



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

August 2012

Editor's Corner

Here I am already equipped with my fall "To Do" list and focused on the end goal. All the while, however, I cannot seem to get the lyrics to the Miley Cyrus song, "The Climb", out of my head. God has a way of gently reminding me "Ain't about how fast I get there, Ain't about what's waiting on the other side, It's the climb"

My hope, for all of us, is that we pause and take the time to enjoy the journey. It is along the way that we come to know ourselves, and deepen our relationship with God and each other.

Together may we continue to learn, share, and grow in our faith.
Ann

"Rally Day" - September 9, 2012

In many churches "Rally Day" signifies the end of summer and the beginning of a new program year for educational ministries. As you start to plan your "New Year" event, think of it as a time to reflect on the past, celebrate your special traditions, and get a fresh start on the future.

Planning Checklist:

- Christian Formation is a Lifelong Journey, include **all** ages
- Congregations love to gather for food & fellowship: consider a "Meet & Greet Pancake Breakfast" to introduce your teachers to the congregation, an all church picnic following the service, or an Ice Cream Social
- For a lighthearted, humorous approach, include a skit in your Worship Service (several ideas, including the "Top Ten Reasons We Won't See You in Sunday School", can be found on the [Workshop Rotation Lesson and Idea Exchange website](#))
- For Liturgy ideas to recognize your teachers and learners, consult your curriculum, visit the [Education section](#) of the www.ucc.org website, or email adesrochers@nhcucc.org (I am waiting on final permission from the publisher to share a Covenant Service from the *Best of Whole People of God* curriculum)

Join Our Mailing List!

Fall Learning Event with Marcus Borg

The University of Southern Maine Center for Religious and Spiritual Life and the Maine Conference, United Church of Christ present:

2012 Fall Learning Event A lecture series by eminent scholar Marcus Borg

October 19 and 20, 2012
Hannaford Hall, Univ. Southern Maine, Portland

Dr. Borg will speak on:
An Emerging Form of Christianity Today (Friday)
Being a Christian in the 21st Century (Saturday)

Visit the Maine Conference website (<http://www.maineucc.org>) for additional information and registration details.

Dr. Borg is one of the faith leaders interviewed by Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi in her series entitled "*Dialogues on Christian Faith Formation and Education*". You can read the complete interview and find out more about Dr. Borg's background at: <http://www.ucc.org/education>.

Resource Center

[Called To Educational and Formational Ministries: A Guide for Local Churches, Educators, and Youth Workers](#)

[Scripture Index for Faith Practices](#)

Visit the [NH Conference Website](#) for

Recently Added
information on [Safe Church](#) and **Updated** information on [Confirmation Events](#)

Quick Links

The Association of United
Church Educators (AUCE)
National
[New England](#)
[New Hampshire](#)

Reminder

to sign up for the
edUCCators epistle, a
bi-weekly e-mailing from the
UCC's Publishing, Identity,
and Communication Ministry
Team, send a request to
Aimee Jannsohn at
jannsoha@ucc.org

Fall Planning: Safe Church

As we approach the fall and you prepare for the start of Sunday School and Youth Group Activities, please be mindful of Safe Church practices. The resources listed below can assist.

The Insurance Board, in partnership with Praesidium, offers **all** UCC churches **Free** Online Abuse Prevention Training and discounted background screening services for churches participating in Insurance Board programs. Read the [summary document](#) for highlights of what is available and further contact information.

If your church is not a participating member, another cost effective alternative is available from [Group's Church Volunteer Central](#). In cooperation with Lexis Nexis they offer several screening options in their [Church Background Checks](#) program. If you contact them, ask about their *Shepherd's Watch Basic* program.

Join us for the September NHAUCE meeting for additional information on this topic or visit the [Christian Education & Formation section](#) of the New Hampshire Conference Conference website for updates as they become available.

Employment Opportunities

The [Classified/Help Wanted Section](#) of the Conference website currently has two postings for a Director of Christian Education and Formation. One of the positions is in Plymouth and the other in East Derry. Check it out!

Upcoming Events - September 2012

Safe Church Policies & Implementation
NHAUCE Meeting
10:00-11:30 AM September 19, 2012
NH Conference Center

Confirmation Roundtable
Sponsored by NHAUCE & CCL
9:30-11:30 AM September 26, 2012
NH Conference Center

Advent Workshop - facilitated by Rev. Maren C. Tirabassi
"Follow the Star and not the Stress!"
Sponsored by CCL ([Registration Required](#))
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM September 27, 2012
NH Conference Center

The Word of God

"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps."
Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)

Contact Info

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