January 2020 News & Updates

Here we are at the end of January, with Epiphany behind us and the Lenten Season on the horizon.

Lent, all draped in purple, reminds us we are once again entering a time of waiting and preparation. It is a time to reflect, refresh, and renew. This edition of the newsletter offers some resources to encourage seekers and believers of all ages to look at the ministry of Jesus Christ with fresh eyes. As we explore Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, let us look for inspiration and guidance on living, loving, and serving one another and God, each and every day.

Featured Resources

- **Free Webinars** from [Practical Resources for Churches](#)
  
  **A Week of Terror and Grace: Engaging All Ages in the Holy Week Story**
  On Thursday, March 5, 2020, 7:00 - 8:00 PM Eastern, Karen Ziel, Commissioned Minister of Faith Formation and Leadership for the Southern New England Conference United Church of Christ, will lead this free session exploring wonderful ideas of activities and programs that make meaning out of the journey through Holy Week. [Register now >>](#)

  On January 21, 2020, Elizabeth Christie, offered her session on **Making the Holy Seasons Holy for All.** [Watch a replay of that webinar >>](#)

- **Intergenerational Lenten Fair**
  Looking for a Lenten Program where people of all ages can participate, instead of just observe? Check out [this article posted on the Ministry Matters website](#) several years ago. Even if you are not inclined to implement the whole program, many of the suggestions (recipes for making pretzels/hot cross buns/pancakes, decorating eggs, making a cross of nails, planting new seeds, preparing a Seder meal or the butterfly craft) could be done as a single stand alone activity.

- **New Devotional Resources for Lent.**
  Check out these new materials available from UCC Resources: [Deliver Us](#), the 2020 Lenten Devotional from the Stillspeaking Writers Group and [The Transformation: From Darkness to Light](#), written by UCC youth and young adults.

  [Wondrous Love: Devotions 2020](#) (published by Augsburg Fortress) explores Jesus’ journey from baptism to the cross and the empty tomb, as depicted in Matthew (the gospel focus for 2020, year A in the Revised...
Common Lectionary). Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer.

- **Progressive Children's Curriculum: A Joyful Path**
  Are you searching for a way to connect children with an authentic spiritual experience that is inclusive, creative and multi-layered? *A Joyful Path* is a behavior-over-belief curriculum that connects children with their own inner wisdom. It teaches interdependence, self awareness, respect for nature, stillness, forgiveness, prayer, meditation, and integrity. Using the Bible and other wisdom stories, *A Joyful Path* helps children learn how to follow the path of Jesus, other teachers, and real life heroes in today's world. [Learn more >>]

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**Prepared to Serve 2020**

Prepared To Serve is a training event including a variety of workshops, exhibits, and fellowship for All church members in the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ. This year the event will be held on Saturday, February 22, from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm at the Pembroke Academy. For additional information on the workshops and to register for the event online, visit: [http://www.cvent.com/d/7hqvbm](http://www.cvent.com/d/7hqvbm).
New England
Environmental Justice
Youth Summit
Sponsored by the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ
March 21, 2020 ~ 9 AM-4 PM
South Congregational Church
Concord, NH

Keynote Speakers
Rev. Gordon Rankin – NHCUCC Conference Minister
Rev. Jim Antal – UCC Special Advisor on Climate Justice

Workshop Leaders
Lila Kohrman-Glaser – NH 350NH.org
Dr. Jehann El-Bisi, Director of The River Cried "Mini Wi' Coni", a personal reflection of service and solidarity in Standing Rock
Josie Pinto – NH Youth Movement and Sunrise
Marla Marcum - Climate Disobedience Center

Registration is NOW open at: http://www.cvent.com/d/5nq7h1
National Youth Event (NYE) 2020

What are YOU doing July 22-25? Having a blast at NYE 2020!

Registration opens February 1. Mark your calendar, set a reminder, and sign up to receive more information at: http://www.uccpages.org/nye2020/.

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. Travel arrangements will be made based on the number of youth expressing interest in participating.

Quick Links

- The Association of United Church Educators (AUCE). A membership
The Association of United Church Educators (AUCE) is 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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**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, the person will 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](#).

- 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**

"For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." Ephesians 2:10 (NRSV)