August 2019 News & Updates

This month I lift up the adults in our congregations. As we rejoice in Faith Formation as a lifelong journey, I recall the words of Henry Ford, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young."

Featured Curricula and Group Resources for Adults

Congressional Library & Archives to Release an Adult Study Curriculum to Celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrims' Arrival in Plymouth

Next year marks the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' arrival in Plymouth, a unique opportunity to explore an event that is deeply embedded in American lore and foundational to the Congregational tradition. As part of their mission to make the past relevant, interesting, and challenging to people in the present, the Congressional Library & Archives created a four-part curriculum for adult study groups. The curriculum provides:

- Clear and focused historical information, provided by leading scholars of American puritanism
- Personal stories of men and women who made the voyage
- A historically responsible treatment of the Native American story
- Thoughtful, probing questions about the meaning of history for people today
- Free downloadable resources for further study and tools for discussion

The Congregational Library & Archives invites study groups, book clubs, and adult classes to join us in a fresh conversation about an old and important story.

The curriculum will be available for downloading in September 2019, from their website. Additional resources-historical documents, videos, and tips for further study-will be added over 2020.

Coming in October!
Exploring Justice: The Ten Commandments

This four-volume series will look at social justice issues through the lens of the Ten Commandments. It is designed for small groups, and each volume will be designed to take six weeks in 90-minutes sessions. There will be both a participant book and easy-to-follow leader's guide for each volume.

The first volume, Priorities, will cover three commandments: No other gods, No graven images and Don't take God's name in vain. The social justice issues included are: Protest, The Pledge of Allegiance, Nationalism, Free Speech,
Freedom of Religion, American Exceptionalism, Guns, Partisan Politics, Separation of Church and State, Taking a Knee, Removal of Confederate Monuments, the US Flag Code, and America First.

Learn more at: https://www.massbible.org/exploring-justice.

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**Dialogues On: Adult Studies from Sparkhouse**

Build a small group for your community that focuses on hot topics in today's society and gives them an opportunity to discuss it in further depth. Current *Dialogues On* topics include: the refugee crisis, sexuality, and race.

[Learn more >>]

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**The Embracing Series: Small Group DVD Studies**

Published in 2013-2014, by [Church Publishing Incorporated](#), these Small Group Studies deal with still relevant, contemporary topics using guided discussions based on the perspective of well known Christian Leaders:

- Embracing Forgiveness, Barbara Cawthorne Crafton
- Embracing Spiritual Awakening, Diana Butler Bass
- Embracing Interfaith Cooperation, Eboo Patel
- Embracing An Alternative Orthodoxy, Richard Rohr
- Embracing Emergence Christianity, Phyllis Tickle
- Embracing a Life of Meaning, Kathleen Norris
- Embracing an Adult Faith, Marcus Borg
- Embracing the Prophets in a Contemporary Culture, Walter Brueggemann

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**Upcoming Events**

**Our Whole Lives (OWL) Facilitator Training for Grades 7-12**

Aug 23 - 25, 2019
The Walker Center for Ecumenical Exchange
Auburndale, Massachusetts

[Our Whole Lives](#), together with Sexuality and Our Faith, helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, health and behavior in the context of their faith. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships,
personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. It provides not only facts about anatomy and human development, but helps participants to clarify their values, build interpersonal skills and understand the social, emotional and spiritual aspects of sexuality.

[Click here](#) to visit the registration site and learn more about Facilitator Training.

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"UCC: Is That For Me?" 2019 Confirmation Retreat
September 27 - 29, 2019
Horton Center, Pine Mountain, Gorham, NH

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 for a weekend retreat so that we can talk about questions like these! Youth from New England Confirmation classes will gather for worship, music, discussion, good food and games.

[Download the retreat brochure](#) to learn more about the retreat, including how to register!

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National Youth Event (NYE) 2020

[UNITE FOR THE EARTH!
UNITE FOR JUSTICE!
UNITE IN FAITH!]

UNITE! Purdue University | July 22-25
[ucc.org/nye](http://ucc.org/nye)

**Youth Art Submissions**
The NYE planning team is looking for youth and young adults (age 12-25) to submit original pieces of work to be used in the creation of worship materials for
NYE 2020. Poems, prayers, song lyrics, devotions, reflections, drawings, paintings, and other pieces of art are welcome. Deadline for submission of materials is September 15, 2019. For more information email Rev. Trayce Potter, Minister for Youth & Young Adult Engagement, at: pottert@ucc.org.

Learn more about the plans for this four day event at: nye.uccpages.org.

If you or youth from your church are interested in being part of a NH group traveling to NYE 2020, please contact Ann Desrochers via email: adesrochers@nhucc.org.

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Quick Links

- The Association of United Church Educators (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.
- "The Guide" Called to Educational and Formational Ministries: A Guide for Local Churches, Educators, and Youth Workers

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United Church of Christ Seeks Candidates for Council of Youth and Young Adults Ministry

The Council for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (CYYAM) shall serve to advocate, support programs, and be a resource for youth and young adult ministries throughout the United Church of Christ and shall report to the United Church of Christ Board and to the General Synod on issues, developments, and concerns in youth and young adult ministries in church and society. It shall monitor to ensure that the unique gifts and talents of youth and young adults are present in all aspects of the life of the Church. It shall inform, envision, and shape national youth and young adult ministry priorities across the Church. The Council and its membership will act as a resource regarding youth and young adult ministry opportunities across the Church (including but not limited to internships, mission trips, Regional Youth Events, National Youth Event, and General Synod).

Any youth or young adult interested in applying for a position on the council can learn more by downloading the application packet, visiting https://www.ucc.org/cyyam, or emailing Traci Potter, Minister for Youth and Young Adult Engagement, Faith INFO, UCC, at pottert@ucc.org.

**Note: Application deadline is September 30th.**

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Employment

Local Opportunities

- Lee Church Congregational United Church of Christ is looking for a 15 hour per week Director of Youth Ministries to provide overall leadership in their Christian Education (CE) Ministry, with a specific focus on leadership and development of youth groups and programs, including guidance and resources. To maintain and enhance the Christian Education
program for the Lee Church Congregational Community and to support the CE Ministry in attaining the goals of Christian education for pre-kindergarten through senior high school youth. The person in this position should be actively supportive and sensitive to the whole mission of this church and guided by his/her own Christian faith. For more information download the Position Profile and list of specific responsibilities.

- **Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ** is seeking a **Part-time Director of Christian Education** (fourth Sundays off) to oversee and provide church school programs for 10-20 children plus some youth group support.
  - Minimum education required: Associates Degree; teaching and/or related experience.
  - Attend monthly staff and committee meetings.
  - Creative, hands-on approach to learning about our Christian faith. PCUCC is a theologically progressive, socially inclusive, Open & Affirming, mission-oriented congregation.
  - Salary commensurate with experience.

Contact: office@uccplymouth.org for more information.

- Visit the Classifieds/Help Wanted section of the NH Conference UCC website.

### National Opportunities

Willing to relocate? The UCC Ministry Opportunities webpage is a great source for Christian Education and Faith Formation openings nationwide.

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### The Word of God

"Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning." Proverbs 9:9 (NRSV)