February 2020 News & Updates

Punxsutawney Phil failed to see his shadow. We are about to flip our calendars to March and set our clocks to daylight savings time - all signs that Spring is almost here. 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.

Feed the Hungry, Feed Your Faith

Inspire your church community to end hunger and poverty through Heifer International's free faith based programs and bring the commandment "love your neighbor" to life as part of your Sunday school curriculum, as a Vacation Bible School program, or as a special summer project. To learn more watch the webinar: Feed Your Faith.

Share Your Love with Others - in Partnership with Church World Service

Gather with your friends or communities and create Church World Service (CWS) Kits (Hygiene Kits, School Kits, and Cleanup Buckets). CWS Kits are small packages of supplies assembled by volunteers and shipped to families and communities in need around the world - especially in the aftermath of disasters.

Learn more >>

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Looking for the perfect VBS program for your church? Cokesbury provides a tool for quickly researching VBS programs from major publishers. The comparison chart has been updated for 2020, allowing you to easily review the themes; scripture focus/Bible stories; student, teacher, music, craft, and decorating materials; as well as cost.

Summer Camp at Horton Center
Horton Center, a ministry of the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ, is located in the heart of the White Mountains, where spectacular beauty abounds. Experience God's creation in this "thin" place between heaven and earth. Make new friends, explore your faith, take risks, have the time of your life.

Download the 2020 Summer Camp Brochure >>

Young Adult Service Communities

Young Adult Service Communities (YASC) are unique opportunities for persons aged 21-35 to live in intentional community with others who share their commitment to service and social justice. YASC are leadership programs where participants live and serve fall through summer *start dates vary according to location. Sites for 2020-2021 are Washington DC, Bethesda, Maryland, and Miami, Florida. Housing, food, living stipend, and 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.
Join Us for National Youth Event (NYE) 2020
**Registration** is now open! 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@nhcucc.org or phone (603) 715-9526. We hope to register as a group in mid-April - well before the June 1 deadline.

**Facts at a Glance**

- **Who:** Young people who have completed 6th through 12th grade and their Adult Chaperones
- **What:** National Youth Event (NYE) is a spirited quadrennial event centered on faith, leadership, service, and social justice
- **Dates:** July 22-25, 2020
- **Location:** Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
- **Event Cost:** $375
- **Transportation Cost:** ~$200 (traveling by Express Coach Bus with our friends and colleagues from Maine and Vermont)

---

**49th Annual NEAUCE Conference**
May 12-14, 2020
Pilgrim Pines, Swanzey, NH

------------------

**Rekindling Faith:**
from Generation to Generation

------------------

*I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and...*
your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:5-7

For more information download the brochure or visit the registration website.

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

Local Opportunities

- Atkinson Congregational Church is looking for a part-time Faith Formation Youth Leader to be responsible for organizing and administering the Sunday morning Church School program for the youth of the church. This is a 10 hour per week position, 10 months per year (August - May). Some time will be flex but will include a commitment on Sunday mornings 9 - 11 a.m. Please send cover letter, resume, and references to hr@atkinsoncc.org. A CORI/SORI check will be performed prior to hiring.

- 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.

The Word of God - Lent 2020

"Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning," Joel 2:12 (NRSV)