassroots climate campaign, 350.org, and serves as the Schumann Distinguished Professor in Residence at Middlebury College in Vermont. In 2014 he was awarded the Right Livelihood Prize, sometimes called the 'alternative Nobel,' in the Swedish Parliament. He's also won the Gandhi Peace Award, and honorary degrees from 19 colleges and universities. He has written over a dozen books about the environment, including his first, *The End of Nature*, published in 1989, and his latest book is *The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon: A Graying American Looks Back at his Suburban Boyhood and Wonders What the Hell Happened*.



And Who is My Annual Meeting Planning Committee?



Chairperson
Rev. Amanda Swoyer



Rev. Dr. James Mills



Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak
Conference Minister,
Vermont Conference



Lou Rochford
Digital Shepard



Rev. Doug Carter
Danville Congregational



Pastor Karen Braeutigam
First Congregational Church
of Fair Haven



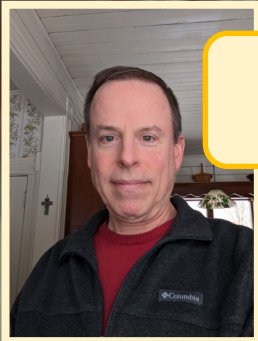
Rev. Andrew Ponder Williams
United Community Church,
St. Johnsbury



Rev. Peter Plagge
Waterbury Congregational Church

The members of the Vermont Conference staff are incredibly blessed to have had the opportunity to learn and collaborate with this phenomenal group of humans this year. There are not enough words to correctly express our gratitude. Thank you.

And Who is My Worship Committee?



Rev. Terry Hanley



Dr. Alastair Stout



Pastor Karen Braeutigam

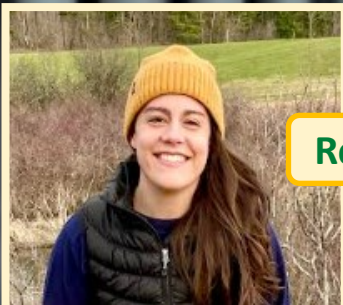


Rev. Amy Davin



Rev. Dr. James Mills

Pastor Michelle Fountain



Rev. Elizabeth Gleich

And Who is My Board of Directors?

Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak
Rev. Dr. Scott Couper
Eric Webster
Dr. Amy Mellencamp
Rev. Elliott Munn

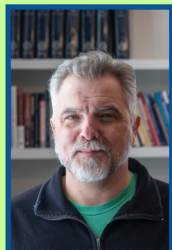
Moderator: Rev. Peter Plagge

Treasurer: Laura Nassau
Rev. James Merriam
Rev. Erin Reardon- Warren
Rev. Ed Sunday Winters
Rev. Paul Sangree

Not Pictured– Mr. Dick Dale and
Rev. Kathy Clark



And Who is My Workshop Host?



Rev. Andy Nagy- Benson

Senior Pastor of The
Congregational Church of
Middlebury, UCC



Rev. Pam Lucas

Retired Associate
Conference Minister

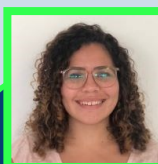
**Rev. Andrew Ponder
Williams**

Pastor, United Community
Church, St. Johnsbury Church



Alex Maldonado-Lizardi

Alex serves in Justapaz's area of "Memoria histórica, derechos humanos e incidencia política" (Historical memory, human rights and political advocacy) documenting cases of human rights violations in evangelical churches in the context of Colombia's historical armed conflict, in order to provide legal and psycho-social accompaniment for people stricken by the conflict. Also, we keep an Observatory to measure the conflict's reality in Colombia and its implications for the diverse faith traditions and practices.



Xiomara Cintron-Garcia

Xiomara serves with the Christian Centre for Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Action (Justapaz), a Mennonite organization in Bogota, Colombia. She serves in Justapaz's area of "Mujer y Paz" (Women and Peace) where we work with peacebuilding women from churches, communities, and socio-ecclesial organizations.

Global Ministries

Rev. Robin Junker-Boyce

First Congregational Church of
Thetford



Rev. Cass Poulos

Post Mills
Congregational Church



Michelle Fountain

Pastor,
United Church of Ludlow



Prof. Fred Taylor

Antioch University



And Who is My Workshop Host?

Justice and Witness Ministries!

Rev. Debbie Ingram

Executive Director,
Vermont Interfaith Action,
Chair of Justice Witness
Ministries Committee.



Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak

Conference Minister—
Vermont Conference



Sandy Soho

member of Old South
Church, Windsor



Rev. Kimberly McKerley

Pastor- Bethany Church,
Randolph



Sally Kerschner

Delegate from Charlotte Congrega-
tional Church



Prof. Fred Taylor

Antioch University



Hope Fund Discernment Team!

Rev. Paul Sangree

Associate Conference Minister,
Vermont Conference -He loves
walking, reading, and basketball!



Rev. Paul Eyer

Pastor, Williston Federated Church
in Williston, VT. He is married to
Rev. Jackie Lingelbach of the Ver-
mont Conference staff (They met
when they were both students at
Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA.)
He loves his walking buddy for an incredibly-cute
miniature Australian Shepherd dog named
"Hershey" .



Lava Mueller is the founder
and minister of Love Church, a
love-infused, all-inclusive, na-
ture-based, non-traditional
worshipping community in
Randolph Center, Vermont.



Lava enjoys witnessing seekers'
eyes and ears and hearts open to the ever-present
presence of love's constant embrace.

Rev. Dan Haugh

Stowe Community Church



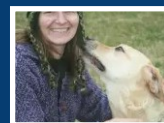
Rev. Mary Hoadley

Brownington Congregational
Church



Rev. Jessica Moore

First Congregational,
St. Albans



Rev. Caryne Eskridge

Weybridge Congregational
Church

Where am I?

Room 1– Sanctuary

This is where all of the Plenaries, Worship, Peacemakers Gathering, Christian Theology & Meaning in a Transhuman Age: Let's begin the Conversation (Workshop Session A) , and Intergenerational Ministry (Workshop Session B) will take place.

Room 2– Chapel

Micro Churches (Workshop Session A) and Justice and Witness Ministries (Workshop Session B)

Room 3– Parlor

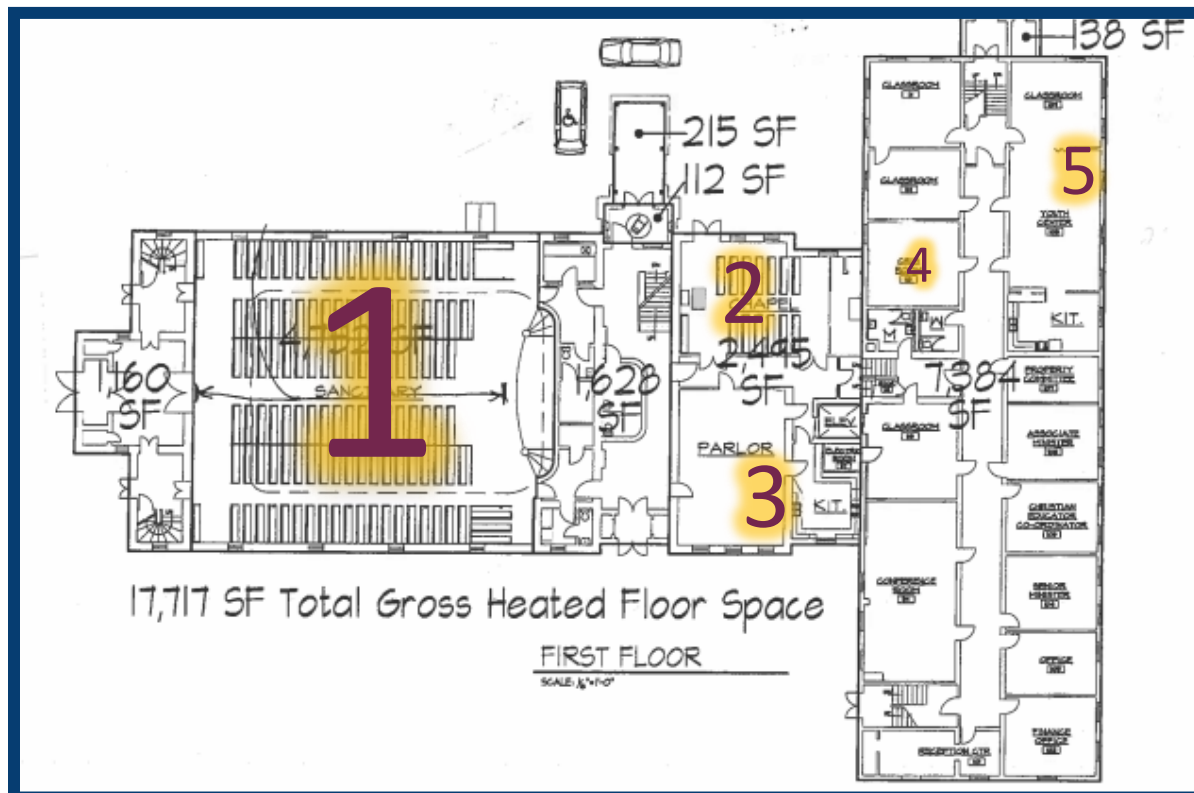
Lunches with Paul Sangree (by invitation ONLY), The Hope Fund (Workshop Session A) and Blue Collar Ministry (Workshop Session B)

Room 4– The Crib Room

Daycare

Room 5– The Youth Center

Global Ministries (Workshop Session A) and Unpacking Privilege (Workshop Session B)



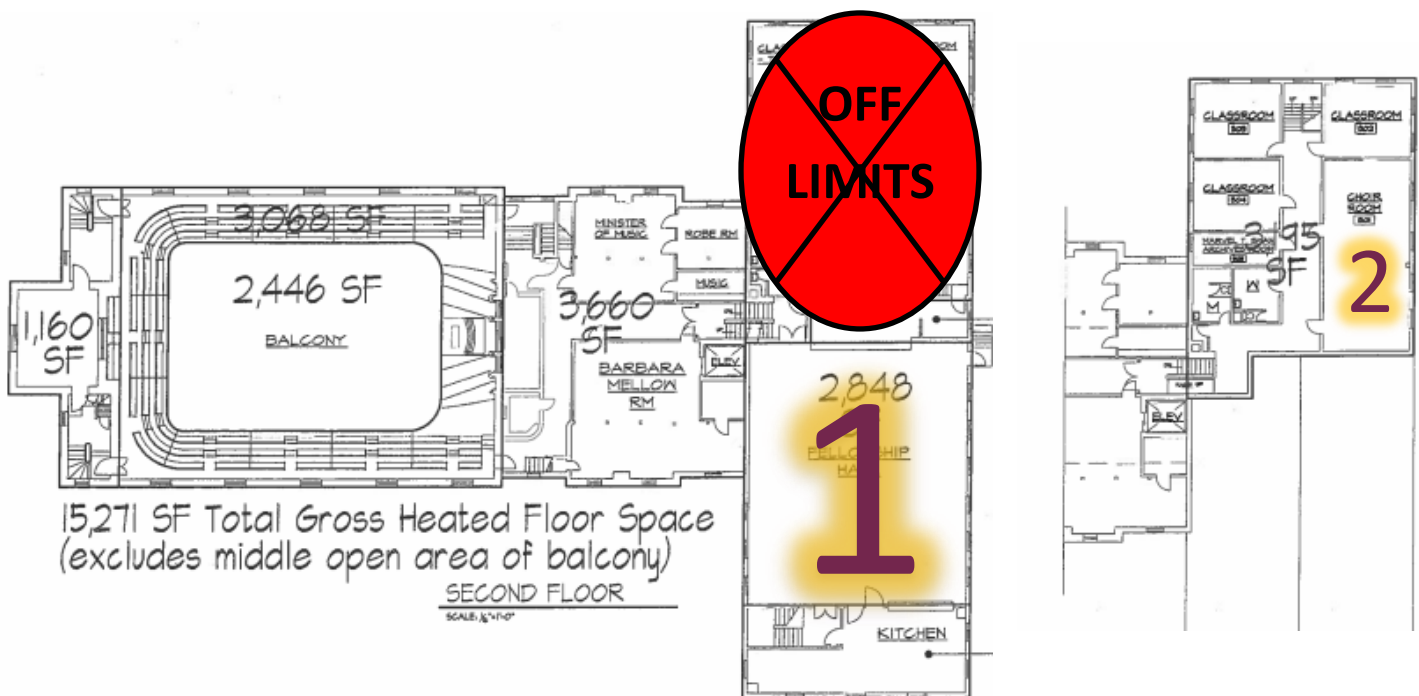
Where am I?

Room 1– Fellowship Hall

This is where registration, vendors, and light snacks will be found.

Room 2– Choir Room

Connecting the dots between The Environment, Covid and Community (Workshop Session A) and Climate Change (Workshop Session B)



Music

We Shall Overcome —Contributors: Traditional, Traditional, Stephen DeCesare
Tune: Public Domain Text: Public Domain

Let us Break Bread Together- (c) 1972 Hope Publishing Company Contributors: Unknown,
John Ness Beck

King through All Eternity - Contributors: Jason Krug Tune: © 2017 Lorenz Publishing Compa-
ny, a division of The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services)

Rejoice Forever - Contributors: Martin Barry Tune: © 2009, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: Based
on Philippians 4:4-9; © 2009, GIA Publications, Inc.

Lead on Eternal Sovereign- Contributors: Ernest Shurtleff Text: © 1995, Pilgrim Press, The
Easter Alleluias—Contributors: John Behnke



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