Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

November 2013

Editor's Corner

Help Me Thanksgiving Day Prayer

O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry; When I have work, help me to remember the jobless; When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all; When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer, And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency; bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help; By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted.

Amen.

-Samuel F. Pugh

Resource Center

Visit the NH Conference Website

Recently Added files:
Advent_Christmas

Vibrant Faith at Home

In early November I had the opportunity to participate in a Vibrant Faith at Home workshop. Vibrant Faith at Home is a service of Vibrant Faith Ministries, an organization that seeks to equip and empower families and individuals of all ages and stages to:

- TALK with each other about their faith
- PRAY together in ways that are comfortable and comforting
- RITUALIZE their important moments
- REACH OUT in service and support of others.

Their website is a great resource for simple, yet powerful faith-forming activities that are seasonally-based and FREE! As you, and the families in your congregations, prepare your hearts for the Advent and Christmas season I share some ideas for bringing faith into the midst of all the waiting, anticipation, and celebrations at home.

Advent Activities for Young Families

Countdown to Christmas

In this "at home" activity, follow a "scripture" calendar that encourages your family to get to know the Bible passages that talk about the promise of Jesus' birth and the events leading to Jesus' birth. More details are available at:

Family Tree

Have fun sharing about your family while learning about members of Jesus' family, and come away with a homemade craft that will serve as a decorative reminder. More details are available at:

Advent Activity for Teens

Have your teens create an alternative advent calendar to benefit a charitable organization. Click Here to learn more.

Advent Activity for Adults

Learn the Advent virtue of waiting for Christmas and how it's not just about doing nothing. Learn more about this activity entitled: Why Wait?
**Online Advent Retreat for Young Adults (18-30)**

How can you authentically live out your faith in your daily life? Vibrant Faith at Home is offering an online retreat experience for young adults called, **Illuminate Your Everyday Life**.

Beginning on Sunday, December 1 and concluding on Thursday, December 26th this four week retreat will help young adults reflect on how they can stay aware of the presence of God through challenges and discouragement.

[Click Here](#) for more information and details on how to register for this event.

Note: This is one of the few Vibrant Faith resources that does carry a nominal fee, of $9.95, for the four week event.

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**Save the Date - NEAUCE 2014**

**NEAUCE 43rd Annual Conference**  
May 6-8, 2014  
Craigville Conference Center (Cape Cod)

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Chap Clark  
Associate provost for strategic projects and professor and chair of the Youth, Family, and Culture Department in the School of Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Mollie Landers  
Associate Director of Outdoor Ministries  
New Hampshire & Maine Conferences, UCC

Dr. Clark is a well-known practitioner, adolescent and family scholar, and author. Among his most recent publications are Hurt 2.0 and Sticky Faith, which he co-authored with Fuller's Kara Powell.

[Click Here](#) to read his biography.

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**November Events:**

**NH AUCE Meeting**  
Wednesday, November 20, 10:00-11:30 am  
**Topic:** Helping Families deal with Grief and Loss during the Holidays

Meetings are held at the NH Conference Center, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH
Homegrown Faith and Justice: Conversations on Faith Formation at Home
You are invited to join in a live streamed event on Friday, Nov. 22 at 3:30 p.m. ET
as panel of your colleagues explore and discuss the intersections of faith formation, justice advocacy, and the unique role of parents as the primary faith teachers of children in day-to-day life. For additional information on this event, visit: http://www.ucc.org/justice/justice-for-children/homegrown-faith-and-justice-family-resource-and-panel-discussion.html

The Word of God
"The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people." Luke 2:10 (CEB)

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