



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

February 2014

Amid all the secular, romantic notions of Valentine's Day I encourage you to take a moment or two and reflect on how God calls each of us to love one another.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

Matthew 22:37-39

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³⁷ He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

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Resource Center

Visit the [NH Conference Website](#)

Recently Updated files: [Students with Special Needs](#) now includes a reference to an article on working with Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students and information on the Prepared

The Rev. Ivy Beckwith, minister and team leader of the national UCC Faith Formation Ministry, shares her perspective on Faith Formation.

"Churches that are serious about facilitating positive faith formation understand that it is not about finding a better program or a top notch resource but that faith formation is a way of being church," Beckwith says.



A Conversation on Faith Formation

Read the complete article, [Turning the church faith formation model on its ear](#), recently published in KYP (Keeping You Posted).

What are other leaders saying about Faith Formation? Continue reading below...

So What Faith

Dr. Greg Smith is a progressive post-denominational follower of Jesus who currently serves two churches affiliated with the UCC, teaches religion at the university level, and works as an instructional technologist. He also maintains a website, [So What Faith](#), designed to help all of us live into the great challenge of struggling with and responding to that ongoing question as a part of the journey of faith.



[Dr. Greg Smith](#)

Some recommended readings from his site include:

- [Moving Sunday School Online](#)
- [Sermon: Growing Together](#) (About Lifelong Faith Formation)
- [The Future Church \(v.2020\) - 10 Shifts](#)

Passing on the Faith: Teaching the Next Generation

"What we want to implant is an easy and natural affection for the holy, an inherent connectedness to an on-going story, and a sense of membership within a sustaining community that is always there to hold all of us as well as demand some things of us." - excerpt from [My Six Essentials for Passing on the Faith](#) by Phyllis Tickle.

to Serve 2014 Workshop
"Rhythms of Grace"
(A non-traditional worship
experience which combines
liturgy and Christian
Formation. Originally
developed to meet the needs
of a family with a member on
the Autism Spectrum.)

"The Guide"

Called To Educational and
Formational Ministries: A
Guide for Local Churches,
Educators, and Youth Workers

edUCCators epistle

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UCC's Publishing, Identity,
and Communication Ministry
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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.



[Phyllis Tickle](#)

"What my children want from religious communities are opportunities for the direct exploration of real living. They don't want to talk about God, they want to live God. They don't want to hear about great deeds, they want to be asked to do great deeds. For religious communities to aid the spiritual growth of young people in the future, they need to find ways to encourage, bless, train, and support young people in the active pursuit of real life. It is in that pursuit that God is discovered."

-excerpt from the article [Less Talk, More Action](#) written by [Mark Yaconelli](#).



The two articles referenced above are part of a Patheos series called "Passing on the Faith: Teaching the Next Generation".

Starting with the basic premise that **faith "is caught, not taught"**, they invited scholars, practitioners, teachers, and parents from diverse traditions and perspectives to share their wisdom, insights, and best practices on what we can do to make our spirituality contagious.

The entire series of articles can be found at:
<http://www.patheos.com/Topics/Passing-on-the-Faith.html>

Planning Ahead

Pastors, Christian Educators, Lay Leaders
& Volunteers are cordially invited to join us



Saturday, March 8, 2014 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
for an **Open House/Preview Event** of
2014 Vacation Bible School Resources

"Drop In" at any time for an opportunity to network with other Christian educators, share ideas, participate in a short workshop session, and/or just browse VBS kits from several different publishers. Learn more in the [event flyer](#).

Formal registration is not required; however, for planning purposes the courtesy of an RSVP to Ann Desrochers is appreciated. Email Ann at: adesrochers@nhcucc.org

Don't Miss Out! Register NOW 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 this Conference
[download the Brochure](#) or visit the [NEAUCE 2014 Event Website](#).

Note: Scholarship funds are available to attend NEAUCE. [Click here](#) to
 apply for a NHAUCE Scholarship. Application deadline is March 14, 2014.

Event Summary:

Prepared to Serve

Saturday, February 22, 2014

"Fulfilling our Purpose, Serving the Greater Good"

[Click here](#) to view the workshop offerings, learn more about the event, and register.

VBS 2014 Open House/Preview Event

Saturday, March 8, 2014 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

[Click here](#) to learn more about the event.

NEAUCE 2014

May 6-8, 2014 Craigville 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

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19 (NRSV)

Contact Info

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