



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

February 2015

The Lord's Prayer

The prayer Jesus taught
His disciples in
Matthew 6:9-13 (NRSV)
where he says,
"Pray then in this way:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day
our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have
forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the
time of trial,
but rescue us from
the evil one.

Faith Formation at Home

Visit the
[Vibrant Faith @ Home](#)
website for
suggestions on how to
engage your family in faith
activities at home.

Research shows
faith that "sticks"
is formed at home.
Learn more in the article
[A Resolve to Practice Faith
at Home](#).

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Resource Center

Visit the
[NH Conference Website](#)

Recently Added or
Updated Resource Files:

[Lent and Easter](#)

The Lenten season is off and running. Amidst all the New England snowstorms and chilling temperatures many of us began our journey celebrating Shrove Tuesday with our pancake dinners and Ash Wednesday with the reminder that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19). As we continue to prepare our hearts for Holy Week and Easter, we use this time to focus on simpler living and basic practices in order to grow closer to God.

To set the stage, I share this brief video explaining the what and why of Ash Wednesday and Lent.

This issue of the newsletter will focus on the Lenten practice of prayer and encouraging prayer as a part of a daily routine all year round.



Ash Wednesday & Lent
in Two Minutes

Prayer Resources

Do you wonder how to help people get started with the practice of prayer. These authors, from varying faith traditions, provide some helpful suggestions reminding us that prayer is more than words, it comes from the heart to help us connect with God.

- The Episcopal Rev. Margaret W. Jones provides a short introduction to practicing prayer in [How Do I Pray?](#)
- Therese J. Borchard, author of the spirituality and mental health blog Beyond Blue, and raised in the Catholic faith shares [12 Ways to Pray During Lent, Connecting with the joyful lessons of a somber season](#).
- The Williamsville (N.Y.) United Methodist Church offers [New ways of praying at Lent](#) in an article that includes instructions for creating Lenten prayer centers at church. Many of these ideas are simple enough they could also be adapted for home use. The faithful and seekers alike can experience different ways of praying as they visit the centers. Each of those described includes a table, candlelight and an activity or focus to enhance spiritual reflection: finger labyrinths, prayer beads, clay, stones, a quilt, art and poetry, and Holy Communion. Instructions guide individuals through the experiences while soft music plays in the background.
- In her article [Creating a Lenten Prayer Space at Home](#) Emily Watkins suggests creating a sacred space at home using a collection of symbolic items. She says, "As you explore and explain the items, children wonder in ways that also help you to journey through Lent together."
- Lisa Brown offers these words, "No matter the language we

Prayer and Devotion Events

If you are using a resource that is not mentioned here and would like to share that information, please email Ann Desrochers at: adesrochers@nhcucc.org

"The Guide"

Called To Educational and Formational Ministries: A Guide for Local Churches, Educators, and Youth Workers

edUCCators epistle
Bi-weekly e-mailing from the UCC's Publishing, Identity, and Communication Ministry Team. To subscribe, contact Aimee Jannsohn at jannsoha@ucc.org

Quick Links

The Association of United Church Educators (AUCE) National New England New Hampshire

AUCE: A membership organization, of and for lay and ordained, paid and volunteer educators and youth workers, which provides advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ.

use or the religion we embrace, our most fervent prayers are those deepest desires offered in wordless plea, carried to God on the fragile wings of faith. For these prayers there are no words, nor motions or positions; they are a yearning, a need, an urge that only God can satisfy." She continues, "How can we reconcile the intangible nature of prayer with our very tangible reality?" in her article [Tactile Prayer - Using Body and Senses to Connect with God.](#)

Last Call - Youth@Synod

New England Heads to Cleveland - June 24-30, 2015

New Hampshire youth **have been invited** to join youth from the other New England states as they venture to Cleveland for General Synod.



If you know Youth that are interested, please contact Ann Desrochers (adesrochers@nhcucc.org) **by March 15, 2015.**

Additional information is available in the [Save the Date Flyer](#) and at the [UCC Youth at Synod webpage.](#)

Training Opportunities

The Bible: 3 C's (Choosing, Celebrating, Conversing) Saturday, March 7, 2015

The Christian Formation Ministry of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ invites you to join us for a morning of workshops and resource sharing. We will explore the Bible as a vital part of your faith formation ministry. [Click Here](#) for additional information or to register for participation via GoToMeeting.

"Blinded by the Light": Responding to Changing Religious Landscapes - Saturday, March 28, 2015

[The BTS Center](#), the mission successor to Bangor Theological Seminary, will be presenting this program on transformation and change at The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. Join Dr. Pam Shellberg for this workshop designed to support the efforts of faith leaders and faith communities as they seek to live into the challenges and opportunities of 21st-century ministry. [Register Now!](#)

NEAUCE Conference - "From Broken Hearts to Burning Hearts" - May 5-7, 2015

The New England Association of United Church Educators (NEAUCE) 44th Annual Conference at the Craigville Retreat Center, Cape Cod, MA. Over three days you will have an opportunity to enjoy Worship, Fellowship, Music, Workshops, and some time for Fun and Relaxation! Come hear Keynote Speaker: the **Rev. Molly Baskette**, Lead Pastor at First Church Somerville UCC, Massachusetts and author of [Real Good Church: How Our Church](#)

[Came Back From the Dead, and Yours Can, Too.](#)

[On-line Registration is Now Open](#) or download an [Event Brochure](#) to register via mail.

Important Note: Scholarship funds are available to attend NEAUCE. [Click here](#) to apply for a New Hampshire Scholarship. NHAUCE application deadline is March 9, 2015.

Free Resources

Children's Offering Envelopes

10 boxes of children's offering envelopes with trivia questions, "free to a good home". Includes a list of biblical clues for the trivia questions. [Click Here](#) to view them. Please contact Debbie Gline Allen at glineallen@mac.com or call 603-437-0714 if interested.

Employment Opportunities

The [Classified/Help Wanted Section](#) of the NHCUC website publishes employment opportunities throughout the Conference.

The UCC (National) Ministry Opportunities webpage also publishes employment opportunities in the area of [Christian Education and Formation](#).

Save the Date:

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

[Learn More >>](#)



Believe! United Church of
Christ National Youth Event
(NYE) 2016

The Word of God

"Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God." Luke 6:12 (NRSV)

Contact Info

Ann H. Desrochers
Specialist in Christian Education
adesrochers@nhcucc.org



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New Hampshire Conference UCC | 140 Sheep Davis Road | Pembroke | NH | 03275-3711