



## Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

January 2015

### Transfiguration (Prayer of Confession)

Patient Lord,  
you know how  
accustomed we are to  
"magic" tricks.

Our spirits and our senses  
get fooled easily. We  
would be just like the  
disciples, at first not  
believing what we were  
seeing and then wanting  
to make a monument to  
the event.

Thank you for being so  
patient with us.

Forgive us when we get  
so wrapped up in the  
moment that we don't take  
time enough to  
understand its  
significance.

Help us pause, reflect,  
think, and thank you for  
the blessings of  
unexpected revelations.

Give us wisdom and  
strength to be your  
disciples, proclaiming your  
transforming love to all  
people.  
AMEN.

A prayer from  
[Ministry Matters](#)  
[Worship Connections](#)  
by Nancy C. Townley

### Faith Formation at Home

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

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

In the coming weeks the Christian season of Epiphany will come to an end and our thoughts will quickly turn to Lent and Easter. Yet right in the midst of that transition is the Transfiguration, a mountaintop experience filled with so much truth and mystery it is often difficult to grasp. How then, do you help others to understand its significance? This issue of the newsletter offers some suggestions on resources to aide in exploring the meaning of the Transfiguration in the lives of disciples of Jesus Christ (both then and now).

### Transfiguration

Resources from [Ministry Matters](#):

- In his article [Transfiguration and Christian Life](#) Jim Hawkins approaches the subject using an analogy to the clarity eyeglasses provide for someone with blurred vision.
- Carolyn C. Brown writes [From a Child's Point of View](#) grabbing attention with reference to the transformation of the "mild- mannered Clark Kent" into Superman.

Resources from [Sermons4Kids](#):

- [On the Mountain Top](#) uses beautiful pictures of mountains to explain the Mark 9:2-9 (Year B Lectionary Text). The basic theme is that mountaintop experiences prepare us for the valleys of every day life.
- If you are blessed with the gift of musical talent, [Sunshine Mountain](#), connects the experience surrounding the Transfiguration of Jesus to the lyrics of "Climb Sunshine Mountain".

Resources from [Ministry to Children](#):

- Kara Jenkins shares a [Preschool Bible Lesson: Jesus' Transfiguration](#).
- Beckie Stewart developed a lesson plan for [Jesus Transfiguration](#) that can be used in a **one room Sunday School**. The children compare the different Gospel accounts of the story.

For the more active among us [Christianity Cove](#) provides some **game ideas** to convey the Transfiguration message:

- In the ["Knock Me Down" Transfiguration Bible Game](#) children learn they can be empowered to "knock down life's struggles".
- [Follow the Sound of My Voice](#) challenges the children to step outside their comfort zone, sometimes into a "dark" place, and to learn to trust.

Other Resources:

## Resource Center

Visit the  
NH Conference Website

Recently Updated  
Resource Files:

### Intergenerational

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](mailto: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, 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 provides advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ.

- Kelly Lardin wrote an article for the Orthodox Christian Network entitled, [Transfiguration: It's All About Change](#). She uses the well-known children's story, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, as a basis for explaining change. Her related craft idea is a [Sun Catcher](#).
- The Sunday School lesson [Now You See It](#) integrates a mini **science activity** to reveal the important message of Transfiguration. This can be used with all ages.

## Youth@Synod - RSVP Required

### New England Heads to Cleveland - June 24-30, 2015

New Hampshire youth **have been invited** to join youth from the other New England states as they venture to Cleveland for General Synod.



If you know Youth that are interested, please contact Ann Desrochers ([adesrochers@nhcucc.org](mailto:adesrochers@nhcucc.org)) **as soon as possible** to confirm our response to this invitation.

Additional information is available in the [Save the Date Flyer](#) and at the [UCC Youth at Synod webpage](#).

## Training Opportunities

The Center for Progressive Renewal is offering a four week online course, [The Key to Faith Formation that Works - Bringing the Generations Together](#). In this course the Rev. Dr. Ivy Beckwith, UCC Director of Faith Formation, will explore the value of intergenerational relationships for the healthy and lasting faith formation of children, youth, and adults. We'll look at how these relationships help to build "sticky faith" and how to be intentional about creating them through learning, worship, and play. Course Fee: \$299.00. **Act now: Starts February 2nd !**

### Prepared to Serve - February 21, 2015

The New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ **Prepared to Serve** (PTS) event is just around the corner. The event includes fellowship, inspiring worship, and educational, faith-building workshops on a variety of topics, including stewardship, church leadership, church finances, global missions and Christian education. The day also includes a delicious catered lunch. Event registration is now open! [Click here to learn more >>](#)

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

- [The Bible: 3 C's \(Choosing, Celebrating, Conversing\) on Saturday, March 7, 2015](#)

**Employment Opportunities**

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

The UCC (National) Ministry Opportunities webpage also publishes employment opportunities in the area of [Christian Education and Formation](#).

**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**

"Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Mark 9:7 (NIV)

**Contact Info**

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