

A SEAT AT THE TABLE

You are cordially invited to the TENTH (X) **Celebration** of the New England UCC Women!



Come for all things are now ready.

-Luke 14:17b

Women you know have been doing great things for 40 years and many have served in the planning, leading, liturgy, and music that brought us all together every 4 years, since 1978!!

While trends in our churches have somewhat decreased, let that not affect this event. So, start planning now, spread the word, find someone to share a room with, and come relax and renew this coming spring! Sounds funny to talk that far ahead, but many of us have been working for almost 3 years in sub committee form, online, and meeting together to make this a fabulous time to be in the UCC and Portland, Maine!

With most things in this world, all come at a price. We have worked long and hard at trying to provide you with a weekend event, meeting spaces, inspirational worship, dynamic speakers, "mall area" and of course luscious food and fellowship. Holiday Inn by the Bay will be our host site, keeping us all in one place. We want all women to have a voice and chance to be at the table. So, encourage your young women (ages 14 and up), daughters and grand daughters to come with you and be part of this awesome time in the life of the wider church. Why we encourage you to come with a friend or family member is that hotel room rates and meal prices are set so that they are affordable for most, and that using them subsidizes the use of the larger meeting and ballroom spaces for us to gather in. Costs are real, but please **do not** let that be a reason not to join us. Start saving now, run a bake sale at your church, ice cream Sunday/Sundae, put on a soup and bread supper this fall and ask for donations...you will be surprised at the results. (Be creative and tell us those stories on our website, or Face book page and it will encourage others to do the same.)

See you next April, so mark your calendar now!

Co-chairs: Pam Burnham and Sharon Beckwith

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WOMEN LEADERS OF NEW ENGLAND (WLNE) WHAT IS IT?

Women Leaders of New England (WLNE) is a group of about 25 women from NH, CT, ME, MA, RI, and VT who plan and organize an event called Celebration, held every four years since 1982. There were 600+ women in attendance for Celebration IX in 2014 in Portland ME. The task team is hoping for at least the same number for CELEBRATION X in Portland on April 6-7-8, 2018.

Visit our Web site at: www.UCCwomenscelebration.org.

You can read about Celebrations of the past on a history link on our website. We have a new webmaster and information will be added throughout the fall and new year.

PURPOSE : ... of Celebrations are: "to reach the women in the pews, to involve them in learning about and sharing their faith beyond the local church and the Conference setting."

A SEAT AT THE TABLE



APRIL 6-7-8, 2018

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**THIS IS A SENSATIONAL
EVENT FOR WOMEN.**

JUST THINK HOW EXCITING IT IS TO BE AMONGST 500+ WOMEN ALL IN THE SAME PLACE—

- **SHOPPING IN THE "HOLY MALL" TOGETHER**
- **ATTENDING WORKSHOPS TOGETHER**
- **SHARING COMMUNION TOGETHER**
- **KNITTING, ETC., TOGETHER**
- **WORSHIPPING TOGETHER**
- **SINGING TOGETHER**
- **DINING TOGETHER**

Workshops offered, here are some of them and we are working on more:

WORKSHOPS: WILL BE OFFERED AT 2 DIFFERENT TIMES AND SOME OF THEM WILL BE REPEATED. ONE IN THE AM, AND ANOTHER TIME AFTER LUNCH. [GOOD GENERAL INFO- PAM](#)

- *African Drumming with Rev. Leslie Chatfield—Hands-on! She will bring 12 drums!*

- Dismantling Racism Is Not a Spectator Sport—Rev. Renee Rouse
- Dreams: Are Your Dreams Surprising You?—Rev. Lee Ireland
- Environmental: Multi-Religious Activism in an Age of Climate Change—Barbara Darling
- Finding Her Place—Rev. Ruth Martz—Women of the Bible
- Guess Who's Not Coming to Dinner—Rev. Dawn Berry
- Interfaith Dialogue—Rev. Robert Fellows, Rev. Robert Thompson, Rabbi David Senter, Imam Mohamed Ibrahim
- Intergenerational Community—Getting ALL the Women Together—Rev. Jennifer Geary
- Prison Ministry: Authentic Spiritual Support in Prison Ministry—Chontelle Washington
- Labyrinth with Eleanor MacLellan and Gayle Murphy
- Let's Write for Runners and Children!—Rev. Maren Tirabassi
- Mandala Journaling—Linda Carleton, \$12 materials fee
- Sacred Spaces—Sacred Places—Rev. Diane Wendorf and Rev. Deb Blood
- Transgender 101 with Danielle Allen
- Understanding Our Refugee Neighbors—Amy Marchildon, Becky Field
- Undocumented Immigrants: Do You Really Know Who They Are? Rev. Nancy Pape, Eva Castillo, Rev. Pontoh
- Welcoming People Experiencing Mental Illness to the Table—Peggy Matteson
- Why ONA Still Matters—Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy

SOME FEATURED SPEAKERS:

FRIDAY NIGHT KEYNOTE- LESLIE ADELSON LEWIN, DIRECTOR OF SEEDS OF PEACE

SATURDAY MORNING- REV. RENEE ROUSE, WARNER, NH

SATURDAY LUNCH – REV. TRACI BLACKMON, NATIONAL OFFICES - CLEVELAND, OH

SATURDAY EVENING- REV. SARAH BUTEUX, NORTHAMPTON, MA

SUNDAY MORNING – REV. DEBORAH BLOOD, MAINE CONFERENCE MINISTER

Holiday Inn at the Bay—Portland ME

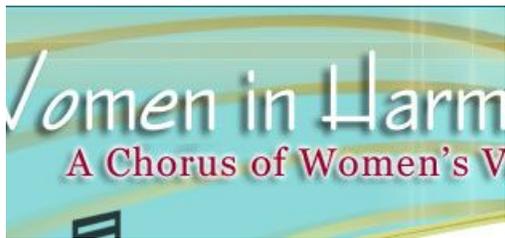
- 88 Spring Street ● Portland ME 04101 ● 207-775-2311 ●

WWW.UCCWOMENSCELEBRATION.ORG

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, April 6-7-8, 2018

We are still working on the detailed schedule of events for this wonderful time. Know that you should plan on arriving to check in to your hotel/or Holiday Inn on Friday afternoon if possible between 2 – 4 pm. If work schedules do not allow, please try and make it by dinner at 6pm and our first keynote.

Saturday, will have 3 meals, 2 workshops, free time for 1.5-2 hours or so before dinner to enjoy the city, take a nap, swim, or walk a Labyrinth!! After our dinner speaker we will hear a concert by Women in Harmony, a cappella choir of local talent.



Sunday morning we will start with breakfast, and keynote followed by time for check out at your hotel before our final service of Communion to end our time together. Those that order and wish to get a box lunch may do so afterwards at about 11:30.

One can then still enjoy a bit of downtown Portland, grab a lunch on the waterfront, and or drive safely home with a renewed sense of awe and justice at the gifts that our sisters in faith shared with us. These events are truly transforming, so we hope you will talk to your friends and invite them to share in this special 10th Celebration as UCC Women of New England.

A general reminder to encourage those young women aged 14 and up to join us as they explore their faith and what it is to be women in the 21st century as they have a "place(seat) at the table" too.

There will be NO childcare provided at this event, so we also ask you to be creative at how one's congregation can be of help to assist some women in this important time away from their families to be truly present with God's Spirit.

A special request from our Worship Team: "We ask that you send from church or personal files photographs of people offering, sharing, celebrating communion. We want pictures from your home church. We want pictures from retreats, church camp, gatherings of church suppers, community suppers, international

dinners and pictures of gatherings of people sharing meals from around the world. This will be used as part of worship and communion on that Sunday in April. And we don't want to spoil it's awesomeness by telling you more.

Please help us and it can be sent any time this fall up until January 30th.

A few tech guidelines for what you send:

- Send in the largest size possible...anything less than 1 MB will not work...it will be either pixilated or not share.
- If you are sending via your phone...same rule as above
- Landscape format works best (more horizontal than vertical) but portrait are OK, just more difficult to crop for use in our project
- Make sure they are clear pictures for they will be magnified and we want to avoid blurring
- You might have to send one at a time due to the larger file size.
- DO NOT send via iCloud, Verizon cloud or anything like that...they get compressed that way, and cannot be used.

Send all pictures to the following email: sgsanderson701@gmail.com