

Children and Communion: Suggested Resources to Enhance Children's Readiness for Communion

Section I: Resources for Adults.

This section includes books and resources to strengthen faith and aid the spiritual formation of those who minister to children. Some of the resources may not be directly related to communion and children, but they all support faith and spiritual development in adults.

Before we consider how best to minister faithfully to our children, we need to evaluate our spiritual "health." Why? Because we must be attentive to our faith journeys before we can be attentive to the faith journeys of our children. We are often motivated to grow in our faith because we desire to support the growth in faith of our children, whether that be in participating in communion or their general spiritual formation.

Resources:

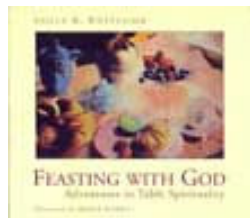
Caldwell, Elizabeth F. *Come Unto Me: Rethinking the Sacraments for Children*. Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 1996. <http://www.unitedchurchpress.com>

Pettigrew, Carolyn Landers. "Spiritual Deepening In Small Groups--Participant's Booklet and Facilitator's Guide." Cleveland, OH: Local Church Ministries, Worship and Education Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 1999, reprinted 2003. To order call United Church Resources: 1-800-325-7061.

-----"Soul Invigoration." Cleveland, OH: Local Church Ministries, Worship and Education Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 1996, 1999, reprinted 2001.

-----"The Bible as Devotional Literature." Cleveland, OH: Local Church Ministries, Worship and Education Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, updated 2006.

-----"Noticing God's Presence." Cleveland, OH: Local Church Ministries, Worship and Education Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, updated 2004.



Whitcomb, Holly W. *Feasting with God: Adventures in Table Spirituality*. Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 1996.

Section II: Resources for Children.

How do we surround our children with a healthy atmosphere for nurturing faith?

- by building rapport and establishing trusting relationships with them
- by expressing love in the home and in the context of the faith community
- by talking about and helping them to discover God through nature, at table, and at play, and through the beauty of creation and daily life
- by reading and talking about stories with spiritual themes and exploring Bible stories and children's prayer books
- by establishing healthy relationships and environments in school, home and church
- by surrounding them with healthy God-talk through labeling, expressions of thanksgiving, appreciation, and gratitude
- by nurturing them emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually
- by encouraging their interaction with the arts

Listed below are a few of the many resources that can assist in nurturing the spiritual life of children and, more directly, prepare them for communion in the family of faith in the local church.

Resources:

Boling, Ruth L., Lauren J. Muzzy, and Laurie A. Vance. Tracey Dahle Carrier, illustrator. *Children's Guide to Worship*. Louisville, KY: Geneva Press, 1997. ISBN # 0-664-50015-3

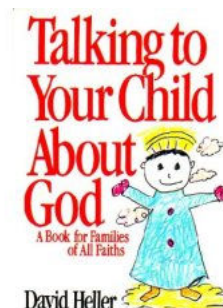
Boyer, Carolyn. *The Joyful Feast in God's Household: Seven Communion Lessons for Children 5-12*. Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2004. To order: 1-800-619-7301. Price \$10.00.

Britton, Colleen. *Celebrate Communion*. Prescott, AZ: Educational Ministries, Inc., 1984. To order: 1-800-221-0910. \$9.95. info@educationalministries.com. ID# 5937

This book is rich with materials for preparing children for communion. The lessons are designed to be presented to broadly graded classes in 15-20 minute sessions. They are divided into three sections: "Communion Lesson Plans," "Communion Services," and "Communion Related Learning Activities." This is an older resource but still applicable for today. One note: be prepared to adapt the materials to inclusive language, the reward for which will be a user friendly resource to use in the preparation of children for communion.

Crowell, Bette Anne. *Communion With Your Child*. Connecticut Conference, Round Table Resources, 1992. To order: 1-203-233-5564.
(Note: "Permission is granted to copy all or any portion of this booklet for the ministries of the church. ")

Heller, David. *Talking to Your Child About God: A Book for Families of All Faiths*. New York, NY: Perigee Books: Berkley Publishing Group, 1998.



Kater, John. *Another Letter of John to James (About Church and the Eucharist)*. Seabury Press (Harper Collins), 1982.

No longer in print but used copies have been advertised on Amazon.com (used books). We have written the publisher for permission to print the book on our website and are waiting for a response. A wonderful little book for children and worth the search.

Kershaw, Tony, and Mary Hall, illustrator. *I Can Join in Common Worship*. Southampton, England: Hobbs the Printers, 2003. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge in Great Britain. Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone Road, London NW1-4DU. ISBN: 0-282-05568-8; 10 pack 0-281-05584-x

O'Neal, Gail, editor. *Manna: Sacraments, Fall 2005*. Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ. To order: 1-608-846-7880.

Ostermiller, R. Kenneth. "Preparation for Communion in Family Clusters," 1994. *To receive a copy of this resource please contact Rev. Kenneth Ostermiller, Minister for Curriculum Development, Worship and Education Ministry Team, Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ.* ostermik@ucc.org

Papenhausen, Donna, *Jesus Loves Me: The Young Child and Communion*. Connecticut: Round Table Resources. Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, 1992. To order: 1-203-233-5564. (Note: "Permission is granted to copy all or any portion of this booklet for the ministries of the Church"*)



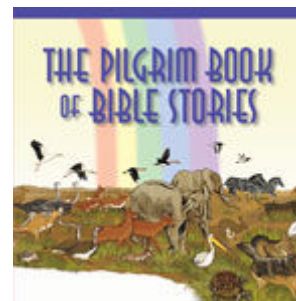
Pettigrew, Carolyn Landers. *Children Learn What They Read: Seeing the Presence of Selected Storybooks*. Cleveland, OH: Local Church Ministries, Worship and Education Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 2003. *The intent of this book is to nurture the faith development of children utilizing award winning storybooks . Each session includes: a storybook, synopsis, scripture application, summary of spiritual themes, spiritual reflection questions for discussion, and concludes with a creative activity to assist in integrating the transforming spiritual themes. To order: 1-800-537-3394, \$5.00.*

Pettigrew, Carolyn Landers, and Betsy Woodward. "Children and Families in Worship"
<http://www.ucc.org/children/cfworship.pdf>

"Prayer Calendar for Children and Families: The United Church of Christ 50 Years of Ministry with Children and Families" otisg@ucc.org.

Roehikepartain, Jolene L. "150 Ways to Show Kids You Care." A poster produced by the Search Institute. To order: 1-800-888-7828 or
<http://www.search-institute.org/catalog/product.php?productid=16185>.

Water, Mark. Diane Schimon, illustrator. *The Pilgrim Book of Bible Stories: The Great Stories of the Bible Retold in a Refreshing and Lively Way for Today's Children*. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 2003. To order call 1-800-537-3394.



Turner, Rosemary. *Do This to Remember Me: A Book for Families on the Sacrament of Holy Communion*. Connecticut: Round Table Resources, Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, 1992. To order: 1-203-233-5564.

(Note: "Permission is granted to copy all or any portion of this booklet for the ministries of the church. *")

Walker, Joyce MacKichan, and Wehrheim, Carol A. Wehrheim. *Teaching Children Worship in the Sanctuary*. Louisville, KY: Presbyterian Church (USA), 2004. To order: Call 1-800-524-2612 or www.pcusa.org/marketplace

Wehrheim, Carol, and Betsy James, illustrator. *Word and Picture Boards Books:*

A Baby for Sarah. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1999.

Church People. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1999.

God's Good World. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1999.

God Is Our Home. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1999.

Helping Others. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1999.

Jesus Visits Zacchaeus. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1999.

Meet Simeon and Anna. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1999.

Three Visitors for Jesus. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1999.

Welcome Jesus. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1999.

To order: 1-800-537-3394.

* If you cannot find copies of the three resources marked with an "*" please contact Gloria Otis at: otisg@ucc.org. A copy of the resource will be photocopied and mailed to you.

Prepared by
Rev. Dr. Carolyn Landers Pettigrew
United Church of Christ
700 Prospect Ave 5th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44115
January 2007

Revisions by
Rev. Scott A. Ressman
Minister for Worship, Music, and Liturgical Arts
United Church of Christ