

INSTRUCTIONS:

Take a colored card according to your **birth year/generation**, write the following:

NAME:

CHURCH/LOCATION:

GIFT:

A gift I bring is..

I am good at...

I am an expert at...

(i.e. "I bake a delicious cherry pie," or "I am good at fixing things," or "I am great at organizing," or "I love to read Scripture aloud.") Feel free to draw, rather than use words.

- **Greatest (1901-26)**
- **Silent (1927-45)**
- **Boomer (1946-64)**
- **Gen X (1965-80)**
- **Millennial (1981-96)**
- **Gen Z (1997-2012)**
- **Gen Alpha (2013-2025)**
- **Gen Beta (2025- NOW)**



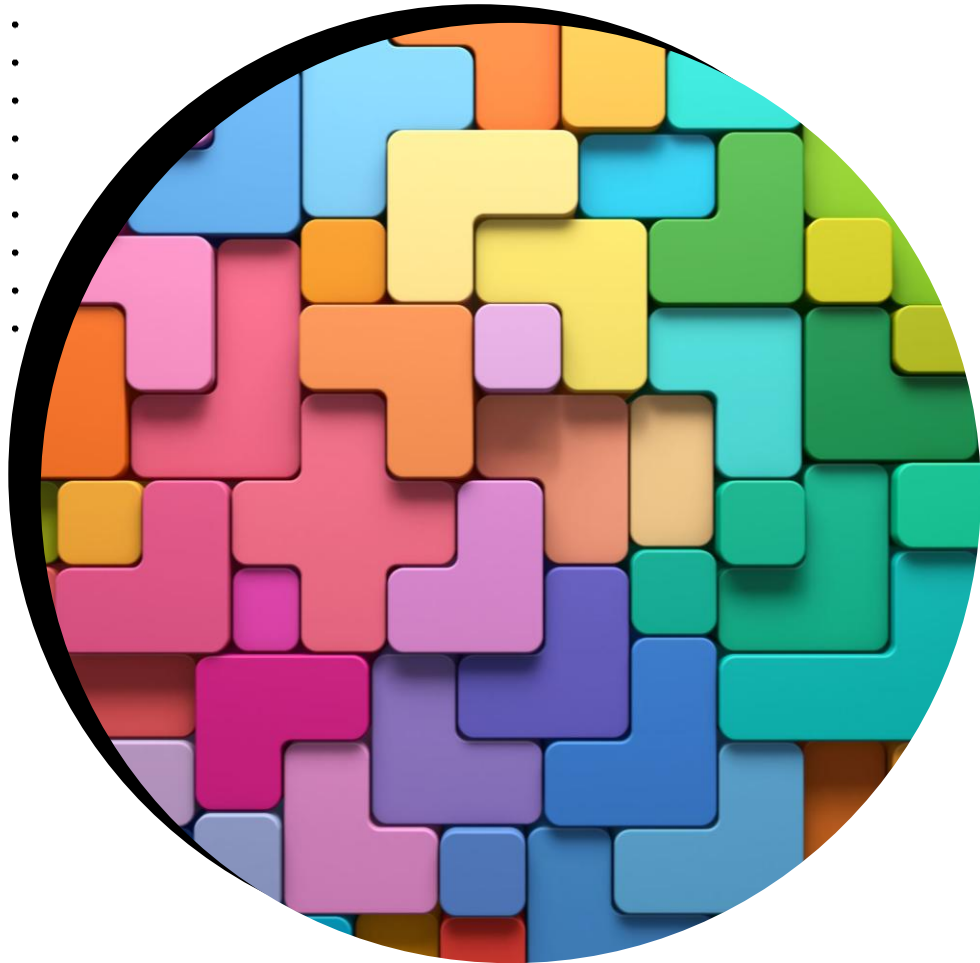
BEING INTERGENERATIONAL IS

ALL AGES

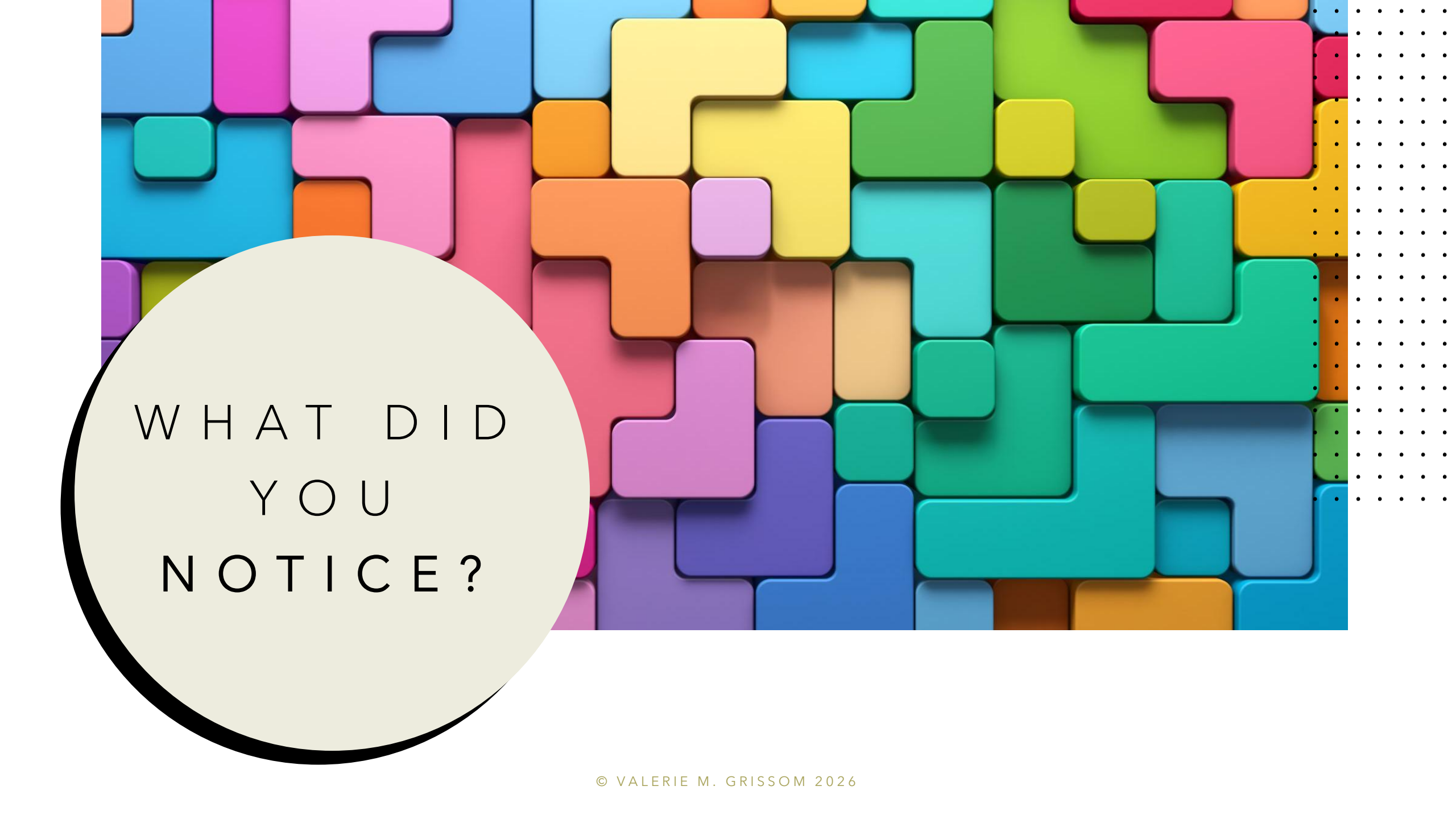
BECOMING

REV. DR. VALERIE M. GRISSOM

JUNE 27, 2026







WHAT DID
YOU
NOTICE?

3 QUESTIONS

- **WHAT** did you notice?
- **WHO** can we bring along with us?
- **HOW** can we be open to the **GIFTS** among us now?





REV. DR. VALERIE M. GRISSOM
valeriemgrissom.com

My Family





INTERGENERATE



SAVE THE DATE!



June 22-24, 2027

InterGenerate Conference
with Threads Within by GenOn Ministries

NEW LOCATION!:
Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI

THEME:
Weaving Together Generations of Faith

*I want you woven into a tapestry of love,
in touch with everything there is to know of God. Colossians 2:2 MSG*

Exciting Collaboration!

Same great conference features, but a NEW collaboration with GenOn Ministries and their Threads Within will make it possible for ALL generations to participate. Stay tuned for a LOT more details SOON!



Tell the **Story**
of a **Youth** in
Your Community . . .

iystoryproject.ig@gmail.com



The IYS Story Project is made possible through a Faith and Service Grant from the TENx10 Collaboration at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California, funds provided by Lilly Endowment Inc. in coordination with InterGenerate.

Lament with Children and Youth in Worship and Daily Life

REV. DR. VALERIE M. GRISSOM





IMAGINING
WORSHIP
WITH KIDS





16 Authors from the US, Canada, and UK – practitioners and academics from several Christian traditions.

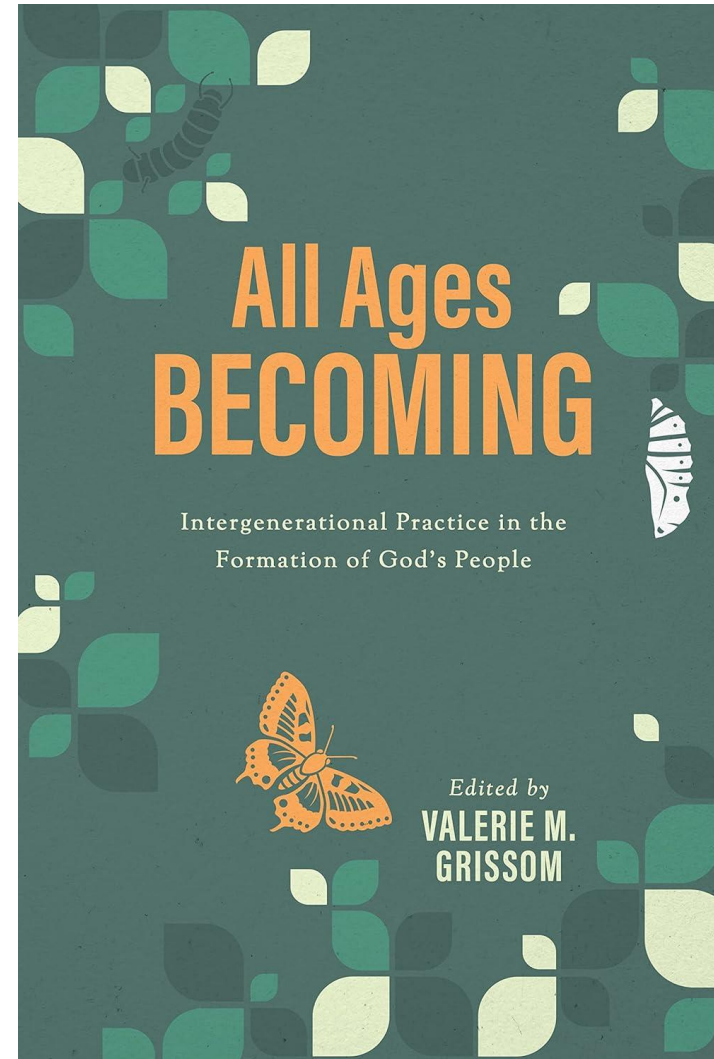


Offering intergenerational Christian practices through worship, story, leadership, navigating change

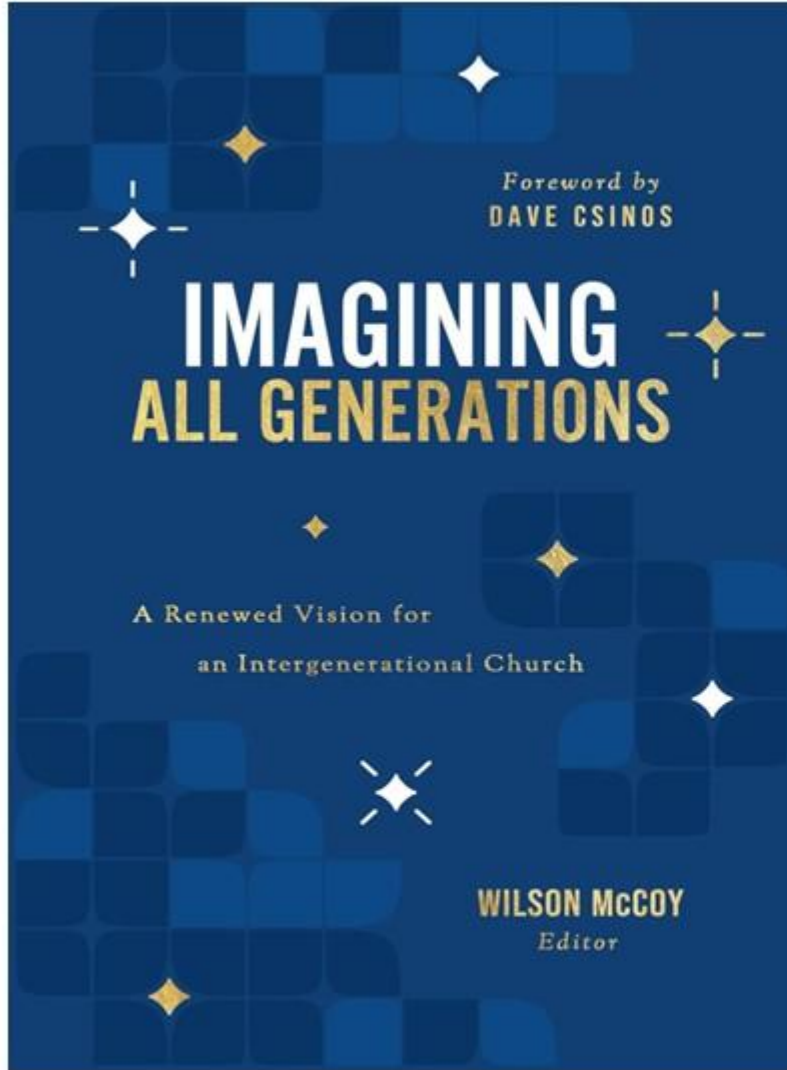


Reimagining preaching, discipleship, worship, children’s ministry and more

Audio Book Available



Note: Valerie has 2 Chapters in this book.



Book: Imagining All Generations: A Renewed Vision for an Intergenerational Church

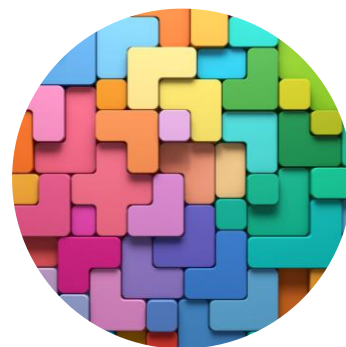


<https://store.acupressbooks.com/products/imagining-all-generations>



Today's Powerpoint:

W H A T





WHAT IS INTERGENERATIONAL?

“Intergenerational Ministry occurs when a congregation intentionally brings the generations together in mutual serving, sharing or learning within the core activities of the church in order to live out being the body of Christ to each other and the greater community.”

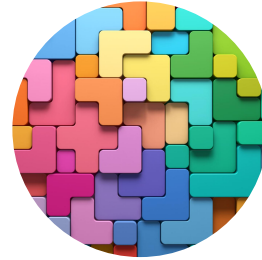
Allen & Ross (2012) *Intergenerational Christian Formation*



MONO - cultural



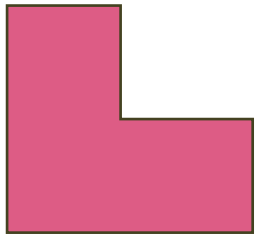
MULTI - cultural



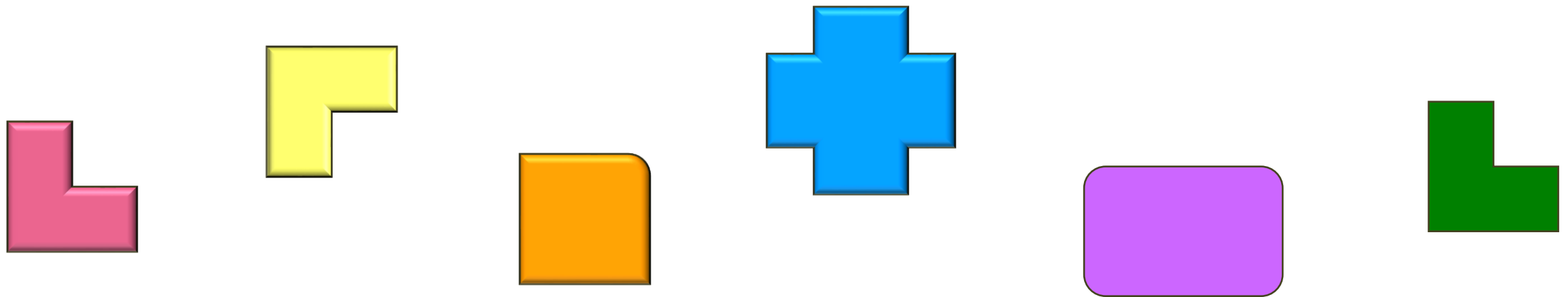
CROSS - cultural



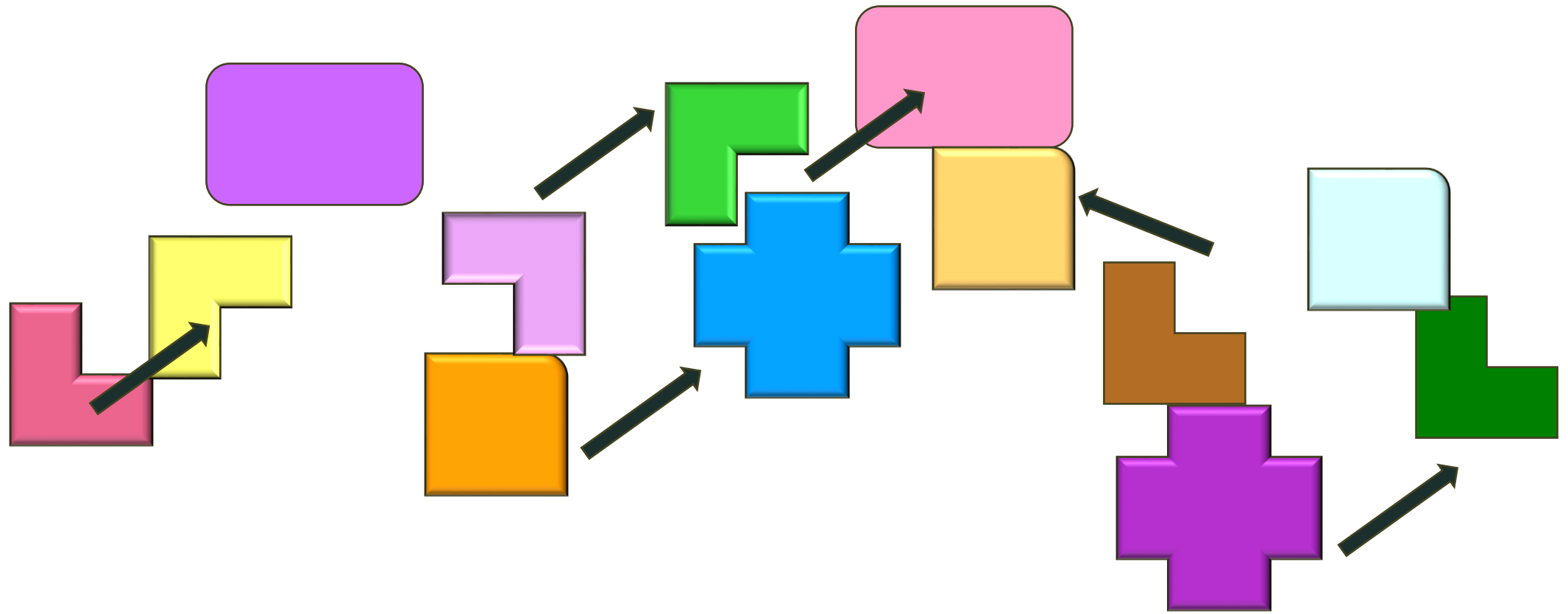
INTER - cultural



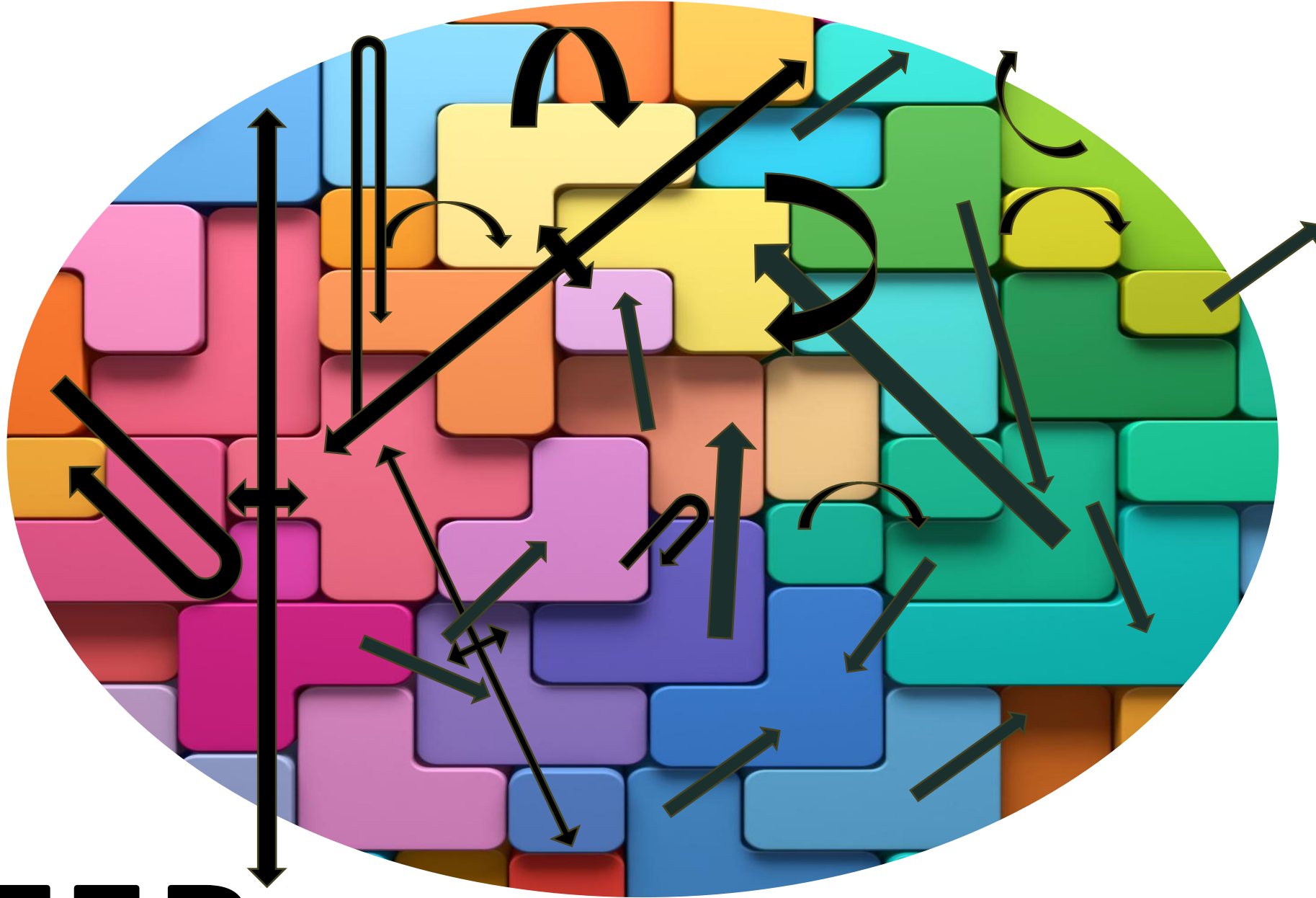
MONO-GENERATIONAL WORSHIP



MULTI-GENERATIONAL WORSHIP



CROSS-GENERATIONAL WORSHIP



INTER-GENERATIONAL WORSHIP



MONO - generational



MULTI - generational



CROSS - generational



INTER - generational



MONO - generational



MULTI - generational



CROSS - generational



INTER - generational

Breakout:

Where do you see your faith community in this progression of mono-, multi-, cross-, to inter-generational/cultural worship?



WHAT IS WORSHIP?



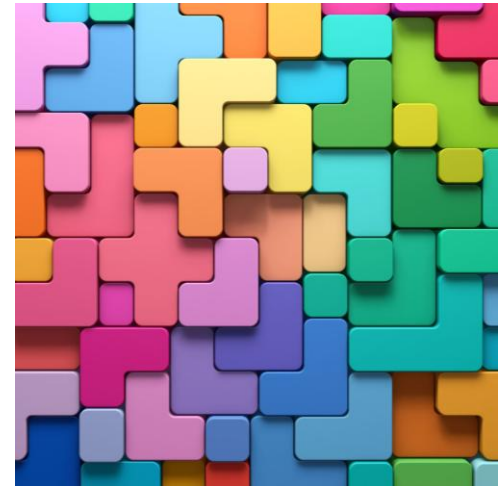
” What does it mean to say,
‘Worship does God’s story?’

-Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God’s Narrative*

... It is this: Worship proclaims,
enacts, and sings God's story.

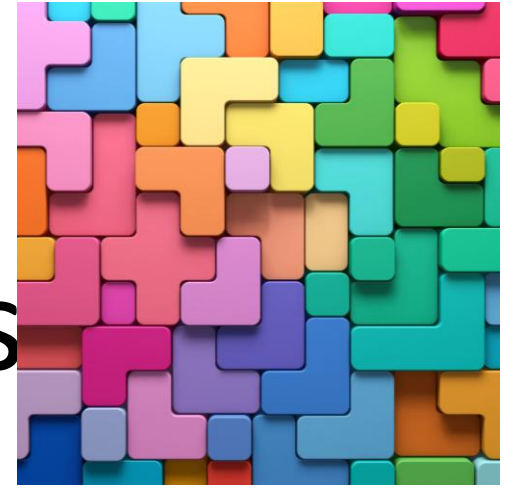
Worship is not a program. Nor is
worship about me.

-Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative*

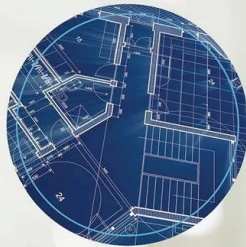


... Worship is a narrative—God’s narrative of the world from its beginning to its end. How will the world know its own story unless we do that story in public worship?

—Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God’s Narrative*



THE WORSHIP ARCHITECT



A Blueprint for Designing
Culturally Relevant and
Biblically Faithful Services

CONSTANCE M. CHERRY

SECOND EDITION

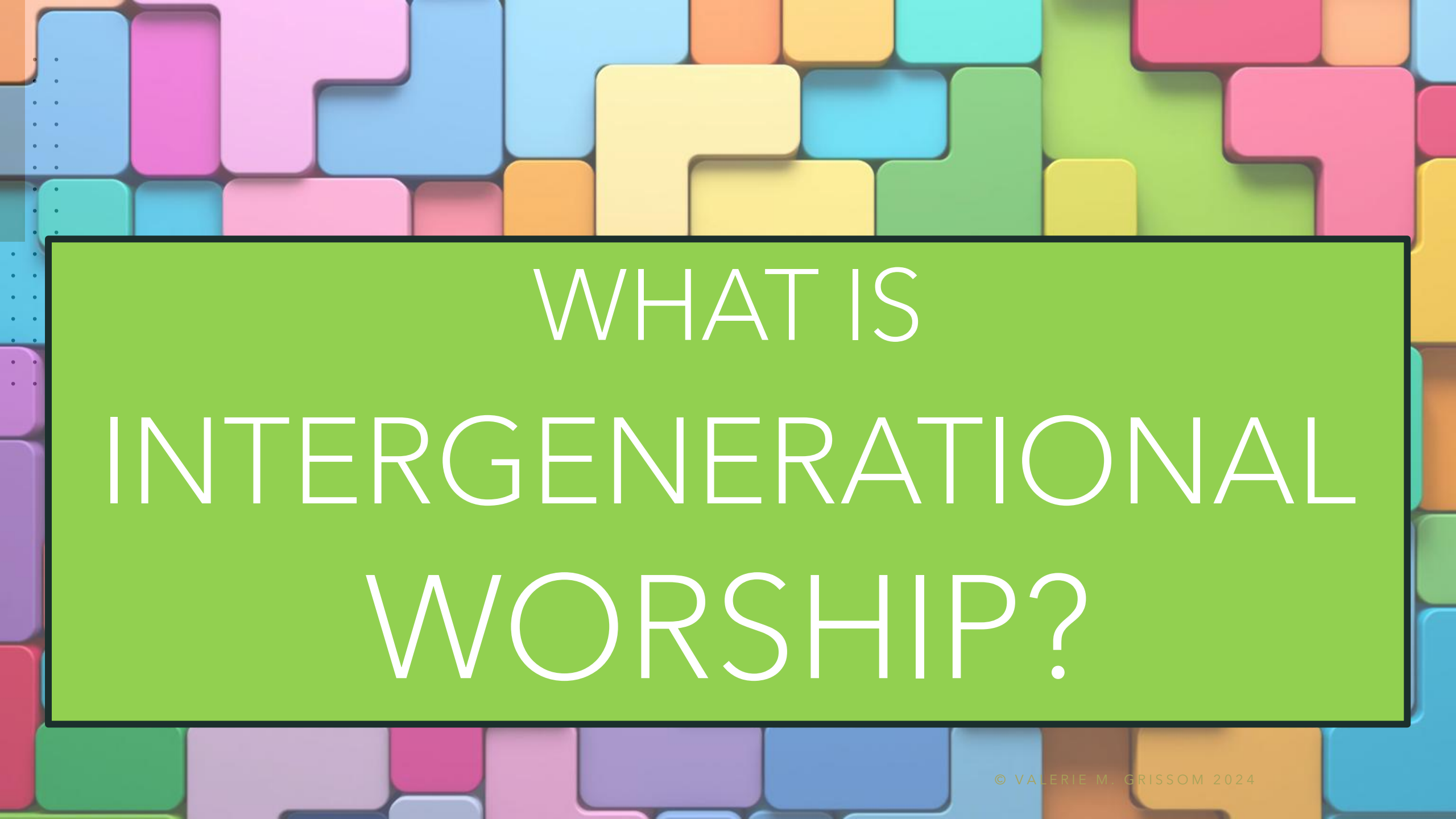
CONSTANCE M. CHERRY



WORSHIP LIKE JESUS

From Spectator to Participant





WHAT IS INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP?

“Worship is . . .

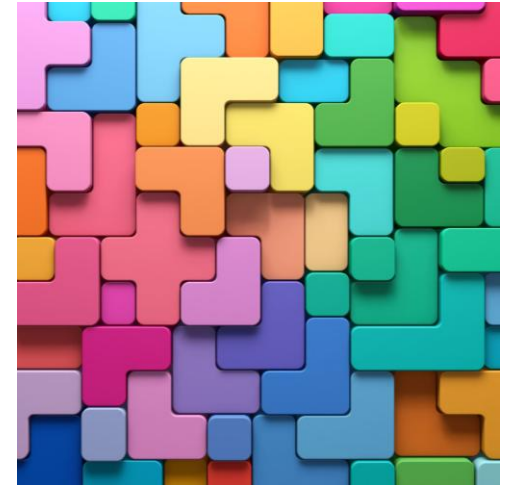
the gift of **participating** through the Spirit

in the incarnate Son’s communion with the Father. . .

[The triune God] lifts us up out of ourselves to

participate in the very life and communion of the
Godhead, that life of communion for which we were
created.”

–James B. Torrance, in *Worship, Community, and the Triune God of Grace*



Intergenerational Worship is

worship that brings all generations together as equal, valued participants in the divine relationship of the triune God, being formed in our participation with God and one another to be the body of Christ, and embody the fullness of the gospel, proclaiming God's ongoing redemption of all of creation.

+

WHO

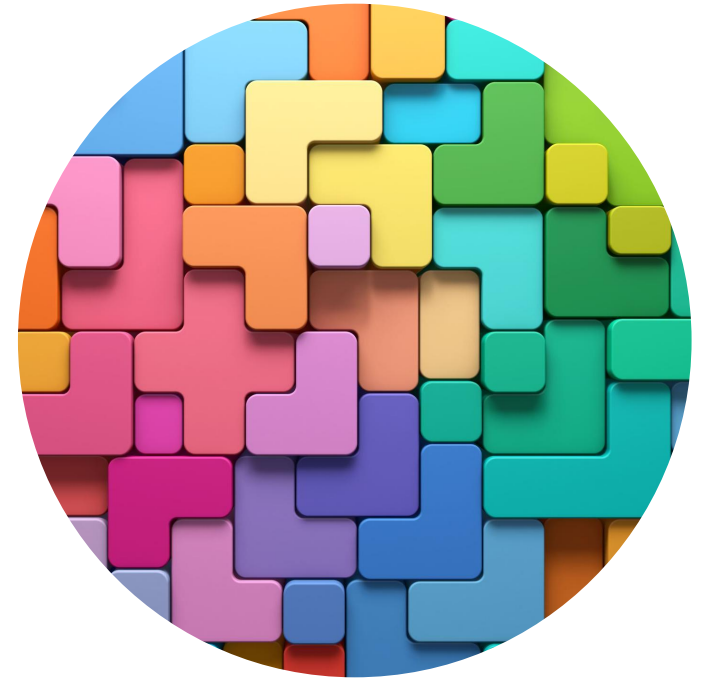


Then I looked, and there was a great number of people. There were so many people that no one could count them. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language of the earth. They were all standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and had palm branches in their hands. They were shouting in a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

(Rev. 7:9-10 ICB)




WHO



CAN WE BRING ALONG
WITH US?





WHO WILL
YOU BRING
WITH YOU?



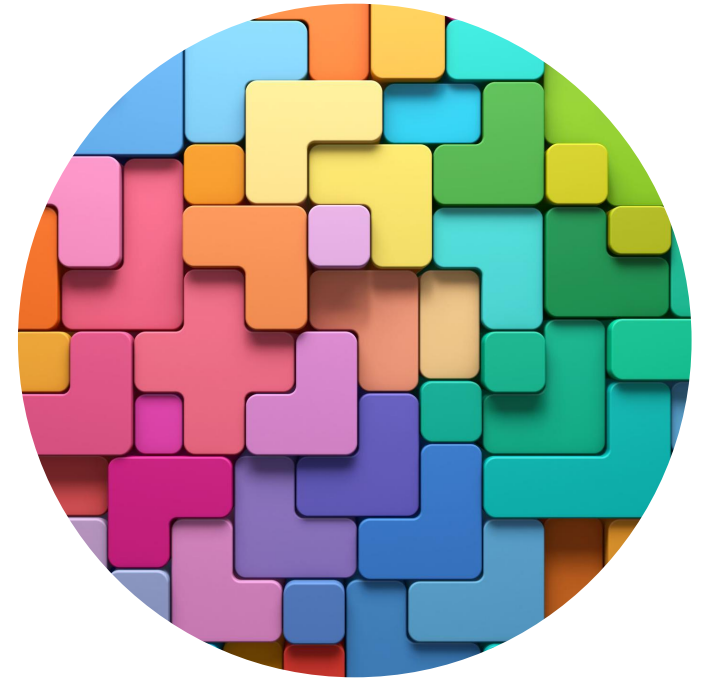
H

O


W



HOW



CAN WE BE OPEN TO
FINDING THE GIFTS?



Fundamental Intergenerational Practice:

Receiving with gratitude every person as a gift of God.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above." -James 1:17 NIV

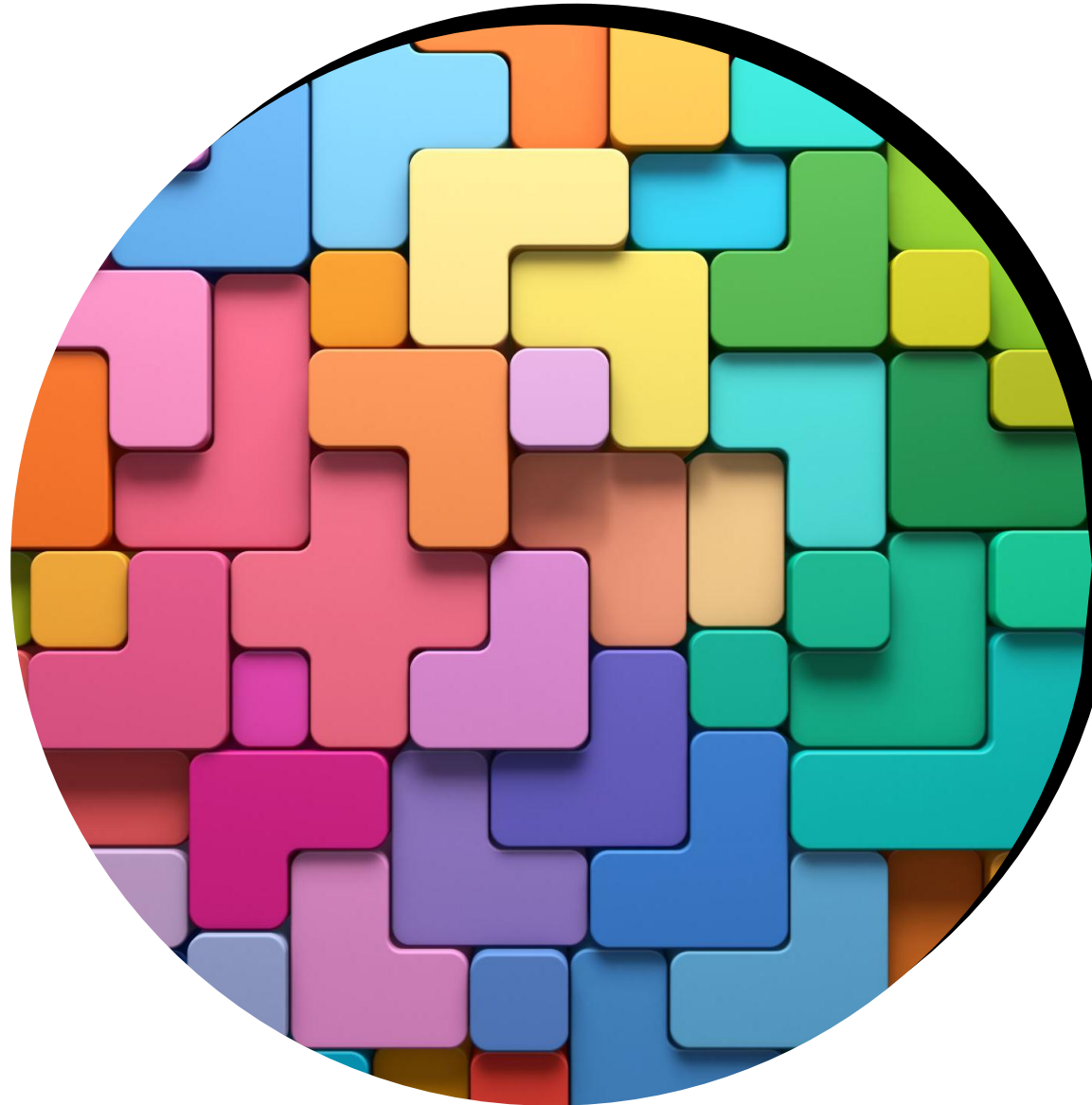


MUTUAL
SHARING
STARTS WITH

ME



MUTUAL
SHARING MEANS
RECEIVING
& HONORING
EACH
PERSON AS A
GIFT OF GOD



... we are many, but in Christ we are all one body. Each one is a part of that body. And each part belongs to all the other parts. We all have different gifts. Each gift came because of the grace that God gave us. (Romans 12:5b-6a)



MUTUAL
SHARING MEANS
FINDING
THE
GIFTS



G I F T S



G - E N E R A T I O N A L

I
F
T
S



G - E N E R A T I O N A L

I - N T E R C U L T U R A L

F

T

S



G - E N E R A T I O N A L

I - N T E R C U L T U R A L

F - A I T H E X P E R I E N C E

T

S



G - E N E R A T I O N A L

I - N T E R C U L T U R A L

F - A I T H E X P E R I E N C E

T - A L E N T

S



G - E N E R A T I O N A L

I - N T E R C U L T U R A L

F - A I T H E X P E R I E N C E

T - A L E N T

S - U R P R I S E



G I F T S



Intergenerational
Christian Practice:



Finding the GIFTS



GIFTS – Generational



- Do I deeply *appreciate* the perspectives and experiences of each generation?
- How are all ages *invited* to participate?
- How might this worship element (i.e. Scripture Presentation, prayer, sermon, etc.) uniquely be *heard* by a certain generation?
- How might this worship element uniquely be *shared* by a specific generation?
- In what ways am I *listening* to different generational attitudes and perspectives as we plan worship together?

GIFTS – Intercultural



- Do I *value* the heart languages, migration experiences, ethnic and cultural values and perspectives, as well as geographical locations, or those who participate?
- Do we practice regularly *receiving* and sharing our gifts of culture with one another in worship and in the life of our faith community?
- Do I *empower* minority cultures, whether it be ethnicity, age, gender, or other cultural diversity, to use their unique voices in worship?
- Locate people placed in the margins of your faith community. How might we bring them to the center of faith community to share their unique gifts? What might you need to do to *bring them intentionally to the center and empower them to share bravely their gifts?*

GIFTS – Faith Experience



- Am I open to receiving the stories of those in my community—am I listening carefully for those testimonies that need to be shared in our larger community?
- How do I listen to and include the varied experiences of faith that are in my community?
- Do I value the faith experiences of children and youth as much as those of adults? How might a child's experience of faith, in regard to a topic, relate to other generational experiences? How might a teen's experience of faith uniquely contribute to our faith formation?

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GIFTS – Talents



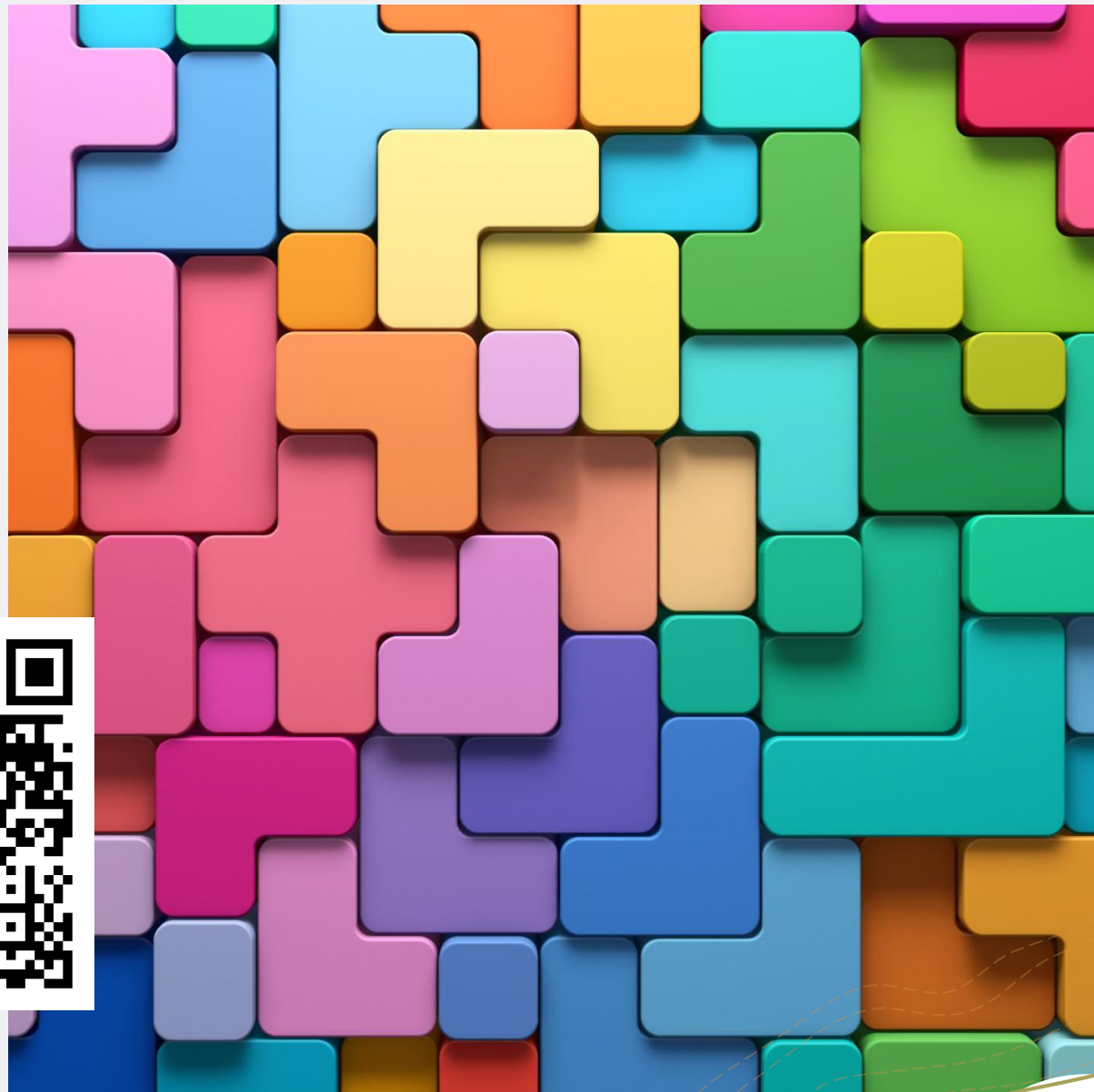
- What are the *talents* (e.g., music, art, drama) present in our congregation?
- How might we *go beyond the normal talents used* in worship to include other gifts?
- How might we creatively use *non-verbal roles* in worship?
- How might I intentionally *seek people and ask them* to use their gifts in worship?

GIFTS – Surprise

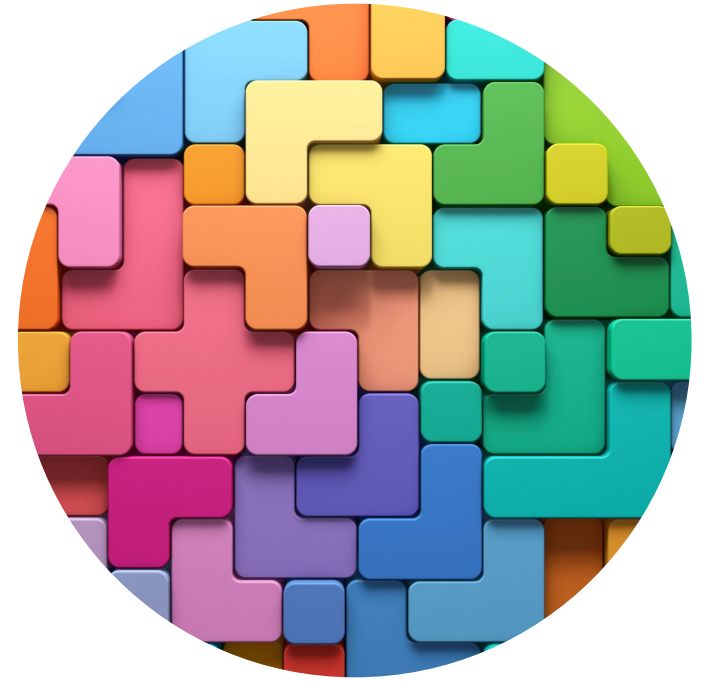


- Am I *open to receiving and sharing* in the surprise gifts that I encounter in my faith community?
- How do we *listen for the Spirit* to show us the surprises to be found in our unique faith communities?
- When I encounter a surprise gift, do I *stop to affirm that gift* in the person who has it, and how do I approach inviting that person to share his or her gift in worship?
- How do spirits of *experimentation* and *curiosity* help me *cultivate* surprise gifts in my faith community?
- Can you *name any surprise gifts* you have recently encountered? How might a spirit of *collaboration* when designing and planning worship enable more of these surprises you encounter to be utilized in worship gatherings?

Find the GIFTS INVENTORY



WHAT



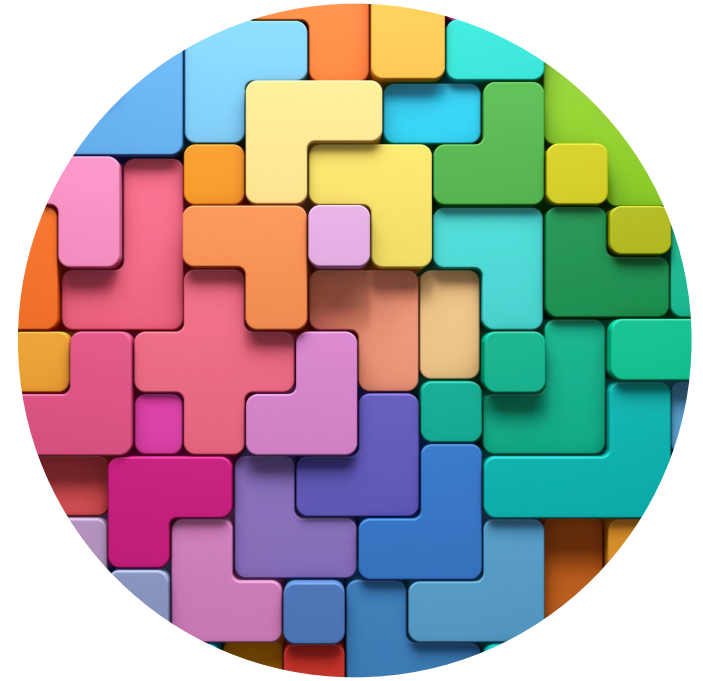
DO YOU NOTICE?

WHO



CAN WE BRING ALONG
WITH US?

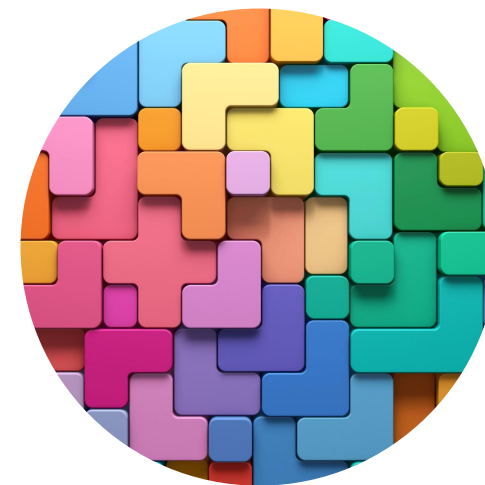
HOW



CAN WE BE OPEN TO
FINDING THE GIFTS?

BABY STEPS

WHAT ONE SMALL STEP
CAN WE TAKE?



BEING INTERGENERATIONAL IS

ALL AGES

BECOMING

REV. DR. VALERIE M. GRISSOM

JUNE 27, 2026

