

**Mission Fund:  
Sharing Resources**



Our congregation approved a \$25,900 Mission Budget for 14/15. The Mission Committee works diligently to determine funding priorities for this limited but meaningful budget.

**Mission Allocation and  
“Core Ministries”**



The Mission Committee has focused allocations on **core ministries**.

Special offerings and mission activities such as the CROP Hunger Walk, COTS Walk, Share Christmas and the Alternative Giving Fair encourage vital congregational giving.

**Our core ministries are:**

**The United Church of Christ:** Supporting the mission of the United Church of Christ in Vermont, nationally and internationally is a high priority. See details provided and go to: [www.vtcucc.org](http://www.vtcucc.org) & [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org).

**JUMP:** We help provide needed direct services and spiritual care and to many families and individuals in need in our community through a strong commitment to the Joint Urban Ministry Project. See details provided and go to: [www.jumpvt.org](http://www.jumpvt.org).

**Small Potatoes:** Saturday community breakfast/bag lunch; we provide space, much needed resources and key volunteer and staff support.

**The Ronald McDonald House:** Our historic parsonage is donated in support of the RMH mission to house families of ill children who are patients at the UVM Medical Center.



**STEWARDSHIP**

**Pledged income and Vermont UCC Member Per Capita/member Dues are vital to our mission and core ministries!** All are asked to make an annual financial pledge to the Church and to pay Vermont UCC Per Capita Dues: \$13.

**Mission Giving at “First Church”**

**Mission Budget for ‘14 -’15: \$ 25,900**

**Mission Allocations for the  
2014 - 2015 Church Year: \$25,900**

- ◆ UCC: Our Church’s Wider Mission \$ 15,000  
VT Conference UCC/65%; UCC national/35%
- ◆ JUMP/Joint Urban Ministry Project \$8,000
- ◆ Small Potatoes - Sat. breakfast/lunch \$1,000
- ◆ Mission Projects \$1,900

**Special Offerings for Mission in ‘14 -’15:**

2014 Mission Christmas Offering:	
Chittenden County Help Fund	\$690
Joint Urban Ministry Project	\$690
UCC/Neighbors In Need/October ‘14	\$904
UCC/One Great Hour of Sharing/June ‘14	\$1,252
Share Christmas: Local Gifts/Food	\$5,064
<b>Easter Mission Offering ‘15:</b>	
<b>The Vermont Ibutwa Initiative</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Burlington Summer Lunch Program</b>	<b>TBD</b>

**Mission Giving Opportunities:**

- ◆ **Make A Pledge!** Core support for the mission and ministry of First Congregational Church comes from member and friend annual pledges. Information is available from our Church Office or on our website at [www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org). You can give or pledge through the website.
- ◆ **Easter Mission Offering: Lent 2015**  
- *The Vermont Ibutwa Initiative*  
- *Burlington Summer Lunch Program*
- ◆ **COTS Walkathon** - May 43 ‘15: Helps fund the Committee On Temporary Shelter’s emergency shelters, services and homelessness prevention funds for Vermont families and adults.
- ◆ **UCC/One Great Hour of Sharing** - June ‘15
- ◆ **Run or Walk for JUMP:** 9.26.15 - helps fund direct services at JUMP; 5K & 1K run or a walk.
- ◆ **UCC/Neighbors In Need:** October 2015
- ◆ **CROP Hunger WALK:** 10.11.15 - provides funds for local and global hunger relief programs.
- ◆ **Christmas Mission Offering:** Advent ‘15
- ◆ **Share Christmas:** Advent 2015
- ◆ **Alternative Giving Fair:** Advent 2015

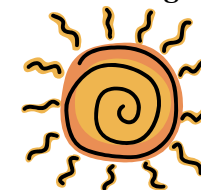
**Your gifts are invited in support  
of the  
Easter Mission Offering for:  
The Vermont Ibutwa Initiative &  
Burlington’s Summer Lunch Program**

**The Vermont Ibutwa Initiative (VIBI)** is a nonprofit with close ties to First Church. Members Cleoplace Mukeba, Susan Saunders, and Lucy Samara are on the Board of Directors of VIBI which has a dual mission. VIBI makes health care, community social support, and sustainable livelihood projects available to women and girls in rural villages in the South Kivu region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who have been the victims of rape. VIBI also advocates for global peace and change in the DR Congo by educating people in the U.S. about the history of the Congo and the devastating realities of the current environment there. VIBI is working with 28 women this year has provided school tuition to 108 children! VIBI needs our support to fulfill this much needed mission. The UCC is encouraging an active response to the crisis in the DR Congo. You can learn more at: <http://globalministries.org/congo-initiative/>

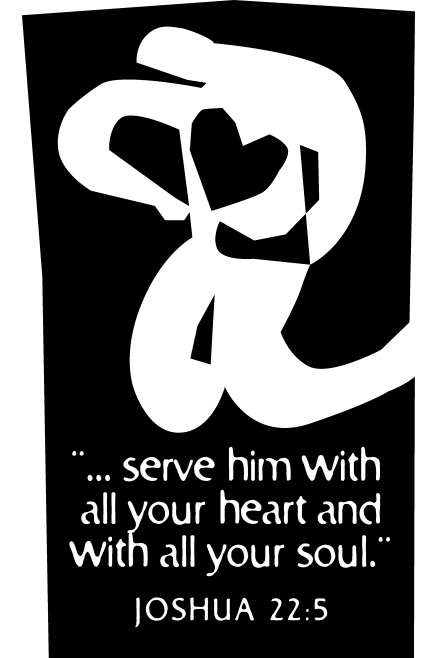


**The Burlington Summer Lunch Program**

provides healthy lunches and meaningful, fun activities to hundreds of low income children in Burlington summer at three sites. Our funds help provide needed staffing and activities.



**First Congregational Church  
Mission Programs  
&  
Christian Action  
Advocacy  
2014 - 2015**



**First Congregational Church of Burlington  
United Church of Christ**  
38 South Winooski Avenue  
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**<https://twitter.com/FirstChurchBT>**



## Mission Programs & Christian Action Advocacy

As our church year unfolds we can celebrate that:

- ◆ our Church and the United Church of Christ support effective and needed missions and social justice initiatives locally and globally,
- ◆ our volunteer service and social justice work has a positive impact on the lives of many.

Our beliefs call us act to improve the lives of our neighbors and to speak out for social justice; our shared faith encourages us to be generous.

Pledging by members and friends provides key resources needed for our Mission Budget. The Mission Committee works faithfully to discern budgeted allocations to our “Core Ministries” and coordinates key volunteer mission efforts. We work in partnership through the UCC and with many vital social service initiatives.

The mission work of our congregation includes Pledging, “Special Offerings,” thousands of hours committed to volunteer work by our members, and extensive community use of our church property by many local programs including the Joint Urban Ministry Project; the Ronald McDonald House; AA and Al Anon and the outreach of our Possibility Shop.

Our Christian Action Committee is exploring avenues to support our members in social justice advocacy efforts. All are invited to join the UCC justice advocacy network to keep current with the UCC’s Congo Initiative and other advocacy opportunities supported by the UCC: [www.ucc.org/justice/join-the-network/](http://www.ucc.org/justice/join-the-network/)

Let’s continue to be a witness to our faith through our shared missions and commitment to social justice. We welcome and need your ideas and input!

*In Faith,  
Mission Committee Members:*  
Steve Dumas, Chair; Betsy Freeman, Andrea Heller



*Christian Action Committee Members:*  
Mary McKearin, Chair; Susan Ellwood,  
Amy Mellencamp, Mark Oettinger, Lee Slocum.

## United Church of Christ

In 1957, the United Church of Christ brought together several Christian traditions and affirmed the ideal that Christians do not always have to agree to live together in communion.

The website: [www.uuc.org](http://www.uuc.org) includes many resources and tools and information about the many U.S. and global UCC ministries and missions.

### The Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ:

In Vermont, the UCC is active in Christian education for all ages, youth ministry, mission, stewardship, camp programs, clergy education, minister search assistance, advocacy, and communication. The Conference includes UCC and federated churches; it works to enhance our life together as a family of God. ([www.vtcucc.org](http://www.vtcucc.org))

**Mission Photos:** Church members and friends step out to support equality for all on Pride Day in Burlington; volunteers serve Small Potatoes breakfast and bag lunch and Ronald McDonald House. Fulfills mission in our historic parsonage.



## Outreach Ministry Programs There are many ways to be involved!

Thousands of hours of service were donated by many adults and youth in our congregation in the last year through service opportunities coordinated through our mission and outreach programs.

Volunteers are needed for Meals On Wheels, the VT Ibutwa Initiative, Ronald McDonald House, Dismas House, Habitat for Humanity, Small Potatoes, JUMP, COTS, CROP Hunger Walk, the Sara Holbrook Center and other social service programs.

**Please consider volunteering through the “First Church” Outreach Ministry Program.**

**Together we make a difference!**

**Updates about volunteer opportunities are regularly featuring in our Church Newsletter—please sign up to receive it on our website:**

**[www.firstchurchburlington.org](http://www.firstchurchburlington.org)**

**or call and ask to be added to the mailing list. You are also invited to call or email our Director of Outreach Ministries Lucy Samara at:**

**802.862.5010 ext. 104**

**[Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org](mailto:Lsamara@firstchurchburlington.org) to indicate your interests and ideas.**

**Mission Photos:** High School students serve others in Vermont and while on YETS service/travel trips; Meals On Wheels, Dismas House in Burlington.



## JUMP: The Joint Urban Ministry Project

A core ministry of our church for 25 years, JUMP responds to the needs of more than 45 low income families and individuals each week in space provided by First Church. JUMP is the interfaith outreach ministry of more than twenty area congregations.

◆ JUMP assisted more than 1,400 adults and children in 2014 with spiritual care, referrals, and direct aid such as: food, cleaning supplies, toiletries, diapers, bus passes, utility grants to prevent shut-offs, and vouchers for: food, gasoline, prescriptions, laundry, to open Opportunities Credit Union accounts, clothing and household goods at area thrift shops including a major donation of vouchers from our own Possibility Shop.

**We support JUMP with:** mission funding, volunteers, office and Drop-In Center space, staff support and Poss Shop vouchers. We participate in JUMP fund raising events: the September Run/Walk, the CROP Hunger Walk, the November JUMP Dinner and by selling Alternative Christmas Gift items.



### Needed for JUMP:

- ◆ **Volunteers** to serve 4 hours one morning a month greeting guests; training provided, substitutes needed. Committee volunteers are also needed to organize events, etc.
- ◆ **Donations of funds, the individual items below or complete food bags. Thank you!**

**Family Food Bag:** Packed in a reusable grocery bag: 2 lb. rice; 3 lb. dried beans/lentils; 3: 15 ou. can beans; 2: 28 ou. can tomatoes; 2 lb. pasta; 2: 26 ou. pasta sauce; 1 box low sugar cereal.

**Toiletries:** toothpaste; toothbrush; deodorant; shave cream; razors; pack of diapers size 3 or larger, soap, tampons, pads.

**Household:** dish wash liquid; laundry detergent; toilet paper; household cleanser.