



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

June 2014

The [Vibrant Faith @ Home](#) website has ideas for family activities designed to promote faith conversations over the summer.

Check out some of these summer time prayer activities:

[Insect Prayers](#)
(for young families)

[Prayer-on-the-Go](#)
(Adult/Couple)

or
camp-related activities:

[Homesickness Helps](#)
&
[Go in Peace](#)
(for Young families)

[S'mores & Stories](#)
(for Teen Families)

or activities for Young Adults during a summer of transition (after high school or college)
[Where'd Everyone Go](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Resource Center
Visit the
[NH Conference Website](#)

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

edUCCators epistle

More Reflections from NEAUCE 2014

For the visual learners among us, I offer the image of a tapestry to help define the ministry of Faith Formation. There are as many unique warp threads running through our tapestry as there are unique individuals, of all ages, in our congregations. These people are all woven together by the weft threads, the common threads that bring out the beauty in a faith that binds us together. The NEAUCE conference brought to light several of these common Faith Formation threads:

- faith is more than just beliefs, it is relational
- faith is not simply defined by what we do or don't do, but by God's Grace
- faith is based in trust
- there is no "one size fits all" answer for building a lasting faith, a strong faith appreciates the complexity of each individual

NEAUCE Keynote Speaker: Chap Clark on "Sticky Faith"

The 43rd annual NEAUCE conference featured [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 as the keynote speaker.

Chap, along with his colleagues at the Fuller Youth Institute, spent nearly six years doing research to identify relationships and best practices that can help our youth build a lasting faith. The results of this work shaped the central theme of his talks with us about "Sticky Faith".

While some of his findings might appear obvious, it is often the obvious we overlook. This month, I focus on one of his key findings: building lifelong faith starts at home. Parents are the primary influence in the faith of our children and youth. This finding challenges parents to be intentional in the way they share their faith with their children. As professionals and volunteers in this field, the challenge for us is to better equip parents with ways to have these faith conversations with their children. Conversations that are genuine, engaging and provide a safe place for children/youth to explore their questions and doubts.

Recommended resources:

- <http://stickyfaith.org/parents> (includes ideas for parents to connect with their children over the summer)
- exploring difficult questions about faith and God, for Youth Leaders and/or Parents

Bi-weekly e-mailing from the UCC's Publishing, Identity, and Communication Ministry Team. To subscribe, contact Aimee Janssohn at janssoha@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 provides advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ.



Can I Ask That? Hard Questions about God and Faith

- Also see [Vibrant Faith @ Home](#) Summer Activities listed in the sidebar

NEAUCE National UCC Update from Kate Epperly

The Rev. Dr. Kate Epperly joined us at NEAUCE to share news on what is happening with Faith Formation at the United Church of Christ (UCC) national level.

UCC Faith Formation Ministry Team

The newly formed five member Faith Formation team of the UCC brings together members with a portfolio representing experience and expertise in the faith formation areas of: Worship, Music, Youth, Children and Families. Team members Kate Epperly, Sue Blain, Scott Ressman, Waltrina Middleton and Ivy Beckwith are working collaboratively to bring about a paradigm shift that challenges churches to move away from their comfort zone, found in the traditional model of "Sunday School", and embrace a new approach that is more relational, intergenerational and holistic, integrating all aspects of home and congregational life.

The team views their new role, not as the resource providers of the past, but as resource curators and practitioner connectors. This means they are looking to develop centers of excellence, identify churches having success in certain areas of faith formation and connect them with other churches seeking to excel in that same area. Churches sharing best practices with each other and supporting each other as they grow and change.

Partnership with Disciples of Christ (DOC)

The UCC continues its partnership with the DOC by collaborating on new Family and Children's Ministry initiatives. Olivia Bryan Updegrove, Olivia Stewart Robertson and Kate Epperly have started by building strong relationships with [AUCE](#), [Vibrant Faith Ministries](#) and the UCC Minnesota Conference sponsored [Certification School for Progressive Christian Faith Formation and Young Ministries](#).

Learn more at:

www.ucc.org/children and www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/dhm-ministries/family-and-childrens-ministries/

There is still time to Register for 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.

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

Training Opportunities

August 1 -3, 2014

Young Adult/Adult "OWL Facilitator" Training

Nashua, NH

The First Church of Nashua, NH will be hosting a Young Adult/Adult "OWL Facilitator" training event on August 1-3, 2014. Jane Detwiler and T. Michael Rock will be the trainers. Registration is now open. For more information and a registration form, [click here](#).

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

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](#).

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.

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

Save the Date:

Confirmation Retreat 2014 "UCC: Is That For Me?"

Horton Center

October 3-4, 2014

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

NEAUCE 44th Annual Conference - "From Broken Hearts to Burning Hearts"

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

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NRSV)

Contact Info

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