



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

January 2016 News & Updates

Welcome to 2016! How many of you started off the year by promising yourself you would eat better, shed a few pounds, spend more time with your family, or learn something new? What was your motivation for making these resolutions? Maybe the reason behind your resolution was self-improvement or perhaps you have a reunion this year and want to look and feel your best.

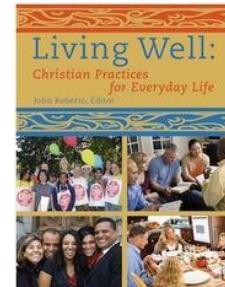
What if you were to look at this desire to make changes in your life through a different lens? What if your resolutions, [like those of pastor, writer and theologian Jonathan Edwards](#), were rooted in the desire to live in a way that is pleasing to God? As faith formation leaders we are called to model this holistic behavior and equip people to apply Christian practices to everyday life.

Christian Practices

Christian practices help us integrate our faith into everyday life in response to and in light of God's presence in our world.

There is a wealth of information available on Christian practices, however, as a starting point I recommend the following:

- [What is a Christian Practice?](#), an article by Dorothy Bass that provides a comprehensive, working definition
- Practicing Our Faith Website: www.practicingourfaith.org
- [Strategies for Faith Formation in Christian Practices](#) by John Roberto
- [Faith Practices Download Files](#) from the United Church of Christ
(Note: while the Faith Practices curriculum is no longer available for sale, you may download the resources at no charge)
- [Living Well: Christian Practices for Everyday Life](#) by LifeLong Faith Associates



Upcoming Events



Convocation 2016 - Life as Art: Design thinking and mindfulness for integrating life and ministry

January 25-26, 2016 - Portland, Maine

Pastor-artist-author [Troy Bronsink](#) will lead activities and conversations that get you out of your seat and encourage you to move-into your community as well as that interior landscape where God's calling emerges. [Learn More >>](#)



Prepared to Serve 2016 - "Embrace the Spirit: Growing our Gifts for the Greater Good"

February 20, 2016 - Pembroke, NH

Prepared to Serve is a special training event that welcomes participants with fellowship, inspiring worship, and educational, faith-building workshops on a wide variety of topics, including stewardship, church leadership, church finances, global missions and Christian education. We will have over 70 workshops for you to choose from. The day also includes a delicious catered lunch and refreshments. [Learn More >>](#)



National Youth Event 2016 - Believe

July 26-30, 2016 - Buena Vista, Florida

NH teens (age 13-18) are invited to join UCC and Disciples youth, from across the country and around the world, for an event centered on faith, fellowship, leadership, service, social justice and fun. Don't miss out on a chance to be a part of this inspiring four-day experience. [Learn More >>](#)

Resource Spotlight

Planning ahead? The following resources have been updated to reflect **new programs** for the **summer of 2016**:

- [Cokesbury's VBS Comparison Chart](#)
- [UCC Mission Trip Opportunities](#)



"Into the Mystic"

In November of 2015 Rev. John C. Dorhauer, the United Church of Christ General Minister and President, started a weekly podcast. Every Monday a new timely and thought-provoking topic is added. [Click here](#) to listen to these brief spiritual reflections (generally five minutes or less).

Employment Opportunities

Local (New Hampshire): The Congregational Church of Hollis is currently searching for an [Interim Christian Education Coordinator](#). Find additional information and other career opportunities posted on the [New Hampshire Conference UCC website](#).

National: Willing to relocate? The [UCC Ministry Opportunities webpage](#) is a great source for Christian Education and Faith Formation openings nationwide.

The Word of God

"Let the message about Christ completely fill your lives, while you use all your wisdom to teach and instruct each other. With thankful hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God." Colossians 3:16 (CEV)

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