"Thy Word is Like a Garden Lord"
by Edwin Hodder

Thy Word is like a garden, Lord,
With flowers bright and fair.
And everyone who seeks may pluck
A lovely cluster there.

Thy Word is like a deep, deep mine,
And jewels rich and rare
Are hidden in its mighty depths
For every searcher there.

Thy Word is like a starry host
A thousand rays of light
Are seen to guide the traveler,
And make his pathways bright.

Thy Word is like an armory
Where soldiers may repair
And find, for life’s long battleday,
All needful weapons there.

O may I love Thy precious Word,
May I explore the mine;
May I its fragrant flowers glean,
May light upon me shine.

O may I find my armor there,
Thy Word my trusty sword!
I’ll learn to fight with every foe
The battle of the Lord!

The B-I-B-L-E ... yes, that’s the book for me!
Are you suddenly reminiscing about Sunday school? VBS? Many of us were taught a powerful message through the simple lyrics of this song.

“The B-I-B-L-E
Yes, that's the book for me
I stand alone on the word of God
The B-I-B-L-E.

The B-I-B-L-E
I'll take along with me,
I'll read and pray and then obey,
The B-I-B-L-E."

I think of the Bible as a guidebook in which God reveals how to become a Christian, how to live as a Christian and what His will is for the church. Are you using the Bible as an integral part of your Christian education and formation curriculum? This newsletter offers some suggestions on different resources and approaches for incorporating Bible study into your program.

Getting Started

The Bible and the United Church of Christ
The Still Speaking Writers' Group offers a short collection of essays and FAQ's about the Bible. Written for a lay audience, this is suitable resources for anyone who is curious about the Bible or the UCC's approach to the Bible. Topics include: Do We Believe in the Bible?; How We Read the Bible in the UCC; and The Really Hard Parts.

Click on the image to download a .pdf version of this resource or visit http://www.uccresources.com to order the booklet.

Animate Study Resource for Adults

Animate: Bible
Animate: Bible is a seven-session adult exploration of the Bible. In each session, the group will watch a video featuring a leading voice from the Christian faith, spend time on personal reflection and journaling, and share ideas.

The seven topics covered are:
"The Celebration of the Bible" (Intergenerational Activity)

Does your church have a special Sunday worship service during which you present Bibles to your second or third graders? Why not turn that Sunday into an all church event to celebrate this sacred book. Barbara Bruce, an author who has worked as a Christian educator for more than twenty years, wrote an article entitled "The Celebration of the Bible" sharing suggestions, tips and concrete ideas on how to create this type of celebration.

In her article she reminds us, "We are called to celebrate our BIBLE-our gift of God's word for us over many centuries and for our lives today. We invite you to celebrate. To rejoice. To give thanks for the special book that shapes our lives."

Faith Practices: Encountering Scripture (Resources for All Ages)

Encountering Scripture is a faith practice that explores how as Christians, we believe that scripture is the living word of God. In our encounter with scripture, God meets us and we meet God. Because the Bible has been used to judge, condemn, or hurt, we have a responsibility and a calling as God's people to remove fear, distrust, and dis-empowerment and to move toward confidence, empowerment and love.

Faith Practices is an online resource that's transforming congregations into communities that worship together, learn together, and serve together. Faith Practices encompass every setting in your congregation (Christian Education, Workshop Rotation, Worship, Music & Arts, Confirmation).

Learn more at: http://www.ucc.org/faith-practices/

Registration is now open for NEAUCCE 2014
provides advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ.

NEAUCE 43rd Annual Conference
May 6-8, 2014
Craigville Retreat Center on 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

For registration and more detailed information about the Conference download the Brochure or visit the NEAUCE 2014 Event Website.

Events:

Prepared to Serve
Saturday, February 22, 2014
"Fulfilling our Purpose, Serving the Greater Good"
Join us for a day of worship, fellowship, and enrichment. Click here to view the workshop offerings, learn more about the event, and register.

The Word of God
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people." John 1:1-4 (NRSV)

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