May 2020 News & Updates

As we continue to embrace new and creative ways of providing Faith Formation opportunities, I offer resources for both Faith Formation leaders and their congregations.

Weekly Webinar Series Hosted by the UCC Faith Education, Innovation and Formation (INFO) Team

Tuesdays for Nurture
These are occasional Tuesday webinars, for one hour at 3:30 pm, that faithfully focus on education for the people of God. Topics vary from faith-filled politics, to "how to's" in congregational life, to the impacts of current realities on the life of the church. Each webinar will include clear suggestions on what YOU can do to change the church, and the world, towards the world God imagines for us.

Thursdays for the Soul
A webinar series to care for the whole church, hosted by Faith INFO and Justice and Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Topics are wide ranging, and are focused on the spirituality and care of people. Prayer, worship, music, psalm readings, or compassionate teaching are often included. These offerings take place every Thursday for one hour at 3:30 pm Eastern.

Upcoming webinars:
Tuesday, May 26 - The Science of Return
Thursday, May 28 - The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle

Tuesday, June 2 - Leading Small and Rural Churches
Thursday, June 4 - The Soul of Mysticism
Tuesday, June 9 - The Urgency of NOW

For a complete listing of these events visit: https://www.ucc.org/calendar

Past Webinars
If you missed it, check out: Play, Pray, and Learn! Ministering for Children and Families at Home.

All the past webinars in this series can be accessed at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6VgfHt6zEy7yDgdSEfLLYEVaNBM2943.

Creativity, Compassion, and the Coronavirus
In this time of social distancing, fear, and great uncertainty, faith communities are more important than ever, but let’s be honest: this current Coronavirus crisis stresses and stretches faith leaders in unique ways.

The BTS Center is teaming up with the podcast Reports from the Spiritual Frontier to release a podcast series, some online meet-ups, and other resources to support and equip faith leaders for this particular moment.

Upcoming Podcasts include:

- **Faith Leaders Online Prayer Huddle**
  Wednesday, May 27, 2020 (and following Wednesdays)  *  9:00-9:45 am (Eastern)  *  via Zoom

- **Spiritual Parenting: An Online Idea Swap for Pandemic-Weary Parents**
  Wednesday, May 27  *  8:15-9:30 pm (Eastern)  *  via Zoom

For more details and registration information visit [https://www.thebtscenter.org/coronavirus-response/](https://www.thebtscenter.org/coronavirus-response/).

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**Stay Connected via Facebook**

Several years ago the New Hampshire Association of United Church Educators (NHAUCE) created a Facebook group as a means of keeping our local church educators connected, sharing ideas/resources and asking questions in real-time. I hope you will use this resource to share all the creative ways you are continuing to engage remotely with your faith communities.

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**Events Update**

**National Youth Event 2020 Postponed**

Due to the unforeseeable impact of COVID19 on the health, social, and physical distancing behaviors of the world, National Youth Event (NYE) at Purdue University is postponed until June 27-30, 2022.

We are disappointed but not discouraged, and we have been hard at work to offer meaningful and faithful virtual gatherings this summer. We recognize this is not the same but nothing is the same. We look forward to welcoming all seniors for whom this may have been your last NYE to join us virtually and in 2022 as youth ambassadors.

Many of our original NYE presenters are excited to be able to put together meaningful content that will be shared via the web and will include live chat features during and after each premier.
On May 31st we will feature a video of LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR IN QUARANTINE.
On June 28th we will feature a video of CREATIVITY AND JUSTICE IN QUARANTINE.
Please hold July 24-25 for a culminating interactive experience around UNITE THROUGH THE EXTRAORDINARY!

Be sure to check out the debut of "Together We're Strong", an original NYE song and music video.

More details and registration to the summer events are soon to come and will be found on the NYE website.

If you have any questions please reach out to either Rev. Trayce Potter at pottert@ucc.org or Rev. Tracy Howe Wispelwey at wispelweyt@ucc.org.

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Experience Horton Center in a New Way This Summer

**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. It is a place to experience God's creation, make new friends, explore your faith, take risks, and have the time of your life.

Although we can't be on the mountain together this summer, Horton Center's staff and volunteers have committed to providing the camp experience for kids to the best of their ability through HC@home. Download the information packet to learn more or visit the registration site to sign up for this free summer offering.

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Apply Today for City Mission Summer 2020 Social Justice Internships

City Mission offers **Social Justice Internship Programs** for high school students who are rising into their junior or senior year, or those who have just graduated from high school.

This internship is for youth committed to social justice and with an interest in gaining work experience in a small nonprofit that works on social justice issues, particularly around homelessness prevention. The Social Justice Internship Program is six weeks long beginning Monday, July 6, 2020 and concluding Friday, August 14, 2020. Applications for the internship will be accepted until May 31, 2020, and can be accessed here. If this format does not work for you, please email mpace@citymissionboston.org.

In light of the evolving conditions of the COVID-19 health crisis, this
The internship program will be adaptable and can meet needs as they arise. We will continue to monitor developments and make decisions based on the recommendations of health officials and city officials, erring on the side of caution.

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. AUCE recently published a curated resource list to help faith formation practitioners create at-home materials for their families to use during COVID-19 cancellations...and beyond!

Employment

New Local Opportunity

- The First Church of Nashua, New Hampshire, an historic and vibrant 700-member faith community of the United Church of Christ, located 45 miles outside of Boston, is seeking a new Director of Children's Christian Formation. This full-time position will oversee and develop the well-established ministries of Christian education and faith formation for the church's children. The Director will be part of a talented team of staff and work in a friendly and collegial environment. The position provides a competitive salary with generous benefits and can begin as soon as June 1, 2020. Learn more >>

- 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

For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Do not fear, I will help you.". Isaiah 41:13 (RSV)