



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

April 2015

A Servant's Heart (A Prayer)

"Make me a servant
like You, dear Lord,
Living for others each day.
Humble and meek,
Helping the weak,
Loving in all that I say.
Give me Lord
a servant's heart
Here's my life
take every part
Give me Lord
a servant's heart...
Help me draw
so close to You
That Your love
comes shining through
Give me Lord
a servant's heart."
(Ron Hamilton)

source:
meditationsofhislove.com

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Resource Center

Visit the
NH Conference Website

Recently Added or
Updated Resource Files:

[Mission & Service
Events](#)

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

During this season of Eastertide I offer a scripture from Mark for reflection.
"For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a
ransom for many." Mark 10:45 (NRSV)

According to research done at Baylor University and funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc., "Faith and outreach are closely connected in spiritual development. Congregational life, faith practices and service to others shape children, teens, adults and families." This issue of the newsletter has a focus on the connection between service and faith formation.

Building Faith Through Service

Children

"When we involve young people in mission, we help nurture them into discipleship by teaching them to care for others and by providing them with opportunities to serve." In her the article, [Involving Children in Mission](#), Liz Perraud explores the "why and how" to encourage a heart for service in the youngest members of our congregation.

Teens

In his essay, [Best Practices in Adolescent Faith Formation](#), John Roberto writes "Participating in Christian service has a powerful impact in the faith life of teens. Christian service experiences make faith real and alive for young people. These experiences foster growth in faith and often change the lives of young people, sometimes dramatically."

Looking for information on ways to involve your teens in service? Check out [UCC Mission Trip Opportunities \(2015 Edition\)](#).

Adults

Many of our church worship service bulletins include a statement like, "Here ends our worship, now let our service begin." This provides a reminder that as disciples of Christ we are called to serve God and others. Janet Schaeffler (OP and contributor to the Vibrant Faith Ministries, [Faith Formation Learning Exchange](#)) explores this theme further in [13 Ideas for Adult Faith Formation: Send the Faithful Out On Mission to the World](#).

Families

In their research report *Engaging Families in Service: Broadening Service-Learning's Reach, Impact, and Support*, Eugene C. Roehlkepartain and Jenny Friedman offer the following suggestions for promoting family service activities in your church:

- Look for creative ways to involve all ages in the current service activities of your congregation
- Establish relationships with local agencies
- Look for activities that can be done within the local church

"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 Janssohn at janssoha@ucc.org

Quick Links

The Association of United Church Educators (AUCE) has recently updated their national website.

Check it out!
www.auce-ucc.org

AUCE: a membership organization, of and for lay and ordained, paid and volunteer pastors, educators, and youth workers, which has been providing advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ since 1971.

(helping to shovel walkways, spring cleanups, planting flowers)

- Find "mentor families" that have done service activities to assist families with little or no experience in this area

These websites that also offer specific ideas for engaging families/all ages in service:

- [Heifer International](#) offers a number of educational resources to support faith communities
- [Doing Good Together](#) empowers families to raise caring, engaged children by offering unique programs and events, valuable services, and fun activities that promote kindness and giving. [Click here](#) to learn more about their Big-Hearted Families program.

Last Call - NEAUCE 2015**NEAUCE Conference - "From Broken Hearts to Burning Hearts" - May 5-7, 2015**

The **New England Association of United Church Educators** (NEAUCE) 44th Annual Conference at the Craigville Retreat Center, Cape Cod, MA. Over three days you will have an opportunity to enjoy Worship, Fellowship, Music, Workshops, and some time for Fun and Relaxation!

Come hear **Keynote Speaker:** the **Rev. Molly Baskette**, Lead Pastor at First Church Somerville UCC, Massachusetts and author of [Real Good Church: How Our Church Came Back From the Dead, and Yours Can, Too](#).

Don't Wait [On-line Registration](#) will close soon.

Training Opportunities**Our Whole Lives - Training Educators to Teach Human Sexuality July 10-12, 2015 - Nashua, NH**

[Our Whole Lives](#) is a series of programs for *Human Sexuality Education*. Written by professional sexuality educators, the programs provide accurate information for parents, teachers and pastors to use with children and young people to help them learn about sexuality in the affirming and supportive setting of our churches



The First Church, UCC, in Nashua will offer two workshops to train educators how to teach participants about sexuality in age-appropriate ways. One will focus on the curricula for **grades 7-9 and grades 10-12** and the other on **grades K-1 and grades 4-6**. [Click here](#) for additional information and a registration form.

Note: A revised curriculum for Grades 7-9 is now available. The second edition adds new content to address current issues, such as bullying and social media and includes a new section on facilitating programs that are more inclusive for students with special needs.

[Learn More >>](#)

If you are unable to attend the Nashua training, visit www.ucc.org for a complete (nationwide) training schedule.

Employment Opportunities

First Congregational Church of Wakefield, UCC **Part-time Director of Christian Education**

The church is seeking an inspiring, well-organized Director of Christian Education.

A seminary degree is preferred; experience in program start-ups, commitment to life-long faith formation, group presentation experience, ability to work creatively and independently, excitement about being part of a progressive community of faith required.

Position begins with ten hours per week. **Send letter and resume by May 11, 2015** to: [First Congregational Church of Wakefield.](#)

For additional opportunities visit the [Classified/Help Wanted Section](#) of the NHCUCC website or the the UCC (National) Ministry Opportunities webpage for employment in the area of [Christian Education and Formation.](#)

Save the Date:

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

[Learn More >>](#)

Visit the National Youth Event website:

<http://nye.uccpages.org/>



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

The Word of God

"Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

1 John 3:18 (NRSV)

Contact Info

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