God of Love,
You are with us in every transition and change.
As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love.
We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.
We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.
We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.
Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.
We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen.

Source: http://www.beliefnet.com/

Recommended Reading / Young Adult Research Studies

Souls in Transition: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults
How important is religion for young people in America today? What are the major influences on their developing spiritual lives? How do their religious beliefs and practices change as young people enter into adulthood?

Christian Smith’s Souls in Transition explores these questions and many others as it tells the definitive story of the religious and spiritual lives of emerging adults, ages 18 to 24, in the U.S. today.

You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving the Church and Rethinking Faith
Millions of young Christians are disconnecting from church as they transition into adulthood. In this book David Kinnaman reveals the results of a nationwide study of 18- to 29-year-olds with a Christian background. Discover why so many are disengaging from the faith community, renew your hope for how God is at work in the next generation.

Stay Connected While They are Away
In her writing on formational children’s ministry Ivy Beckwith reminds us, "Loving God and living in the way of Jesus was never meant be done alone." Building and maintaining relationships with those in our faith community is an important component of lifelong spiritual growth.

Below are some ideas to stay connected and foster our relationship with our young adults while they are away:

- Create a contact list of those who are away at college, serving in the military, starting a new job in a new location and invite people in your congregation to pray for them.
- Send Care Packages for their birthdays, holidays, as "exam
found on the shelves of the Media Center, are looking for a new home.


Heartshaper Curricula Teacher Books and Student Activity Guides Pre-K & K, Early Elementary, Middle Elementary, PreTeen (Standard Publishing, Spring 2007)

Gather Round Multiage Teacher’s Guide and Student Book (Fall 2007)

(Note: as these are older, usage might require some modification for inclusive language and sensitivity to current issues.)

If you are interested in any of these resources please email Ann Desrochers at: adesrochers@nhcucc.org by September 15. After that date they will become recycled paper.

Engaging Young Adults in Your Congregation

Faith Formation with Emerging Adults: Congregational Practices
In this article John Roberto looks at: How can churches address the distinctive spiritual and religious needs of emerging adults? What does faith formation with emerging adults look like? Part 1 of this article presents research findings on what young adults are seeking in a congregation and what congregations are doing to address their religious and spiritual needs. Part 2 presents a variety of congregational examples of approaches, ideas, and practices in faith formation with emerging adults.

How to Reach Young Adults
Anthony B. Robinson, an author, teacher, speaker and consultant, and an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ offers eight suggestions for reaching Generation Next, starting with the reminder: We're not just another social club or civic group. Read the complete article >>

Save the Date: October 2015 Confirmation Retreat

Confirmation Retreat 2015 - "UCC: Why Me?"
Expanded to Two Nights: October 2-4, 2015 - Horton Center
What does the United Church of Christ have to do with my life and my church? Do my beliefs and dreams fit with the UCC? What does the phrase "God is still speaking" mean anyway?

Come join us on Pine Mountain for a weekend retreat so that we can talk about questions like these! Youth from NH Confirmation classes will gather for worship, music, discussion, good food and games. This is a great opportunity to meet other youth and Confirmation leaders.

Registration will open for this event in August.

Visit the Horton Center website to see photos from past years and Learn More >>
Quick Links

The Association of United Church Educators (AUCE) has recently updated their national website.

Check it out!
www.auce-ucc.org

AUCE: a membership organization, of and for lay and ordained, paid and volunteer pastors, educators, and youth workers, which has been providing advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ since 1971.

Training Opportunities

Learn-to-Lead: Promoting Excellence in Small Group Ministry
This workshop will be offered twice this fall. Select the date and location that best fits your schedule.
Saturday, September 19, 2015 - Warren, VT
Saturday, October 17, 2015 - Pembroke, NH

Churches know that small groups are key to spiritual formation and vitality in their congregations. Yet many are floundering for lack of small group leadership, especially when it comes to leading Bible studies.

This workshop features Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series, a proven Bible study system where those who know little about the Bible can learn to lead. This workshop - to be led by Rev. Anne Robertson, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Bible Society - will go beyond just introducing you to that material.
In this six-hour workshop, you will:

- Learn the basics of leading any small group.
- Build confidence in leading a Bible study.
- Understand the difference between teaching and facilitating.
- Learn how to use Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series
- Practice the skills you've learned.
- Receive tips on recruiting your first group, even if you are in a small, rural church.
- Learn how to structure your group for success.
- Network with others who are learning to lead.
- Discuss ways to overcome the challenges of difficult personalities and group conflict.

Registration for the New Hampshire workshop will open in late August.

Employment Opportunities

Visit the Classified/Help Wanted Section of the NHCUCC website or the the UCC (National) Ministry Opportunities webpage for employment opportunities in the area of Christian Education and Formation.

Ashburnham Community Church, MA - Part Time Director of Christian Education
The Ashburnham Community Church is seeking a qualified person to serve as its part time DCE. The main focus of the position, at least initially, is to create and lead a ministry of Godly Play for pre-school and primary grade children and their parents. For more information contact Chuck Mansfield, Pastor ACC (email: pastorchuckacc@gmail.com).

Save the Date:
National Youth Event (NYE) 2016 - BELIEVE
Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort
July 26-29, 2016
Learn More >>

Visit the National Youth Event website:
http://nye.uccpages.org/

The Word of God
"The Lord your God is in your midst-a warrior bringing victory. He will create calm with his love; he will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17 (CEB)

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