



## Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

### March 2018 News & Updates

As you "walk" through Holy Week may you find some time to reflect on the ministry of Jesus Christ and how his life, his death and the resurrection provide a framework for how we should live and serve each day.

Jesus' ministry found him "out and about"; interacting with people where they were; in their own time; relating to them in a manner that was familiar and comfortable to them; sharing faith in a way they could understand.

In today's technology-driven world, that might translate into connecting with people through the use of social media. Below are some resources to assist you in navigating your way through the role of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat in your ministry.

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### Featured Resources

#### Background Information from the UCC

The communications department of the United Church of Christ provides suggestions to help you develop and implement a social media plan, including:

- A slideshow with [Social Media Tips for Churches, Pastors and Lay Leaders](#)
- [Boundary considerations](#) from the MESA Ministry Team
- [Best Practices for Social Media in Churches.](#)

#### General Information

The Connected Church reminds us that "tech innovations are not news anymore, they are part of our everyday life...and if we (the Church) are serious about serving others, then we need to have an open mind and at least try to understand, if not embrace, technology and social media."  
Learn more in the blogs:

- [How to Create a 2018 Social Media Plan for your Church: A 15-point Checklist](#)
- [Top Technology & Social Media Trends 2018 for Churches and Ministries](#)
- [15 Reasons your Church should Focus on Social Media Ministry](#)

## Webinars

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM EDT** when [PRC - Practical Resources for Churches](#) will offer a free webinar, [Digital Ministry: What Ministry Leaders Need to Know](#)

The Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary covered the topic of Social Media in the *Wisdom from the Field* webinar series. Learn more by watching a replay of:

- [#SMS2017: Social Media Sunday 2017](#), published August 2017
- [Snapchat... for the Church](#), published April 2017

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## Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

### **New England Youth Environmental Justice Summit** **(Advanced Registration is required, see link below)**

*Sponsored by the NH Conference UCC*

**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 [download the event flyer](#) or [visit the registration website](#).

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**Calling All Faith Formation Leaders: Register Now for the 2018 New England Association of United Church Educators (NEAUCE) Conference**  
*May 1- 3 at Pilgrim Pines, 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.

Helping us unpack this year's theme of, "Be who God meant you to be...", will be Dr. Pamela Shellberg, New Testament scholar-in-residence at the BTS Center. She will lead us in a reflection on Paul's conversion in the book of Acts. Helping us "set the world on fire" will be the Rev. Da Vita McCallister, who certainly set us on fire last year!

Leading worship will be the Rev. Emilia Halstead and the jazz ensemble from First Congregational Church here in Concord, N.H.

Learn more by [downloading the event brochure](#) or [visiting the registration website](#).

New Hampshire Scholarship funds are available to attend this event. Please contact [Ann Desrochers](#) for more information on applying for a scholarship.

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### Seasons of the Spirit Curriculum Development Event, May 11, 2018

**Special Opportunity:** The NH Conference will be hosting a curriculum development event at the Conference Center Office (140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH) on May 11, 2018. This is a chance for you to have a voice, lending your insight and wisdom to the future direction of the Seasons of the Spirit - SeasonsFUSION curriculum. Key writers, occasional writers, and faith formation practitioners are invited. [Learn more >>](#)

Please register to participate in this event by sending an email to Ann Desrochers, [adesrochers@nhcucc.org](mailto:adesrochers@nhcucc.org).

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## Eastern Regional Youth Event, July 19-22, 2018

California University of Pennsylvania



Love & Justice  
For  
With  
Towards  
God



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 [click here to register now!](#)

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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
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### Employment Opportunities

#### Local:

- Thriving **Congregational Church** in downtown **Manchester, NH** seeks an enthusiastic and organized **Children and Youth Education Coordinator** for 12-15 hours a week. CE Coordinator is responsible for the leadership and guidance of our Sunday School program for pre-school through eighth grade students. Person must be strong in building relationships among parents, teachers, volunteers, and the larger congregation to bring vitality and growth to the program. Strong

candidates will possess excellent communication skills, including social media, and organizational skills; and be computer proficient. Teaching and working in children's ministry experience are a plus. References and a successful criminal background check are required. [Learn more >>](#)

All interested candidates should email a cover letter and resume to Rev. Kevin Pleas at [KPLEAS@FCCManchesterNH.org](mailto:KPLEAS@FCCManchesterNH.org).

- **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.
- 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.

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## The Word of God

### The Example of Jesus

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NRSV)

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