



## Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

April 2014

### Holy Week

As we turn our thoughts to the last week of Lent we often struggle with how to help our children experience the mystery and wonder of the events surrounding the suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus.

One of my colleagues, Dr. Elizabeth L. Windsor, Christian Education Resource Assistant, New England Conference of the United Methodist Church, approaches this topic in her article, [Experiencing Holy Week with Children](#), posted on the [buildingfaith website](#) in April 2011.

The [Vibrant Faith @ Home](#) website has more ideas for Holy Week activities that can be done by families in their own homes, including:

[Bread Crown & Parade with Palms](#)  
(for young families)

[The Paschal Mystery](#)  
(for teen families)

Visit [Vibrant Faith @ Home](#) PLUS to download sample seasonal activities, such as

[Living, Dying and Rising](#)  
(Intergenerational Activity)

[Understanding Holy Week](#)  
(Youth Ministry Activity)

### Spring and Summer Plans

While those of us from New England tend to brave the elements all year round, there is a renewed sense of energy at this time of year. Spiritually we find renewal in the resurrection. The bleak winter landscape, recently filled with the last remnants of snow and dirt, is gradually starting to melt away and is replaced with the early blossoms of spring. We emerge from our state of hibernation. This edition of the newsletter provides some options to consider as you channel some of this energy into planning your spring and summer programs.

### Graduation



Graduations fill our hearts with so many conflicting emotions...beaming with pride over all that has been achieved, filled with excitement and hope for the future, maybe a bit of nostalgia over memories of good times now gone by, and an anxious moment or two uncertain about where the next step on the journey might lead. Below are a few ideas for blessing and honoring the graduates in your congregations.

- Hold a Graduate Recognition Worship Service
- Create a PowerPoint Slideshow with pictures of the youth as they have grown up in the church
- Write letters to the graduates, which could include cherished memories, what makes this graduate special, and your hope for them as they take the next step on their journey
- Gift ideas include: a Bible ([Common English Bible LifeGear for Grads](#)), an inspirational book, engraved flashlights (to help light their way), fleece blankets (a snuggle from home) embroidered with the church name/logo or a favorite scripture
- Scripture ideas for engraving on graduate gifts:  
"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."  
Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

*"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." Psalm 20:4*

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)*

*"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 40:31*

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[NH Conference Website](#)

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Ministries: A Guide for  
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**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.

## Vacation Bible School



### Cokesbury VBS 2014: Workshop of Wonders - Imagine & Build with God

At Cokesbury's *Workshop of Wonders* (WOW) VBS, discover how the ordinary becomes extraordinary with God.

Experience the love of Jesus. Start an adventure. Use your imagination and creativity to build your faith. This program can be ordered through the [UCC Resources website](#).

### Time Saver Tips for evaluating and selecting a VBS Program.

- Cokesbury offers a [2014 VBS comparison chart](#) showing summary information for the VBS programs from major publishers. The chart includes themes, scripture focus/Bible stories, available student, teacher, music, craft, and decorating materials and cost comparisons.
- The Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary has published their report, [2014 Seasonal and Perennial Vacation Bible School Reviews](#)

## Summer Camp

Does the sunshine and warmer weather have you thinking about summer camp? Horton Center, located atop Pine Mountain just outside of Gorham, NH is owned and operated by the New Hampshire Conference, UCC, and offers programs for children, teens, and adults.

Emphasis is placed on community building and exposure to the natural world. Options include rock climbing, archery, caving and hiking as well as traditional camp activities.

[Click Here](#) for the complete Summer 2014 Schedule and registration information.



Horton Center

## Last Call - Register for NEAUCE 2014

**NEAUCE 43rd Annual Conference**  
**May 6-8, 2014 - Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod**



**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Chap Clark**  
*Associate provost for strategic projects and professor*



and chair of the Youth, Family, and Culture  
Department in the School of Theology, Fuller  
Theological Seminary

### **Worship Leader: Rev. Mollie Landers**

Associate Director of Outdoor Ministries New  
Hampshire & Maine Conferences, UCC

For registration and more detailed information about the Conference  
[download the Brochure](#) or visit the [NEAUCE 2014 Event Website](#).

## National Youth Event 2016

Plans are underway and the National Youth Event 2016 is headed to  
Walt Disney World July 26-29, 2016! Spread the word! Tell your  
family and friends! Put it on your calendar! We're going to Disney!

### **NYE 2016 - Believe!**

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen."

Keep up with the latest event news on our Facebook page:



United Church of Christ Youth .

## Employment Opportunities

### **Director of Christian Education - Hollis**

A wonderful opportunity is available at the Congregational Church of  
Hollis for a Director of Christian Education.

The primary focus of this position is to provide leadership for the  
ministry of children and adults of the congregation. Our current  
programs are thriving and we are searching for someone who will  
help our Christian education programs continue to grow.

[Click here](#) for a detailed job description or visit the Hollis  
Congregational Church website, [www.hollischurch.org](http://www.hollischurch.org), for additional  
information and directions on how to apply for this position.

You may always visit the [Classified/Help Wanted Section](#) of the  
NHCUC website for regular updates on employment opportunities  
throughout the Conference.

## Events:

### **NEAUCE 2014**

May 6-8, 2014 Craigville Retreat/Conference Center, Cap Code, MA

For more information [download the Brochure](#) or visit the [Event Website](#).

### **2014 Confirmation Retreat at Horton Center**

October 3-4, 2014

Save the date. More information will be coming soon.

### The Word of God

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13

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