

Prepared to Serve 2018

*God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit.
God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit.
1 Corinthians 12:4-5 (MSG)*

February 24, 2018

Pembroke Academy

Pembroke, NH



Sponsored by the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ

P: 603.225.6647 | Toll Free: 1.888.642.8229 | www.nhcucc.org

2018 Prepared to Serve Agenda

Registration (Refreshments)	8:00 am - 8:45 am
Welcome and Worship	9:00 am - 9:40 am
Workshop Block A	10:00 am - 11:15 am
Workshop Block B	11:35 am - 12:35 pm
Workshop Block C	12:55 pm - 1:55 pm
Workshop Block D	2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

Registration

Register online by following the registration link at www.nhcucc.org. All major credit cards and personal checks will be accepted.

***If you do not have access to the internet, or if you are doing a mass registration and do not have a unique email address for each registrant**, please contact Cindy Bradley at 603-225-6647 x1100 for assistance.

Online Registration

Individuals registering online **before February 14, 2018 at 11:59 pm** will pay a **reduced fee of \$40/person**. If the registration fees should prohibit your ability to attend this event please contact Ann Desrochers at 603-715-9526 or email events@nhcucc.org for assistance.

Day-of Registrations

Individuals registering after the close of online registration (February 14th) will need to wait until the day of the event to register. The "Day-Of" registration fee is **\$50/person**.

Refreshments & Lunch

The registration fee includes a continental breakfast, refreshments, and a full buffet lunch or optional boxed lunch. Because the food service department doesn't have a registered dietitian available, we are unable to honor special requests.



Remember

Worship

Morning worship will begin promptly at 9:00 am.

Offering

The offering received during the worship service, will go to support the many ministries of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ. Your support makes events like *Prepared to Serve* possible. **Along with your offering, please bring your church's 2018 OCWM Pledge Form.**

Exhibitors

The Exhibit Area will be open throughout the day. Participants are encouraged to visit with the representatives of these local, state, and national organizations.

Child Care

We plan to offer child care for this event if we get sufficient enrollment. It will be offered for a modest fee of \$20 per child (for children between the ages of 1 and 9). Professional caregivers will be available at the Pembroke Congregational Church, UCC. Please indicate your need for child care when you register and additional information will be made available.

Accessibility

Pembroke Academy is an accessible facility with designated parking at the main entrance. If you require additional accommodation in order to fully participate in this event, we ask that you make your own arrangements. The NH Conference will reimburse you for 50% of the cost, up to a maximum of \$200. Please submit reimbursement requests to events@nhcucc.org with either a written estimate or receipt two weeks in advance.

BRING THIS BOOKLET WITH YOU TO THE EVENT!

Workshop Block A

10:00am – 11:15am

A1 A Bible Study Resource Progressives Can Love

Room 2017

(Introductory/Beginner, Also Offered in Block D1) What Bible study is being used by Unitarians, Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, the UCC, and many others-often together with Jews, Muslims and atheists? *Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series*. Acclaimed by both scholars and faith leaders, this series of Bible studies for small groups is easy to lead, inexpensive to purchase, and both fun and empowering for all levels of biblical expertise. Come, get a free set of course materials to jump-start Bible study in your church.

Presented by **Rev. Anne Robertson** (Executive Director, Massachusetts Bible Society)

A2 Environmental Stewardship, Green Congregations, and Eco-Justice Issues

Room 1004

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) We shall discuss how to create an Environmental Stewardship Ministry in your church. You will learn how your group can help your church become a “Green Congregation” using the resources available at the workshop. We will discuss current issues of Eco-Justice, such as mountaintop removal, the tar sands pipeline, fracking gas polluting the drinking water of Americans, especially the Native Americans of the Standing Rock Reservation. You will also learn about the New England Youth Environmental Justice Summit to be held here in NH on April 7, 2018.

Presented by **Sue Moore** (Environmental Stewardship Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

A3 From New England Families to Families in Syria

Room 1012

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) With the humanitarian crisis in Syria increasing and millions of people in need, how can we make a difference that has an actual impact? Join NuDay Syria founder and CEO Nadia Alawa as she shares with you how NuDay reaches tens of thousands of mothers and children and how you can get involved.

Presented by **Nadia Alawa** (Founder and CEO, NuDay Syria, sponsored by the Syrian Refugee Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

A4 Pray and Play to Change the World – Resourcing Worship and Faith Formation

Room 1013

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced; Also offered Block D4) Using the insights from the new book *A Child Laughs: Prayers of Justice and Hope* (Mankin and Tirabassi, Pilgrim 2017) the workshop will share resources for liturgy and programming in worship and faith formation from the seventy-seven contributors from eleven countries who created the book. Participants will also use the practices that developed the book to reflect on our own hopes for the world in the light of the scriptures for late Lent and Eastertide and will create worship and faith formation to fit our New Hampshire congregations.

Presented by Rev. Maren Tirabassi (Retired UCC Clergy, and Pilgrim Press Author)

A5 Worship with Your Eyes

Room 1014

(Introductory/Beginner) We are visual creatures, living in a visually stimulating world. How does our worship reflect that truth? We will spend time designing worship with an eye toward visual elements and how they can enhance our worship experience. Small groups will work together on one of several different liturgical celebrations, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, discussing how visual elements enhance the worship life of a congregation. No experience necessary!

Presented by Rev. Dr. Bob Marrone (Pastor, Union Congregational Church, Peterborough)

A6 Grace at the Table 2.0

Room 1017

(Introductory/Beginner) In 2015 at her small, rural church, Ruth began offering an alternative worship experience that involved sharing a meal together and was more informal and interactive. In the ensuing two years, the program has evolved and grown and Ruth is offering this follow up workshop to present those developments as well as how the program can be modified to be relevant to different populations. Participation in the previous workshop is not required as a general overview along with samples of services and resources will be provided..

Presented by Rev. Ruth Gallot (Pastor, Longmeadow Congregational Church, UCC, Auburn)

A7 Preaching: You Can Do It!

Room 1018

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) The preaching ministry belongs to the whole people of God, not just to authorized ministers. Lay people are realizing that their faith is enriched as they prepare and present sermons in their home churches. This workshop will feature some of the lay preachers from the South Newbury Union Church, who will share why they wanted to preach, and how they go about preparing and presenting a message. You will learn how to enable a lay preaching ministry in your local church.

Presented by **Rev. David Keller** (Pastor and Teacher, South Newbury Union Church, UCC), **Christine Hill, Roberta Daw, and Heather Weir** (Lay Preachers, South Newbury Union Church, UCC)

A8 Umbrella: NH Asylum Support Services Plus

Room 1021

(Intermediate/Some Experience) Hear what types of help asylum seekers and other immigrants detained at Strafford County DOC in Dover, NH need. Can we make their stay more comfortable? More productive? Can we spring them altogether? See how you can contribute.

Presented by **Maggie Fogarty** (Co-Director of the NH Program, American Friends Service Committee) and **Nancy Pape** (Immigration Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

A9 Celebrate Earth

Room 1022

(Introductory/Beginner, Also offered Block D9) This session celebrates and explores the most intimate and revelatory source of the closeness of God – experiences in nature. Explore your ecohistory. Gain insight into the role science, and scripture interpretation play in one's connection to God's creation. Form a vision of why and how to protect the environment. Leave the session with senses opened to the fresh beauty of life, and better able to celebrate and care for creation. Come willing to share several personal experiences in nature.

Presented by **Eric Chamberlain** (Environmental Stewardship Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

A10 Best Financial Practices for Churches

Room 1026

(Intermediate/Some Experience, Also offered Block D10) This workshop covers financial issues of interest to church treasurers, trustees, financial employees, and clergy. Topics include government reporting requirements, minister compensation, charitable contributions, church financial controls, investment issues, and document retention.

Presented by **William E. Hoysradt, CPA, MBA** (Retired Finance Officer, NH Conference, UCC and Stewardship Ministry Chair, Brookside Congregational Church, UCC, Manchester)

A11 Sensory Rich Worship using Art and Technology

Auditorium

(Introductory/Beginner; Companion Session offered in Block B11) During this session we will explore the ways that visual technology, including projection and lighting combined with tactile visual objects can enhance worship experiences beyond “two candles and a cross”.

Presented by **Timothy Griffin** (Director of Worship Technology, Deerfield Community Church, UCC) and **Jackie Nyberg** (Visual Arts Designer, Deerfield Community Church, UCC)

A12 Seeds Need Good Soil: Enhancing Stewardship Programs

Room 1027

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced; this workshop continues in Block B12, please register for both) Topics covered include: the theological and spiritual foundations for fundraising, understanding and changing congregational culture around financial issues, dividing responsibilities between clergy and lay leaders, and making a strong case for support. This is a two part workshop. The impact of this workshop will be multiplied if clergy and lay leaders from a church attend together.

Presented by **Charlie Kuchenbrod** (Executive Associate Conference Minister, Connecticut Conference, UCC)

A13 NH Voices of Faith in the Public Square: Our Actions Matter

Room 1030

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) The teachings of Jesus and tenets of our faith call upon us to bear witness – for peace, justice, fair play and dignity for all God’s children. In this workshop, hear more about how the NH UCC and AFSC are partnering with others from multiple faith traditions to spearhead a growing “NH Voices of Faith” witness at the NH State House – a presence designed to remind policy-makers that fairness and compassion matter and that the NH budget and other pieces of legislation ultimately are moral documents reflecting what we choose to value and devalue as a state. All UCCers have a role to play in this expanding faith witness! We will also discuss the UCC’s “Our Faith, Our Vote” initiative calling on us to be a voice and vote for civility and hope in these challenging and uncivil times.

*Presented by **Gail Kinney** (Worker Justice Minister, Meriden Congregational Church, UCC, and Member, Economic Justice Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)*

A14 Modern Gospel Magic

Room 2002

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) Magic and illusion combined with storytelling can be a surprising and eye opening way to convey faith messages. Rev. Bob Fellows of Community Congregational Church in Greenland is a former professional magician, and in this workshop he will show you how to link magic and illusions that you can perform to lectionary readings. By combining gospel magic with your lessons, you will help your listeners remember more of the message – and remember it longer.

*Presented by **Rev. Robert Fellows** (Pastor, Community Congregational Church, Greenland)*

A15 Film: 'Seeing Through the Wall'

Room 2003

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) Film and Discussion. This film follows a group of Americans who traveled to Israel and Palestine in 2016 seeking to understand what life is like for Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories and in East Jerusalem. The journey became an intense encounter not only with the people they met, but also with their own preconceptions, an experience that for many of the travelers was transformative.

*Presented by **Rabbi Dov Taylor** (Chavurat Ki-tov: A Gathering for Jewish Life and Learning, Woodstock, VT)*

A16 Women and Islam: The Veil and Other Costumes and Customs

Room 2011

(Introductory/Beginner) Much controversy is stirring about the Muslim tradition of women's wearing of a head scarf or veil. What is this about? How do we balance religious tolerance and women's rights? What do we make of this as westerners and/or as liberals? How does this connect with other traditions and habits of dress? Let's explore this charged topic together. You're invited to bring a scarf, hoodies, or hat to the workshop if you choose.

Presented by Rev. Dr. Mellen Kennedy (Founder and Director, Peace and Unity Bridge, and Minister, Unitarian Universalist, Springfield, VT)

A17 Listening to the Holy Spirit

Room 2012

(Introductory/Beginner, Also offered in Block D17) God may still be speaking, but how good are we at listening? You'll develop a practical, hands-on plan for improving your skills at seeking God's direction in your life. Based on tested Ignatian discernment practices, this workshop will help leaders seeking God's help in changing and growing their churches. Don't wait for the burning bush, set your own soul on fire!

Presented by Rev. Catherine A. Merrill (Minister, Brookline Community Church)

A18 "Beyond White Supremacy"

Room 2013

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) The "Black Lives Matter" movement has been a clarion call to "wake up" to the legacy and on-going reality of racial injustice and white supremacy still plaguing our nation. But what is this movement toward solidarity and collective liberation really about, and how can white people "wake up" as full and active participants in building the Beloved Community of the world God intends? Come join us to learn about the hidden history and the crippling culture of white supremacy, and how the anti-racist ministry of renouncing the heresy and ending the oppression of white supremacy is critical not only to ensuring the inherent worth of the lives of black and brown folk, but also to recovering the full humanity of white folk as well.

Presented by Rev. John Gregory-Davis (Member, Racial Justice Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC and Co-Pastor, Meriden Congregational Church, UCC)

A19 Leading Short Term Mission Trips

Room 1003

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced)

“Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life.” – Amy Poehler

Something incredible happens when teamwork works! Things change when everyone on the team is equally invested in the overall purpose and goal, when the team works together, and when the team cares for one another.

I've been leading multi-generational short term mission trips for the past 6 years and have found the experience to be inspirational and life changing for mission participants in a variety of ways. Whether we are serving in other countries or close to home, when a team is brought together to work in service for others, there are results that occur which in other settings could take years to achieve. There is a bond that transcends past a one week mission experience often into a lifelong bond.

This experience establishes deep connections across church members, inspires service beyond oneself at greater levels than ever before, and deepens the connection to God in a personal way.

If you are interested in leading short-term mission trips and would like to talk about it, come check out this session!

*Presented by **Rev. Patricia Marsden** (Pastor, Newmarket Community Church)*

A20 Minding Your Ministry

Room 2020

(Introductory/Beginner, Also offered in Block C18) In this workshop we will explore executive coaching resources developed by Openbook Learning Inc. With the latest insights from neuroscience and organizational behavior, Openbook is on the cutting edge of meta-cognition (thinking about thinking). Participants will learn how cognitive preferencing impacts work flow management, communication styles, spiritual practices, and worship experience.

*Presented by **Rev. Dr. Andrew Armstrong** (Senior Minister, The First Church Congregational, UCC, Nashua and affiliated with Openbook Learning, Inc.)*

Workshop Block B 11:35am – 12:35pm

B1 Faith Formation of Men through Small Groups

Room 1003

(Introductory/Beginner) While there are many church events for women, fewer exist for men. The workshop leader ran two men's groups in the church in Green Ridge, NJ for the past 15 years. The workshop will present a model for the group, ideas for programs, and discuss creating such groups in your congregation for formation.

Presented by **Joseph David Stinson** (Retired Minister, Member, First Congregational Church, Swanzey)

B2 Environmental Impact on Our Health

Room 1004

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) A discussion about how our environment impacts our health from air and water quality to new medicines, and how making good choices can improve both our health and our environment.

Presented by **Robin Walkup, R.Ph.** (Member, First Congregational Church of Wilmot)

B3 Is it God Speaking or Just Indigestion? Learning to Discern the Holy Spirit.

Room 1012

(Introductory/Beginner) In this workshop we will learn and share together about how to grow in discernment. We each have some experience in learning to listen for and hear God and/or Spirit, so after a brief presentation we will share together what we are coming to know! In this way we will come to hear how "God is still speaking" to us in this day and age, uniquely, to each one of us, and together as a group, and in our churches.

Presented by **Rev. Jim Howard** (Member, A New Thing Task Force Mission Group and Parishioner, First Congregational Church of Hopkinton)

B4 Critical Insurance Issues for Church Leaders

Room 1013

(Introductory/Beginner) An overview of insurance issues facing churches today along with a review of the critical coverages every church should have. The workshop will include a discussion of recent claim trends and risk management practices to reduce the church's exposure to losses.

Presented by Jeff McDonnell (UCC Insurance Board)

B5 Engage Your Church – Movie and Discussion for Church Transitions

Room 1014

(Introductory/Beginner; Also offered Block C5) Using the themes of this NH-based award-winning 30 minute documentary “Atwood” as a jumping-off point, the discussion questions focus on the emotional process of change, loss, and learning. This is NOT a “how-to” guide for church renewal; rather, the purpose of the film and discussion questions is to open up conversation on what it means to let go of things we hold tightly, both personally and as church communities.

Presented by Rev. Chris Owen (Interim Minister, First Congregational Church, UCC, Dunbarton)

B6 Rejection by Church and Community: Why ONA is Important

Room 1017

(Introductory/Beginner) Many LGBT+ persons are shunned by their Churches. They have been told that they are abominations and are not welcome to participate in church services, sacraments, and sometimes they are blocked from entering the Church or Church property. To make it even worse, many LGBT people are rejected by their own families. During this session we will share stories of real life situations and how these people respond to such situations and how might we help.

Presented by Gerri Cannon (Member, ONA Concerns Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC, & First Parish UCC, Somersworth, NH and Member, Open and Affirming Coalition, United Church of Christ)

B7 New Approaches to Youth Ministry

Room 1018

(Introductory/Beginner) As churches continually compete with secular activities (Sports, School functions, etc.) new thoughts and approaches to Youth Ministry should be considered to remain a wonderful and spiritual experience for our young people. Join us for some sharing of new thoughts and ideas.

Presented by Rev. Bill Ferguson (Senior Pastor, First Congregational Church of Pelham, UCC)

B8 The River Cried, “Mni W’Coni!” – Service and Solidarity in Standing Rock

Room 1021

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) A short documentary film sharing the deeply personal and powerful testimony and witness of two peace activists: Jehann El-Bisi and Art Desmarais, who joined water protectors in Standing Rock, North Dakota three times during the autumn of 2016.

Presented by Dr. Jehann El-Bisi, Ed. D. and Arthur Desmarais (New England Peace Pagoda)

B9 Justice in Palestine

Room 1022

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) Moshen grew up in a refugee camp in Palestine and works for a peaceful resolution to the occupation and justice for the displaced families.

Presented by Moshen Mehdawi (Grad Student, invited by Peace with Justice Advocates Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

B10 “A Crisis of Faith?”

Room 1026

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) We live in what seems to be a rapidly secularizing world in which all religious faiths are losing credibility and followers. The question, “A Crisis of Faith?” was explored at Chautauqua Institution by fifteen lecturers. Workshop leaders will share the analyses, insights, and opportunities gleaned from those lectures. Discussion will follow their presentation.

Presented by Rev. Eleanor Kimball (Retired UCC Pastor and Member, First Congregational Church, UCC, Concord) and Philip Kimball (Member, First Congregational Church, UCC, Concord)

B11 Exploring Technology for Worship

Auditorium

(Introductory/Beginner; Companion Session offered in Block A11) During this session we will go in depth into software and hardware, and the software needed to provide visual reinforcement during worship. This will be a hands-on session, working with the technology to allow for exploration prior to investing in consultants or integrators.

*Presented by **Timothy Griffin** (Director of Worship Technology, Deerfield Community Church, UCC)*

B12 Seeds Need Good Soil: Enhancing Stewardship Programs

Room 1027

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced; this workshop is a continuation of A12, please register for both) Topics covered include: the theological and spiritual foundations for fundraising, understanding and changing congregational culture around financial issues, dividing responsibilities between clergy and lay leaders, and making a strong case for support. This is a two part workshop. The impact of this workshop will be multiplied if clergy and lay leaders from a church attend together.

*Presented by **Charlie Kuchenbrod** (Executive Associate Conference Minister, Connecticut Conference, UCC)*

B13 Faith and Labor – Stronger Together: Building an Intentional Partnership

Room 1030

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) In 1968, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was gunned down while standing in solidarity with striking Memphis sanitation workers struggling for dignity, respect, fair wages, and the right to form a union. In 1973, a large group of UCC General Synod delegates left the Synod to be a physical faith presence in support of striking California farm workers. Tragically, workers are now experiencing an intense resurgence of attacks on their basic collective bargaining rights –in NH and nationally – and UCC clergy and laypeople remain on the front lines as faith-led economic justice witnesses in regard to these issues. So, what do Faith and Labor have in common in NH, and why and how should we strengthen these bonds? This will be the focus of our discussion and idea sharing.

*Presented by the **New Hampshire Conference, UCC Economic Justice Mission Group** in collaboration with our labor partners.*

B14 Worship Service Music – Joys and Challenges

Room 2002

(Introductory/Beginner, Also Offered in Block C14) It can be difficult to find and engage skilled musicians to lead worship music for regular services. Congregations need to assess the relative value they place on music as part of the worship experience as well as their ability to reasonably compensate music leaders. We will discuss various options for live, recorded and streaming music, appropriate compensation, a couple of resources for selecting music, and we will touch on copyright permissions and licensing. This is an overview designed to help congregations identify challenges and help them find resources to enhance their worship experience through music.

Presented by Lizz Ferdina (Music Lead, Dunbarton Congregational Church, UCC)

B15 Children’s Sermons

Room 2003

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced, Also Offered in Block C15) Learn some ideas of how to build fun children’s sermons using props and stories. Have a chance to do some presenting during the workshop.

Presented by Jennifer Hurley (Children’s Worship Leader, Deerfield Community Church, UCC)

B16 Fun and Faith on Your Journey to Generosity! Let’s Debunk Some Money Myths!

Room 2017

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) “Talking about Money is stressful!” This is one of the many myths we will consider in this interactive workshop about Biblical Stewardship. Being a good steward isn’t always about money anyway. It’s also about having a spirit of generosity. Are you generous in hospitality? Do you smile and greet strangers? Most people think they do all the while visitors often do not return after visiting a church because no one spoke to them! Jesus gave us 6 direct commands that start with feeding the hungry. We take that one really seriously – but what of the others? What does God’s economy look like: a steel trap or a revolving door? Come if you dare. We are going to talk about money!

Presented by Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof (Senior Pastor, First Parish Congregational Church, UCC, East Derry)

B17 Finding Abundance with Sabbath Practices

Room 2012

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced, Also offered Block C17) Sabbath practices are an ancient part of our faith tradition. Yet they are also some of the best tools for combatting the screeching demands of our always-on, always-connected, never-enough modern culture. Focused on helping you develop a sustainable Sabbath practice, this workshop will help you change a big Ten Commandment from an occasional Eat-Your-Lima-Beans obligation to a weekly Brownie-Sundae-With-Whipped-Cream refreshment.

Presented by Rev. Catherine A. Merrill (Pastor, Brookline Community Church)

B18 You and Your (Our) UCC Cornerstone Fund

Room 2013

(Introductory/Beginner) Topics covered in this workshop include:

1. How you and other members of your church can invest and receive interest on your investment.
2. How your church can borrow funds competitively to repair or add to your church building(s).

Presented by Rev. Daehler Hayes (UCC Cornerstone Fund Mission Interpreter for New England and New York Conferences)

Workshop Block C

12:55pm – 1:55pm

C1 Empowering Youth through Program

Room 1003

(Introductory/Beginner) Youth development, the process of growing up and developing one's capacities, happens no matter what we do. The goal is to promote positive youth development and plan quality experiences with young people. This workshop is designed to encourage healthy boundaries, positive experiences, and empowerment.

Presented by Chelsea Szalanski (Director of Faith Formation, First Congregational Church, Rindge)

C2 Building an Ecological Civilization

Room 1004

(Advanced) Building on insights of Thomas Berry, John Cobb, Pope Francis, and David Korten, we will look at the various ways in which we are moving from an industrial civilization to one that is in harmony with nature, and locates the Spirit within the evolutionary processes.

Presented by Rev. Roger Burkhart (Retired Pastor, member, First Church Congregational, Rochester and Member, Environmental Stewardship Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

C3 The Extravagant, and Accessible, Welcome: Employing Universal Design Principles to Ensure Worship and Church Activities are Accessible to All

Room 1012

(Introductory/Beginner) This workshop will explore ways that worship and church activities can be made more accessible to those with physical disabilities, hearing and vision impairments, cognitive impairments, autism and sensory processing disorders, and to groups across the lifespan. Participants will explore how "disability" is defined by the World Health Organization, and how that can inform our efforts to remove barriers to participation in church life.

Presented by Linda Lannin (Member, Congregational Church of Amherst)

C4 The Graceful Engagement

Room 1013

(Introductory/Beginner) In the Open and Affirming Process we should have conversations that are respectful. You will be introduced to a process that equips people to create dialogue and deepen relationships throughout the congregation rather than sparking division.

Presented by **Rev. Michael Denney** (Pastor, Second Congregational Church, UCC, Ossipee, and ONA Consultant, NH Conference UCC) and **Joan Cote** (Member, ONA Concerns Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

C5 Engage Your Church – Movie and Discussion for Church Transitions

Room 1014

(Introductory/Beginner; Also offered Block B5) Using the themes of this NH-based award-winning 30 minute documentary “Atwood” as a jumping-off point, the discussion questions focus on the emotional process of change, loss, and learning. This is NOT a “how-to” guide for church renewal; rather, the purpose of the film and discussion questions is to open up conversation on what it means to let go of things we hold tightly, both personally and as church communities.

Presented by **Rev. Chris Owen** (Interim Minister, First Congregational Church, UCC, Dunbarton)

C6 A Human Response to US policy in Lebanon, Syria, and Iran

Room 1017

(Appropriate of all levels: Beginner to Advanced) The Trump administration and Obama administration have had very different policies in Syria, and those will undoubtedly have ripple effects on the surrounding region. There are risks of conflict with the Assad regime, Iran, and Lebanon. Will Hopkins, Director of NH Peace Action will speak about the places where citizen action might be critical to stopping new wars.

Presented by **Will Hopkins** (Executive Director, NH Peace Action)

**C7 Sacred Friendships, Holy Witness:
The NH Council of Churches**

Room 1018

(Introductory/Beginner) Some think the era of ecumenism is over, but the world needs a united Christian witness more than ever. Meet Jason Wells, the new Executive Director of the NH Council of Churches, to connect you and your congregation to a shared ministry of death penalty abolition, opioid crisis needs, immigration solidarity, and economic justice.

Presented by **Rev. Jason Wells** (Executive Director, NH Council of Churches)

**C8 Learning a Lie: Why Columbus Day Should be Changed
to Indigenous Peoples' Day**

Room 1021

(Introductory/Beginner) We were received well with our Stand for Change Vigil held October 2017 in Concord, making front page news in the *Monitor*, and we offer this workshop with two parts. The first part is a preservation of the hard and disturbing facts surrounding Columbus versus what we've been taught in school. The second part is a discussion on "Indigenous Peoples' Day" as a form of reparations and more importantly, asking for the change because it is right and just.

Presented by **Sterling Chase** (Co-Facilitator, NH Stands with Standing Rock)

C9 Non Violent Actions for Gaza

Room 1022

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) Ayman grew up in Gaza and will share his personal story and insights on non-violent actions for Gaza.

Presented by **Ayman Nijm** (invited by Peace with Justice Advocates Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)

C10 Witness for Palestine: Traveling to Serve

Room 1026

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) Two of the people who have been to Palestine in the last year tell of their work with non-violent activists.

Presented by **Sandra Yarne**

C11 Governing with the Body

Room 2016

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) How we order our governance says a lot about how we see ourselves as the Body of Christ both as an organizing principle and in the world. In today's context we are being called to look at flexible, inclusive models that are organic to the community and open enough to allow change and new life to flourish.

Presented by Rev. Robin Lunn (Co-Pastor, The First Church in Jaffrey, UCC)

C12 Building a Planned Giving Ministry

Room 1027

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) Learn why cultivating planned giving is a ministry, and learn about a five step process for building that ministry.

Presented by Charlie Kuchenbrod (Executive Associate Conference Minister, Connecticut Conference, UCC)

C13 Poor People's Campaign 2018: A National (and Statewide!) Call for Moral Revival

Room 1030

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) 50 years ago, economically struggling individuals and families and their allies built a "Resurrection City" of tents on the national mall in Washington, DC as part of a "Poor People's Campaign" to decry rampant poverty in our rich nation and to call for an end to the systemic racism and other "isms" that keep the poor in poverty. Now, in 2018, Rev. William Barber and other religious leaders and allies are calling for a new and bold Poor People's Campaign as part of a national moral revival and revolution of values – "to help us become the nation we've not yet been." Learn more about this dynamic and challenging call for moral revival and how YOU can put your faith into action as part of a new Poor People's Campaign.

Presented by the NHC UCC Economic Justice Mission Group in collaboration with NH individuals who are working directly with Rev. Barber on connecting the new Poor People's Campaign with our state.

C14 Worship Service Music – Joys and Challenges

Room 2002

(Introductory/Beginner, Also Offered in Block B14) It can be difficult to find and engage skilled musicians to lead worship music for regular services. Congregations need to assess the relative value they place on music as part of the worship experience as well as their ability to reasonably compensate music leaders. We will discuss various options for live, recorded and streaming music, appropriate compensation, a couple of resources for selecting music, and we will touch on copyright permissions and licensing. This is an overview designed to help congregations identify challenges and help them find resources to enhance their worship experience through music.

Presented by **Lizz Ferdina** (Music Lead, Dunbarton Congregational Church, UCC)

C15 Children's Sermons

Room 2003

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced, Also Offered in Block B15) Learn some ideas of how to build fun children's sermons using props and stories. Have a chance to do some presenting during the workshop.

Presented by **Jennifer Hurley** (Children's Worship Leader, Deerfield Community Church, UCC)

C16 The Sacred Art of Storytelling

Room 2011

(Introductory/Beginner) As spiritual teachers and leaders, it's our responsibility and privilege to preach, inspire, teach, help, challenge, and heal. We can do this especially effectively through stories. In this workshop, we'll explore the difference between oral and written culture, the human propensity for stories (including some current research findings from psychology and neuroscience), the role of stories in the religious traditions, and some fundamentals of engaging storytelling.

Presented by **Rev. Dr. Mellen Kennedy** (Founder and Director, Peace and Unity Bridge, and Minister, Unitarian Universalist, Springfield, VT)

C17 Finding Abundance with Sabbath Practices

Room 2012

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced, Also offered Block B17) Sabbath practices are an ancient part of our faith tradition. Yet they are also some of the best tools for combatting the screeching demands of our always-on, always-connected, never-enough modern culture. Focused on helping you develop a sustainable Sabbath practice, this workshop will help you change a big Ten Commandment from an occasional Eat-Your-Lima-Beans obligation to a weekly Brownie-Sundae-With-Whipped-Cream refreshment.

Presented by **Rev. Catherine A. Merrill** (Pastor, Brookline Community Church)

C18 Minding Your Ministry

Room 2020

(Introductory/Beginner, Also offered in Block A20) In this workshop we will explore executive coaching resources developed by Openbook Learning Inc. With the latest insights from neuroscience and organizational behavior, Openbook is on the cutting edge of meta-cognition (thinking about thinking). Participants will learn how cognitive preferencing impacts work flow management, communication styles, spiritual practices, and worship experience.

*Presented by **Rev. Dr. Andrew Armstrong** (Senior Minister, The First Church Congregational, UCC, Nashua and affiliated with Openbook Learning, Inc.)*

C19 Covenant Conversations, II – Pastoral Relations Committees

Room 2013

(Intermediate/Some Experience) What does an ongoing covenant conversation between pastor(s) and a PRC sound like exactly? How can a PRC educate the wider congregation about the idea that congregations have boundaries too? Intrigued by the questions? Come explore some answers as we continue last year's PRC workshop conversation.

*Presented by **Rev. Timothy Wildman** (Retired Pastoral Psychotherapist, and Member, PRC Mission Group of Clergy Support Ministry, NH Conference, UCC)*

Workshop Block D

2:15pm – 3:30pm

D1 A Bible Study Resource Progressives Can Love

Room 2017

(Introductory/Beginner, Also Offered in Block A1) What Bible study is being used by Unitarians, Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, the UCC, and many others—often together with Jews, Muslims and atheists? *Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series*. Acclaimed by both scholars and faith leaders, this series of Bible studies for small groups is easy to lead, inexpensive to purchase, and both fun and empowering for all levels of biblical expertise. Come, get a free set of course materials to jump-start Bible study in your church.

Presented by **Rev. Anne Robertson** (Executive Director, Massachusetts Bible Society)

D2 Introduction to Soul Collage

Room 1004

(Introductory/Beginner) Immerse yourself in a fun, inspiring, and intuitive time of creativity—playfully creating small collaged images for a deeper self-understanding. You will begin to create your own deck of SoulCollage® cards and practice reading them through a self-exploration process led by a trained, compassionate Facilitator. SoulCollage® cards can provide meaningful insights and guidance for your life's journey. SoulCollage® is easy to learn and requires no previous artistic skills and you will take home at least one completed card and hopefully a love of this creative process.

SoulCollage® is a creative fun tool for easy, artful self-expression. It was developed by Seena B. Frost, M. Div, MA. Using intuition and imagination, you create your own collaged cards in which each card reflects a different aspect of who you are.

The cards are made from simple materials: Magazine images, scissors, glue, and mat board. Best of all, it is a creative process that is truly accessible to everyone, even people who feel they have no artistic ability.

This introductory workshop includes all the materials you need to complete your own cards.

If you're looking for a fun, playful, and experiential workshop at Prepared to Serve, this is the one for you!

Presented by **Liz Greenberg** (Trained SoulCollage® Facilitator, Mental Health Therapist, and Member, First Parish Congregational Church, UCC, East Derry)

D3 Fresh Expressions of Church

Room 1012

(Introductory/Beginner) Here is a proven and transformational way to renew churches into vital and missional faith communities for the 21st century! Fresh Expressions of Church has been embraced by the American Baptist Churches of NH and VT. It can positively impact your UCC church! Real life New Hampshire church examples of Fresh Expressions positively making a difference will be shared.

Fresh Expressions is an international movement of missionary disciples cultivating new kinds of church alongside existing congregations to more effectively engage our growing post-Christian society. Beginning in 2004 as an initiative of the Church of England and the British Methodist Church, the movement has resulted in the birth of thousands of new communities in the UK alone and brought renewal to scores of established churches. The movement has spread to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and Germany. In 2010, the movement began taking shape in the US.

*Presented by **Rev. Jim Howard** (Member, A New Thing Task Force Mission Group and Parishioner, First Congregational Church of Hopkinton), **Aaron Goodro** (Pastor, First Baptist Church of Plaistow) and **David Denis** (Pastor, United Baptist Church, Concord)*

D4 Action Steps toward U.S. / Israeli / Palestinian Justice and Peace

Room 1013

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) This workshop will review Palestinian life under Israeli military occupation and U.S. involvement including military aid, proposed legislation, and UN resolutions. Guided by UCC General Synod 30 & 31 resolutions "Toward a Just Peace..." and "The Rights of Children..." in Palestine and Israel, consider action steps by individuals and churches to advocate for the rights of children and end to Israeli occupation.

*Presented by **Revs. John & Faye Buttrick** (Peace with Justice Advocates Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)*

D5 The Opioid Crisis: How Churches Can Respond

Room 1014

(Introductory/Beginner) New Hampshire is second among US states in per capita opioid overdose deaths. Many in our pews are affected. Often their stories are hidden. They don't feel safe to tell the pastor or ask for the prayers of the church, fearing they will be judged rather than supported. So the church fails to offer the love that comforts and heals. How can we support our members and neighbors? How might our response deepen our faith and strengthen our common life? In this workshop we will explore these questions and begin to break the silence around addiction that makes it hard for us to offer help.

*Presented by **Rev. Susan Grant Rosen** (Interim Pastor, The United Church of Winchester; former Counselor, Agency Administrator, Consultant and Community Organizer in Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Community Mental Health, Family Service and Elder Care Agencies)*

D6 The Old Folks are Coming: The Dementia Dame's Guide to Survival with Help From God and a Cast of Countless Others

Room 1017

(Advanced) Michelle Williams O'Donnell is The Dementia Dame on Facebook. Her musings offer different views of dementia and Alzheimer's from her role as caregiver to her husband, Martin. As New Hampshire's population grows grayer and grayer, she will offer advice on the various roles the church can play.

*Presented by **Michelle Williams O'Donnell** (Chair, Board of Trustees, Bartlett Congregational Church)*

D7 Engaging in Unorthodox Outreach When You are an Orthodox Church

Room 1018

(Intermediate/Some Experience, but all are welcome) In a state where more people are outside our churches than attend, we want to figure out new ways to reach these people. Most of these people will not buy into our traditional practices and so we are trying to discern a ministry that could be effective with them. These efforts are not focused on growing the church, but on meeting these people where they are and ministering to and with them. More questions than answers, but together we will explore: the context we are living in, a couple of models of unorthodox outreach, and the dynamics of sharing the Gospel.

*Presented by **Rev. Gayle Murphy** (New Start Church, engaged in ministry to those who are outside of our churches)*

D8 “You Can Do Something” – Racial Reparations

Room 1021

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) There are African-American slave graves in many communities in New Hampshire. Learn how to locate and consecrate, then care for the African-American burial grounds in your community. Take a historical journey in New Hampshire history of where slaves lived and died and were buried in your town. They deserve to have a funeral, have a cemetery that is cared for. Keep their history alive.

*Presented by **Rev. Renee Rouse** (Intentional Interim Pastor, United Church of Warner)*

D9 Celebrate Earth

Room 1022

(Introductory/Beginner, Also offered Block A9) This session celebrates and explores the most intimate and revelatory source of the closeness of God – experiences in nature. Explore your ecohistory. Gain insight into the role science, and scripture interpretation play in one’s connection to God’s creation. Form a vision of why and how to protect the environment. Leave the session with senses opened to the fresh beauty of life, and better able to celebrate and care for creation. Come willing to share several personal experiences in nature.

*Presented by **Eric Chamberlain** (Environmental Stewardship Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC)*

D10 Best Financial Practices for Churches

Room 1026

(Intermediate/Some Experience, Also offered Block A10) This workshop covers financial issues of interest to church treasurers, trustees, financial employees, and clergy. Topics include government reporting requirements, minister compensation, charitable contributions, church financial controls, investment issues, and document retention.

*Presented by **William E. Hoysradt, CPA, MBA** (Retired Finance Officer, NH Conference, UCC and Stewardship Ministry Chair, Brookside Congregational Church, UCC, Manchester)*

D11 Our Best Selves in the Image of God: Pastoral and Congregational Boundaries

Room 2016

(Intermediate/Some Experience) What is the image of God within each of us? To be the best self that God has created us to be and expressing the gifts that God has given every one of us – that has everything to do with boundaries. Members of congregations often wonder what boundary training is about. Come and discover what is beyond the word that provokes much emotion and at times, dis-ease.

Presented by **Rev. Rebecca Werner Maccini** (Pastor, Congregational Christian Church, West Franklin and Dean, New Hampshire School of Ministry)

D12 Cultivating Healthy Endowments

Room 1027

(Introductory/Beginner) Topics covered will include: common pitfalls to avoid, endowment classification, seven steps to a healthy endowment, governing law, best practices for investment committees, and UCC investment options.

Presented by **Charlie Kuchenbrod** (Executive Associate Conference Minister, Connecticut Conference, UCC)

D13 Sanctuary Everywhere: Standing in Solidarity with our Immigrant Brothers and Sisters

Room 1030

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) Our immigrant brothers and sisters in the Maranatha Indonesian UCC in Madbury and other immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers residing in New Hampshire are facing a new wave of fear, harassment, and threats of detention and deportation as a national administration attempts to normalize denigration, oppression, and removal of our immigrant population. Our faith, however, is built on love of neighbor and welcoming the stranger and therefore demands that we actively stand in opposition to hate and fear of “the other.” Further, a new NH UCC Immigrant Solidarity Resolution, adopted without dissent at the 2017 Annual Meeting, affirms that the NH United Church of Christ stands in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors. In this important workshop, we will explore living into our new resolution, becoming partners in the NH Immigrant Solidarity Network, and we will learn about the emergence of sanctuary churches in NH, including our own Meriden Congregational Church/UCC.

Presented by **Gail Kinney** (Immigration Mission Group, NH Conference, UCC), **Eva Castillo** (NH Alliance for Immigrants and Refugees), **Sarah Jane Knoy** (Granite State Organizing Project, Refugees (Maranatha Indonesian United Church of Christ), and **Members** (Meriden Congregational Church, United Church of Christ)

D14 God's Various Gifts Are Handed Out, Even in a Capital Campaign

Room 2002

(Intermediate/Some Experience) Another task for tired elders doesn't lead to a successful fund raising effort, but we find that the gifts of the spirit do come forth in a well-run faith raising effort. Come share with us the ingredients for involving both old and new members with the challenges and strategy that bring new life into your congregation, and also bring forth generous gifts! (Please read I Corinthians 12:45 and I Chronicles 28-29).

Presented by **Rev. David C. Williams** (Partner, Campaign Associates) and **Patricia Williams** (Partner, Campaign Associates)

D15 Co-Creating The Beloved Community: Love, Justice, Diversity, Reconciliation, and Redemption

Room 2003

(Appropriate of all levels: Beginner to Advanced)

"If we want a beloved community, we must stand for justice, have recognition for difference without attaching difference to privilege." Bell Hooks

"Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public." Cornell West

In this workshop, participants will examine the principles associated with Dr. Martin Luther King's vision of a Beloved Community. We will engage in an analysis of what is preventing the realization of this Beloved Community that relies on every individual living out their purpose and vocation. We will address questions such as, How are the human made structures preventing us from living in a manner consistent with having the Beloved Community?, How do we help others understand that diversity is the natural order of nature and consistent with God's design?, How do we work to let go of our "illusion of separateness" long enough to co-create a society that thrives due to diverse gifts, talents and ways of being that exist?

Participants will actively engage in dialogue and questioning. At the end of the workshop, participants will be asked to think of next steps they are willing and able to take in order to help us reap the benefits of co-creating the Beloved Community.

Presented by **Dottie Morris** (Associate Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity, Keene State College)

D16 Countering Islamophobia

Room 2011

(Introductory/Beginner) We are witnessing the rise of anti-Muslim sentiment and even violence. Muslims are being maligned and portrayed negatively in the media. As we are being whipped up into fear of Islam and Muslims, let's pause and examine what it is we may really have to be afraid of. What is Islamophobia and what can we do about it? Let's hear stories and experiences from the perspective of a Sufi (the mystical tradition of Islam) and an active participant in the national grassroots effort to counter Islamophobia for the past 7 years.

Presented by **Rev. Dr. Mellen Kennedy** (Founder and Director, Peace and Unity Bridge, and Minister, Unitarian Universalist, Springfield, VT)

D17 Listening to the Holy Spirit

Room 2012

(Introductory/Beginner, Also offered in Block A17) God may still be speaking, but how good are we at listening? You'll develop a practical, hands-on plan for improving your skills at seeking God's direction in your life. Based on tested Ignatian discernment practices, this workshop will help leaders seeking God's help in changing and growing their churches. Don't wait for the burning bush, set your own soul on fire!

Presented by **Rev. Catherine A. Merrill** (Minister, Brookline Community Church)

D18 Suicide in the LGBTQ Community

Room 2013

(Intermediate/Some Experience) Suicide remains a high risk for lesbian and gay individuals and is especially high in transgender people. This workshop will seek to better understand the dynamics of suicide and explore ways to intervene.

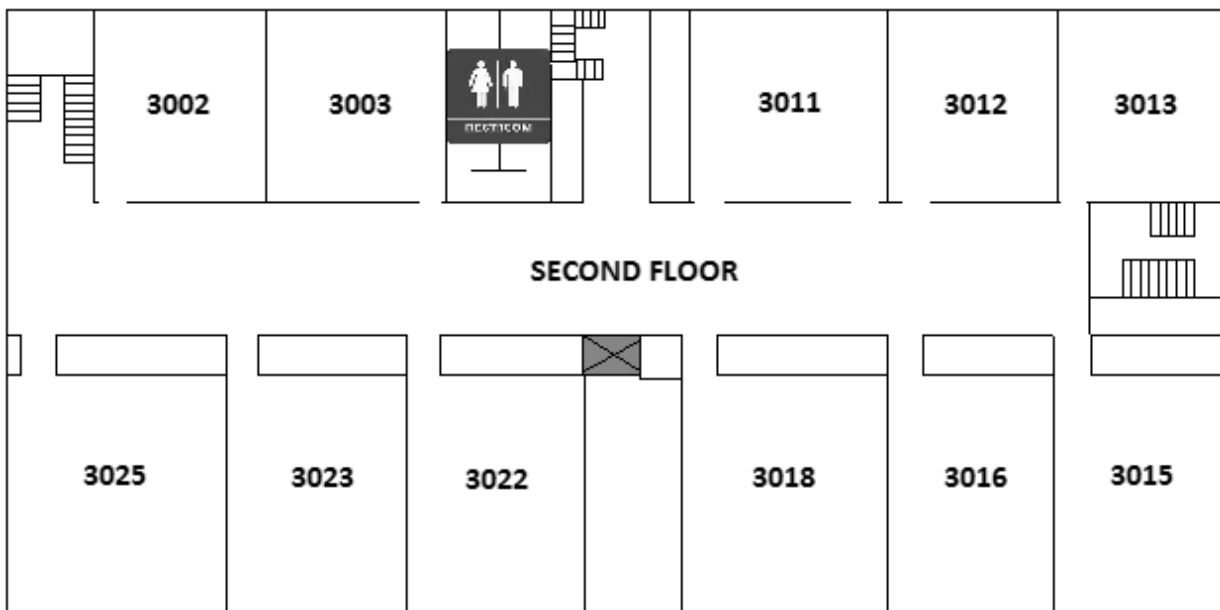
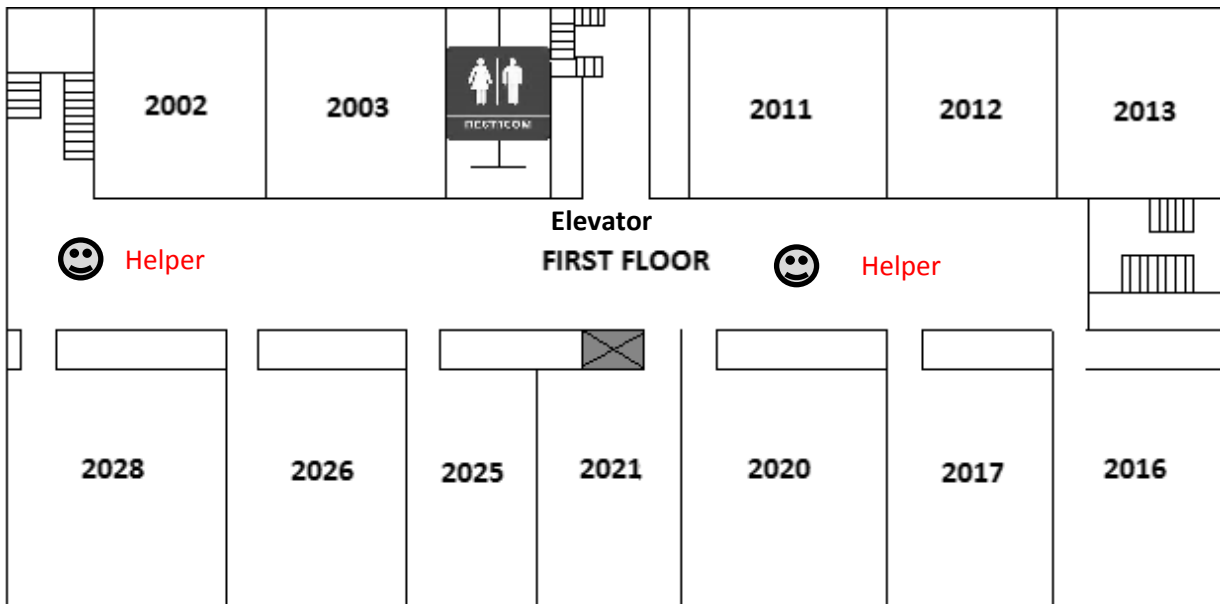
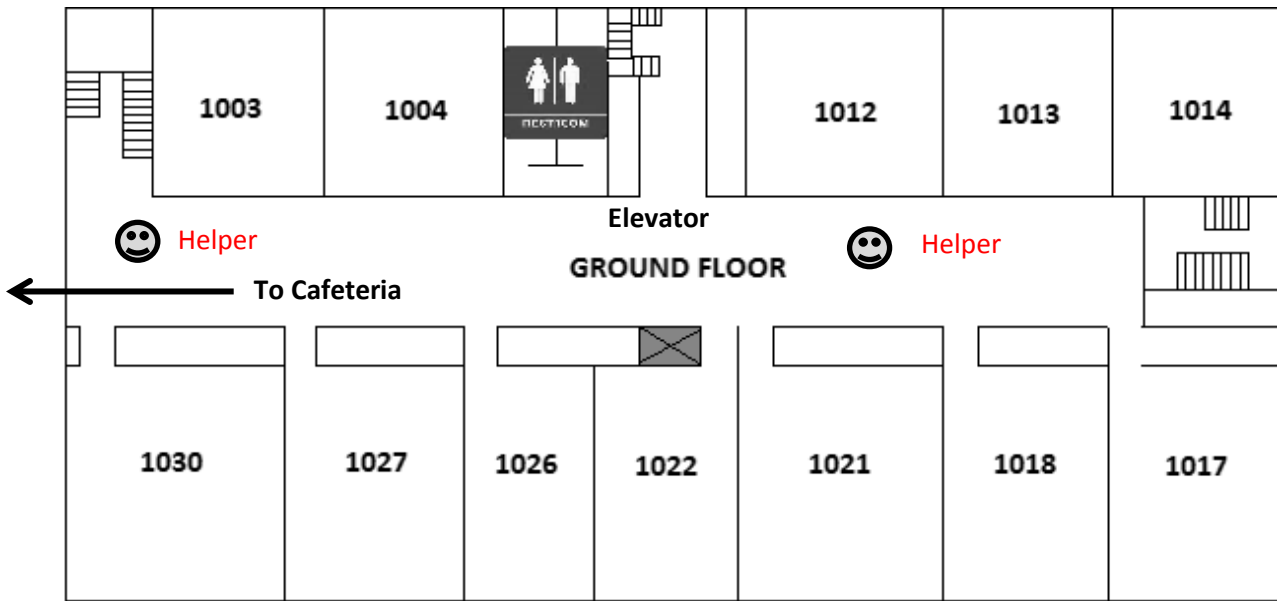
Presented by **John Rowe, Ph. D., RN** (Member, First Congregational Church, Manchester)

D19 Moving with the Spirit on the Labyrinth

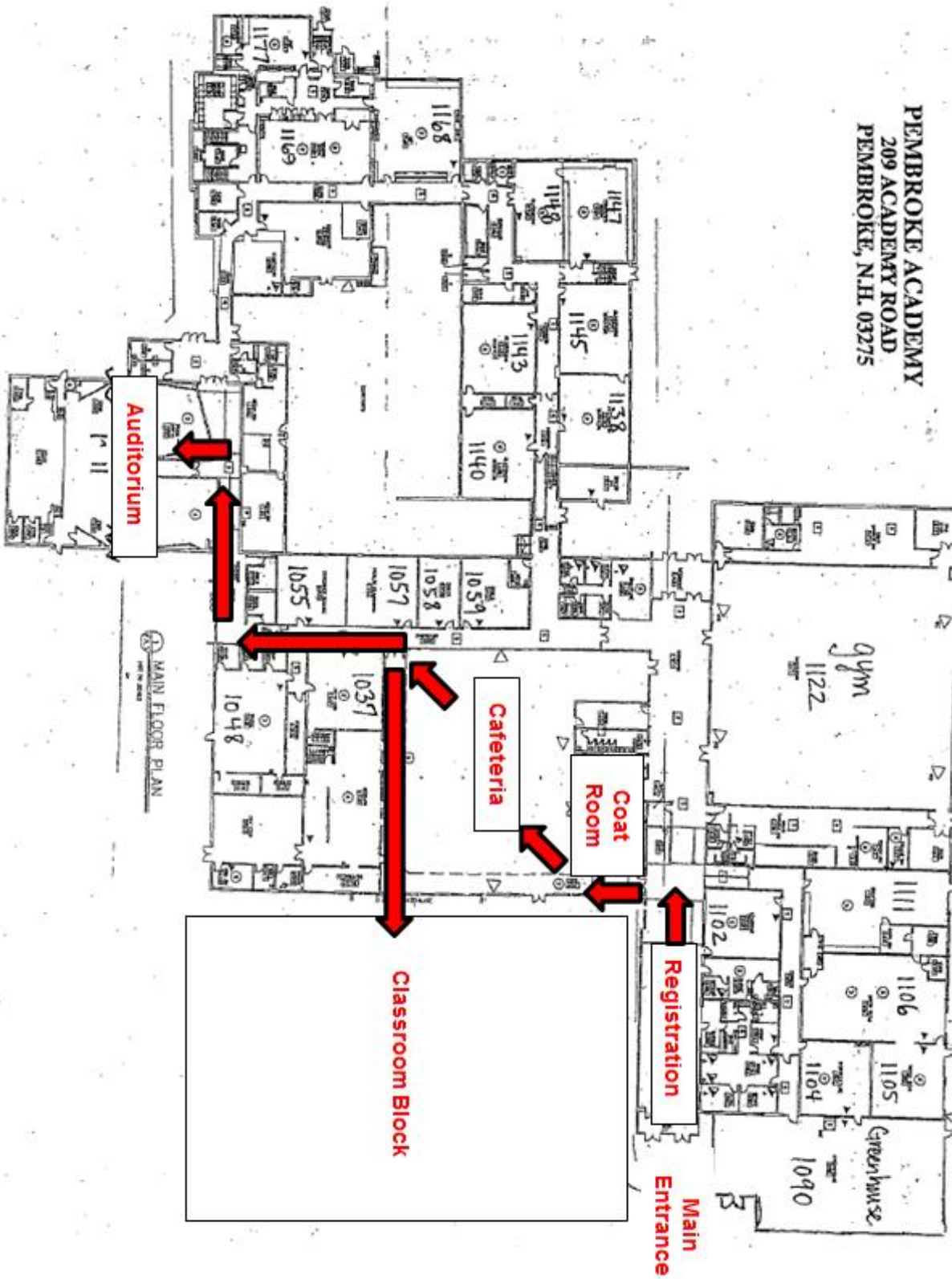
Room 1003

(Appropriate for all levels: Beginner to Advanced) After an introduction about labyrinth history and guidelines, you are invited to "release, receive, renew and return" as you walk the winding path of a finger labyrinth. A labyrinth brochure, labyrinth cards, and a variety of resources will be shared. After our first "walk," we will take time for personal journaling and group discussion. If the weather is agreeable, there will then be the option of walking a canvas labyrinth outside. Please join us!

Presented by **Rev. Ruth Martz** (Pastor, Sanbornton Congregational Church, UCC)



PEMBROKE ACADEMY
209 ACADEMY ROAD
PEMBROKE, N.H. 03275



DIRECTIONS TO PEMBROKE ACADEMY

**209 Academy Road
Pembroke, NH 03275**

From the SOUTH: Take Route 93 North to Exit 13/Manchester Street in Concord. Turn right off the exit ramp onto Manchester Street/Route 3 South. ***

From the NORTH: Take Route 93 South to Exit 13/Manchester Street in Concord. Turn left off the exit ramp onto Manchester Street/Route 3. ***

From the EAST: Take Route 4 to Route 393 towards Concord. Take Route 93 South toward Manchester. Take Exit 13/Manchester Street. Turn left off the exit ramp onto Manchester Street/Route 3. ***

From the WEST: Take Route 89 to Route 93 North. Travel north on Route 93 to Exit 13/ Manchester Street in Concord. Turn right off the exit ramp onto Manchester Street/Route 3. ***

*** Follow Manchester Street/Route 3 South for approximately 5 miles into Pembroke. You will pass the Pembroke Public Library and the First Congregational Church, Pembroke on your left. At the traffic light take a left onto Academy Road (landmarks at the intersection: Dandy Automotive and Fuels and Pembroke School District Sign). Follow Academy Rd. just a few hundred feet and turn right at the main entrance marked by a sign "Main Entrance – Home of the Spartans." Drive into the parking lot and park your car near the school's greenhouse which is located next to the main entrance to the school. Accessible parking is available opposite the greenhouse. If you are dropping people or materials off at the door, please take a right at the greenhouse and use the circle drop off area directly in front of the main entrance to the school. Driving time from Rt. 93 to Pembroke Academy is approximately 10 minutes.



Remember

**BRING THIS BOOKLET
WITH YOU TO THE EVENT!**