



Event Journal



Welcome

Welcome to the inaugural Intergenerational Worship Summit.

We are grateful you have chosen to be part of this day. Whether you are a pastor, worship leader, parent, grandparent, lay leader, child, youth, or simply someone who longs to see the Church flourish across generations, your presence matters.

Throughout the day, we invite you to listen deeply, wonder boldly, and imagine faithfully. Together, we will explore what becomes possible when children are welcomed not only as recipients of ministry, but as participants in worship, bearers of faith, and valued voices within the life of the Church.

Our hope is that you leave today with more than new ideas. We hope you leave with new relationships, renewed imagination, practical tools, and a shared commitment to cultivating communities where every generation belongs, contributes, and grows in faith together.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We are glad you're here.

- The *Growing Together in Faith* Team



A broader movement across the Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Area, growing in faith and belonging across generations through worship; made possible by the generous support of the Lilly Endowment.

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✨ Don't Miss This Exclusive Resource! ✨

Be sure to visit the back cover of your program to access an exclusive video created for all those in attendance today by Dr. Josh Packard, Founder of Future of Faith. Scan the QR code and take home practical insights and conversation starters to continue the journey.



Agenda

9:00 AM – Gathering & Fellowship

Coffee, conversation, and resource tables.

10:00 AM – Welcome & Intergenerational Worship Experience

An engaging intergenerational worship gathering designed to model what's possible when all ages participate meaningfully.

11:00 AM – Main Session

Inspiring teaching, interaction and practical vision for listening to children and shaping worship across generations.

12:00 PM – Lunch & Table Conversations

Shared meal, networking, and guided conversation with leaders from other churches.

1:00 PM – Learning Lab: How to Listen to Children

Practical tools for gathering children's perspectives, creating safe environments, and turning insights into meaningful next steps.

1:30 PM – Breakout Workshops

2:45 PM – Next Steps & Invitation

Resources, opportunities for continued learning, and ways to move forward with support.

3:15 PM – Closing Blessing

Our Guest Speaker

DR. VALERIE GRISSOM

Dr. Valerie M. Grissom (MDiv, DWS) is Chair of InterGenerate and a pastor (PC-USA) near Seattle, Washington. A worship leader and pastor for more than 25 years, Valerie serves as a coach, speaker, and mentor across denominations and ecumenical settings, with a focus on intergenerational and intercultural worship. Her personal mission is "to help every person feel seen, heard, and loved by God."



Dr. Grissom believes intergenerational worship is central to that mission and a key to the Church's future spiritual renewal. She collaborates with worship leaders to incorporate intergenerational storytelling and Scripture into worship and is editor of *All Ages Becoming: Intergenerational Practice in the Formation of God's People*. Her current research includes the IYS Youth Story Project and Lament with Children and Youth in Worship and Daily Life. Valerie and her husband, Ben, live on Whidbey Island with their four teenagers, 41 chickens, four horses, and a Pomeranian named Harvey. Learn more at valeriemgrissom.com.



Our Guest Pastor

REV. DR. WANDA BYNUM DUCKETT

Rev. Dr. Wanda Bynum Duckett is a United Methodist clergymember serving as an influential leader within the church and broader community. Born and raised in Baltimore, Rev. Duckett's early spiritual journey began at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and developed further through ordination in the AME church and academic pursuits at St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute and Wesley Theological Seminary. She has enjoyed pastoring urban congregations. Rev. Duckett's ministry is characterized by her commitment to social justice, community engagement, and innovative worship. She notably integrates spoken word poetry as a form of sacred expression, transforming it into what she describes as "sacred slam."



Meet Our Presenters



Anthony Rogers is a ministry leader, speaker, and consultant with Ministry Architects whose work focuses on helping churches create worship experiences that are engaging, participatory, and meaningful across generations.



Dr. Cathy Vitek is a pastor in the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church and serves as Practitioner-in-Residence for the *Growing Together in Faith* initiative, helping churches explore practical and relational approaches to intergenerational worship and belonging.



Annette Safstrom serves with Ministry Architects and brings extensive experience in children's and family ministry, equipping churches with creative and practical strategies for engaging all generations in the life of the Church.



Raimon Jackson is a pastor, worship leader, and spiritual entrepreneur passionate about authentic community, creative ministry, and helping people encounter God in transformative and relational ways. He was the artist featured at IGNITE 2026.



Sharon Milton is a pastor and community leader in the Baltimore-Washington Conference whose ministry emphasizes compassionate outreach, intergenerational connection, and creating spaces where people can experience belonging, healing, and the love of Christ in tangible ways. She has grown youth ministry everywhere she has served.



Rev. Katie O'Hern Hamilton Rev. Katie O'Hern Hamilton serves as Lead Pastor of the Greater Brunswick Charge. She is passionate about building intergenerational communities where people of all ages are connected, valued, and empowered to share their gifts. Her ministry focuses on discipleship, community engagement, and helping congregations grow together in faith and service.

Workshops

Please refer to your name badge to confirm the workshop you selected.

1. Crafting Worship That Connects Across Generations - Anthony Rogers - Fellowship Hall

Explore what makes worship meaningful and accessible for all ages. This workshop will focus on practical ways to shape services that are engaging, participatory, and theologically grounded—without losing depth or integrity.

2. Intergenerational Worship: Vision and Practice - Dr. Cathy Vitek - Room 119

What does it truly mean to worship across generations? This session will explore the theological foundation and lived practice of intergenerational worship, offering examples and frameworks that move beyond “including children” toward shared participation.

3. Starting Small: Designing An Intergenerational Element [All Ages] - Annette Safstrom - Room 221

Not sure where to begin? This hands-on workshop will guide you in creating a single, meaningful intergenerational element you can bring back to your congregation. Participants will work collaboratively to design something tangible—such as a call to worship, scripture reading, or congregational prayer—that will be shared during the last session of the Summit.

4. Youth as Worship Leaders - Pastors Raimon Jackson & Sharon Milton - Parlor Room 101

This workshop focuses on equipping youth to take active, meaningful roles in leading worship. Together, we'll explore practical approaches for mentoring, empowering, and integrating youth leadership in ways that are authentic, sustainable, and impactful for the whole congregation.

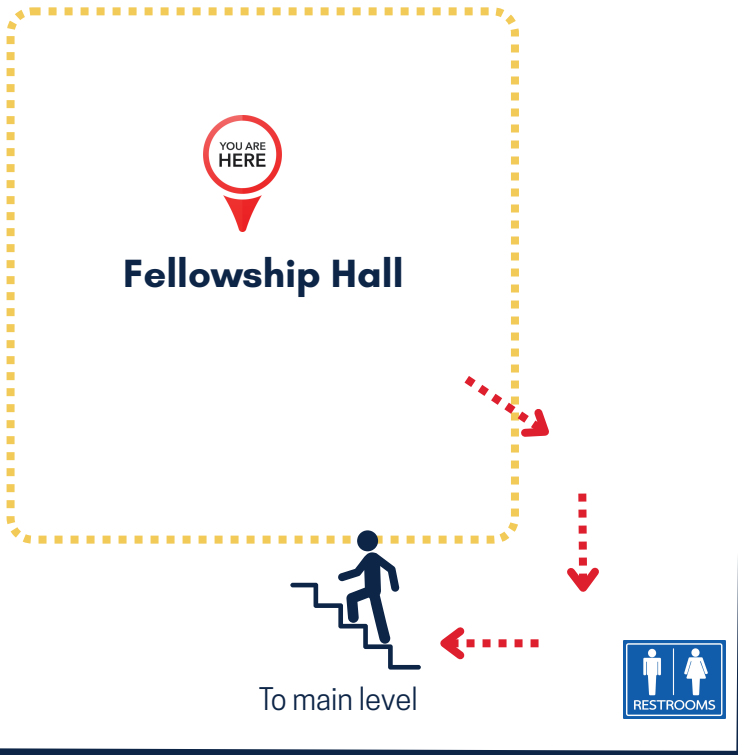
5. Faith at Home: Extending Worship Beyond Sunday - Rev. Katie O'Hern Hamilton - Room 121

Worship does not end at the church doors. This session will explore simple, meaningful ways families can practice faith together at home—helping children and caregivers engage in rhythms of prayer, scripture, and reflection throughout the week.

6. Lament with Children & Youth in Worship and Daily Life - Dr. Valerie Grissom - Library Room 105

Children and Youth regularly experience loss, trauma, transition, disappointment, grief, even bullying, violence, racial injustice, poverty, and discrimination. Lament is a spiritual practice of worship that empowers young people to address grief and loss with their faith communities, expressing their deepest emotions in authentic relational faith to God, in worship and in daily life. This workshop seeks to equip ministry leaders with biblical language and foundations for enabling children to engage in embodied, multisensory, multimodal practices of lament, through rhythms and rituals, in worship and daily life.

Find Your Way



Please reserve elevators for those with accessibility needs only.

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Intergenerational Worship: Vision & Practice

Room 119

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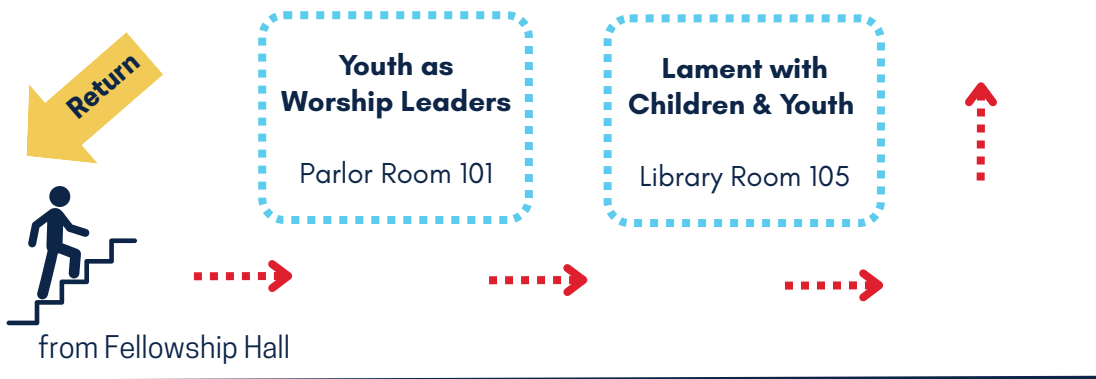
Faith at Home: Extending Worship Beyond Sunday

Room 121

To 2nd Floor

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MAIN LEVEL



2ND FLOOR

Starting Small: Designing An Intergenerational Element

Room 221

Detailed description: A green dashed rectangular box containing the text 'Starting Small: Designing An Intergenerational Element' and 'Room 221'.

Youth Room

Room 217/219

Detailed description: A green dashed rectangular box containing the text 'Youth Room' and 'Room 217/219'.

Children's Room

Room 214/216

Detailed description: A green dashed rectangular box containing the text 'Children's Room' and 'Room 214/216'.

Kiddie Corp[®] childcare is available in the Children's Room throughout the day. Children must be checked in and checked out by a parent.



Order of Worship

🎵 **Goodbye Yesterday**
Bethany UMC Praise Band

Prayer

🎵 **Lion & The Lamb**
Bethany UMC Praise Band

🎵 **Cornerstone**
Bethany UMC Praise Band

Affirmation of Faith -
“The Lord is our God,
the Lord alone.”
Kim Marie Walker

**Intergenerational Worship
Moment**
Dr. Cathy Vitek

🎵 **Trust in God**
Bethany UMC Praise Band



Special thanks to the Bethany UMC Praise Band:
Matthew Jenkins, Crystal Jenkins, Kyle Greenfield, Wendell Jones,
and Abel Polamo.

And to our Worship Director, Anthony Rogers.

Joshua 4 Dramatization

Joshua: Jerry Stanislaus
Narrator 1: Myles Walker
Narrator 2: Congregation
The Lord: Mason Filano
Child 1: Matteson Jenkins
Child 2: Mattelynn Jenkins
Citizens: Rhys Filano &
Volunteer Attendees

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Wanda Bynum Duckett

Prayers of the People

🎵 **Be Thou My Vision**
Bethany UMC Praise Band

Benediction

Pastor Natiya Bennett

Children's Bulletin



Gathering: We all gather together.



Opening Song: We stand and sing.



Welcome and Opening Prayer: We listen for the things that will be happening in worship today and begin to open our hearts to God.



We're going to sing and praise God! Use the ribbon wands and shaker eggs to help you praise God with rhythm ... and you can always use your hands to clap!



We are going to say together what it is that we belief about God and how God wants us to live our faith. Listen for the Leader's instructions, and notice that our line is the same every time.

Leader: Hear, O people of God:

We all say: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Leader: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength.

We all say: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Leader: We will teach these things to our children, and speak of them in our homes and in our lives.

We all say: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Leader: We will remember what God has done, and we will tell the next generation.

We all say: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Amen.



The Round Table (Intergenerational Moment): Listen for a question and then we'll listen to each other's answers. Wonder together!



Worship Song



Scripture Reading: Joshua 4



Message: This is when we can listen and draw out our thoughts and feelings, or listen and color.



Prayers of the People (listen for ways the people will participate).



Closing Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision"



Blessing: We are sent to go out into the world to love and serve our neighbor.



We come together



We stand



We sing together



We watch and listen



We enjoy God's holy meal



We pray and respond



We listen, think, write or draw

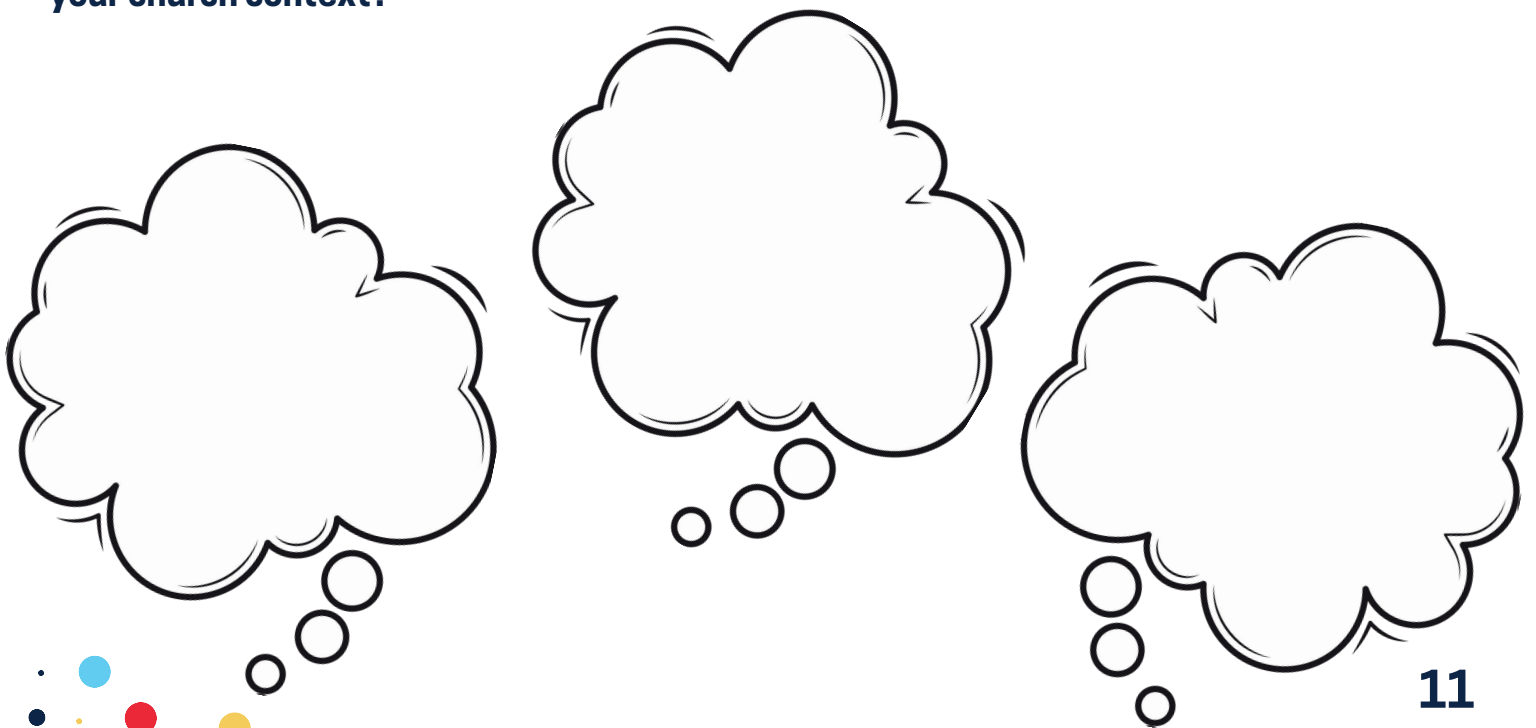
Reflect

MAIN SESSION

w/ Dr. Valerie Grissom

What is your main takeaway from this session?

What ideas did this session bring to mind that you might be willing to explore in your church context?



Three large, empty thought bubble outlines are arranged horizontally. Each bubble has a scalloped top edge and a tail at the bottom leading to three smaller circles of increasing size, representing the flow of thought.



Listening to Children

TO SHAPE MEANINGFUL INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP & PRAYER

Part of a broader movement across the Baltimore-Washington & Peninsula-Delaware Area, growing in faith and belonging across generations through worship; made possible by the generous support of the Lilly Endowment.



Why this matters

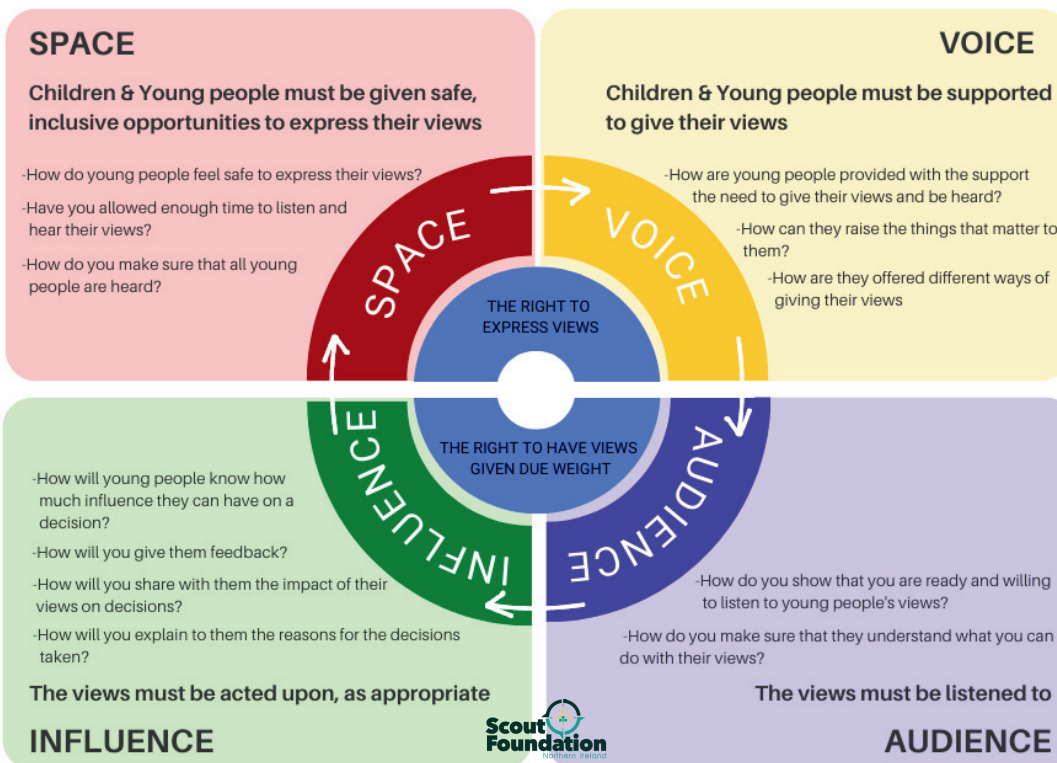
Children are not “future members”—they are full participants now. When we listen well, we design worship that forms faith **with** children (ages 3–12), not merely **for** them—building belonging, agency, and spiritual resilience. Listening to children is not a one-time activity. It is a leadership discipline.

A simple evidence-based framework:
SPACE → VOICE → AUDIENCE → INFLUENCE

Use this as your listening “checklist”
(adapted from the Lundy Model)

The Lundy Model

Enabling meaningful participation of Children & Young people



Space:

Create a safe, welcoming setting where children can share voluntarily (small groups, predictable routines, trusted adults)

Voice:

Offer multiple ways to express (talking, drawing, choosing images, movement, storytelling, “show me”).

Audience:

Ensure adults truly listen—capture children’s words, reflect them back, and take them seriously.

Influence: Close the loop: show what changed because of what children shared (even small changes).

Guiding principles for ethical, meaningful listening

Listening is transparent, voluntary, respectful, relevant, child-friendly, inclusive, and supported by prepared adults.

Prepared adults are trusted leaders who know the children, protect confidentiality, and listen without correcting or coaching.

Do: explain purpose in kid terms, ask permission, protect privacy, and avoid putting children “on display.”

Avoid: extracting cute quotes, rewarding “right answers,” or asking children to speak for other children. (That’s tokenism.)

Methods that work:

Use “multi-method” listening: children communicate through talk **and** making, moving, showing, and reflecting. The younger the child, the shorter the session should be. Expect silence and treat it as data.

Ages 3–6 (short + concrete):

- Picture choice: “Which picture looks like worship feels?”
- Drawing: “Draw what you notice in church.”
- Show-and-tell: “Show me where you feel close to God.”

Ages 7–9 (story + choice):

- “Finish the story...” (provide starter stems)
- “Two stars and a wish” (two good things + one change)
- Sorting cards: “Feels welcoming / not welcoming”

Ages 10–12 (meaning + agency):

- Mini focus group with norms (“no wrong answers”)
- Scenario: “If a friend came... what would help them?”
- Co-design: “Help plan one part of worship next month.”

Questions that reliably produce useful insight:

Keep it concrete. Ask about **moments**, not opinions.

Belonging

- “When do you feel like you belong in worship?”
- “When do you feel invisible?”

Meaning

- “What’s a worship moment you actually remember? Why?”
- “What part feels confusing or too long?”

Prayer

- “When do you want to pray? What helps you pray?”
- “What kinds of prayers feel real to you?”

Agency

- “If you could change one thing for children in worship, what would it be?”
- “What’s something children could lead that would help everyone?”

Starter stems (great for younger children)

- “I feel brave in worship when...”
- “I feel bored when...”
- “I feel close to God when...”



Reflecting on What You Heard:

Listening does not mean implementing every suggestion immediately. It means noticing patterns, themes, and insights that can inform faithful next steps.

After a listening activity, take time to reflect:

- **What themes emerged?**
What did children say about belonging, confusion, prayer, participation, or influence?
- **What small acknowledgments are appropriate?**
Are there simple ways to name what you heard or follow up with children?
- **How might this shape your discernment over time?**
Children's insights may inform:
 - What is helping or hindering belonging in worship
 - Future co-laboratory experiments
 - A deeper curiosity for the next round of listening

Not every idea requires immediate change. Listening first builds wisdom.

Quick checklist FOR CHURCHES



- We created a **safe space** and invited participation (not required).
- We offered **multiple modes** (not just verbal answers).
- We listened with a real **audience** (notes captured, reflected back).
- We documented what we learned from children, identified how it will **inform our next steps**, and shared this with them.

Download
AND SHARE THIS RESOURCE



Reflect



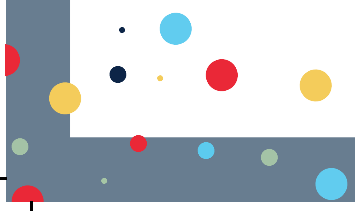
LISTENING TO CHILDREN SEGMENT

How many children can you commit to listening to in the next 90 days?



More than 10:

What questions do you have about implementing this tool?



Help Us Listen to Children

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”





- Luke 18:16

JOIN US IN LISTENING...

When we listen to children, worship is shaped by every generation.

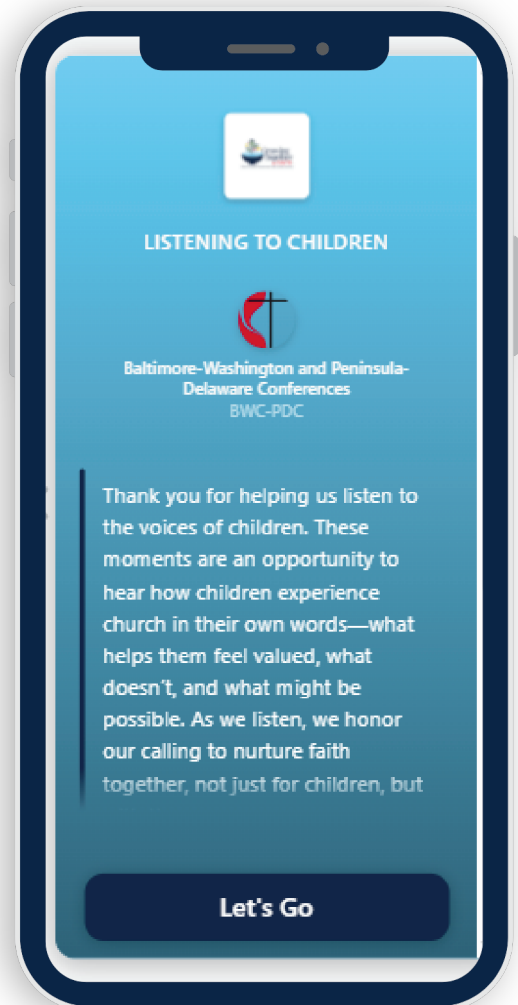
We're inviting children ages 3–12 to share their thoughts about church by answering three simple questions through our secure *Listening to Children* video collector. Their voices are helping shape the future of intergenerational worship—and selected videos may be featured in future trainings, worship gatherings, and Growing Together in Faith resources.

It's quick and easy:

-  No app downloads or account creation required
-  Takes just 3–5 minutes or less per child
-  Children answer three simple, age-appropriate questions
-  Record one child at a time

As a thank-you, churches that submit 5 or more videos will receive a \$25 eGift card as thank you for elevating the voices of children.

Simply scan the QR code to get started. We can't wait to hear what the children in your congregation have to say!



Reflect



WORKSHOP: _____

Presenter Name:

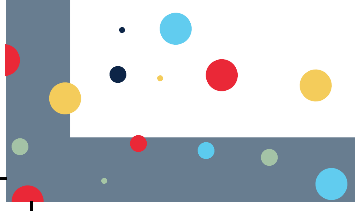
What is your main takeaway from this workshop?

What's one thing you want to try in your church based on what you've heard?



What do you need in order to be able to try this?

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IGW CoLaboratory

The CoLaboratory is designed for churches desiring to make their worship services more intergenerational, engaging the youngest to the oldest as valued co-participants and contributors in worship.

During the CoLab, churches will actively experiment with new expressions of intergenerational worship. Churches will learn from one another, advise and encourage one another, and help each other ideate, iterate, problem-solve, and more.



KEY INFO

Church teams of 3-5 people are invited to participate in the CoLaboratory, which runs September '26 through April '27 and includes

- **6 monthly CoLaboratory meetings**
- **6 expert coaching sessions for your church team**
- **A Worship Joy Box stipend**

GOALS

- Grow in theological and practical grasp of intergenerational worship
- Gain a working understanding of the innovation process
- Try new practices in your worship services
- Learn from the insights and experiences of peers
- Elevate your church's intergenerational worship practice and culture



Scan QR Code to Register

For more info contact intergenworship@pdcbbc.org

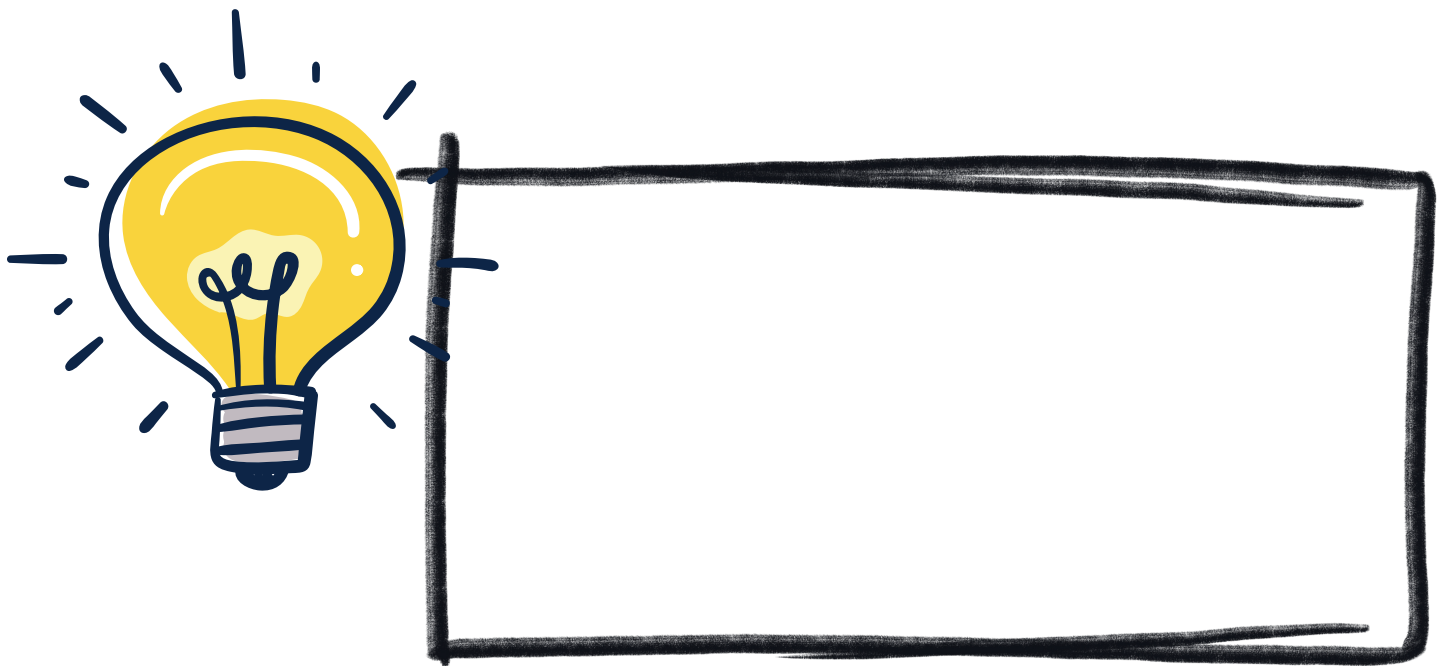


Reflect

STARTING SMALL: IGW PRACTICE DEMONSTRATION

Annette Safstrom and the "Starting Small" Workshop Group

List at least one way you might implement the idea(s) you're seeing in your own church context.



What do you need in order to be able to try this?

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Thank you!

**TO ALL THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED TO HELP MAKE
THIS DAY POSSIBLE!**

and to...



Lilly Endowment Inc.

A private foundation since 1937

The **Growing Together in Faith** initiative is made possible through a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. as part of its Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative. This national initiative supports Christian organizations as they help congregations deepen children's faith by fully engaging them in worship and prayer. Through this grant, the Baltimore-Washington and Peninsula-Delaware Area is equipping churches to listen to children, strengthen intergenerational relationships, and cultivate communities where every generation belongs, participates, and grows in faith together.

We'd also like to thank the following organizations for graciously donating resources to share with you. Don't forget to check out our vendor table before you leave.



Website

<https://imaginingworshipwithkids.com>

Magazine: Practice Worship with Kids at Home

<https://shorturl.at/y8gsA>

Magazine: Practice Worship with Kids at Church

<https://shorturl.at/mUe6G>



Website

<https://www.genonministries.org/>

Resources



Access these resources
and more on our website!
pdcbbc.org/grow



Intergenerational Worship Development

- **Always in Rehearsal: The Practice of Worship and the Presence of Children**, James H. Ritchie, Jr. This author helps us understand how children learn to worship so that we can be intentionally inclusive in our worship planning.
- **Let the Children Lead: Models of Worship with All Generations**, Nelson Cowan. Blending practical models with theological reflection, Cowan explores ways churches can foster meaningful participation across generations in worship and congregational life. Topics include pray grounds, sensory-sensitive worship, children's roles in worship, intergenerational outreach, and church-school partnerships.
- **The Church of All Ages: Generations Worshiping Together**, edited by Howard Vanderwell. The Church of All Ages is a collection of stories from a variety of churches who have used different means to make intergenerational worship a consistent and core practice of their worshipping communities.

Practicing Intergenerational Ministry

Intergenerational Curriculum Resources

- **GenOn Ministries**: Curriculum for intergenerational gatherings.
- **Messy Church: Fresh Ideas for Building a Christ-Centered Community** by Lucy Moore & Jane Leadbetter
- **Messy Church USA: A Monthly Worship Opportunity for All Ages**: Curriculum for intergenerational worship gatherings.
- **Family Friendly Ideas Your Church Can Do**, Group Publishing
- **Roots: Resources For Churches** Ecumenical lectionary-based intergenerational worship resources
- **Imagining Worship with Kids** offers arts-based resources to foster intergenerational worship

Stories about and practical ideas for “Praygrounds”

- <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/praygrounds-encourage-little-children-to-come>
- <https://faithandchildren.org/2024/04/23/prayground/>
- <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:06580bd9-7539-404a-bb2c-26c6cd2ade14>

Intergenerational Ministry and Faith Formation

- **Bringing Our Children to Jesus: Equipping Parents to be Active in Their Child’s Discipleship Journey**, Rev. Dr. Katie Bishop
- **Intergenerational Religious Education**, James W. White

Theology of Intergenerationality

- **Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus**, David Csinos and Ivy Beckwith. Csinos and Beckwith explore how churches can nurture children's faith through belonging, participation, and discipleship rather than relying solely on age-segregated programs. A helpful resource for leaders seeking stronger connections across generations in the life of the church.
- **Is It A Lost Cause? Having the Heart of God for the Church's Children** by Marva J. Dawn. The author centers this work on her unshakeable belief that the spiritual formation of children is a primary responsibility of parent and church-communities. She points to the faith formation of parents through Bible study and parent-mentoring opportunities.
- **Being An Intergenerational Church: Practices to Bring the Generations Back Together** by Suzi Farrant & Darren Philip. The authors use Deitrich Bonhoeffer's theology of community to help readers understand what intergenerationality is, why it is important, and how to build intergenerational practice in the core ministries of a church-community.
- **Hear Us Out: Six Questions on Belonging and Belief** by Sue Pizor Yoder and Co.Lab.Inq. The author's research provides key insight on the importance of belonging to the generations under 40 years of age. Fostering belonging is a key component in the practice of intergenerationality.

Collections

Three resources provide a collection of thoughts, wisdom and case studies from noted Intergenerational Ministry thought-leaders. Each chapter offers a different perspective and valuable insight helpful for all readers and small group discussion.

- **InterGenerate: Transforming Churches through Intergenerational Ministry**, edited by Holly Catterton Allen
- **All Ages Becoming: Intergenerational Practice in the Formation of God's People**, edited by Valerie M. Brissom
- **Imagining All Generations: A Renewed Vision for an Intergenerational Church**, edited by Wilson McCoy

Small Group Studies on Intergenerationality

- **PieceByPiece: Unlocking the puzzle for an effective ministry to today's children** by Tammy Preston
- **Collide: Exploring INTERGenerational Ministry** by Tammy Preston

Parent Resources

- **Parenting in the Pew: Guiding Your Children into the Joy of Worship**, Robbie Castleman. Written by a parent for parents seeking to help their children learn to worship.



SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 26, 2027

Look for more information in the IGW Newsletter:
<http://eepurl.com/jD-s7E>

SUBSCRIBE NOW



Learn More:

PDCBWC.ORG/GROW



**Baltimore-Washington &
Peninsula-Delaware Area**
The United Methodist Church



Josh Packard, Ph.D.

Co-Founder, Future of Faith
www.futureoffaith.org



THE FUTURE IS LISTENING



SACRED LISTENING TOOLS

