



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

January 2018 News & Updates

The winter weather is still clearly upon us here in New England, but for those planning ahead our thoughts are turning to warmer days and summer programs. For many those thoughts include fond memories of camp and VBS. Are those memories you want to bring to life as part of sharing and growing faith in this generation of youth?

Featured Resources

Is VBS still a good fit for your Church?

- Check out the article [10 Reasons Your Church Should Do VBS](#) on the Church Revelance website (a member of the ShareFaith network).
- Paul Canavese, of The Pastoral Center, authored a brief [document explaining the What, Why, and How of VBS](#). The document was written to share with Catholic parishes, but provides a practical tool for use in other church settings.
- On the lighter side, Candace Lowry (Buzzfeed), brought a smile to my face in her post [22 Important Life Skills You Learned As A Vacation Bible School Kid](#).

Kids to Kids VBS Curriculum from Global Ministries

- Download VBS materials for free at the [Global Ministries website](#). Directly related to Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), all of the "Journey" VBS programs relate to Kids to Kids because they provide opportunities for children to learn about and contribute to global mission projects that serve children.

Youth Created VBS: A Leadership Lab

- Free Webinar: Thursday, February 1, 2018, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
Hosted by PRC - Practical Resources for Churches
Come and Learn with Rachel James as she shares the process of letting youth create VBS, the highs, the lows and how to do it in your church.
[Click here to register.](#)

Time Saver Tip

Cokesbury provides a terrific tool for quickly researching VBS programs from major publishers. The [summary chart](#) has been updated for 2018, allowing you to easily compare themes; scripture focus/Bible stories; student, teacher, music, craft, and decorating materials; as well as cost.

Resource Sharing - VBS Materials

The Hollis church has the Everest VBS curriculum (2015) from Group Publishing available for anyone who would like it. Please contact Ann Desrochers, email: adesrochers@nhcucc.org, if interested.

Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

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

For more information visit the [Christian Formation Ministry webpage](#).



I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. ---*Psalm 139:14*

Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire. ---*Catherine of Siena*

Save the Date: NEAUCE 2018
May 1-3, 2018

Registration information soon to be available

Horton Center Registration for Summer 2018 Opens February 1st.

Want to learn more about Horton Center and Summer Camp?

[Click here to watch a video introduction.](#)

Registration is Now Open for the Eastern Regional Youth Event, July 19-22, 2018



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.eryecc.org/> or [click here to register now!](#)

Note: Early bird rate of \$350 per person (double occupancy) is good until February 28.

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
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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

May my teaching drop like the rain, my speech condense like the dew; like gentle rain on grass, like showers on new growth. Deuteronomy 32:2 (NRSV)

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