The Divine Shepherd
A Psalm of David
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Psalm 23:1-6 (NRSV)

Whether you are talking to a child about a disaster they just saw on the news; to teens about drug and alcohol addiction; to your adult children about death and dying; or to your congregation about gun violence in our country, it is difficult to know where to start. This month’s newsletter shares resources to help parents, faith leaders, and congregations with some of those difficult conversations.

Caring conversations with Children and Youth
Having authentic conversations is hard and there is no simple formula that will work for everyone. The articles and books below offer practical suggestions for your consideration.

- [Talking with Children about Hard Topics](https://buildingfaith.com/)
- [Children and Tragic Events](https://www.pbs.org/parents)
- [How to Help Kids Feel Safe After Tragedy](https://www.pbs.org/parents)
- [Explaining the News to Our Kids](https://www.pbs.org/parents)
- [Helping Children and Adolescents Cope with Violence and Disasters](https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/) from the National Institute of Mental Health
- [Sex and Faith: Talking with Your Child from Birth to Adolescence](https://www.drugfree.org)
- [How to Talk to Your Teen about Marijuana](https://www.drugfree.org)

Caring Conversations with the Wider Community

The Conversation Sabbath: Dozens of Clergy Hope to Get People Talking About Death
For a 10-day period beginning Nov. 6 more than 30 Christian, Jewish and Buddhist communities in Boston and a handful more across the country will observe the Conversation Sabbath.

Gun Violence Sabbath Weekend: December 10-14, 2015
An opportunity to remember those who have lost their lives to gunfire, pray for those whose lives have been forever changed because of the loss of a loved one, and to educate one another on proven strategies to reduce gun violence.

Sacred Conversation on Race
is a church-wide initiative for United
Church of Christ congregations, as we seek to confront the sin of racism in our desire to see the Church live and be as one. Learn more >>

Training Opportunities

Vibrant Faith: Do What Matters

Do What Matters! is a two-day training experience for congregational leaders. This interactive training experience seeks to help leaders imagine and implement effective faith formation practices for today and for future generations. Anchored in recent research, propelled by the urgent need for change, yet tempered by decades of leadership in the field, Vibrant Faith trainers will guide participants toward:

- understanding the profound cultural changes affecting faith development processes today.
- exploring the process of faith transmission from generation to generation through the extended family and church systems.
- experiencing and developing innovative ministry approaches that apply the essential faith-forming processes to people of all ages.
- developing a practical plan for the future of faith formation with all ages in your congregation.

This event to be held at the following time, date, and locations in New England:

- November 3-4, 2015, Acton, MA
- November 5-6, 2015, West Hartford, CT

Employment Opportunities

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

Save the Date:

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

Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort
July 26-30, 2016

Visit the recently updated National Youth Event website to learn more: http://nye.uccpages.org/

Look for New Hampshire specific NYE event participation plans this fall.

The Word of God
"The Lord is good, a stronghold in a day of trouble; he protects those who take refuge in him" Nahum 1:7 (NRSV)

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