January 2019 News & Updates

In the coming weeks the Christian season of Epiphany will come to an end and our thoughts will quickly turn to Lent and Easter. This edition of the newsletter provides some supplemental Lenten and Easter resources for use at your churches or to encourage people to engage in faith formation activities at home.

Resources for Group or Personal Reflection

- **Plenty Good Room | A Lenten Bible Study Based on African American Spirituals**
  A unique six-session Bible study that combines an in-depth look at Scripture, American history, and the music and lyrics of six African American spirituals. A powerful resource for small groups, Sunday schools, choir groups, and any setting where persons seek to enrich their devotional and spiritual experience through God's Word and music.

- **Take Nothing with You (2019 Lenten Devotional from the Stillspeaking Writers' Group)** - Begins shipping Feb 7, 2019
  A Lenten devotional resource with a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.


- The [Building Faith website](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?age...) provides a variety of ideas for bringing Lent and Easter into the family home. Among them is the Lent in a Bag activity using symbols of the season to promote dialogue and reflection, including the youngest to the oldest members of the family.

Faith, Food, Fun, and Fellowship: Activities For Lent

- Why not mark the beginning of a new Christian season with laughter, love and togetherness? Sharon Ely Pearson shares some ideas on how to do this in her article, [Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday: A Playful Day for the Church](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?age...).
- **Making pretzels** provides a welcome activity during Lent, while teaching about prayer, fasting, scripture and baking!

- **Resurrection Eggs** can be used to tell the story of Jesus’ last days on earth, His death, and His resurrection. Much like an Advent Calendar, this activity can be used during Lent as a countdown to Easter.

- In many Christian households **Hot Cross Buns** are traditionally served during the Lent and Easter season.

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### Lent and Easter Programming Webinars

- **Multigenerational Programming for Lent and Easter**  
  Thursday, January 31, 2019  
  7:00 - 8:00 PM Eastern  
  Leader: Elizabeth Christie

  [Click here to register](#) for this webinar that will discuss programming for Lent and Easter that allows families to create and learn together. You will hear about 6 weeks of activities that begin in the church and get used in the home.

- **40 Days of Focus: Congregational Formation during Lent**  
  Watch a replay of this webinar, originally held on January 18, 2017.

  This webinar was part of the *Wisdom From the Field Webinar Series* sponsored by The Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminar.

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### Upcoming Events

**Prepared to Serve 2019** - February 23, 2019  
Pembroke Academy, 209 Academy Road, Pembroke, NH  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Cost: $40
This year's event offers a full schedule for the day that includes time for worship, attending educational workshops, viewing exhibits, and enjoying food and fellowship with folks from all over the state and region. With over 50 unique workshops on a variety of topics, there is sure to be something for everyone!

To learn more view the event brochure or sign up now by visiting the event registration website. Workshops fill quickly, so don't delay!

New England Association of United Church Educators (NEAUCE) Annual Conference
Save the Date
April 30th – May 2nd 2019
Pilgrim Pines, Swanzey, NH
Welcoming Keynote: Rev. Traci Smith
Author of Seamless Faith and Faithful Families
Check out Traci’s website www.traci-smith.com

Join Rev. Traci Smith as she guides those gathered - Christian educators, pastors, parents, and children’s ministry leaders through effective ways to encourage the spiritual lives of families. Leave with a copy of Traci’s book, Faithful Families, practical tips and ideas for developing age appropriate faith practices, fostering rich worship experiences for all ages, and nurturing sacred space even in busy times. Open to everyone who is interested in learning child-centered ministry practices.

Focus scripture: 1 Corinthians 3

Registration information coming soon!
If you know any New Hampshire youth that are interested in participating in Youth@Synod, please contact Ann Desrochers at adesrochers@nhucc.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

"Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually." Psalm 105:3-4 (NRSV)

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