



## Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

January 2014

"Thy Word is Like a  
Garden Lord"  
by Edwin Hodder

Thy Word is like a  
garden, Lord,  
With flowers  
bright and fair.  
And everyone who  
seeks may pluck  
A lovely cluster there.

Thy Word is like a  
deep, deep mine,  
And jewels  
rich and rare  
Are hidden in its mighty  
depths  
For every searcher  
there.

Thy Word is like a  
starry host  
A thousand rays of light  
Are seen to guide the  
traveler,  
And make his  
pathways bright.

Thy Word is like  
an armory  
Where soldiers may  
repair  
And find, for life's long  
battleday,  
All needful weapons  
there.

O may I love Thy  
precious Word,  
May I explore the mine;  
May I its fragrant  
flowers glean,  
May light upon me  
shine.

O may I find my  
armor there,  
Thy Word my  
trusty sword!  
I'll learn to fight  
with every foe  
The battle of the Lord!

### The B-I-B-L-E ... yes, that's the book for me!

Are you suddenly reminiscing about Sunday school? VBS? Many of us were taught a powerful message through the simple lyrics of this song.

"The B-I-B-L-E  
Yes, that's the book for me  
I stand alone on the word of God  
The B-I-B-L-E.

The B-I-B-L-E  
I'll take along with me,  
I'll read and pray and then obey,  
The B-I-B-L-E."

I think of the Bible as a guidebook in which God reveals how to become a Christian, how to live as a Christian and what His will is for the church. Are you using the Bible as an integral part of your Christian education and formation curriculum? This newsletter offers some suggestions on different resources and approaches for incorporating Bible study into your program.

### Getting Started

#### [The Bible and the United Church of Christ](#)

The Still Speaking Writers' Group offers a short collection of essays and FAQ's about the Bible. Written for a lay audience, this is suitable resources for anyone who is curious about the Bible or the UCC's approach to the Bible. Topics include: Do We Believe in the Bible?; How We Read the Bible in the UCC; and The Really Hard Parts.



Click on the image to download a .pdf version of this resource or visit <http://www.uccresources.com> to order the booklet.

### Bible Study Resource for Adults

#### [Animate: Bible](#)

Animate: Bible is a seven-session adult exploration of the Bible. In each session, the group will watch a video featuring a leading voice from the Christian faith, spend time on personal reflection and journaling, and share ideas.

The seven topics covered are:

## Join Our Mailing List!

### 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 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**  
 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)

### 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

- Canon: Mining for the Word, Eric Elnes
- History: Parchment to Pixel, Phyllis Tickle
- Testaments: One Story, Two Parts, Rachel Held Evans
- Gospels: Unexpected Good News, Nadia Bolz-Weber
- Genre: Rhythm of the Text, Jose Morales
- Interpretation: Scripture Reads Us, Will Willimon
- Grace: Love Is the Bottom Line, Jay Bakker



Introducing Animate: Bible from sparkhouse

Learn more at: <http://animate.wearesparkhouse.org/animate/bible/>

## "The Celebration of the Bible" (Intergenerational Activity)

Does your church have a special Sunday worship service during which you present Bibles to your second or third graders? Why not turn that Sunday into an all church event to celebrate this sacred book. [Barbara Bruce](#), an author who has worked as a Christian educator for more than twenty years, wrote an article entitled "[The Celebration of the Bible](#)" sharing suggestions, tips and concrete ideas on how to [create this type of celebration](#).

In her article she reminds us, "We are called to celebrate our BIBLE- our gift of God's word for us over many centuries and for our lives today. We invite you to celebrate. To rejoice. To give thanks for the special book that shapes our lives."

## Faith Practices: Encountering Scripture (Resources for All Ages)

Encountering Scripture is a faith practice that explores how as Christians, we believe that scripture is the living word of God. In our encounter with scripture, God meets us and we meet God. Because the Bible has been used to judge, condemn, or hurt, we have a responsibility and a calling as God's people to remove fear, distrust, and dis-empowerment and to move toward confidence, empowerment and love.



Faith Practices is an online resource that's transforming congregations into communities that worship together, learn together, and serve together. Faith Practices encompass every setting in your congregation (Christian Education, Workshop Rotation, Worship, Music & Arts, Confirmation).

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

## Registration is now open for NEAUCE 2014

provides advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ.



Theological Seminary

**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*

**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](#).

## Events:

### Prepared to Serve

Saturday, February 22, 2014

#### "Fulfilling our Purpose, Serving the Greater Good"

Join us for a day of worship, fellowship, and enrichment. [Click here](#) to view the workshop offerings, learn more about the event, and register.

### The Word of God

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people." John 1:1-4 (NRSV)

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