February 2019 News & Updates

Tomorrow we flip our calendars to March and quickly realize Ash Wednesday and daylight savings time are almost upon us. There is a renewed sense of hope and energy at this time of year. Spiritually we find renewal in the resurrection and as the bleak, dark hours of winter evenings fade away, we are energized by the daylight. This edition of the newsletter provides several options to consider as you channel some of that energy into planning your spring and summer programs.

Earth Day Resource: Next Generation Rising

The UCC Environmental Justice Ministry, together with Creation Justice Ministries, offer Christian education materials to equip faith communities to protect, restore, and more rightly share God's creation.

The 2019 theme is "Next Generation Rising" and focuses on children and youth leading the way for creation justice. This resource will feature stories such as that of the youth who brought the Our Children's Trust climate change lawsuit against the federal government.

Click here to download the UCC specific version of this resource.

Graduation Resources

Graduations fill our hearts with so many conflicting emotions...beaming with pride over all that has been achieved, filled with excitement and hope for the future, maybe a bit of nostalgia over memories of good times now gone by, and an anxious moment or two filled with uncertainty about where the next step on the journey might lead. Read Rev. John C. Dorhauer's spiritual reflection on Graduation Day, one of the weekly messages provided as part of the 'Into the Mystic' series.

Below are a few ideas for honoring and blessing the graduates in your congregations.

- Hold a Graduate Recognition Worship Service
- Create a PowerPoint Slideshow with pictures of the youth as they have
grown up in the church

- Write letters to the graduates, which could include cherished memories, what makes this graduate special, and your hope for them as they take the next step on their journey
- Gift ideas include: a Bible, an inspirational book, engraved flashlights (to help light their way), fleece blankets (a snuggle from home) embroidered with the church name/logo or a favorite scripture
- Scripture ideas for engraving on graduate gifts:
  - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105 (NIV)
  - "May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." Psalm 20:4
  - "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)
  - "But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Resources

Cokesbury provides a terrific tool, a summary chart for comparing VBS Programs. It has been updated for 2019. The chart includes information on VBS programs from major publishers, allowing you to compare themes, scripture focus/Bible stories, student materials, teacher materials, music, crafts, and decorating ideas.

Also refer to the VBS file on the Christian Formation Ministry page of the conference website for some program ideas provided by Global Ministries, Living Waters for the World, and others.
Young Adult Service Communities (YASC) are unique opportunities for you to live in intentional community with others who share your commitment to service and social justice. Young Adult Service Communities are leadership programs for young adults aged 21-35. Participants live and serve fall through summer * start dates vary according to location. Sites for 2019-2020 are Miami, Connecticut, Miami and Minnesota. Housing, food, living stipend, health insurance are provided. Together, you will find the space to reflect on questions of meaning and to network for change. Young adult leaders are transforming communities through a faith-inspired pursuit of justice, collaborative action and intentional living.

Young Adult Service Communities (YASC) are unique opportunities for you to live in intentional community with others who share your commitment to service and social justice. Young Adult Service Communities are leadership programs for young adults aged 21-35. Participants live and serve fall through summer * start dates vary according to location. Sites for 2019-2020 are Miami, Connecticut, Miami and Minnesota. Housing, food, living stipend, health insurance are provided. Together, you will find the space to reflect on questions of meaning and to network for change. Young adult leaders are transforming communities through a faith-inspired pursuit of justice, collaborative action and intentional living.
Summer Communities of Service (SCOS) is a leadership program for young adults aged 19 and above. Summer Communities focuses on intersecting faith communities, service and justice advocacy. This national network is part of the joint work of the United Church of Christ and the Alliance of Baptists. Sites for summer 2019 include Charlotte, Texas, Manhattan, Montana, Kansas City, Daytona, and Philadelphia. Participants live and serve from late May to early August in host congregations around the United States. Housing, Food, Health Insurance and a $1,000 summer stipend is provided. While participating in SCOS you will have the opportunity to attend national orientation and debriefing events throughout the United States.

Summer Camp at Horton Center

Horton Center, located atop Pine Mountain just outside of Gorham, NH is owned and operated by the New Hampshire Conference, UCC, and offers programs for children, teens, and adults.

Emphasis is placed on community building and exposure to the natural world. Options include rock climbing, canoeing, caving, and
hiking as well as traditional camp activities.

Download the 2019 Summer Camp Brochure >>

____________________________________________________________

Upcoming Events

Environmental Stewardship Mission Group Seeks Teens to Assist in Planning New England Youth Environmental Justice Summit
Leadership Training Provided

The Environmental Stewardship Mission Group is looking for two environmentally-minded teens (grades 8 to 12) from the NH, VT, or ME UCC Conferences to help plan the next New England Youth Environmental Justice Summit to be held in early 2020.

As a pre-requisite, we will send you on an all-expense paid weekend to the Leadership Training Retreat sponsored by the Connecticut Conference UCC on May 17-19, 2019 at the Silver Lake Conference Center in Connecticut. Attendees must be able to attend the entire retreat, so travel time should not interfere with attendance.

For more information about the Leadership Training Retreat download the flyer, read about past retreats, or contact Pam Arifian at PAMA@ctucc.org.

For questions about the New England Youth Environmental Justice Summit, contact Robin Walkup at adalimumab3@gmail.com or Sue Moore at stmoore5@comcast.net.

____________________________________________________________

New England Association of United Church Educators (NEAUCE) Conference
April 30 - May 2 at Pilgrim Pines, Swanzey, NH
Registration is open for the 48th Annual NEAUCE Conference. Join your fellow colleagues for amazing worship, fellowship, and rich discussions. Workshops are designed to provide inspiration, learning, and time to share.

Keynote speaker, Rev. Traci Smith, will guide those gathered through effective ways to encourage the spiritual lives of families. Open to everyone who is interested in learning child-centered ministry practices.

All attendees will receive a copy of Traci Smith's book, Faithful Families, Creating Sacred Moments at Home.

Learn more by downloading the event brochure or visiting the registration site.

---

**Youth@Synod**
June 21 - June 25, 2019
Milwaukee, WI
If you know any New Hampshire youth that are interested in participating in Youth@Synod, please contact Ann Desrochers at adesrochers@nhcucc.org or 603.715.9526 as soon as possible. We would love to connect with you and coordinate some of the planning for our trip to General Synod 32.

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

Employment Opportunities

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

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

The Word of God

"We humans keep brainstorming options and plans, but God's purpose
prevails." Proverbs 19:21 (MSG)

Ann Desrochers | Christian Education Resource Consultant | New Hampshire Conference UCC adesrochers@nhcucc.org

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

SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient’s email}
Forward this email | Update Profile | About our service provider
Sent by adesrochers@nhcucc.org in collaboration with

Constant Contact®
Try it free today