

47th Annual NEAUCE Conference

May 1 – 3, 2018

Pilgrim Pines, 220 West Shore Drive, Swanzey, NH

*"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well."*

Psalm 139:14 (NRSV)



Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Pamela Shellberg is the scholar-in-residence at The BTS Center, mission successor to Bangor Theological Seminary, developing educational programs to equip and support clergy and laypeople for twenty-first-century ministries. Committed to theological education in all the places it occurs, she teaches in the Maine School of Ministry (UCC) and for the New England Synod's School of Lay Ministry (ELCA). Pam served 12 years on the board of directors of an ELCA seminary. She is author of *Cleansed Lepers, Cleansed Hearts: Purity and Healing in Luke-Acts* (Fortress 2015).



Conference Update:

Rev. Da Vita "Day" McCallister, who inspired us at NEAUCE last year, has since been recognized as a 2017 Antoinette Brown Awardee. The Antoinette Brown Award is presented to clergywomen who have demonstrated trailblazing leadership on behalf of church and society, and is named for the first ordained woman since biblical times. As a recipient of that award, Day was invited to deliver a keynote address at the 2018 UCC Clergywomen Leadership Event, sponsored by the Antoinette Brown Society. That event coincides with NEAUCE, so Day will not be able to be with us this year.



Worship/Music Leader:

Rev. Emilia Halstead serves as Senior Minister, First Congregational Church in Concord, NH. Having grown-up a preacher's kid, she is no stranger to the rich traditions of the church. However, being a self-professed Millennial she is also acutely aware of the winds of change that the Holy Spirit is bringing to the wider church. She is passionate about creating and leading worship, pastoral visitations, music and networking with the wider church. Emilia is adamant about the need for all churches to be connected to social media in some form. She was born in Cleveland and grew up in Chicago and Philadelphia. She graduated with a B.A. in Theatre Arts & English from Arcadia University in 2004 and a M.Div. from Andover Newton Theological School in 2010.



NEAUCE Information:

The New England Association of United Church Educators (NEAUCE) is a regional chapter of the national Association of United Church Educators (AUCE). NEAUCE is endorsed by the Lay Development Ministry Council.

www.auce-ucc.org

Wednesday Workshops

Wednesday Morning Workshops

W-1: Be the Best You!, Emily Clement

If you had a magic wand, what would your life look like? We tend to get stuck because we look at our current conditions and circumstances to make decisions. During this fun and dynamic workshop you will clarify and define your dream. I PROMISE- you can have, do, be, give and create anything you desire! Change starts with your thinking. You'll be introduced to universal laws which will help you shift from living a life by default to a life by design. It's time to shine!

W-2: Are Youth Groups Still Relevant?, Rev. William Ferguson

In a world that often moves so quickly with information, we are challenged to find a way and a space to process important information that will allow us to make good decisions. And the pressure on our young people to process is multiplied. Are Youth Groups the answer to allow our kids space to process and develop their faith understanding? Are Youth Groups still relevant? We will explore a model for developing a holistic Youth Program for today's kids and the church.

W-3: Contemplative Prayer and Meditation, Kelly Luetkemeyer

A contemplative prayer practice allows one to calm the mind and body to rest in the quiet presence of God. This workshop is experiential. You will have an opportunity to rest and reflect in the quiet peace of God's presence by closing your eyes, bringing your attention to the rise and fall of your breath, and to listen with your heart. There is opportunity to share your experience with others, if desired.

W-4: Make a Joyful Noise: Enriching Faith Formation through Music, Barbara Collins

Music has the power to communicate emotions and messages that words alone cannot capture. Have you ever wished you could include more music in your faith formation program? This workshop is designed to provide encouragement and resources for you to do just that! Don't be concerned about your musical ability, your degree of experience, or even your inclination - all are welcome! Come explore new ways to make a joyful noise.

W-5: Exploring Communion With Children and Youth, Rev. Carol Steinbrecher

This workshop will provide some ideas on how to explore Communion with children and youth through art, simple visuals, and music. Ideas will be offered on how to create an experience of Communion that can draw children and youth into a deeper understanding of what it means for us to gather together at Christ's table. There will also be time allowed for sharing ideas and wisdom to be found in the gathered group.

W-6: Forming Faith with Pinterest, Gwen McCann

Interested in finding new ways to enliven your ministry and engage your church community? Come discover creative ways to enhance your ministry using ideas found on Pinterest and other online platforms. Ideas will be shared for Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Christmas events, Palm Sunday, Youth Ministry, Intergenerational Worship and more. See how creative ideas can root the faith of your children & youth, blossom your congregation and nurture and grow your ministry. In addition to the presentation, participants will be invited to share their ideas, questions, and experiences. All are welcome!

W-7: Children's Sermons: How To, Kate Byers

Together we will figure out how to lead meaningful Children's Sermons by exploring the purpose, theology, and logistics behind Children's Sermons. Participants will leave with the skills needed to craft meaningful messages for their congregation.

Wednesday Afternoon Training Session

Bringing Wood to the Fire-Asset Mapping for Faith Formation, Karen Ziel

This afternoon training session will offer ideas and insights for making the most of the resources available to us during this time of transition and transformation in the church. Accessing and celebrating, employing and deploying our assets for the ministry and mission of making disciples promises nothing less than transformation. Come explore new ways to bring wood to the fire, fan the flames and fuel those sparks!

Wednesday Afternoon Flex-Time Workshops

WA-1: Meditation with Zentangle, Debbie Kirk

Art is how your soul is seen! Use Zentangle as a way to connect with all that is holy, special, and unique within you. This workshop will provide sanctuary; a safe and non-judgmental space to be creative. Try on this relaxing art form and see how simple, repeated patterns result in beautiful and unique designs. Zentangle is not only great for personal relaxation, but can also be used as a visual prayer exercise. No experience necessary!

WA-2: Christ Walk: A Spiritual Fitness Practice, Dawne Quinn

There is a reason God gave us feet! We have feet to walk, run, jump and skip through our lives. Join us for a brisk walk around Swanzey Lake. Come and learn about this 40-day spiritual fitness program based on the book, *Christ Walk* by Anna Fitch Courie. We'll begin and end our walk with a Bible verse related to reflective pieces on healthy living. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

WA-3: The Wonders of Basket Weaving, Stacy Inman

Basket weaving has served many purposes through time, especially for the early settlers in my home state of Massachusetts. In this workshop I will teach you the basics of basket weaving using the modern tools I have come to love. Although I cannot promise this experience will be therapeutic, I am sure you will have fun, enjoy the company of others learning with you and have a sense of accomplishment when the time is finished. (This workshop carries an additional fee of \$10.25)

WA-4: Interactive Game Time—"Who Am I?," Catherine Liddell and Sally Tomasetti

The game "Who Am I?" was developed for a Workshop Rotation called "God is Calling Us" which looked at three calls found in the Bible: God's call to Moses, to Samuel and to Jeremiah. By the time each player has made it around the game board, he or she has assembled cards that describe him or her in three areas: how they describe themselves; what they feel good at or like to do; and ways they have served others. The theory is that God is most likely to call us in areas of our strengths. Experience this game today with its creator Catherine Liddell.

Thursday Workshops

TH-1: The Teacher as Leader- Identity, Integrity and Connections, Karen Ziel

This workshop will explore essential and timeless truths integral to the role of teacher as leader. In the words of Parker Palmer in the *Courage to Teach*, good teachers are "able to weave a complex web of connections... The connections made by good teachers are held not in their methods but in their hearts..." Claiming one's identity as teacher and leader, he goes on to say, is "an inner journey toward more truthful ways of seeing and being in the world." Come and explore the heart of the Teacher as Leader as we engage the work and wisdom of 21st century leaders and spiritual mentors whose gifts and ministry offer insights with the power to form and transform our leadership. (Intermediate/Advanced Workshop)

TH-2: The \$35 Mini- Mission Trip! , Sheri Anderson

In this workshop Sheri will share how to create an affordable weekend long mini-mission trip for Jr and /or Sr High youth, or a Confirmation class, utilizing wider church connections and local agencies. She will share the benefits of offering this kind of service experience in addition to, or instead of, or as a warm up to a week long mission trip. She will provide a retreat planning worksheet and template as well as other resources.

TH-3: Scribbling and Sacred – Poetry for Faith Formation, Rev. Maren Tirabassi

Poetry, fun and reflective for all ages, is a path to who we are and where faith leads us. This workshop suggests effective methods of poetry reading and writing in faith formation. Prompts and techniques for pre-school, young elementary, older elementary, middle school, high school, "one-room schoolhouse," and adults will be shared. Participants will become comfortable saying, "I write poetry," and "I can help you write a poem."

TH-4: What Is God's Gender? Thinking and Skills for Affirming Gender Diversity in the Church, Rev. Katherine Blaisdell

By studying passages throughout the Bible for metaphors for God, as well as Acts 8:26-40 (Paul and the Ethiopian Eunuch), we will strive to:

- Explore the way we use language to talk about God and people, especially metaphors of gender.
- Discuss ways in which gender and sexuality have been issues of the church since the beginning.
- Hear God's call and develop language for showing respect and hospitality to gender minorities.

TH-5: Spark and Ignite Children to Learn the Word of God in VBS Settings, Kristin Putney

This workshop will explore new and exciting ways to engage children in learning the Word of God. Topics covered: creative settings for all church sizes, recruiting & training staff & helpers, creating memorable moments, VBS budgets, planning and promoting.

TH-6: Passing On the Faith in the 21st Century, Debbie Gline Allen

Do you wonder if the children, youth, and families in your congregation are getting the most out of the Christian education programming that you offer? Do you wonder if perhaps the methods you're using have outlived their effectiveness? This workshop will help you to examine the goals for Christian education in your congregation and brainstorm ways to meet them while adapting to the current cultural, digital, commitment shifts your church families are experiencing. (Intermediate/Advanced Workshop)

"Be who God meant you to be
and you will set the world on fire."
-Catherine of Siena

Conference Leadership

2018 NEAUCE Coordinating Committee

Chair: Nick Davis, ndavis9940@roadrunner.com
Registrar: Georgette Huie, georgettehuie@prodigy.net
Treasurer: Debi Mastroni-Kenyon, faithformerdebi@yahoo.com
Conference Rep: Ann Desrochers, adesrochers@nhcucc.org

State Representatives:

Connecticut: Dawne Quinn, dawne.quinn@whfirstchurch.org
Maine: Mary Angela Davis, maryangeladavis@yahoo.com
Massachusetts: Sally Tomasetti, sallyt@hillschurch.org
New Hampshire: Diane Tinkham, tinkhams@metrocast.net
Rhode Island: Stacy Inman, Stacyann7@comcast.net
Vermont: Sandra Brodeur, sbrodeur@madriver.com

Workshop Presenters

Debbie Gline Allen is a Commissioned Minister in the UCC and has served in local churches and in the conference settings in New Hampshire and Massachusetts for the past three decades. She currently serves the Massachusetts Conference as the Christian Education and Youth Ministry Consultant. She lives in Derry, NH.

Sheri Anderson has had a few different titles over the years, but is most fully alive in Christ when doing Youth Ministry! She loves working with the adults who care about youth and empowering them to speak faith into the lives of young people. She loves the creative possibilities and the sense of adventure that comes with joining young people on the quest for authentic faith.

Conference Leadership

Workshop Presenters (continued)

Rev. Katherine Blaisdell was ordained in the Disciples of Christ and is serving in a UCC church. Katherine's background is in public policy. She edited the Harvard Journal of LGBTQ Policy, focusing on international transgender issues. She published a paper called *God Loves Gays: The Church and the Struggle for LGBTQ Equality* and spoke at the Harvard LGBTQ Conference on the same topic. Her Master's thesis focused on using Bible study to facilitate conversations across differences of background and ideology.

Kathryn (Kate) Byers holds a Masters of Divinity from Boston University and a degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Pennsylvania State University. She currently serves as the Director of Christian Nurture for First Church of Christ Bedford. Outside of church she enjoys spending time with her two small children.

Emily Clement, Life Coach, has always been a soul-searching joy-seeker! Emily has been a classroom teacher in Europe and the U.S., the Director of Christian Education at the Laconia, NH UCC, a high school guidance counselor, and now a happy vibrant life coach. She believes from her core that you can have, do, be, give and create anything you desire. True story!

Barbara Collins, a retired elementary school music teacher, has been the Coordinator of Christian Education at the Congregation Church of Salisbury, CT, for a really, really long time. She knows first-hand how important music can be in the formation of one's faith.

Rev. William Ferguson (Bill) has been a Pastor in the NH Conference for 18 years, serving now over 10 years at Pelham UCC. He has been involved in Youth Ministry formation for over 40 years.

Stacy Inman is a daughter, wife and mother to 3 amazing boys. She joined the Seekonk Congregational Church 9 years ago looking for a church family for both herself and her boys. She has been a part of the Christian Education community for 7 years now, the past 4 as chairperson. Basket weaving was a hobby of hers and her mom's for years. She took classes and then taught Stacy everything she knew.

Debby Kirk is the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for CT Conference, United Church of Christ where together they are growing a faith forming, multi-cultural, multi-racial, open and affirming, accessible to all, just peace, globally minded movement of youth and young adults.

Catherine Liddell is an educator, a musician and the developer of the game, "Who am I?". This game is sort of like a child of hers. After making a solo CD many years ago which also felt like a birth in some way, she feels a parental responsibility to guide this game into the world. You can find Catherine guiding children in faith through self-written plays, curriculum, and music at the Congregational Church of Weston, MA, UCC. Her love of children led her to accept the position as Director of Faith Discovery for Children, a position she has held since 2002. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, and the Musik Akademie of the City of Basel, Switzerland, she is also a well-established free-lance musician in the Boston area performing on theorbo and lute with many of the area's leading period instrument ensembles.

Gwen McCann is in her 10th year serving as Director of Christian Faith Formation at Kensington Congregational Church, Kensington, CT. In her small vibrant church setting, she is responsible for every aspect of Children & Youth Ministry from baptism through high school and beyond. As her programming has evolved over the years, she uses the internet and online platforms like Pinterest to keep her ministry fresh and creative. She currently serves as co-chair of the CT Association of United Church Educators. Gwen is passionate about finding creative ways to deepen relationships with God!

Kelly Luetkemeyer is a member of the UCC and has led a contemplative prayer group for the adults at the United Parish in Upton, MA. This will be his fifth time leading a contemplative prayer workshop at NEAUCE. Kelly has been influenced by a variety of contemplative prayer practices and was introduced to Centering Prayer while living in Colorado.

Kristin Putney has been the Christian Education and Youth Ministry Resource Consultant for the RI Conference since 2012. She became the Director of Christian Education at her local church in 2000 and has been doing faith formation in many forms for over 30 years at the Seekonk Congregational Church. She is an accomplished mural artist and decorative painter and enjoys combining her creativity in all aspects of her work with children and families.

Dawne Quinn has served as a faith formation practitioner at First Church West Hartford for the last 16 years - becoming a Commissioned Minister in 2014. In her role, she plans and leads a variety of faith formation programs for infants through adults as well as a monthly all-ages worship service. Each summer, Dawne hosts a town-wide ecumenical Vacation Bible School and serves as a conference dean at the Silver Lake Conference center. Dawne is the current co-chair of CAUCE, and the CT representative to NEAUCE. In addition to her ministry, her passions include refugee advocacy, animals, yoga, and walking.

Rev. Carol Steinbrecher serves as Interim Pastor of First Congregational Church of Sharon, MA. She shares that one of her great joys as a Sunday School teacher and Handbell Choir Director turned Pastor, has been interacting with children to bring Bible stories to life by finding ways to engage them in faith exploration through music, crafts, story, and the arts.

Rev. Maren Tirabassi has been a United Church of Christ pastor for thirty-eight years and an author. *A Child Laughs: Prayers of Hope and Justice*, is her twentieth book. She leads workshops and seminars, teaches writing in a wide range of settings and mentors new authors.

Karen Ziel is a Commissioned Minister for Faith Formation currently serving the CT Conference UCC since November 2008. With over two decades of local church ministry in faith formation prior to joining the staff of the Conference, Karen is a lifelong teacher. She is passionate about the role and importance of relationships in ministry, and fascinated and hopeful about what God is doing in the 21st century church. Her portfolio includes all aspects of leadership development for faith formation practitioners, Clergy Excellence Groups and Safe Conduct training and consultation, among other duties. Karen's joys, in addition to her ministry, are family, genealogy, reading and music.

Registration Form & Schedule

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Alternate phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Church Name: _____

C.E. Role: _____

In which state? _____

Have you attended NEAUCE before? Yes _____ No _____

Roommate Preference _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

Accessibility Accommodations _____

AUCE Member? Yes _____ No _____

Enter Full Event cost: _____

(Costs: AUCE members \$250; non-AUCE members \$285; Commuter Rate for AUCE members with meals \$160; Commuter Rate for Non-AUCE Members - \$180. Become an AUCE member before 3/30/18 and save).

Single room - add \$55 per night-\$110 for 2 nights \$ _____

Monday night lodging – Yes / No - add \$65 \$ _____

Registering after 4/15/18 – add \$30 late fee \$ _____

Workshop WA-3 Basket Weaving fee - add \$10.25 \$ _____

Scholarship -Yes/No- Where is scholarship coming from?

Subtract Scholarship Amount \$ _____

Subtotal: \$ _____

Total due upon arrival: \$ _____

Minimum non-refundable deposit required: \$55.00



Make checks payable to "NEAUCE." Make a copy of your registration form for your records and mail completed registration form and payment to: Georgette Huie, NEAUCE Registrar, P.O. Box 2851, Waterbury, CT 06723.

If you prefer to register online, scan the QR Code or go to <http://conta.cc/2scW8Dp>. Secure credit card payments can be made online.

Workshop Selections:

Wednesday Morning :

W-____Title_____

Wednesday Afternoon :

WA-____Title_____

Thursday Morning:

TH-____Title_____

Tentative Schedule of Events

Tuesday

1:00 to 3:00 PM Registration
 2:00 PM Guided Site Tours begin
 2:30 PM New to NEAUCE (Orientation)
 4:00 PM Welcome
 4:15 PM Worship
 5:15 PM State Meetings
 6:00 PM Dinner
 7:15 PM Opening Keynote: Dr. Pamela Shellberg
 8:45 PM Hospitality

Wednesday

8:00 AM Breakfast
 9:00 AM Wednesday Morning Workshops (W-#)
 10:30 AM Keynote Address: Dr. Pamela Shellberg
 12:30 PM Lunch
 1:30 PM Asset Mapping Training Session, Karen Ziel
 3:30 PM Wednesday Afternoon Flex-Time Workshops (WA-#)
 6:00 PM Dinner
 7:00 PM Worship with Communion
 7:45 PM Business Meeting and Commissioning
 8:45 PM Hospitality

Thursday

8:00 AM Breakfast
 9:00 AM Thursday Morning Workshops (TH-#)
 10:30 AM Keynote Address: Rev. Da Vita McCallister
 12:00 PM Closing Worship
 12:45 PM Lunch To Go