



## Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

### April 2017 News & Updates

During Eastertide we continue to reflect on what it means to be a people of the resurrection and a people who experience the grace, forgiveness, and presence of God in Christ through the celebration of two sacraments.

This month's Newsletter offers resources to help engage God's children, of all ages, in further understanding the two sacraments of our faith tradition: Baptism and Communion.

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#### Baptism

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Through baptism a person is joined with the universal church, the body of Christ. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God's people always. Visit the UCC website to learn more about [Baptism: A Practice of Faith in the United Church of Christ](#).

#### Faith Formation Resources on the Topic of Baptism

- [Touch the Water: 30 Children's Sermons on Baptism](#) for use by clergy and lay leaders in preaching to children from kindergarten to fifth grade.
- [Getting Ready for Baptism, 2nd Edition](#), authored by the UCC Still Speaking Writers' Group, provides an updated look at what baptism means today, for those preparing for baptism - whether parents or children, adults or congregations, and even clergy.
- [Leading Through the Water](#) offers a perspective on linking baptismal practice to daily life.

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#### Communion

In the sacrament of Holy Communion, also called the Lord's Supper or Eucharist, meaning "thanksgiving," Christians hear, taste, touch and receive the grace of God revealed through Jesus Christ in a unique way. Visit the UCC

website to learn more about [Holy Communion: A Practice of Faith in the United Church of Christ](#).

### Faith Formation Resources on the Topic of Communion

- [Taste the Bread: 30 Children's Sermons on Communion](#) provides selected scripture passages, biblical stories and theological themes regarding Holy Communion.
- [Leading from the Table](#) is a series of reflections about the way the prayer at the communion table provides a pattern for our lives.

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## Sacraments

### Faith Formation Resources on the Topic of Sacraments

- [Come Unto Me: Rethinking the Sacraments for Children](#) is a resource for families and congregations wanting to bring the sacraments to "life" for children.
- Learn more about the sacraments on the UCC webpage: [We are One at Baptism and at the Table](#).
- Additional resources are listed on the NHCUCC Christian Formation Ministry on-line resource center page ([sacraments](#)).

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## Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

### Wisdom From the Field Webinar Series



The Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminar offers a monthly webinar series, [Wisdom From the Field](#), focusing on critical issues in Faith Formation as well as digital media for ministry.

Register for Upcoming webinars by clicking on the links below:

- May 17 [Teaching and Learning the Eucharist](#) (Episcopal)

**There is still time to [Register](#) for NEAUCE  
(New England Association of United Church Educators) Conference  
"Toward Common Ground - Living Faithfully in a Diverse World Community"  
May 2 - 4, 2017 at Pilgrim Pines in Swanzey, NH**

Join Christian Educators, Youth Leaders, Clergy, and Lay Leaders for a three day gathering filled with worship, fellowship, music, workshops, fun and relaxation. This year's event will feature a Racial Justice Keynote Address by The Rev. Da Vita D. McCallister; an Interfaith Keynote Address from Dr. Heidi Hadsell; and a Faith Formation/Practical Theology Keynote Address by Dr. Courtney T. Goto. Learn more by [downloading the event brochure](#).



Learn about [more events](#) on the Christian Formation Ministry [Resources webpage](#).

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## Quick Links

- The [Association of United Church Educators](#) (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.
  - "[The Guide](#)" Called to Educational and Formational Ministries: A Guide for Local Churches, Educators, and Youth Workers.
  - Working on your summer plans? Check out the [2017 VBS Comparison Chart](#) from Cokesbury or watch a replay of the March webinar *from Wisdom From the Field*, [VBS 2017](#).
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## Employment Opportunities

### Local (New Hampshire):

- **Atkinson Congregational Church** is looking for a part-time Director of Children and Youth Ministries. Visit the [Classifieds/Help Wanted](#) section of the NH Conference UCC website for more details on this position.
- 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.

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## The Word of God

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!  
Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 118:1-2 (NRSV)

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