

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



## Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

February 2013

### Editor's Corner

In my October 2012 newsletter I shared the following words, from the Rev. J. Bennett Guess.

"We must begin to use our financial resources to 'insource' best minds and practices, to lift up the effective models and home-grown curricula already at work in some of our more excellent faith-forming churches. The experts are out there, in our local churches, so the question and challenge is how we best utilize our resources to connect and network with one another so that all can share in that expertise."

It is truly a blessing to share excellent faith formation practices already at work right here in New Hampshire.

This month, in addition to the Longmeadow Congregational Church, I lift up the First Congregational Church of Pelham and their **Six States in Six Days Mission Trip**.

With a lot of encouragement and support from their local congregation, as well as some funding from the Strengthen the Church Youth Ministry Grant, twenty youth and their adult leaders embarked on a journey to spend one day in each of the six New England states serving others. From food banks to thrift stores, yard work to painting and brick laying, the group discovered and shared their God given gifts and talents to help those in need. [Click here to read more of their inspiring story.](#)

### [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](mailto:jannsoha@ucc.org)

Lent is upon us, all draped in purple, reminding us we are once again in a season of waiting and preparation. As we prepare for Easter we are called to a time of prayer and self-reflection. A time to focus on the ministry of Jesus Christ and how his life, his death and the resurrection provide the framework for how we should live and serve each day.

If you are still looking for ways to encourage families to experience the Lenten season with activities at home I offer the following suggestions, shared with permission from [www.makingmusicprayingtwice.com](http://www.makingmusicprayingtwice.com).

- [Lamb of God Washcloth](#)
- [Hot Cross Buns](#)
- [Lent to Easter Clothespin Cross](#)

There is also the tradition of making Lenten Pretzels. Much to my surprise, when searching for a recipe to share with you, I landed on a Sunday school wiki page from The United Church of Christ in North Hampton, NH. Many thanks to Debbie Gline Allen for the background information, prayer, and recipe.

### Learning, Sharing, and Growing in Faith

This year the Sunday School program at the Longmeadow Congregational Church in Auburn, NH is based on a **"home-grown" curriculum** created by their Pastor, Rev. Ruth E. Gallot. The **Bible Basics** curriculum is designed to help the youth become more Bible literate and understand the Bible as an interwoven narrative that helps us to understand our relationship with God.

In the fall term they studied the Old Testament, Torah, History, Psalms and other Books of Poetry and Prophets. In January I had the joy of participating in their presentation of "The Road to Bethlehem", a **Youth-Led worship service** devoted to sharing their understanding that each of these people they had been reading about (Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, and Isaiah) were also waiting for a Messiah.



[Click on the Image to see More Photos from the service](#)

### Curricula & Group Resources: Faith Practices Update

*Faith Practices* is an online resource that's transforming congregations into communities that worship together, learn together, and serve together. This resource is now complete and all twelve practices are available.

- Giving and Receiving Hospitality
- Keeping Sabbath
- Working for Justice
- Giving Testimony and Witness
- Living Stewardship

### Quick Links

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

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.

- Experiencing Beauty
- Playing and Living Joyfully
- Encountering Scripture
- Praying and Making Ritual
- Discovering Gifts of Ministry
- Honoring the Body
- Blessing and Letting Go



Learn More: <http://www.ucc.org/faith-practices/>

### UCC National Setting Employment Opportunity

The Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ recently posted a job announcement for the position of **Minister of Family and Children's Ministries**. This part-time staff position is the final one of three such positions that will be shared between the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). A search to fill the first two positions was led by the DOC last year, and those individuals have been hired and will begin their work soon.

Authorized ministers, laypersons, part-time church staff, individuals in the non-profit world, young adults, trainers in curricula, policy advocates, church educators, youth ministers, etc. are welcome to apply!

[Click here](#) for a full job description and information on how to apply.

### Training and Renewal Opportunities

#### Prepared to Serve 2013 - "Love Into Action" **February 23, 2013**

Prepared To Serve is a training event including various workshops, exhibits, and fellowship for all church members in the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ. This year the event will be held on Saturday, February 23, from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm at the Pembroke Academy.

For additional information on the workshops and to register for the event online, visit: <http://www.cvent.com/events/prepared-to-serve-2013>

#### 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. The event brochure and online registration can be accessed at: <http://neauce.eventbrite.com>.

### Events - March 2013

Confirmation Roundtable  
Sponsored by NHAUCE & CCL  
9:30-11:30 AM March 6, 2013  
NH Conference Center

Youth Group - Planning for the Year  
NHAUCE Meeting  
10:00-11:30 AM March 20, 2013  
NH Conference Center

### The Word of God

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NRSV)

**Contact Info**

Ann H. Desrochers  
Specialist in Christian Education  
adesrochers@nhcucc.org



[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to hmcglashan@nhcucc.org by [adesrochers@nhcucc.org](mailto:adesrochers@nhcucc.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

New Hampshire Conference UCC | 140 Sheep Davis Road | Pembroke | NH | 03275-3711