

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



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

March 2013

Editor's Corner

A Youth Prayer (from Celebrate Youth)

We offer to you, loving God, our gifts and needs as young disciples. Bless us with your guiding grace as we face the challenges and opportunities in our lives. Touch our hearts with the gentleness of your love, that we may know we are valued and valuable beings. Send your spirit of hope to our lives, that we may believe in ourselves and know how we are needed in this world. Grace us with the gift of joy that we may celebrate life through laughter and tears alike. Guide us, as we continue to grow in our appreciation of the many gifts you have given us, in the ministry opportunities available to us, in the journey of faith we walk together, in our shared mission as a community called to discipleship in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Join Our Mailing List!

Resource Center

Visit the [NH Conference Website](#)

New Additions:
Bibles
Mission Trips
Prayer and Devotion

Recently Updated Files:
Events
Retreats

"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

In the midst of our spiritual journey through Holy Week we continue to focus on the ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and how his life, his death, and the resurrection touch our hearts. We reflect on how His sacrifice is transformed into eternal life. Just beyond the incredible sadness springs the joy of God's hope through new life and love.

As we celebrate the new beginnings offered in the resurrection, I lift up the Youth in our congregations. I encourage you to create an atmosphere that invites your youth to actively participate in the life of the church, if they do not already do so.

Opportunities for Youth to Explore and Develop their Faith

Do you know youth who are passionate about their faith and have the potential for leadership and service in the church and in the world? There are several summer programs for high school aged youth that afford them an opportunity to explore and develop their own faith through theological study, mission and youth gatherings.

Check out these programs:

- [Leadership Now Academy 2013](#), Lancaster Theological Seminary (UCC)
- [Compass Program](#), Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- [Duke Youth Academy for Christian Formation](#), Duke Divinity School (UMC)
- [Youth Theological Initiative](#), Emory University
(ecumenical academic community that promotes faith seeking understanding; taking applications now for the summer of 2014)

Faith Formation in Action

Two young women from the Hampstead Congregational Church share the impact of the **2012 National Youth Event (NYE)** on their lives before, during and after the event. The experience involved a lot of upfront planning and some assistance from funds, such as the [Strengthen the Church Youth Ministry Grant](#).

In their [report](#) they talk about how the experience changed the way they look at church, changed their relationship with God, and how it influenced the way they are living their faith today.



Click image for larger photo

Curricula & Group Resources for Youth

The [Caffeine series](#) is a youth resource that can be used as a self-study or group study. These books are written in an accessible way, and include imaginative retellings of Bible stories that put Christianity into contemporary language and experience.

Current books in the series include:

- Caffeine & Cash
- Caffeine & Character
- Caffeine & Christ
- Caffeine & Celebration
- Caffeine & Commitment
- Caffeine & Confusion
- Caffeine & Chutzpah
- Caffeine & Courage



Quick Links

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

At the March meeting of the New Hampshire Association of United Church Educators (NHAUCE), Kathleen Dube, Youth Coordinator for the Brookside Congregational Church, UCC shared her insights on what is important to consider when forming a Youth Group. ([click here to read a summary](#))

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.

OMG! Devotionals for Young People - The Stillspeaking Writers' Group
Fifty reflections for young people on topics like "Confidence," "What Matters," "Other People," "Reputation," "The World," and more. Visit [UCC Resources](#) for additional information and to read an excerpt from the book.

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.

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.

Application deadline is March 31.

Training and Renewal Opportunities**Festival for Luke - April 30, 2013**

Join clergy, educators, musicians and deacons for a morning celebrating the gospel of Luke. Bring your favorite resources for the stories in Luke. It may be a program you presented, an activity you planned, a book you have read.

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. Finally there will be "lost Luke" suggestions for passages in Luke that never appear in the lectionary but speak a message for our contemporary context.

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.

Just in: visit http://www.ctucc.org/news/20130327_neauce.html for the latest news on this event.

Events - April 2013

Drama - Beyond the Christmas Pageant
NHAUCE Meeting
10:00-11:30 AM April 17, 2013
NH Conference Center

Festival for Luke
Sponsored by CCL
9:00 am - Noon April 30, 2013
NH Conference Center

The Word of God

"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:30-31 (NIV)

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 | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

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