“UCC: Is That for Me?”
Confirmation Retreat
October 01 to 03, 2021

Horton Center
Pine Mountain, Gorham, NH

Gather for Music, Worship, Discussion, Good Food, Games and a Low Ropes Course Challenge as we explore what it means to be part of the United Church of Christ (UCC).

Sponsored by the Christian Formation Ministry
New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ
Do you ever wonder what the United Church of Christ (UCC) has to do with your life or your church? Do you ever wonder if your beliefs and your dreams fit the UCC? and What does the phrase “God is still speaking” mean anyway?

Join us for the Confirmation retreat so that we can talk about questions like these! Youth from Confirmation classes all over New England will gather for worship, music, discussion, good food, and games.

Facts at a Glance:

Who: Confirmands of all ages & their Leaders are welcome. The program is especially designed for Youth in Grades 8-10.

When: Please arrive by 5:00 p.m. to allow time for Covid testing prior to "move-in" and start of activities Friday, October 1, 2021 and the program continues through 11:45 a.m. Sunday, October 3, 2021

Where: Horton Center
Pine Mountain / Horton Center Road
Gorham, NH 03581

Cost: $135/$155/$185 per person (youth and leaders)
Cost includes a non-refundable deposit, all snacks, overnight accommodations, a meal Friday evening, all meals on Saturday, breakfast & boxed lunch on Sunday, all program materials and a low ropes course, weather permitting.

Registration: (deadline Friday, September 17th)
Registration packets can be downloaded from the Conference website at: https://www.nhcucc.org/conference-ministries/christian-formation-ministry/confirmation. When registering your Confirmation group, no matter how large or small, please keep in mind that we require you adhere to the current Covid-19 Guidelines and New Hampshire Conference Safer Spaces policy with regard to adequate supervision for youth activities: “There shall be at least one adult for every six minors. The gender diversity of adults should match that of the group. To comply with cohort housing requirements, that means each church will provide one adult of the same gender for every one to six youth of that gender. One-on-one situations between an adult and a minor must be avoided. Activities with minors shall be interruptible & observable by others at all times.”

Additional Information:
Ms. Ann Desrochers
Christian Education Resource Consultant
New Hampshire Conference, UCC
email: Adesrochers@nhcucc.org
phone: 603.715.9526

Location
A ministry of the New Hampshire Conference, Horton Center is located outside of Gorham, NH, on 100 acres covering the top of 2,400 foot tall Pine Mountain, offering a reminder of God’s presence and activity in our lives. We find the presence of God in the beauty and inspiration of the natural world, in community, in scripture, prayer, and within one another.

Schedule of Events (Tentative)

Friday:
5:00 PM Arrival & Covid Testing
5:30 PM Registration, Move-In, Evening Meal, and Session 1: “Discovering Our Identity”
7:45 PM Welcome and Introductions
8:00 PM Evening Worship
8:45 PM Return to Cabins
9:45 PM Lights Out

Saturday:
8:30 AM Breakfast
9:30 AM Session 2: “Discovering Our Local Church Identity”
10:45 AM Low Ropes Course Challenge
12:30 PM Lunch
1:00 PM Session 3 “Denominational Identity”
3:00 PM Activity Block: Service Project/Hike
4:15 PM Session 4: God’s Love and Light
5:30 PM Dinner
6:15 PM UCC, Why me? Activity
7:00 PM Session 5: “Faith Expressions”
8:00 PM Evening Worship / S’mores by the Campfire
8:45 PM Shalom Circle
9:00 PM Return to Cabins
10:00 PM Lights Out

Sunday:
8:30 AM Breakfast
9:30 AM Session 6: “Taking it on the Road”
10:45 AM Closing Ritual
11:30 AM Pick up Box Lunches
11:45 AM Depart for Home

Leadership and Planning Team
Ms. Ann Desrochers (Christian Education Resource Consultant, NHCUCC), Rev. Robert Grabill (Associate Pastor, The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College), Rev. Emilia Halstead (Pastor, First Congregational Church, Concord), Tim Hughes (Executive Director, Horton Center, NHCUCC), and Rev. Gordon Rankin (Conference Minister, NHCUCC).
Please list all participants on this form, including Youth Participants 18 years of age or older and all Leaders/Chaperones. If more than 12 youth are participating, include a second form and be sure to comply with the Covid-19 Guidelines and Safer Spaces policy regarding the ratio of adults to minors.

Note: The event officially begins and ends at the retreat location (Horton Center). The event does not include carpooling, transportation, or transit to and from the event. Each individual church is responsible for all transportation arrangements and any risks associated with this travel.

Please mail all completed forms (Group Registration, Release Forms for each participant, Individual Health Forms for each participant—Youth and/or Adult, Adult Background Check Consent Forms for each individual 18 or older) and Payment to:

Ann Desrochers
CE Resource Consultant - Confirmation Retreat Coordinator
New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ
140 Sheep Davis Road
Pembroke, New Hampshire 03275-3711

Make check payable to “New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ” and mark Confirmation Retreat in the memo.
Emergency Waiver
I hereby agree/give my child permission to participate in the “UCC: Is That for Me?” Confirmation Retreat on October 1-3, 2021. In the event of an accident or emergency, I give permission to the emergency physician obtained by the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ (NHCUCC) to order x-rays, routine tests, and treatment related to my health/the health of my child. I give my permission to the physician to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for, and order injection, anesthesia, or surgery for me/this child. I understand that this information will be shared on a “need to know” basis. I give permission to photocopy this form. In addition, the NHCUCC has permission to obtain a copy of my/my child’s health record from providers who treat me/my child, and these providers may talk with the NHCUCC representatives about my/my child’s health status.

Participant Release
Each person understands that participation in the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ (“NHCUCC”) program can involve the risk of damage and injury, including serious injury, to both people and property. Each person signing below understands and agrees that NHCUCC, its agents, officers and employees, accept no responsibility, and will not be liable, for any injury, harm or damage to his/her person or property or to the person or property of his/her child (including, but not limited to, injury, harm or damage caused by negligence of NHCUCC, its agents, officers or employees) occurring during or arising out of participation in any NHCUCC program. To the fullest extent permitted by law, each person signing below agrees to assume all risk of injury, harm or damage to his/her person or property or to the person or property of his/her child arising during or in connection with said NHCUCC program. Each person signing below hereby releases and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless NHCUCC, its agents, officers and employees, from any and all liability, actions, damages and claims of any kind and nature whatsoever for any injury, harm or damage to his/her person or property or to the person or property of his/her child (including, but not limited to, injury, harm or damage caused by negligence of NHCUCC its agents, officers or employees) that may arise or occur during or in connection with said program.

Photo Release
I also give permission for NHCUCC, or it’s representatives to take photos and/or video footage of me/my child, and use these images on the day of the event and also for future publicity of similar events, in any format deemed appropriate.

Code of Conduct
Our goal is that all participants in the Confirmation Retreat shall experience the event in a safe way. Therefore it is necessary that all participants respect the Horton Center property and its contents and understand the following: (1) Use of tobacco products is not allowed anywhere on the property, (2) Abusive language is not permitted, (3) Participants must not engage in malicious mischief, theft or vandalism to the property, (4) No sexual activity is allowed, and (5) Participants are prohibited from the possession or use of weapons, fireworks, electronic devices (including cell phones, iPods), and illegal substances (including alcohol) during the program. Cell phone use for emergencies is permitted for adult chaperones and representatives of the NHCUCC only.

It is REQUIRED that a Background Check be on file for any participant over the age of 18.
Participants over the age of 18 should complete and return the Background Check Consent Form.

Participant Signature: ______________________________________________________________ Date: ______________

(If participant is under the age of 18, this form must ALSO be signed by a parent or legal guardian)

Signature of Parent or Guardian: ________________________________________________________ Date: ______________