In honor of Black History Month, you are invited to share in a time of education and celebration of African American history and achievements. Enjoy the resources below as you explore the 2021 theme of Black History Month, "The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity."

**Recommended Reading**

**Books for Children**
On Huffpost.com, Taylor Pittman provides some background information and resources for teaching children about the many accomplishments of black pioneers and trailblazers. Read her suggestions in the article, *24 Children’s Books To Read To Your Kids In Honor Of Black History Month*.

**Books for Teens and Young Adults** (of course, adults might like these too)
- Dr. Maya Angelou's memoir and classic novel *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. This autobiography can also be viewed on YouTube in a film by the same name. To learn more about this author and activist watch *And Still I Rise*, the documentary about her life found on PBS's *American Masters*.
- Michelle Alexander's bestseller *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*
- Angie Thomas' debut novel *The Hate U Give*, about the police shooting of an unarmed black teen. *The Hate U Give* movie is also available to stream for free on many digital platforms including YouTube, iTunes, Amazon Prime, Google Play and Vudu.

**Featured Authors**
- James Arthur Baldwin's name emerged on many of the "must read" book lists for Black History month. Writing essays, plays and novels, he became a well known voice of the American civil rights movement. Some of his most acclaimed works include: *Go Tell It on the Mountain, The Fire Next Time*, and *Another Country*. 
Notes of a Native Son

Winning a Pulitzer Prize in 1988 and a Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993, Toni Morrison’s writing is known for her impactful depiction of the nature of black life in America. Among her most recognized works are: The Bluest Eye, Beloved, and Song of Solomon.


Family Activities

If the weather cooperates, think about taking your family on the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire's Downtown Portsmouth Self-guided Walking Tour.

Listen to African-American music that has influenced American arts and culture. You can find suggestions on artists and songs by visiting Spotify’s Black History is Now webpage.

Commonsense Media shares some advice on 8 great movies to watch as a family during Black History Month. Watch the short video that provides both an overview of the movie and information on age appropriateness.

Events

AUCE Virtual 50th Celebration
February 13, 2021

The Association for United Church Educators (AUCE) is an organization for all who are passionate about faith formation and youth ministries in the United Church of Christ (and beyond).

Celebrate with them as they look at the ministry of faith formation over the past 50 years, bringing lessons learned into the vibrant ministries needed for today - from roots to shoots!

AUCE & APCE members - $25
All others - $35

Learn more >>

NEAUCE Virtual Event: April 30 and May 1
Looking for Volunteer Opportunities?  
2022 Back Bay Mission Trip Calendar is Now Open

Mission trips at Back Bay Mission are some of the best service-learning experiences in the United States. During your week on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, you’ll have the chance to serve in three of the Mission’s ministries (housing rehabilitation, the food pantry, and the Micah Day Center), learn about the work we do on the Coast, explore how you can do similar work in your community, and grow in both faith and fellowship.

View available weeks >>

For more information email volunteercoordinator@thebackbaymission.org or visit their webpage: https://thebackbaymission.org/volunteer/

Employment

For local opportunities visit the Classifieds/Help Wanted section of the NH Conference UCC website.

Willing to relocate? The UCC Ministry Opportunities webpage is a great source for Christian Education and Faith Formation openings nationwide.
"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28 (NRSV)