



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

November 2016 News & Updates

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, this issue of the newsletter lifts up several resources and opportunities that I am truly grateful for.

Featured Resources

Advocacy and Support for Faith Formation Leaders

As Faith Formation Leaders we understand the importance of building community. It is when we engage with each other in exploring and sharing that we grow personally and in our faith. Did you know that there are organizations to provide that community for you? Organizations to help you grow as individuals and leaders.

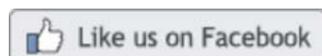
The (national) **Association of United Church Educators** (AUCE) is a membership organization, of and for lay and ordained, paid and volunteer pastors, educators, and youth workers, which has been providing advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ since 1971.



Learn more about the organization at: <http://www.auce.org>.

On a more local level, the New England region (**NEAUCE**) offers a conference each May providing opportunities for those engaged in Christian formation ministries to refresh, renew and grow in faith and knowledge.

The next three-day event will be held May 2-4, 2017 at the Pilgrim Pines Camp and Conference Center, located on a beautiful lake in Swanzey, New Hampshire. We will explore the theme "Toward Common Ground" by focusing on racial justice and interfaith matters.



Encouraging Families to be Communities of Faith Practice

A Thanksgiving filled with an attitude of gratitude

- Begin your meal with a blessing using one of the [10 Thanksgiving](#)

[Prayers and Table Graces](#) from [Building Faith](#)

- Remember those who are not able to be with you this year by making or purchasing cards for them. Have everyone gathered at your Thanksgiving meal sign the card or write a personal note. Mail them the next day to share your gratitude
- Add some fun and laughter to your day with these [Thanksgiving Game](#) suggestions from the [Creative Bible Study website](#).
- [Danielle's Place](#) offers several ideas for [Thanksgiving Crafts for Kids](#) to express your creativity and thanks at the same time!



Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

Building Faith - Monthly Webinars

[Building Faith](#), a resources website run by the [Center for the Ministry of Teaching](#) at Virginia Theological seminary, is committed to bringing you the best resources, theological reflection, and expert insight on formation ministry. To further this mission, they will now begin offering monthly webinars on selected topics. The first webinar "Claiming Epiphany" is scheduled for Wednesday November 16th at 3 p.m. EST

[Learn More >>](#)

Vibrant Faith University Certificate in Faith Formation for the 21st Century

Next Cohort begins January 9, 2017



As a participant in this two-year, online program, you will immerse yourself into the new world of faith formation. You will develop the knowledge, skills, and practices for faith formation that. . . .

- engages all generations-intergenerationally
- nurtures family faith and equips parents to transmit faith at home
- addresses the unique needs of age groups-children, youth, and adults
- develops missional outreach to the unaffiliated and uninvolved, and
- utilizes online communities and resources, and digitally-enabled strategies for faith formation.

[Learn More >>](#)



Convocation 2017 - "Course Corrections"

January 23-24, 2017

The BTS Center will continue a century-old tradition of bringing together nationally-recognized speakers to share ideas and perspectives about contemporary spiritual and religious concerns. Convocation 2017 - "Course Corrections" - will provide participants with opportunities to make meaning of the changes that are transforming 21st century spiritual and religious landscapes.

[Learn More >>](#)

Our Whole Lives

2017 New England Region Secondary Level Training

January 27- 29, 2017 or February 3-5, 2017 or April 21-23, 2017

Walker Center, Auburndale, MA

Our Whole Lives and Sexuality and Our Faith respond to General Synod actions calling for the development of sexuality education materials for all ages. Participating in a human sexuality program in a supportive and affirming environment in the church will help participants understand that sexuality is an important part of the way God created us; that their church cares about their sexual development; and that caring Christian adults are willing and able to talk with them about their questions and concerns.



More Information is available by clicking on the links below:

- [Our Whole Lives](#) Sexuality Education Program, including a one-hour webinar overview of the curriculum
- Complete [Training Schedule](#) with Registration Information

Faith in Music: Blues to Beyoncé

March 13 - May 19, 2017

This free, public, online course explores the spiritual significance of popular music through a theological study of eight influential artists: Robert Johnson, Rosetta Tharpe, Elvis Presley, George Harrison, Carlos Santana, Lauryn Hill,

Björk, and Beyoncé.

[Learn More >>](#)

Employment Opportunities

Local (New Hampshire):

- **The Brookline Community Church** is looking for a [Faith Formation Director](#) to create something from the ground up that helps the church reach out to the children of Brookline.

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

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things." Psalm 107:1, 8-9 (NRSV)

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