



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

July 2015

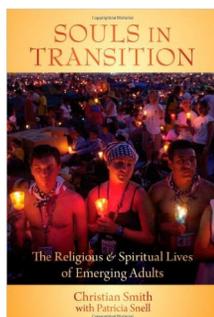
New Era

God of Love,
You are with us in every
transition and change.
As we enter into this new
era with excitement and
even some anxiety,
we recall your deep
compassion, presence,
and abounding love.
We thank you for the gifts,
talents and skills with
which you have
blessed us.
We thank you for the
experiences that have
brought us to this
moment.
We thank you for the work
of others that gives
breadth and depth to our
own work.
Be with us as we
move forward,
rejoicing with you and
supporting one another.
We ask this in your
Holy Name.
Amen.

Source:
<http://www.beliefnet.com/>

It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating with our 2015 Graduates. Now these young people are in the midst of a transition to a new job, college, military service, a new household, and changes in their family formation. This month's newsletter features resources to help us better understand and continue to support the spiritual and religious needs of these emerging adults.

Recommended Reading / Young Adult Research Studies



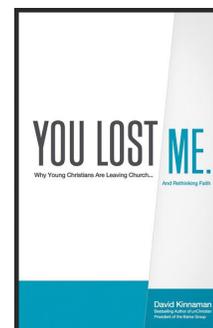
Souls in Transition: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults

How important is religion for young people in America today? What are the major influences on their developing spiritual lives? How do their religious beliefs and practices change as young people enter into adulthood?

[Christian Smith's](#) *Souls in Transition* explores these questions and many others as it tells the definitive story of the religious and spiritual lives of emerging adults, ages 18 to 24, in the U.S. today.

You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving the Church and Rethinking Faith

Millions of young Christians are disconnecting from church as they transition into adulthood. In this book [David Kinnaman](#) reveals the results of a nationwide study of 18- to 29-year-olds with a Christian background. Discover why so many are disengaging from the faith community, renew your hope for how God is at work in the next generation.



Stay Connected While They are Away

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Resource Center

Visit the
[NH Conference Website](#)

Curricula files have been updated with Fall 2015 information.

"RECYCLE / REUSE"

Several older resources, which were previously

In her writing on formational children's ministry Ivy Beckwith reminds us, "Loving God and living in the way of Jesus was never meant be done alone." Building and maintaining relationships with those in our faith community is an important component of lifelong spiritual growth.

Below are some ideas to stay connected and foster our relationship with our young adults while they are away:

- Create a contact list of those who are away at college, serving in the military, starting a new job in a new location and invite people in your congregation to pray for them.
- Send Care Packages for their birthdays, holidays, as "exam

found on the shelves of the Media Center, are looking for a new home.

The Disciple Experiment
Leader's Guide
&
A Faith-in-Action
Student Journal
(Mike Yaconelli
Zondervan, 2003)

Heartshaper Curricula
Teacher Books and
Student Activity Guides
Pre-K & K,
Early Elementary,
Middle Elementary,
PreTeen
(Standard Publishing,
Spring 2007)

Gather Round
Multiage Teacher's Guide
and Student Book
(Fall 2007)

(Note: as these are older, usage might require some modification for inclusive language and sensitivity to current issues.)

If you are interested in any of these resources please email Ann Desrochers at: adesrochers@nhcucc.org by **September 15**. After that date they will become recycled paper.

"The Guide"
Called To Educational and Formational Ministries: A Guide for Local Churches, Educators, and Youth Workers

edUCCators epistle
Bi-weekly e-mailing from the UCC's Publishing, Identity, and Communication Ministry Team. To subscribe, contact Aimee Jannsohn at jannsoha@ucc.org

survival kits" or just because we are thinking of you. Be sure to include healthy snacks and words of encouragement. This is a great project for a Sunday school class, Youth Group, or to involve everyone in during Coffee Hour.

- Use Social Networking (your church Facebook page or a Facebook group) as a way to stay connected.
- Online Bible Studies/Discussion Groups/Podcasts allow people to participate remotely.
- Host social events (brunches, pizza party) or a mini-reunion during semester breaks, so college-age students can get together for fun and fellowship.
- Organize a summer mission trip to provide an opportunity for them to stay connected to their church and each other in a meaningful way.

Engaging Young Adults in Your Congregation

Faith Formation with Emerging Adults: Congregational Practices

In [this article](#) John Roberto looks at: How can churches address the distinctive spiritual and religious needs of emerging adults? What does faith formation with emerging adults look like? Part 1 of this article presents research findings on what young adults are seeking in a congregation and what congregations are doing to address their religious and spiritual needs. Part 2 presents a variety of congregational examples of approaches, ideas, and practices in faith formation with emerging adults.

How to Reach Young Adults

Anthony B. Robinson, an author, teacher, speaker and consultant, and an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ offers eight suggestions for reaching Generation Next, starting with the reminder: We're not just another social club or civic group.

[Read the complete article >>](#)

Save the Date: October 2015 Confirmation Retreat

Confirmation Retreat 2015 -"UCC: Why Me?" Expanded to Two Nights: October 2-4, 2015 - Horton Center

What does the United Church of Christ have to do with my life and my church? Do my beliefs and dreams fit with the UCC? What does the phrase "God is still speaking" mean anyway?

Come join us on Pine Mountain for a **weekend retreat** so that we can talk about questions like these! Youth from NH Confirmation classes will gather for worship, music, discussion, good food and games. This is a great opportunity to meet other youth and Confirmation leaders.

Registration will open for this event in August.

Visit the Horton Center website to see photos from past years and [Learn More >>](#)

Quick Links

The Association of United Church Educators (AUCE) has recently updated their national website.

Check it out!
www.auce-ucc.org

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.

Training Opportunities

Learn-to-Lead: Promoting Excellence in Small Group Ministry

This workshop will be offered twice this fall. Select the date and location that best fits your schedule.

Saturday, September 19, 2015 - Warren, VT

Saturday, October 17, 2015 - Pembroke, NH

Churches know that small groups are key to spiritual formation and vitality in their congregations. Yet many are floundering for lack of small group leadership, especially when it comes to leading Bible studies.

This workshop features [Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series](#), a proven Bible study system where those who know little about the Bible can learn to lead. This workshop - to be led by Rev. Anne Robertson, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Bible Society - will go beyond just introducing you to that material. In this six-hour workshop, you will:

- Learn the basics of leading any small group.
- Build confidence in leading a Bible study.
- Understand the difference between teaching and facilitating.
- Learn how to use Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series
- Practice the skills you've learned.
- Receive tips on recruiting your first group, even if you are in a small, rural church.
- Learn how to structure your group for success.
- Network with others who are learning to lead.
- Discuss ways to overcome the challenges of difficult personalities and group conflict.

Registration for the New Hampshire workshop will open in late August.

Employment Opportunities

Visit the [Classified/Help Wanted Section](#) of the NHCUCC website or the the UCC (National) Ministry Opportunities webpage for employment opportunities in the area of [Christian Education and Formation](#).

Ashburnham Community Church, MA - Part Time Director of Christian Education

The Ashburnham Community Church is seeking a qualified person to serve as its part time DCE. The main focus of the position, at least initially, is to create and lead a ministry of Godly Play for pre-school and primary grade children and their parents. For more information contact Chuck Mansfield, Pastor ACC (email: pastorchuckacc@gmail.com).

Save the Date:

National Youth Event (NYE) 2016 - BELIEVE
Walt Disney World's
Coronado Springs
Resort
 July 26-29, 2016
[Learn More >>](#)



Visit the National Youth Event website:

<http://nye.uccpages.org/>

Believe! United Church of Christ National Youth Event (NYE) 2016

The Word of God

"The Lord your God is in your midst—a warrior bringing victory. He will create calm with his love; he will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17 (CEB)

Contact Info

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