



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

November 2017 News & Updates

In October we explored Stewardship Ministry as a part of year-round Christian living. This month we look at service and mission as a practice for faith formation and spiritual growth. As disciples of Christ we are called, not just to know and understand the Word, but to take the lessons of our head and heart and put them into action.

Featured Resources

Building Faith Through Mission Engagement

- Ann A. Michel, associate director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary, notes that "Christian service often isn't much different than the work of secular community groups". In her article, [Spiritual Growth through Mission Participation](#), she offers some key factors to help promote mission engagement that nurtures us in faith and discipleship.

Preparation is Essential - Mission Trip Leader Training

- "[Catch the Service Bug](#)", a [video resource](#) that debuted during the UCC's National Youth Event in July 2016, highlights the importance of adults for a youth mission trip. It offers experiences to help in training, orienting, encouraging and celebrating the adult leaders of youth mission trips. If you have never led a mission trip before - check this out. You are not alone. If you are experienced in mission trip leadership - new ideas may await.

Kids to Kids - Hands-on Ways for Kids to Help Other Kids

- Kids to Kids projects offer hands-on ways for kids to help other kids - here in the U.S. and around the world. Each project is designed around a different theme and includes educational resources, concrete mission ideas, and kid friendly explanations of difficult topics like hunger, poverty, immigration, human trafficking, and others. These projects help kids process stories they may hear in the news and enable them to show God's love to those in need. [Learn more about these resources](#) from the

Families & Children's Ministries of the Disciples of Christ.

Moving from Trip to Experience: Creating Short-Term Missions

- Free Webinar: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 - 3:00 PM EST

Part of the [Wisdom from the Field webinar series](#) sponsored by the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary.
[Register Here >>](#)

Learn about more resources in the [Mission and Service document](#) found on the [Christian Formation Ministry webpage](#) of the New Hampshire Conference.

Mission Trip Opportunities

Back Bay Mission 2019 Mission Trip Calendar Opens on January 1, 2018

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about your church's 2019 mission trip!

Mission trips to Back Bay Mission are great opportunities for learning, service, and fellowship. These week long immersive mission experiences teach participants about poverty on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and prepare groups to serve in their own communities.

And our 2019 mission trip calendar opens at midnight, central time, on January 1, 2018! That's just a little over a month away!

Popular dates, especially during the summer and spring break season, fill up fast.

[Click here](#) to learn more about mission trips at Back Bay Mission, including how to register beginning on January 1, 2018!

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

The Massachusetts Conference UCC invites you to participate in their:

- **2018 Education for Effective Youth Ministry Program (EYEM)**
EYEM is a fun, interactive program for local church youth leaders who are just beginning their work with youth, or who feel the need to obtain new skills. Registration deadline is **December 1, 2017**. For more information [download the brochure](#).
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New England Youth Environmental Justice Summit
Sponsored by the NH Conference United Church of Christ
Saturday, April 7, 2018 **9:00 am - 4:00 pm**
Brookside Congregational Church, Manchester, NH

Keynote Speakers:

- **Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, Massachusetts Conference Minister, UCC**
- **Rev. Dr. Brooks Berndt, UCC Minister for Environmental Justice**

Afternoon Breakout Sessions include:

- Pam Arifian, Director, UCC Northeast Environmental Justice Center
- Marla Marcum, Founder, Climate Disobedience Center
- John Ungerleider, Professor, School of International Training
- Rev. Eric Jackson, Pastor, Brookside Congregational Church, UCC

Save the Date: Eastern Regional Youth Event - July 19-22, 2018



NH Youth, mark your calendars for **next** summer! Join us as we worship, play, pray, learn, serve, sing and dream at the 2018 Eastern Regional Youth Event. Stay up-to-date on event details by visiting: <https://www.eryeucc.org/> or contact Ann Desrochers at adesrochers@nhcucc.org.

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

Employment Opportunities

Local:

- **First Parish Church, United Church of Christ, (Dover, NH)** is seeking a **Youth Ministry Leader** to develop a new middle school youth group to include 5th through 8th graders. The group will meet weekly during the program year after Sunday worship with periodic outreach events. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- **Bethany Church (Randolph, VT)**, a lively congregation of the United Church of Christ, is seeking a **half time** (20 hours a week) **Coordinator for Youth and Family Ministries**. The candidate we are seeking is a person of faith who is committed to the church and to nurturing the spiritual needs of children, youth and families. They will have strong organizational and communication skills. They will have training and/or experience in providing educational ministries in a local church setting. They will understand and honor confidentiality and appropriate boundaries. Learn more in the [detailed position description](#).
- Visit the [Classifieds/Help Wanted](#) section of the NH 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

Marks of the True Christian

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." Romans 12:9-13 (NRSV)

Ann Desrochers | Christian Education Resource Consultant | New Hampshire Conference
UCC adesrochers@nhcucc.org

New Hampshire Conference UCC, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH 03275-3711

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