



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

November 2014

A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100 (NRSV)

Faith Formation at Home

Visit the [Vibrant Faith @ Home](#) website for suggestions on how to engage your family in faith activities at home.

In the activity [Thanksgiving Table Talk](#) they recommend creating photographic placemats for Thanksgiving dinner to inspire people to talk about fun times in the past and to dream of even better times for the future.

As an alternative place a [Gratitude Box](#) on your table and fill it with notes of reflection on what you and your family members are thankful for.

Join Our Mailing List!

Resource Center

Visit the [NH Conference Website](#)

Recently Updated Resource Files:

[Events, Stewardship & VBS \(2015 curriculum\)](#)

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](#) Bi-weekly e-mailing from the UCC's Publishing, Identity, and Communication Ministry Team. To subscribe,

As we celebrate the Christian New Year have members of your congregation share their hopes for the upcoming year.

Gather in a large circle with a basket in the middle. Provide each person with a star shaped piece of paper. On the paper, have them write a hope or dream for the congregation in the coming year. Ask people to share these, then place them in the basket. End with a prayer and singing "God, Our Help in Ages Past." (Activity idea from <http://thechristiancalendar.com/>).

Revisit these words of hope and inspiration later in the year.

Faith Formation Activities for Advent and Christmas

Make an Advent Wreath or Calendar for Use at Home

The Advent season is filled with great anticipation and joy. Help your church families focus on the true meaning of Christmas by celebrating Advent in their homes. During this busy season, these activities provide an opportunity to slow down and take a few minutes each day to reflect on the humble birth of Christ and invite him into our present lives.

- [Child Friendly Advent Wreath](#)

With a little help, the children will make a wreath made using their hand prints.



- [Children's Advent Wreath with Activity Chain](#)

This Advent activity includes creating a wreath surrounded by a paper chain. Each link in the chain fosters daily activities that are character building, service based, or designed to engage your family with a Bible story.

- [Homemade Advent Calendars](#)

[The Crafty Crow website](#) has 35 simple ideas for helping you engage your family in the countdown to Christmas. Many of these homemade calendars use ordinary items found around your house, such as paper cups, plastic bags, and empty toilet tissue rolls. Each item is filled with a daily activity or devotional.

Happy Birthday Jesus Party

The <http://www.ministry-to-children.com> website provides an easy to follow [lesson plan](#) for having a Jesus Birthday Party. The activity includes hearing the story of Jesus' birth and thinking about what gifts we can give to Jesus, and compares the celebration of Christ's birth with a traditional birthday party.

Learn about Christmas customs of other Faith Traditions

Encourage members of your congregation to share faith traditions from their family culture.



Have a **Christingle** celebration, workshop or service to explore this Christmas tradition and custom from the Moravian Church. At the center of the celebration is a Christingle, an orange representing the world with a candle placed in the top of it to symbolize Christ's Light.

The resources below will help you get started:

- [The History of Christingles](#)
- [Christingle: An intergenerational Christmas Eve celebration from the Moravian tradition](#)
- [The Moravian Christingle](#)

Training Opportunities

The Christian Formation Ministry of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ invites you to join us for two events this winter:

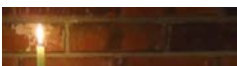
2015 Vacation Bible School - Open House and Preview Event

Saturday, January 24, 2015

9:00 am - Noon

Bradley Keefer, Cokesbury Community Resource Consultant will be on hand to answer questions and show you samples of VBS programs from most of the major publishers.

[Click Here](#) to view the event flyer.



The Bible: 3 C's

(Choosing, Celebrating, Conversing)

contact Aimee Jannsohn
at jannsoha@ucc.org



Saturday, March 7, 2014

9:00 am - Noon

Free event to share information and join in conversations about selecting Bibles, leading a Bible study, and celebrating the Book!

[Learn More >>](#)

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.

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 NHCUC website also publishes employment opportunities throughout the Conference.

Save the Date:



NEAUCE 44th Annual Conference
"From Broken Hearts to Burning Hearts"
Craigville Retreat Center, Cape Cod, MA
May 5-7, 2015

Keynote Speaker: **Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette**, author of **Real Good Church**

Worship Leader: **Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer**, Associate Pastor at First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, VT and member of the Outdoor Ministries Association UCC

National Youth Event (NYE) 2016 - BELIEVE
Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort
July 26-29, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)



Believe! United Church of Christ National Youth Event (NYE) 2016

The Word of God

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14 (NRSV)

Contact Info
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