



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

April 2013

Editor's Corner

A Prayer For a Stronger
Faith
(www.guideposts.org)

Lord, my faith feels weak. I sometimes doubt you and do things I wish I hadn't done. But in weakness there is strength, and I thank you for the wonderful truth of what you do for human lives. You give us life, vibrant, exciting, unending life with an enthusiasm that never runs down. Help me to believe that with all my heart. For this I give you thanks. In Jesus' name. Amen.

I will strengthen the weak. (Ezekiel 34:16)

Join Our Mailing List!

Resource Center

Visit the
[NH Conference Website](#)

"The Guide"

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

edUCCators epistle

Bi-weekly e-mailing from the UCC's Publishing, Identity, and Communication Ministry Team. To subscribe, contact Aimee Jannsohn at jannsoha@ucc.org

Quick Links

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

This month I lift up the **Adults** in our congregations. As we continue to explore Faith Formation as a lifelong journey I recall the words of Henry Ford, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young."

Guidelines for Effective Adult Faith Formation

I recently came across an [article](#) offering ten practical tips for implementing effective adult faith formation opportunities. The article is a quick read, but I offer this synopsis:

1. Provide time during each session for critical reflection on what difference the teaching will make in the way the individuals live their life.
2. Lose the Lecture. Offer a wide variety of experiences.
3. Make a commitment to adult faith formation. Your church budget and resources need to reflect the fact that lifelong learning is a priority.
4. Faith formation is a team sport. Involve your pastoral staff/CE committee in the planning, evaluating and leading of adult programming.
5. Use language that helps people connect faith and the teachings of the Church with the way they live their lives.
6. Connect with the Church's liturgical year. Plan adult programs to celebrate the experience of Advent and Lent.
7. Be Creative. Help adults experience their faith through art, music, drama, reflection, and shared conversation.
8. Dessert is not optional. Good food helps create an atmosphere of welcome and hospitality.
9. Respect people's time. Create a schedule and stick to it.
10. Have fun!

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Featured Curricula & Group Resources for Adults

Progressive Christianity Options:

- [animate.Faith](#) is a seven session course based on the work of seven leading Christian voices: Lillian Daniel, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Shane Hipps, Brian McLaren, Bruce Reyes-Chow, Lauren Winner, and Mark Scandrette. Their goal was to create an accessible, captivating exploration of big questions of the Christian faith - designed to spark conversation in faith communities like yours. NH churches using the program describe it as engaging, Progressive Christianity for those who are comfortable with technology.
- [Living the Questions 2.0](#) is a DVD-based curriculum for both seekers and "church alumni/ae" convinced that Christianity still has relevance in the 21st Century. Providing a variety of flexible resources, *Living the Questions* can help people explore the future of Christianity and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world.

Bible Study Options:

At the April meeting of the New Hampshire Association of United Church Educators (NHAUCE), Rev. Fran Hakenson (Brookside Congregational Church), Nancy Murdock (Hampstead Congregational Church) and Rev. Carol Asher (Center Harbor Congregational Church) shared ideas on creative and effective ways to use drama to engage participants in a faith formation experience. ([click here for a list of drama related resources](#))

AUCE: A membership organization, of and for lay and ordained, paid and volunteer educators and youth workers, which provides advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ.

- [The Present Word](#) seeks to help you to master the content of the Bible. You will better understand the Bible in relation to your life experiences and have a greater awareness of God's self-disclosure.
- [Weekly Seeds](#) is a free subscription service from the United Church of Christ. It provides a weekly email summary of their popular resource for lectionary-based Bible study. It includes next Sunday's Bible reading, a brief meditation, and reflections from ancient or contemporary sources.

Confirmation Retreat Planning - We Need Your Input!



A group of NHCUCC Christian educators and pastors is working toward a **Confirmation Retreat, October 4-5, 2013**. The focus of this retreat would be "UCC Identity."

Does your church have a confirmation class? If so, would you be interested in having these youth participate in the Retreat? How many might be expected to attend?

Please send your responses to Ann Desrochers, NHCUCC Specialist in Christian Education, by May 1st. (email: adesrochers@nhcucc.org)

Thank you!

Employment Opportunities

Peterborough, NH - Church School Coordinator

Union Congregational Church UCC, Peterborough, NH is seeking a Church School Coordinator. Duties include: Developing, planning and implementing a Sunday School curriculum in coordination with the Christian Education committee, teaching Sunday School, training and scheduling teaching assistants.

For more information, contact Ellen Smith (603) 547-3434.

Training and Renewal Opportunities

Festival for Luke - April 30, 2013

Join clergy, educators, musicians and deacons for a morning celebrating the gospel of Luke. **Maren and Don Tirabassi**, who produced *Luke Retold: Uncommon Voices from the Gospel* will facilitate and share resources for experiencing the gospel as a complete work rather than a series of disconnected weekly readings and yet will suggest liturgy for worship and dramatic possibilities for the specific texts that will be lectionary selections during the summer and autumn.

This workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 30, 2013 from 9:00 am until noon at the New Hampshire Conference Center, United Church of Christ, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH. [Click Here](#) for additional information and online registration.

NEAUCE Conference - "Vibrant Colors of Faith" May 7-9, 2013

A conference for anyone who may be a Christian Educator, Youth Leader, Clergy, Lay person. Over three days you will have an opportunity to enjoy Worship, Music, Workshops, Fellowship, Friends and FUN. Join us on Cape Cod to hear Keynote Speaker, John Roberto and to meet our Special UCC National Guest, the Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, National Faith Formation Researcher.

Online Registration Closed on April 15, 2013. Contact NEAUCE Registrar,

Nancy Fowler, fowler5vt@myfairpoint.net, for information on late registration.

Events - May 2013 (**[click here](#) for additional details on these events)

Highlights from NEAUCE, Celebration for Rev. Hal Harrison**
NHAUCE Meeting
10:00-11:30 AM May 15, 2013
NH Conference Center

Confirmation Roundtable
Sponsored by CCL & NHAUCE
9:30 - 11:30 AM May 29, 2013
NH Conference Center

The Word of God

"Yet, O Lord, you are our God; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8

Contact Info

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