

EPISTLE

August, 2017



Bradford Congregational Church – UCC
An Open & Affirming Congregation!
Bradford, VT (802) 222-4034

Our website: <http://bradforducc.org>
email us at: bradfordvtucc@gmail.com
see us on Facebook: **Bradford Congregational Church**

Dear Church Family,

“You have transformed your way of going through the challenges and disagreements that change can stir up. You can face whatever comes now with confidence in your skills of healthy communication and beloved community.”

This was what Rev. Kinder wrote about us in his final Epistle message as he urged us to continue the good work living into the state of Beloved Community. It was difficult to even imagine how this would play out with Tom no longer gently reminding, softly compelling us forwards. Yet he knew we now had developed the skills to continue the vital work of ministry while waiting for the arrival of our next settled pastor.

One of the ways in which we are sharing out our ministry is by offering a neutral pulpit for other churches. One of the last things a Search Committee does is go see and hear their candidate in a neutral pulpit. Our church had the honor to host a



neutral pulpit twice in July. It was a very helpful experience for our own Search Committee to watch and listen without the pressure of needing to make a decision. It enabled us to come up with a clear and reasonable wish list of our own.

There are two important ways in which the Diaconate is working during this transitioning time.

- 1) Making sure the pulpit is filled every week this summer with ministers and speakers as has always been done when a settled pastor is on vacation
- 2) Actively searching for a Bridge Interim, a minister who can be the interim until we call our next minister.

The difference between these two is that those asked to fill the pulpit once or twice do not take on the responsibility of pastoral care. Right now that is done by all of us. It is probably THE most important thing on our plates right now: *tending to each other, looking out for each other* as we go about the day to day functioning of our church.

On the other hand, a Bridge Interim, like Rev. Kinder, will

- attend vital meetings (Council and Diaconate)
- consider Bible or book studies
- attend the VT Conference monthly Interim meetings
- provide emergency pastoral care for our congregation

- become well acquainted with our Guidelines, our Covenants, our sense of Beloved Community
- be someone the children will rely upon to provide wisdom and laughter for their faith journey
- be the one to whom we can turn if we face a crisis.

No small thing, this!!! We are moving quickly but with discernment to find the Bridge Interim who will lead us along these final steps toward our next settled pastor.

Meanwhile, we are making sure your pulpit is filled each Sunday with supply ministers who preach the Word to all ages, spread the Joy, and advance the Love. To see who and when, check out our website [Church News](#) page. And to read the sermons you missed check out the [Past Sermons](#) page.

In Christ and Beloved Community,
Your Board of Deacons (Diaconate)



Upcoming Pulpit Supply ministers:

Aug 6 – Rev. David Pruitt (communion ... gluten free option also served)

Aug. 13 – Cass Poulos

Aug. 20 – Rev. Michael Caldwell

Aug. 27 – Marcia Tomlinson

Sept. 3 – Rev. Michael Caldwell (communion ... gluten free option also served)

Sept. 10 – Rev. Jeffrey Long-Middleton

Help Kids India Indian Dinner

The Board of Missions and Social Action is hosting an authentic Indian dinner to help raise money for Help Kids India Crèche project. “Crèche” is a term used in India for a simple day nursery or preschool for young children. The Help Kids India Crèches are an intervention program provided for free to poverty stricken children. They provide safety, nutrition, hygiene, health care, and education to children in India. (You can find out much more about Help Kids India and their crèche program at www.helpkidsindia.org)

The dinner will be on August 19 at 6:00 pm in the vestry, with a suggested donation of \$20. The dinner is by reservation only. If interested, please contact Lora Chatfield at 222-4029 or lorachatfield@hotmail.com. By supporting this dinner, you are helping the church meet its global mission. Thank you!



After lunch, Beulah pours water for kids to wash.





2nd Annual KAYAK SUNDAY

Did you have to miss last year's launch of Kayak Sunday? This year it's on August 6th and Holly Young is the spearhead again. Let her know at riverspiritdesigns@gmail.com if you are interested. Here are some photos from last year's serenity at dawn paddle. It was **SUBLIME**.





Prayer requests may be emailed
to
[our prayer group](#)

It is our privilege to pray for you and those you care about.

**We pray for each other,
without ceasing
and
your prayer requests are held in strict confidence.**

Would you like the person(s) for whom we are praying to receive a note saying we are lifting up those prayers? Please let us know their address and we will mail it.

We keep any names, concerns, and personal information in strict confidence.



[From the United Church of Christ](#)



(check out our conference's website [here](#))

UCC Statement of Faith — original version

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

UCC Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.

The original (traditional) version of the UCC Statement of Faith was adopted in 1959 by General Synod and is widely regarded as one of the most significant Christian faith testimonies of the 20th century. The Statement of Faith in the Form of a Doxology was authorized by Executive Council in 1981

Lectionary Readings AUGUST (Year A)



August 6

Genesis 32: 22-31 (trickster Jacob receives a new name instead)

Romans 9:1-5 (Paul mourns for his Jewish brethren)

Matthew 14:13-21 (God's grace is sufficient to feed us all)

Psalm 17:1-7, 15 (Hear our just cause, O Lord)

theme hymn: *O for a Thousand Tongues*

August 13

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 (God's work thrives despite family jealousies)

Romans 10:5-15 (why we call upon the Lord's name)

Matthew 14:22-33 (Jesus will rescue you)

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b (call on the Lord's name)

theme hymn: *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

... continued next page

August 20

Genesis 45:1-15 (God works for life)

Romans 11:13-16, 29-32 (the journey to God's mercy)

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28 (“Lord, help me!”)

Psalm 133 (Praise God's goodness and might)

theme hymn: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

August 27

Exodus 1:8 - 2:10 (Moses is born and saved)

Romans 12:1-8 (Take the leap ... be transformed!)

Matthew 16:13-20 (Peter is transformed by Jesus)

Psalm 124 (Thanks for Israel's deliverance)

theme hymn: *Take My Life*

September 3

Exodus 3:1-15 (the burning bush)

Romans 12:9-21 (Paul lists how we need to conduct ourselves)

Matthew 16:21-28 (a rebuke leads to a discipleship lesson)

Psalm 105:1-6,23-26, 45c (remember, it was God that sent Moses)

theme hymn: *The Church's One Foundation*

The theme hymns listed with the Lectionary reading lists are found in our Pilgrim hymnal and/or the Hymn folders and are listed here only as lyrical illustrations of the week's scripture selections, so readers may carry the theme in tune form throughout their week!



PLEASE consider going paperless for this monthly newsletter.

Simply notify [Barb Joslyn](#).

**Important news from Church Council ...
The August meeting will be on Aug. 10th at 7pm.**



**Happiness is the
Community Supper!**

**Every 4th Wednesday ... our
next will be August 23rd ...
see you then!**



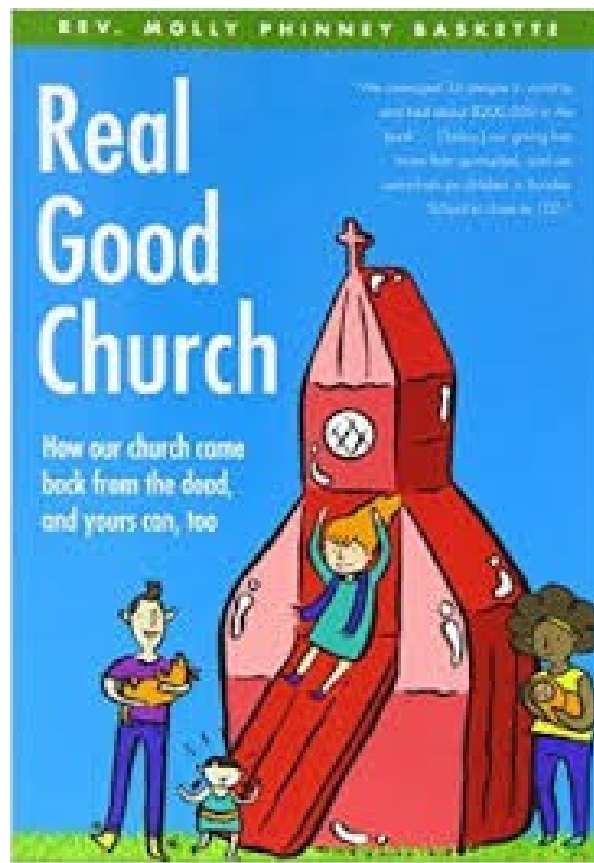
We now have baskets at both entrances for food donations. All your wonderful donations are taken to the Food Shelf at the Bradford Academy. (We thank anyone wishing to help by taking the basket contents to the Food Shelf).

Currently the emphasis is on hearty soups, but they can always use canned meats and dinners, as well as sundries of toothpaste, toothbrushes, paper towels, diapers, baby wipes, shampoo.

Do you have one of the copies of this book,
Real Good Church?

PLEASE return it to Ginny Moore for the Church library, or merely drop it off on top of the bookcase in the vestry.

Thank you to those who have returned copies!



ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH YARD SALE

Dear Parishioner:

We are having our all-church yard sale and it will be held in the Church Vestry again this year. Most items will be by donation.

Friday, August 25 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Saturday, August 26 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

We are soliciting items to be delivered to the church vestry (no clothing or bedding please). Items may be brought to the church any time after August 13. The Vestry door will be open.

Items, in good condition, such as but not limited to:

Furniture	Knick-Knacks	Pewter
Books	Silver	Tools
Collectibles	Kitchen Items	Arts & Craft

Co-Chairs - Dan & Marcia Perry, Eris Eastman, Vida Perry-Munson, Linda Gross, Martina Stever and Sue Eastman