



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

August 2014

A PRAYER FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear God,
Thank you for the gift of children. Please watch over them as they go back to school this year.
Keep them safe every day.
Help them to remember that you are right there with them in the halls and classrooms. Help them soak up good knowledge and to dismiss any negative messages they may hear. Help them treat others with kindness and respect, and to guard their hearts with the armor of Your Word.
Give them joy and peace as they put their trust in you.
Amen

(source: Joyce Meyer Ministries)

Faith Formation at Home

The [Vibrant Faith @ Home](#) website has ideas for family activities designed to promote faith conversations as you ease into your fall routines.

Start your day with the [Back to School Breakfast Devotional activity for Young Families](#)

Know a teen that is going to start driving this fall? Check out this activity to promote prayerful discussion around teen driver safety and responsibility.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Back to School

Did the end of summer come all too fast? Are you still trying to finalize your Faith Formation Plans for this fall? Below are a few recommendations on resources to enhance or supplement your program.

Safety First

With many churches starting a new Faith Formation program year in September, this is a great time to review and update the safety policies & procedures in place at your church.

As a church leader you have a duty to provide a safe and healthy environment in which all people can learn about and experience God's love as part of your Christian Formation ministry.

The [Insurance Board](#) (a nonprofit corporation established by the participating Conferences of the United Church of Christ.) provides you a variety of resources to help you fulfill your covenant.

In the [Spring 2014 issue](#) of their newsletter, *The Steward*, the Insurance Board covers the importance of training in abuse prevention and provides an overview of the tools available to assist you with this training. The most comprehensive tool they offer is [SafeConduct \(TM\) Workbench](#).

For additional information on safe conduct resources, best practices, and sample policies and procedures, [click here](#).

Short Study Sessions for Youth and Adults

[The Thoughtful Christian.com](#) is an ecumenical site dedicated to helping Christians and seekers understand, share, practice, and be challenged in their faith. Among its resources are a series of downloadable one or two session studies on contemporary moral issues facing our teens and adults every day.

Some of the topics covered include:

- [Is Lying Ever Okay?](#) (Teen)
- [Be a Good Sport! Beyond Winning and Losing](#) (Teen)
- [The Bible and Homosexuality](#) (Teen, Adult)
- [Consumerism If I Had a Million Bucks I'd...](#) (Teen, Adult)
- [Contemplating Sex](#) (Teen)
- [Pop Quiz Will You Cheat?](#) (Teen)
- [Bullying in the Classroom](#) (Adult)
- [The Death Penalty](#) (Adult)

Resource Center

Visit the
[NH Conference Website](#)

Still need some ideas for
 curricula for this fall?

Check out these files for
 an overview of what is
 available:

[Adult](#)
[Youth](#)
[Children](#)
[Multi-Age](#)

If you are using a
 resource that is not
 mentioned here and
 would like to share that
 information, please email

Ann Desrochers at:
adesrochers@nhcucc.org

"The Guide"

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

edUCCators epistle

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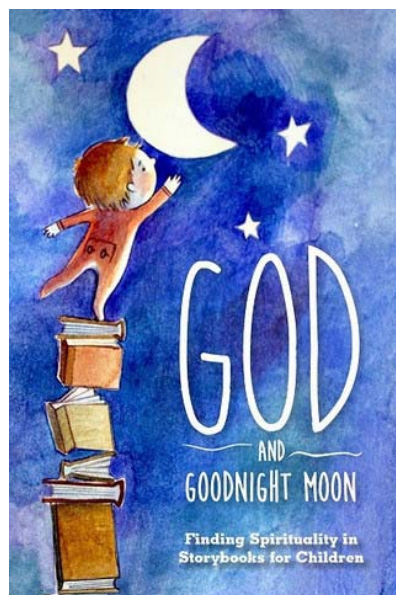
Quick Links

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.

The site also offers study programs on Bible and Theology, Pop Culture, Spirituality and Christian Living.

Finding Spirituality in Storybooks for Children



God and Goodnight Moon, available from UCC Resources, explores spiritual themes found in popular storybooks for preschool and elementary-aged children.

Some of the books include: Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown, The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles, The Patchwork Quilt by Valerie Flourney, The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats, God's Paintbrush by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams, and This is Not My Hat by Jon Klassen.

A brief synopsis of each book is provided, as well as an exploration of the story's scriptural themes and applications. There's also a spiritual reflection and an easy-to-prepare activity. To learn more or order the book, [click here](#).

One Read Program

Have you considered joining the UCC's One Read beginning September 8, 2014? One Read invites people of faith to read the same book together as part of the Reading Changes Lives literacy justice initiative.

Learn more by reading the [Literacy Changes Lives article](#) on the www.ucc.org website or at the [UCC Resources site](#)

Let me know if your church plans to participate in this program by sending a quick email to me at: adesrochers@nhcucc.org.

Training Opportunities

Saturday, November 15, 2014

10:00 am -3:00 pm

Keynote, Worship, Workshops and Lunch with Ivy Beckwith
 West Hartford, CT

CAUCE (Connecticut Association of United Church Educators) invites you to join them at the First Church of Christ Congregational in West Hartford, CT to meet with Ivy Beckwith, Team Leader, UCC Faith Formation Ministry.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Christian Education - Exeter

The Congregational Church in Exeter NH, UCC seeks a Director of Christian Education to support, develop, coordinate, and oversee educational programs to spiritually engage the children, youth, and adults of the congregation.

For more information, contact [Lisa Ann McConnell](#), Search Committee Chair or visit the church website:

<http://congchurchexeter.org/job-opportunities/>

**East Parish Congregational Church - East Derry
Director of Christian Education**

The congregation is looking for someone to oversee the Christian Education program, which includes church school classes for nursery through 12th grade students, and to reach out to young adults and help them find a niche. A detailed job description is posted on the [UCC Ministry Opportunities website](#).

The [Classified/Help Wanted Section](#) of the NHCUCC website also publishes employment opportunities throughout the Conference.

Registration is Open:**Confirmation Retreat 2014 "UCC: Is That For Me?"**

Horton Center

October 3-4, 2014

[Download the Brochure](#) or visit the Horton Center website to [Learn More >>](#)

Save the Date:**NEAUCE 44th Annual Conference "From Broken Hearts to Burning Hearts"**

Keynote Speaker: **Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette**, author of [Real Good Church](#)

Craigville Retreat Center, Cape Cod, MA

May 5-7, 2015

National Youth Event (NYE) 2016 - BELIEVE

Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort

July 26-29, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

The Word of God

"The Lord will keep you from all harm--he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Psalm 121:7-8 (NIV)

Contact Info

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