

Workshops Descriptions May 6, 2017 Brunswick Event

Earth Care & Communing with Earth Presenter: Earthcare and Spirituality Resource Team

“Holy, holy, holy, the whole Earth is full of God’s glory!” How do we care for and commune with God’s creation? This workshop will cover a number of items, from the practical to the worshipful. Why be concerned about climate change? Is it even real? How is it going with the Maine Conference’s fossil fuel divestment resolution from 2015? How do we put the “holy and sacred” into our relationship with the natural world around us? Who can we partner with? How do we speak out? Those are the kinds of things the Earthcare and Spirituality Resource Team will talk about in this workshop.

How to welcome 400 people and inspire 100 church members on a single day...Nuts and Bolts to planning a Communities Care Day... Presenter: Rev. Diane Wendorf

The Greater Sanford (Sanford, Acton, Alfred) Communities Care Day started after youth from Alfred, Acton, and Sanford UCC churches attended a Saco UCC day of caring on MLK Jr. Day inspired by President and Mrs. Obama who suggested this holiday be dedicated to community service. Greater Sanford Day of Caring happens on Columbus/Indigenous People day. Includes a social services fair...free dental hygiene consult, free haircuts, free meals (breakfast and lunch) a free store that provides winter coats/blankets/new undies/socks and toiletries, nutrition guidance, etc. CC Day is a cooperative effort of local UCC, Episcopal, UUA, Methodist and several other local churches and the local non-food pantry.

The workshop will describe our planning process...what works...how to involve church members, how to collect the items distributed and how it has evolved and continues to transform our community and churches.

“A PRAYERFUL CHOIR COMMUNITY” Presenter: Rev. Dr. Peter Stickney,

Creating a prayerful choir community is not something to take lightly. Prayer is the most powerful tool we, as believers, possess. This gathering will be a sharing of a few “Tried and True” --- effective ways that prayer has covered the choir community.

“MUSIC FOR THE SMALL CHURCH CHOIR” Presenter: Rev. Dr. Peter Stickney,

“Music for the small church choir”—seeks to honor small choirs—and the diverse challenges each face. Small choirs are typically 3-15 people. Several resources for the small choir—both traditional and none traditional will be shared. Come prepared to SING!

Your Maine School of Ministry Presenter: Rev. Robert Ross

Interactively with attenders and current MESOM students, and led by the Dean, the workshop will cover the School’s Vision and Mission; Cultural and Societal context; Relationship to Ministry; Relationship to the National and Maine Conference UCC; Christian Studies and Leadership (CSL) Curriculum and Certificate program; Student bodies; and Impending Goals and Objectives.

Vibrant Worship, Sustaining Fellowship, Bold Service: Reports from The Small Church Story Project of 10 of Maine Conference’s Smaller Congregations Presenter: Rev. Susie Craig

Mark Twain once wrote: “Reports of my death are greatly exaggerated!” The same might be said of small churches in the Maine Conference! The presenters have visited 10 small churches over a 2 year period, attending worship and speaking with the congregation – and discovering worship that is spirited; fellowship genuine and joyful; and acts of service to the local community and beyond that are remarkably courageous. Some churches have no pastor; some no church building; some have fewer than 10 members; one closed formally only to rise again as a house church. But each is alive and well, living the Gospel. Join us to hear stories that bear lessons for churches of all sizes, small and large – and to consider: “What is your church’s story now”?

“From Now On” An Inquiry Into Church as Christ-Event Presenter: Rev. Bill Bliss

What is church? As divine presence and revelation in past, present, and future history, might church be the most powerful event in creation? The From Now On Life Circle is a small group ministry of The Neighborhood UCC in Bath that has been exploring the question of ecclesiology, defined as the intersection of anthropology, cosmology, and theology. In this workshop, participants in the Life Circle will guide an inquiry into the church as an event and as an experience, with particular attention to the question: How shall we recognize the effectiveness of the church? Beginning with a brief discussion of Luke 22:67-69 and Acts 1:6-8, we'll consider these propositions: There is only one church. The church is indestructible. The church is revealed in lucid moments of failure and contrition. The church is the antidote for religion. To be the church is the most effective strategy we have found. This will be a hope-filled time for questioning assumptions, disrupting mythologies, and seeking awareness.