



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

May 2018 News & Updates

The NEAUCE Conference provided an opportunity for New Hampshire Faith Formation leaders to gather at a State Meeting and share the joys surrounding their ministry in their local settings. Many creative ideas for engaging our communities in Faith Formation were lifted up. Below are resources to help you explore new ideas in your own setting and invitations to visit our local churches and see these alternative approaches in action.

Featured Resources

Jazz Sanctuary - First Congregational Church, Concord, NH



Jazz Sanctuary is a participatory service where you are invited to call your prayers out during prayer time, to talk back during the sermon (which more readily resembles an interview), and to celebrate an Agape Feast together.

The old stories are made new through intimate, eclectic, full-body worship. The music is a combination of jazzed-up church music and straight jazz reinterpreted by its "churchy" context. After the service, the worshipers gather for conversations with the musicians and the pastor or, for visitors, a tour of the church. You head out relaxed, challenged, Spirit-filled, ready.

Learn more at: <http://www.concordsfirstchurch.org/jazz-sanctuary.html> or better yet, participate in the next service to be held on June 17, 2018.

Peace Crane Project - Congregational Church of Laconia



In celebration of Laconia's 125 birthday, the Congregational Church of Laconia is planning a peace crane display of over 5000 peace cranes created by children in the Laconia School District, Belknap and Merrimack Jail, Taylor Community and the church members. The "Laconia Cares About Peace" art display will be revealed on Friday, July 6th. To learn more about the project and event visit: <http://laconiaucc.org/Extra2.asp>.

Creating a Youth-Led VBS Program

Mont Vernon Congregational Church's teens first participated in a youth-led VBS program when a youth group from upstate New York created that

experience for them. Now they are taking the lead. They have taken over Vacation Bible School, reaching out to the children of their own community and sharing this teen led VBS process with the Lyme Congregational Church. The teens create a program, curriculum, games, crafts and even write skits and music. Once the planning is done, they run the entire week. Younger kids love to learn from bigger kids, and this whole process has become inspiring to their congregations!

This summer both churches will continue to offer youth-led VBS programs, sharing the experience with the next generation of younger children:

- Lyme Congregational Church Vacation Bible School
Tuesday, August 7 - Saturday, August 11, 9:00 am to Noon
Family worship led by VBS participants and teen leaders on Sunday August 12
- Mont Vernon Congregational Church
2018 Vacation Bible School: Climbing for Christ
Tuesday, July 31 - Saturday, August 4, 9:00 am to Noon

General Resources

Messy Church

Messy Church is a fast growing ministry that continues to engage and build relationships with thousands of people outside the usual church context. Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality.

Learn more in their [Introductory Video](#) or at their website:
<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/>

Waffle Church

St. Lydia's, in Brooklyn, New York, offers Waffle Church as "Sticky Faith for Family and Friends." It is a late Sunday morning worship service that lifts up childrens' leadership and participation. Waffle Church is made of songs, stories, construction paper, maple syrup, and the love of Jesus.

Visit their website at: <http://stlydias.org/worship/waffle-church/>.

Praygrounds - Dedicated Spaces for Children in Worship

Watch a replay of [Praygrounds and Worship Activities for Children](#). In this [PRC-Practical Resources for Churches](#) webinar Christine V. Hidesoffer offers

ideas for creating playgrounds that work with all kinds of spaces and budgets. She also shares tips for getting church leadership on board and ideas for activities that engage children with worship and Scripture - not just keep them busy.

Upcoming Events

Eastern Regional Youth Event, July 19-22, 2018

California University of Pennsylvania



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!](#)

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.

- 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

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Psalm 126:2-3 (NRSV)

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