**A PRAYER FOR BACK TO SCHOOL**

Dear God,
Thank you for the gift of children. Please watch over them as they go back to school this year.
Keep them safe every day. Help them to remember that you are right there with them in the halls and classrooms. Help them soak up good knowledge and to dismiss any negative messages they may hear. Help them treat others with kindness and respect, and to guard their hearts with the armor of Your Word.
Give them joy and peace as they put their trust in you.
Amen

(source: Joyce Meyer Ministries)

**Back to School**
Did the end of summer come all too fast? Are you still trying to finalize your Faith Formation Plans for this fall? Below are a few recommendations on resources to enhance or supplement your program.

**Safety First**

With many churches starting a new Faith Formation program year in September, this is a great time to review and update the safety policies & procedures in place at your church.

As a church leader you have a duty to provide a safe and healthy environment in which all people can learn about and experience God's love as part of your Christian Formation ministry.

The Insurance Board (a nonprofit corporation established by the participating Conferences of the United Church of Christ) provides you a variety of resources to help you fulfill your covenant.

In the Spring 2014 issue of their newsletter, The Steward, the Insurance Board covers the importance of training in abuse prevention and provides an overview of the tools available to assist you with this training. The most comprehensive tool they offer is SafeConduct (TM) Workbench.

For additional information on safe conduct resources, best practices, and sample policies and procedures, [click here](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?age...).

**Faith Formation at Home**

The Vibrant Faith @ Home website has ideas for family activities designed to promote faith conversations as you ease into your fall routines.

Start your day with the Back to School Breakfast Devotional activity for Young Families

Know a teen that is going to start driving this fall? Check out this activity to promote prayerful discussion around teen driver safety and responsibility.

**Short Study Sessions for Youth and Adults**

The Thoughtful Christian.com is an ecumenical site dedicated to helping Christians and seekers understand, share, practice, and be challenged in their faith. Among its resources are a series of downloadable one or two session studies on contemporary moral issues facing our teens and adults every day.

Some of the topics covered include:

- Is Lying Ever Okay? (Teen)
- Be a Good Sport! Beyond Winning and Losing (Teen)
- The Bible and Homosexuality (Teen, Adult)
- Consumerism If I Had a Million Bucks I'd... (Teen, Adult)
- Contemplating Sex (Teen)
- Pop Quiz Will You Cheat? (Teen)
- Bullying in the Classroom (Adult)
- The Death Penalty (Adult)
Finding Spirituality in Storybooks for Children

God and Goodnight Moon, available from UCC Resources, explores spiritual themes found in popular storybooks for preschool and elementary-aged children.

Some of the books include: Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown, The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles, The Patchwork Quilt by Valerie Flourney, The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats, God's Paintbrush by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams, and This Is Not My Hat by Jon Klassen.

A brief synopsis of each book is provided, as well as an exploration of the story’s scriptural themes and applications. There's also a spiritual reflection and an easy-to-prepare activity. To learn more or order the book, click here.
Director of Christian Education - Exeter
The Congregational Church in Exeter NH, UCC seeks a Director of Christian Education to support, develop, coordinate, and oversee educational programs to spiritually engage the children, youth, and adults of the congregation.

For more information, contact Lisa Ann McConnell, Search Committee Chair or visit the church website: http://congchurchexeter.org/job-opportunities/

East Parish Congregational Church - East Derry
Director of Christian Education
The congregation is looking for someone to oversee the Christian Education program, which includes church school classes for nursery through 12th grade students, and to reach out to young adults and help them find a niche. A detailed job description is posted on the UCC Ministry Opportunities website.

The Classified/Help Wanted Section of the NHCUCC website also publishes employment opportunities throughout the Conference.

Registration is Open:
Confirmation Retreat 2014 "UCC: Is That For Me?"
Horton Center
October 3-4, 2014
Download the Brochure or visit the Horton Center website to Learn More >>

Save the Date:
NEAUCE 44th Annual Conference "From Broken Hearts to Burning Hearts"
Keynote Speaker: Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette, author of Real Good Church
Craigville Retreat Center, Cape Cod, MA
May 5-7, 2015

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

The Word of God
"The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Psalm 121:7-8 (NIV)

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