



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter November 2020



As we approach Thanksgiving, I am reminded that in the midst of uncertainty there is always one constant in my life: God's goodness, unconditional love, and abiding presence. That brings me comfort and I am grateful. This month I encourage you to focus on the faith practice of gratitude.

"Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good." —Maya Angelou

[Visit our Website](#)

Featured Resources

(Note: The nice thing about gratitude is that it is a timeless practice. Some of these resources are a few years old, but are as relevant today as they were when they were originally written.)

Articles

- [The Power of Gratitude](#), by Rachel Keefe, October 2016. Rachel is Pastor of The Living Table, United Church of Christ.
- [How to Help Families Grow in Gratitude at Thanksgiving \(and Beyond!\)](#) with related resources from DWELL Children's Ministry Curriculum (Christian Reformed Church in North American)
- [5 Easy Practices to Help Inspire Gratitude in Children](#) from Illustrated Ministry
- [Shocking News About Gratitude and Raising Healthy Kids](#) from Illustrated Ministry

Books

- [Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks](#) by Diana Butler Bass with [related study guide resources](#). (The book was updated with a new subtitle in April of 2019 - Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks)
- [The Practice of Finding: How Gratitude Leads the Way to Enough](#) by Rev, Holly W. Whitcomb, a spiritual director and ordained minister in the United Church of Christ since her graduation from Yale Divinity School in 1978.

Videos

- [TheoEd Talk on gratitude](#) by Diana Butler Bass
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Activity Ideas



Check out these activities that were created as part of the Vibrant Faith @Home project.

[Gratitude Walk](#) (All ages/family activity)

[Thankful Tree](#) (Activity for families with young children)

[Family Bonds](#) (Activity for families with teens)

[Little Thanks](#) (Activity for Adults, Couples)

Building Faith, published by Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary, offers some wonderful activity suggestions including [5 Thanksgiving Crafts to Teach Gratitude](#), [10 Ways to Practice Gratitude with Children](#), and [15 Thanksgiving Prayers and Table Graces](#).

Christianity.com also offers [21 beautiful Thanksgiving Prayers and Blessings](#).

Sharon Ely Pearson offers her thoughts on how to do a [Zoom Thanksgiving](#), as a time of story sharing from one generation to the next.

Last Call: New England Environmental Justice Youth Summit is This Week!

All are welcome to Join Us for this Webinar in Two Sessions.

Thursday Evening, November 19, 2020 7:00 -9:00 PM

- Rev Gordon Rankin (NHCUCC) will speak on *Caring for the Earth and Indigenous People*, about his service in the Lakota and Standing Rock Community
- Dr. Jehann El Bisi will share her film “*The River Cried, M’ni W’Coni*” on the Actions of the Water Protectors at Standing Rock.

Saturday Morning, November 21, 2020 9:00 AM - Noon

- Rev. Dr. Jim Antal (UCC Climate Justice Special Advisor) will Keynote on the “*Climate Crisis*”
- Video and discussion on the efforts to shut down the last NE coal plant (350NH)
- Health Effects of PFAS and PFOA (Sierra Club)
- “*Storytelling*” (350NH)
- “*Fierce Vulnerability*” on how to cope with the stress of climate change, by Marla Marcum of the Climate Disobedience Center.

[Download the event flyer >>](#)

Register now at:

- https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0_ZKZVcRRcqrGWIYk0i3VA

Employment

Smith Memorial Church, in Hillsboro, is looking for a **Youth Group Leader** for their Middle School youth group, and to serve as Administrator for both the Middle and High School youth groups. This is a part-time, stipend position. They seek someone with a heart for middle school and high school youth outreach as they gather in weekly groups for mission projects, conversation, fun and adventure.

Job Description:

- Plan and lead events, gatherings, mission outreach opportunities, fun trips when it becomes safe to do so, weekly meetings and overall programming
- Meet regularly with adult leaders to provide training and resources for the adult leaders to use.

- Encourage active participation among the youth in the community.
- Reach out to parents of youth and gather their support for youth activities

If interested in this position; please email a brief cover letter explaining your interest in this position and also attach onto the email a single page resume documenting your most recent background and experience.

Please email questions and resumes to: pastor@smithmemorialucc.org

For more **local opportunities** visit the [Classifieds/Help Wanted](#) section of the NH Conference UCC website.

Willing to relocate? The [UCC Ministry Opportunities webpage](#) is a great source for Christian Education and Faith Formation **openings nationwide**.

The Word of God

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

Psalm 100 (NRSV)