



vibrantfaith
INNOVATION
LABS

vibrantfaith.org



Adult Faith Formation

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SeasonsofAdultFaith.com

FamiliesattheCenter.com

WholeCommunityFaithFormation.weebly.com



Adult Faith Formation Innovation Lab

1. Adult Learning Today
2. Adults Today
3. Adult Faith Formation Today
4. Developing 21st Century Adult Faith Formation
 - Personalizing adult faith formation: Pathways of discipleship and faith growth
 - Programming adult faith formation: Playlists of content and experiences for Pathways
 - Curating adult faith formation
 - Designing digital platforms for adult faith formation
5. Next Steps:
 - Design New Projects
 - Preparation for Design Webinar

Innovation Lab Design

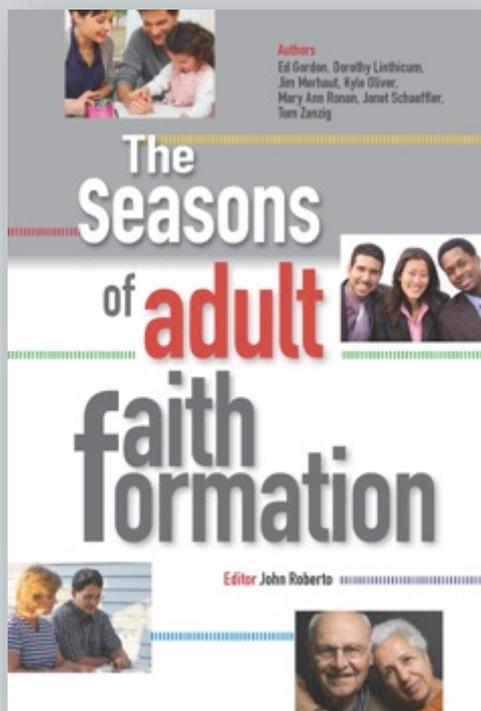
1. A one-day **Design Workshop** – envision and begin the design of new initiatives in faith formation
2. A 90 minute online **Design Webinar** for all leadership teams to support their design work (6-8 weeks after the Design Workshop)

Week of

3. A 90-minute online **Implementation Webinar** for all leadership teams to plan for implementing their new initiatives (6-8 weeks after the Design Webinar)

Week of

4. A variety of **Tools** and **Resources** at www.LifelongFaith.com to support design work, and **Networking** among congregations to share projects and ideas



Lifelong Faith
the theory and practice of lifelong faith formation

**Practices & Approaches for
The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation**
Special Issue: Fall 2015

John Roberto, Editor

This Special Issue of the Lifelong Faith Journal extends the content in The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation book by providing four practice-centered articles for each season of adulthood. Each of the authors wrote a chapter in the book exploring a contemporary understanding of young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults. In these new articles they explore effective practices for each stage of adulthood.

2	Faith Formation with Young Adults Kyle Oliver
15	Faith Formation with Midlife Adults Jim Merhaut
28	Faith Formation with Mature Adults Janet Schaeffler
52	Faith Formation with Older Adults Dorothy Linthicum

For more adult faith formation resources go to:
www.SeasonsofAdultFaith.com

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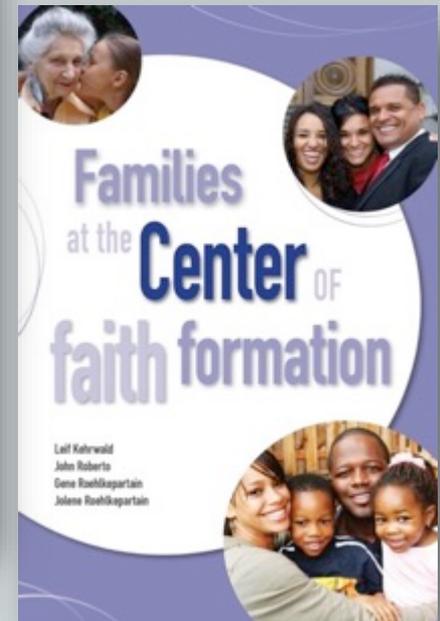
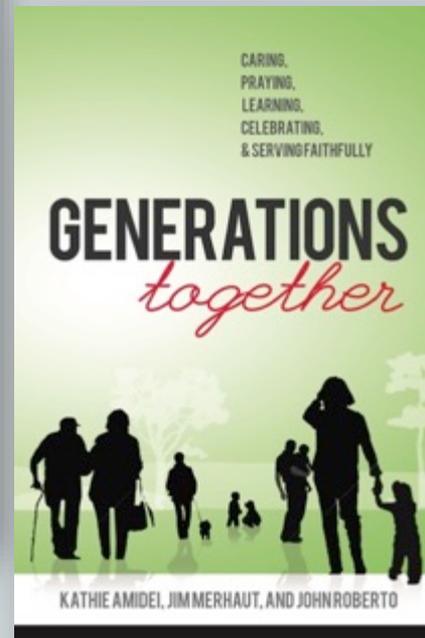
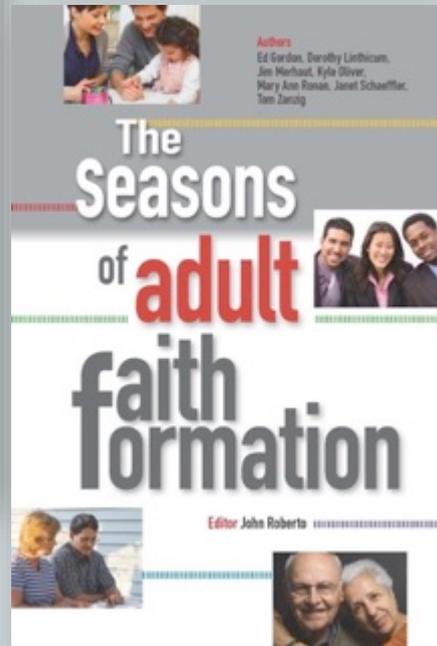
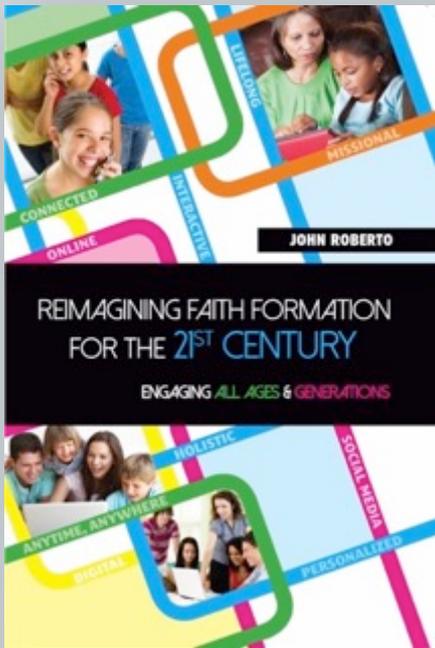
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Lifelong Faith
the theory and practice of lifelong faith formation
Volume 9.2 www.lifelongfaith.com Winter 2016

**The Future of Adult
Faith Formation**

LifelongFaith.com – Presentations, Journal
ReimagineFaithFormation.com – Adults

Lifelong Faith Books



Part 1. Adult Learning Today

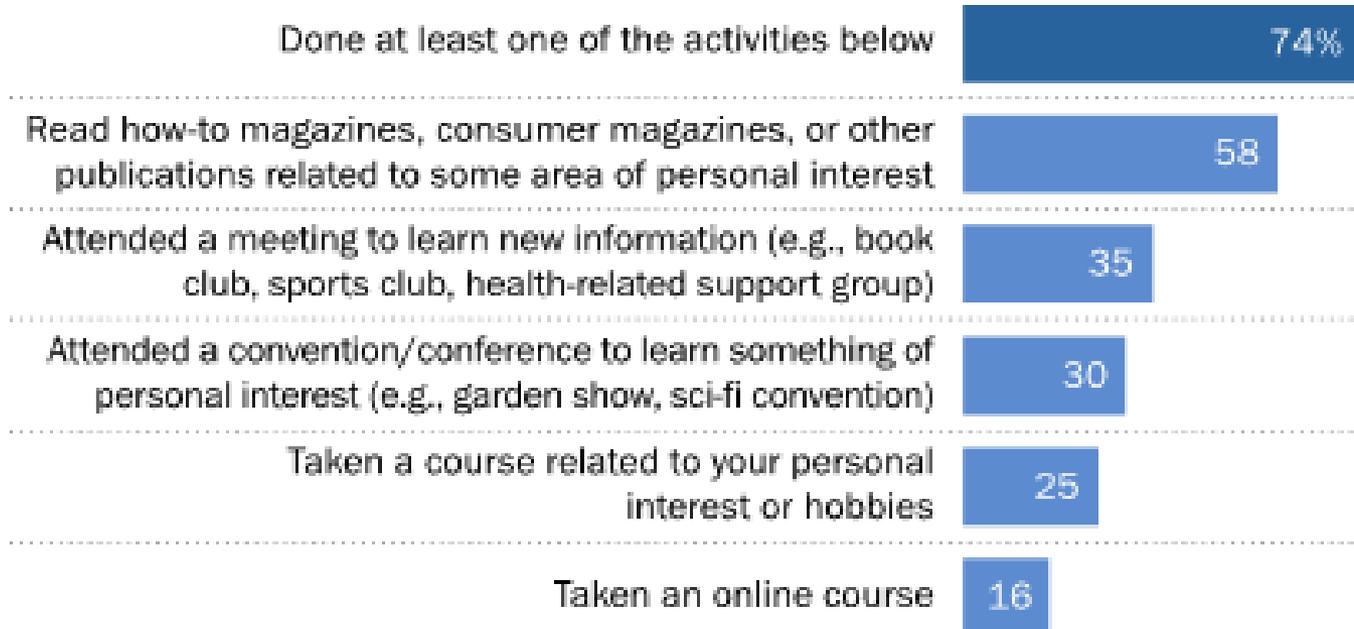


Lifelong Learners

Majorities of Americans seek out learning activities in their personal and work lives

PERSONAL LEARNERS: 74% of adults

Percent of adults who say that in the past 12 months they have ...

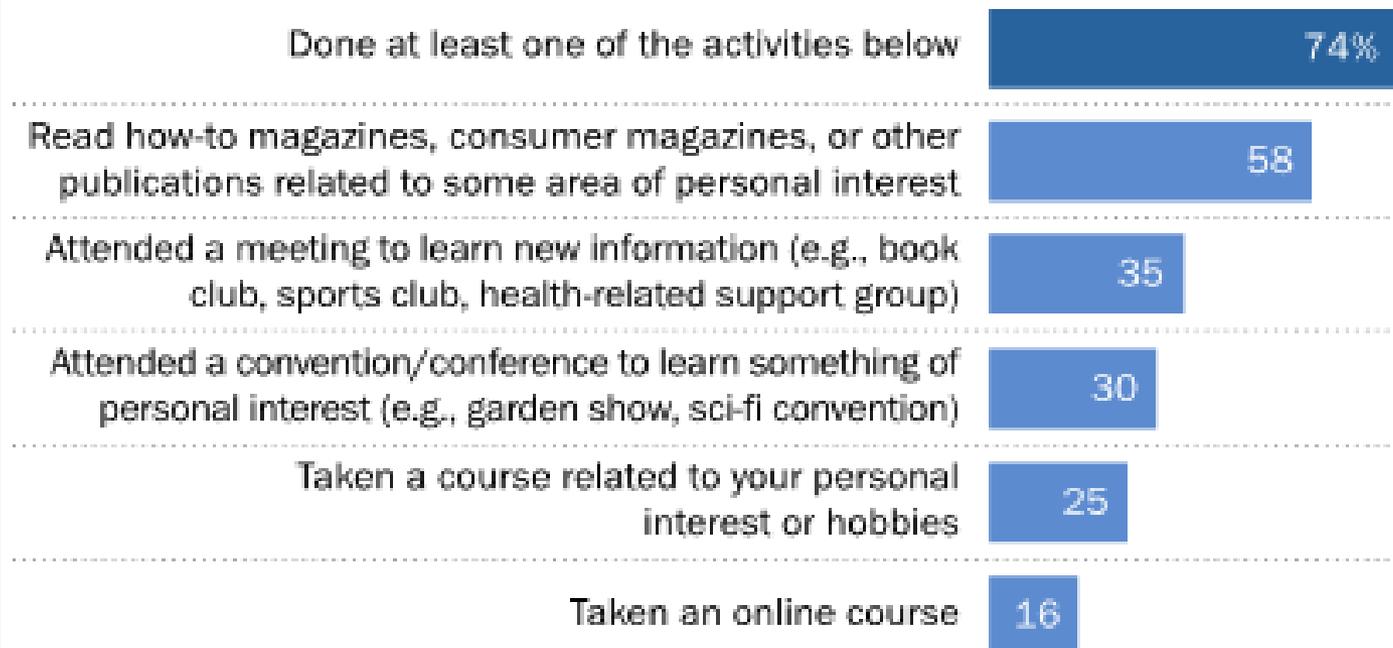


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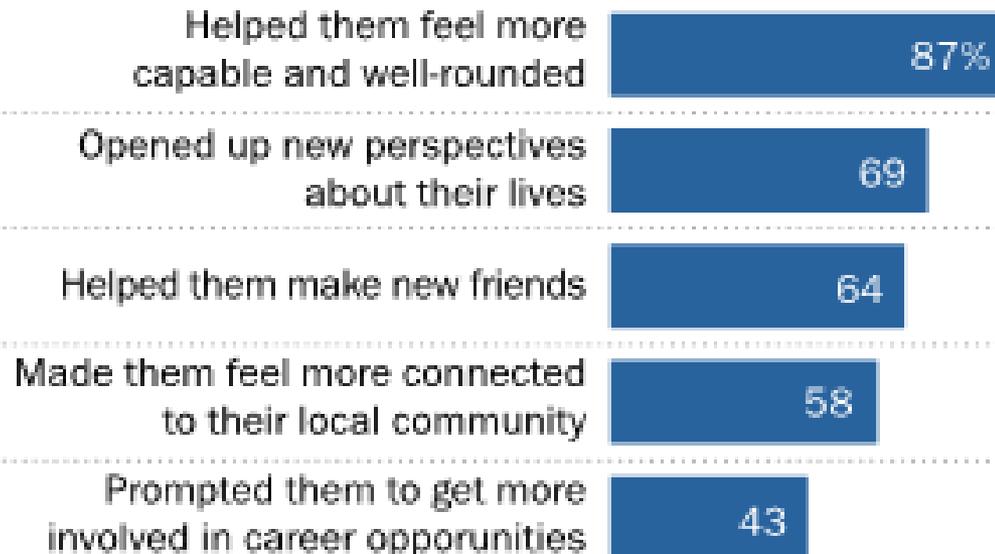


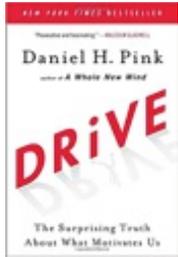
Lifelong Learners

Recent educational experiences have paid off in key ways for some learners

PERSONAL LEARNERS

Among adults who pursued personal learning activities, percent who say their learning ...





Motivation 3.0

Motivation 3.0 presumes that humans have a third drive—to learn, to create, and to better the world. Motivation 3.0 has three essential elements.

- ✦ **Autonomy:** the desire to direct our own lives with autonomy over task (what they do), time (when they do it), team (who they do it with), and technique (how they do it).
- ✦ **Mastery:** the urge to get better and better at something that matters—to be engaged deliberate practice to produce mastery.
- ✦ **Purpose:** the yearning to do what we do in the service of something larger than ourselves, to seek purpose—a cause greater and more enduring than ourselves.

“The secret to high performance and satisfaction—at work, at school, and at home—is the deeply human need to direct our own lives, to learn and create new things, and to do better by ourselves and our world.” (Daniel Pink)

Adult Motivation

We can identify at least four different orientations for learning:

- ★ a *goal-orientation* in which learning is seen as leading to a change in work or personal status
- ★ an *activity-orientation* in which participants' social interactions are especially valued,
- ★ a *learning-orientation* in which a love of learning underlies the learner's engagement and participation,
- ★ a *spiritual-orientation* in which learners seek new meaning and perceive education as the starting point for thinking in new ways.

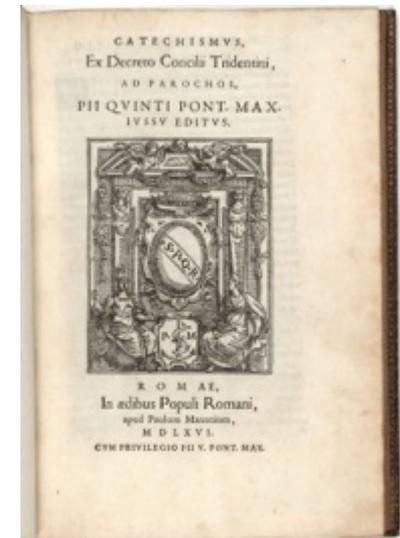
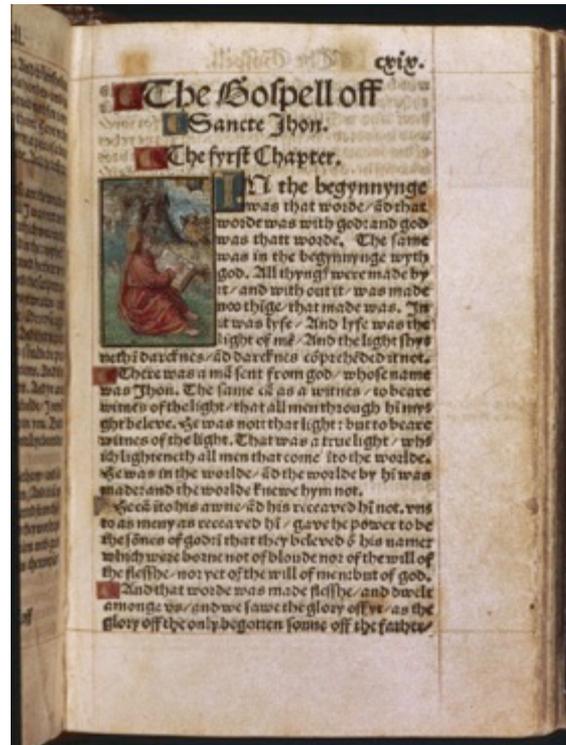
(Schuster and Grant)

Adult Motivation

1. Facing life transitions: learning and support to cope with changes in their lives, e.g., raising children, aging parents, financial matters, job changes, divorce
2. Addressing life-stage needs
3. Experiencing a gap between their present level of understanding, skill, performance and/or growth and their desired level or goal
4. Appealing to personal and spiritual growth
5. Providing personal benefits; making a difference in other's lives
6. Enriching and enjoyable experiences
7. Learning something new or that could not be done before
8. Being together with other people – community and belonging
9. Fitting into busy lives – short duration, multiple times and ways to participate

What new ways of learning and
faith formation is the digital
transformation making possible?

The Print Era (1500s -)



The Multimedia Era (1960s -)



The Digital Era (2000s -)



What is the Digital Transformation Making Possible?

1. Learning and faith formation are now mobile—anytime, anyplace, 24x7. People have the digital devices to stay connected and to access learning and faith formation on the go.
2. There is abundance of high quality digital content for faith formation—audio, video, print, websites, apps, online learning platforms, and more.
3. New digital media and learning methods mean that we can provide multiple ways to learn and grow—activities and experiences that reflect different learning styles and multiple intelligences.

What is the Digital Transformation Making Possible?

4. Digital media and online activities, especially videos, mean that we can develop content in smaller units (micro-learning) that better suit today's learners who have shorter attention spans.
5. A faith formation website can serve as an online learning center, a portal to activities and resources, and a connecting point for people.
6. Online classrooms, like Edmodo, Schoology, and Google Classroom, provide safe spaces for young people, parents, and adult leaders to engage in faith forming experiences and interaction.

Characteristics of 21st Century Learning

1. Blended Learning
2. Micro-Learning
3. Immersive Learning Environments
4. Multiple Ways of Learning
5. Multisensory Learning
6. Project-Based Learning
7. Collaborative Learning
8. Visual Learning
9. Practice-Oriented Learning
10. Storytelling



Part 2. Adults Today

Seasons of Adulthood



Seasons of Adulthood

**Young
Adults**

20s-30s

Millennials

**Midlife
Adults**

**40s-
mid 50s**

Gen Xers

**Mature
Adults**

**mid 50s-
mid 70s**

*Baby
Boomers*

**Older
Adults**

75+

Builders



The Seasons of Adulthood

Seasons of Adulthood

- Young Adults (20s-30s)
 - Millennial Generation
- Midlife Adults (40s-mid 50s)
 - Generation X
- Mature Adults (mid 50s–75)
 - Baby Boom Generation
- Older Adults (75+)
 - Building Generation

Life Issues

1. Physical & Cognitive Changes
2. Developmental Tasks
3. Family Life Cycle
4. Faith Development
5. Spiritual-Religious Identities
6. Generational Characteristics

Generations

iGeneration (2000-

Millennials (1980-99)

Generation X (1961-1979)

Baby Boomers (1946-60)

Builders (before 1946)

- ▶ Relationship to Institutions
- ▶ Relationship to Authority
- ▶ Family Relationships
- ▶ Work-Life Balance
- ▶ Communication Style
- ▶ Technology Usage
- ▶ Learning Style
- ▶ Spiritual Expression
- ▶ Worship Style

Spiritual Religious Identities



Young Adults (20s-30s)



Young Adults

1. Exploring identity: trying out various possibilities, especially in love and work, developing an individual sense of autonomy, and stabilizing a self-concept and body image
2. “Tinkering” —putting together a life from the skills, ideas, and resources that are readily at hand
3. Developing and maintaining intimate relationships with trust, love, and caring
4. Transitioning from their family of origin toward establishing independence in living arrangement, finances, career, and other aspects of their lives

Young Adults

5. Differentiating self without repudiating or replacing their family of origin—sorting out emotionally what they take from their family of origin, what they leave behind, and what they will create for themselves
6. Developing a career and occupational identity and working to establish a work-life balance.
7. Adjusting to the expectations and responsibilities of the “adult” world
8. Committing to a marital partner, defining and learning the roles of married life
9. Starting families and having children; establishing a new family with its own rules, roles, responsibilities, values, and traditions, and developing parenting roles and skills



Young Adult Faith (and beyond)

Individuative-Reflective faith:

- internal locus of authority predominates
- making sense of the particular narrative of their own experience
- engaging in critical reflection on (inherited) faith/beliefs (Does this work for me? What really matters?)
- questioning faith (tradition) and if the Christian faith has depth that holds up to questions
- expressing faith in their own way and seeking a community that embraces them; reinvent faith
- discovering vocation

Midlife Adults (40s – mid 50s)



Midlife Adults

1. Exploring how the self is adjusted in the context of committed family, work, and civic relationships and to the roles of parents, colleagues, leaders, team members, and more.
2. Anchoring themselves in a particular way of life filled with commitments and relationships
3. Engaging in family life and parenting children and adolescents (and sometimes young adults); working to allow for the increasing independence of adolescents while maintaining enough structure to foster continued family development
4. Maintaining intimate relationships with other adults while developing the capacity for new kinds of relationships with those younger and older than themselves.

Midlife Adults

5. Caring and guiding the next generation and often caring for the older generation
6. Building extensive personal networks for themselves and their families—around their families, coworkers, churches, and other organizations, supplemented by digital social networks
7. Reflecting on “What are we spending and being spent for? What commands and receives our best time and energy? What causes, dreams, goals, or institutions are pouring out our life for? To what or whom are we committed in life and in death? What are our most sacred hopes, our most compelling goals, and purposes in life?”
8. Evaluating their lives at its midpoint.

Midlife Adult Faith (and beyond)

Many still in Synthetic Conventional and Individuative-Reflective faith styles

Conjunctive Faith:

- embracing and integration of opposites or polarities
- authority of faith is internal
- renewed appreciation of the religious rituals and traditions of one's faith of origin, and from other traditions
- coming into the fullness of one's own unique personality and gifts; developing generativity and care
- growing ability to look beyond the pressures of the present moment toward an appreciation of the deeper meanings symbolized in religious traditions

Mature Adults (mid 50s – mid 70s)



Mature Adults

1. Addressing the challenge of generativity (or its failure, stagnation)—establishing and guiding the next generation, striving to create or nurture things that will outlast them through caring for others, and making the world a better place
2. Addressing the challenge of integrity—reflecting on the life they have lived and coming away with either a sense of fulfillment from a life well lived or a sense of regret and despair
3. Experiencing physical changes and decline, coming to terms with the cognitive changes related to a changed perspective on time and a personal, existential awareness of death; seeking to stay physically and mentally fit
4. Thinking about, planning for, and disengaging from their primary career occupations (retirement), launching second career, and developing new identities and ways to be productively engaged

Mature Adults

5. Blending (part-time) work, volunteering and civic engagement, pursuit of new interests, travel, and their role as grandparent into a new lifestyle for the mature adult years
6. Having adequate health care into later life
7. Experiencing changes in the marital relationship now that parenting responsibilities are minimal, developing adult-to-adult relationships between grown children and their parents, becoming grandparents, realigning relationships to include in-laws and grandchildren, and caring for the older generation and dealing with disabilities and death.

Mature Adult Faith

8. Moving to the very core of their faith tradition, while appreciating other religious traditions; seeking a self-reflective quest for individual wholeness, a search for depth and meaning, as well as guidance for living one's life; recognizing that spirituality must be cultivated through sustained practice
9. Seeking to be in service to others that can make a difference; doing things that give their lives purpose, meaning, and fulfillment
10. Seeking spiritual growth in a time of significant life transitions and in a time when they are searching for meaning and purpose in life as they enter the second half of life; evaluating the things that really provide lasting fulfillment; connecting with others to talk about spiritual life
11. Seeking intergenerational relationships to share their lives, stories, and faith across generations, be united with the faith community

Older Adults (75+)



Older Adults

1. Remaining vital and actively engaged in the lives of their community, church, social network, and family well into their 80s and 90s
2. Experiencing changes in their body and a decline in mental and physical ability, such as a loss of hearing or vision or dexterity
3. Continuing to learn and process new information
4. Addressing the challenge of integrity—reflecting on the life they have lived and coming away with either a sense of fulfillment from a life well lived or a sense of regret and despair. They are cultivating wisdom in which one's perspective on the world and human relationships reflect an inner sense of liberation from the rules, roles, and rituals of the past.

Older Adults

5. Taking on new roles as senior citizens and adjusting to the role of mentor and sage in their extended family
6. Experiencing losses of friends and loved ones: death of a spouse, family members, and close friends
7. Facing the growing and continuous challenge of maintaining their independence and desiring to stay in their own homes (“aging in place”) or coming to accept being cared for by their family and moving from their own home into other living arrangements (with their children or in senior living or assisted living situations)
8. Becoming reconciled to their impending death and accepting their personal mortality; dealing with questions coming from the nearness of death: How do we want to die?

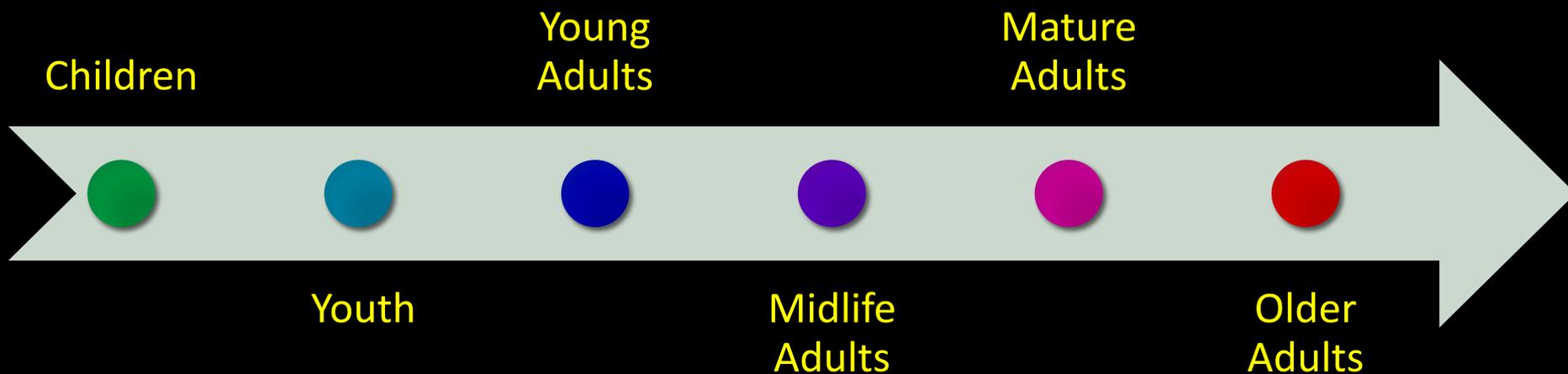
Older Adult Faith

9. Growing into a deeper, more personal faith that is clearly their own and desire ways to continually enrich their faith life
10. Developing integrity—finding life coherent and meaningful in one's later years
11. Finding faith in the face of failing health, death of loved ones, regrets, and financial insecurity
12. Being engaged in the life of faith communities with a more traditional worship experience
13. Valuing the Bible and the Christian tradition and desiring to continue their learning as Christians

Part 3. Adult Faith Formation Today



Focus on Maturing in Faith: *Toward What Ends Are We Working*



Maturing in Faith

The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ. Starting with the "initial" conversion of a person to the Lord, moved by the Holy Spirit through the primary proclamation of the Gospel, catechesis seeks to solidify and mature this first adherence. It proposes to help those who have just converted "to know better this Jesus to whom he has entrusted himself: to know his 'mystery', the kingdom of God proclaimed by him, the requirements and comments contained in his Gospel message, and the paths that he has laid down for anyone who wishes to follow him."

(Roman Catholic, *General Directory for Catechesis*, 80)

Maturing in Faith

- ★ ***A way of the head (inform)*** demands a discipleship of faith seeking understanding and belief with personal conviction, sustained by study, reflecting, discerning and deciding, all toward spiritual wisdom for life.
- ★ ***A way of the heart (form)*** demands a discipleship of right relationships and right desires, community building, hospitality and inclusion, trust in God's love, and prayer and worship.
- ★ ***A way of the hands (transform)*** demands a discipleship of love, justice, peace-making, simplicity, integrity, healing, and repentance.

(Thomas Groome)

Maturing in Faith

We need to focus faith formation on the essential characteristics of lifelong growth in Christian faith and discipleship. These characteristics would incorporate:

- ✦ knowing and believing
- ✦ relating and belonging
- ✦ practicing and living

With a lifelong vision of maturing faith we could address each characteristic in developmentally-appropriate ways at each stage of life.

Characteristics

1. Developing and sustaining a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ
2. Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making the Christian faith a way of life
3. Reading and studying the Bible—its message, meaning, and application to life today
4. Learning the Christian story and foundational teachings of the Christian faith (Trinity, Jesus, creed, morality and ethics) and integrating its meaning into ones life
5. Praying—together and by ourselves, and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines

Characteristics

6. Living with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics and values
7. Living the Christian mission in the world—serving those in need, caring for God’s creation, and acting and advocating for justice and peace.
8. Worshipping God with the community at Sunday worship, ritual celebrations, and the seasons of the church year
9. Being actively engaged in the life, ministries, and activities of the faith community
10. Practicing faith in Jesus Christ by using one’s gifts and talents within the Christian community and in the world

Developing a Faith Formation Plan

Faith Maturing Characteristic	Children	Youth	Young Adults	Adults	Family
	Intergenerational	Intergenerational	Intergenerational	Intergenerational	Intergenerational
1.					
	Family	Family	Family	Family	Family
2.					
	Age Group				
3.					

Multiple Ways to Foster Faith Maturing



Features of 21st Century Adult Faith Formation

1. Address diverse life tasks and situations for each season: young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults
2. Address diverse religious-spiritual identities: vibrants, occasionals, spirituals, unaffiliateds
3. Focus on person-centered, not content- or program-centered
4. Provide a variety of content, methods, formats, etc. targeted and tailored to specific adults
5. Build on adult motivation
6. Personalize and customized faith formation
7. Use digital enabled and connected strategies
8. Nurture communities of learning and practice
9. Design networks of rich content and experiences on digital platforms
10. Become a curator of adult faith formation content & experiences

Part 4. Developing 21st Century Adult Faith Formation



Personalizing Faith Formation

*Adult faith formation provides the opportunity for **personalized and customized** learning and faith growth, giving adults an active role in shaping their own learning and moving along their own personal trajectories of faith growth. Personalizing faith formation is tailoring learning around each adult's strengths, needs and interests—including enabling choice in what, how, when and where people learn (grow in faith and discipleship).*

Spiritual Religious Identities



Two Ways to Approach Personalizing

Approach One: Personalize the Pathway for People

- ✦ Develop pathways of faith maturing
- ✦ Develop playlists of content and experiences tailored to the pathways
- ✦ Upload playlists to a digital platform

Approach Two: Personalize the Offerings

- ✦ Offer a variety of content, experiences, and activities tailored to different spiritual-religious identities and the life stage needs of people

Getting Started ---- Growing ---- Going Deeper

- ✦ Format the content tailored to different spiritual-religious identities
- ✦ Develop a digital platform with content to address the needs

Personalized Faith Pathways



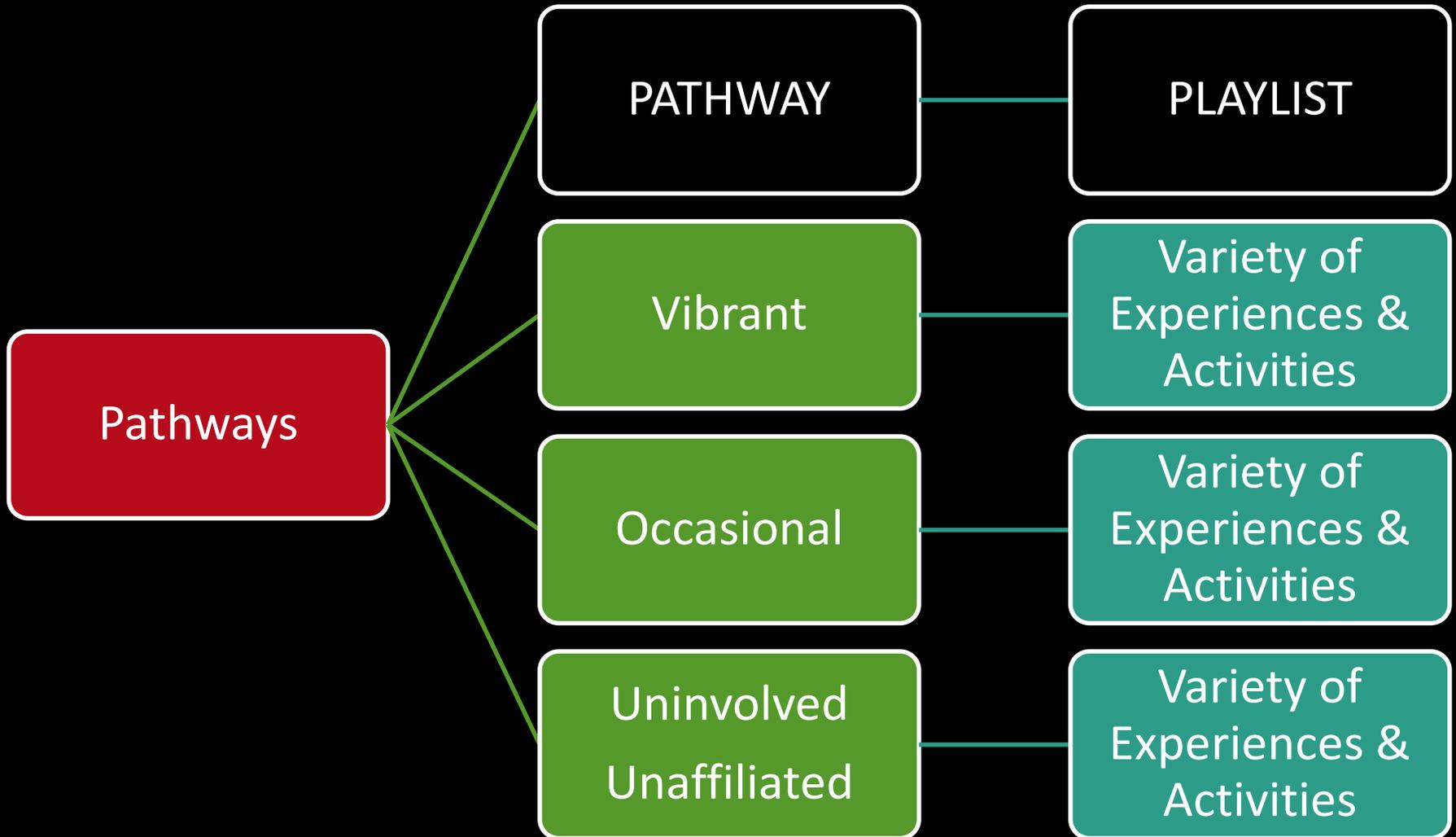
A Pathways Model

- **A Pathway is a process** for helping people discern where they are in their faith journey and to chart a path for faith growth—to get from where they are to a closer relationship with Jesus and a deeper practice of the Christian faith.
- **A Pathway is life-centered**, reaching into every area of a person's life.
- **A Pathway is holistic** incorporating the whole person: head, heart, and hands.
- **A Pathway focuses on faith maturing.**

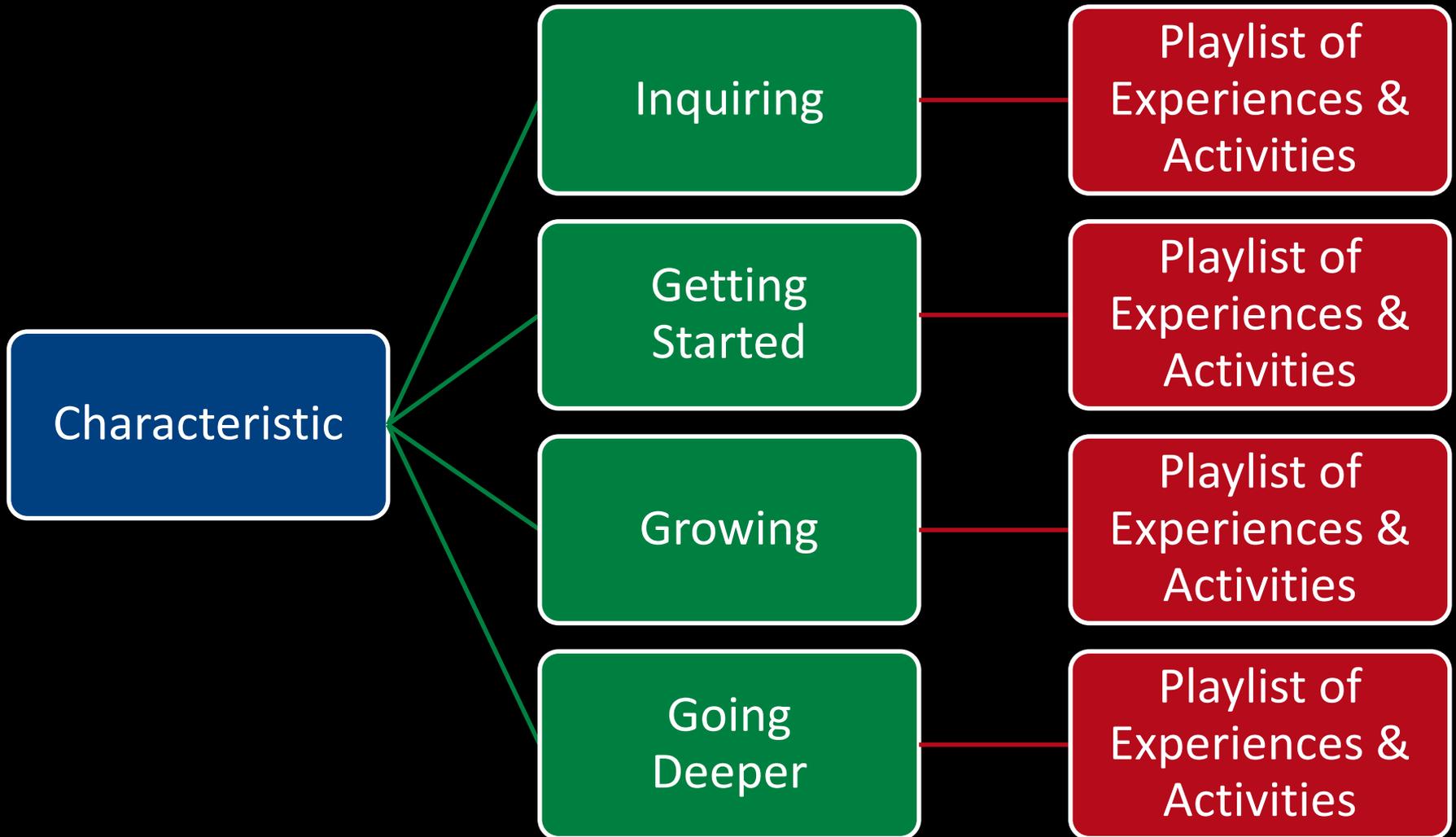
Designing a Pathways Model

1. Identify a target audience(s)
2. Describe their life stage & religious-spiritual characteristics.
3. Identify how/where you will use the Pathways model
 - Sacraments/milestones
 - RCIA, evangelization, and new member processes
 - Gathered adult faith formation programming
 - Affinity groups
 - On-ramps where people might start the discipleship journey
4. Develop the content for the Pathways
5. Develop a ‘discernment continuum” that gives people a way to reflect on their current growth

Personalized Pathways of Faith Growth



Personalized Pathways of Faith Growth



Connecting with God		Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
		Personal Spiritual Practices	I am learning about daily devotions and praying to find those that I want to practice. I read the Bible from time to time.	I am practicing some spiritual devotions occasionally, including reading from the Bible. I am learning about STER (Scripture, Tradition, Experience, Reason)	I am using spiritual devotions regularly. I also use other resources to understand the Bible at times. I use STER to make decisions.
In Community		I attend worship at least once a month. I say the Lord's Prayer during worship, grace before meals and prayers in the morning and/or at bedtime.	I attend worship on Sunday mornings at least twice a month. I participate in Central Connect Groups (faith formation opportunities).	I participate in worship every week unless sick or out of town. I share Biblical and/or Christian stories with my family/friends.	I provide worship leadership and/or other service on Sundays. I help organize Central Connect Groups (faith formation opportunities).
		Connecting with Others		Planting	Nurturing
Individually	I aim to accept others, including those whose color, status, etc. are different from mine.	I go out of my way to be hospitable to members and guests in our church.	I listen and try to help others with their spiritual questions, joys, and concerns. I share my faith through personal testimony/story.	I invite others to worship and church events. I share my faith with others through invitation and witness.	
In Community	I attend seasonal events or special events. I am learning about ministry opportunities.	I participate in a Central Connect Group for fellowship or faith formation. I attend or serve at events.	I provide leadership for special events. I am open to being trained in church leadership.	I am a leader in a Central Connect Group. I am open to training others for leadership in church administration, education, etc.	

Changing Our World with Christ's Love

In Community (Evangelism, Mission Trips, Service Projects, Social Action)	Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
	Generosity of Time, Talents, and/or Financial Gifts (TTFG)	I like to hear how my church meets the needs in the community. I like to hear stories from others about how they have been changed by either giving or receiving. I contribute with some Sunday offerings, at Christmas and Easter.	I commit to share my TTFG regularly. I help a neighbor or a charity with my TTFG occasionally. I can share a story about my TTFG.	I make an annual commitment and give in proportion to my income. I share my TTFG regularly. I am a member of a church committee or team.
	I learn from the church about caring for others in the community. I help in the community in the fields of arts, academics, athletics, politics, charity, etc. I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith in my work world.	I participate in community service through church ministries occasionally. I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith to local and political issues.	I participate in community service through church ministries regularly. I invite others to try a variety of serving opportunities outside the church. I assist the church to advocate for peace and justice for all.	I participate in ongoing service beyond the walls of the church. I recruit and equip leaders for ministries and missions. I participate in a community peace and justice group.

Faith Growth Pathway

Central United Methodist Church
Waterford, MI

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Kathy Pittenger
Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation
kpittenger@waterfordcumc.org
248.681.0040

spiritual assessment

knowing God

	DOES NOT APPLY	APPLIES SOMEWHAT	APPLIES COMPLETELY
1. I understand the essential beliefs of the Christian faith, and feel confident that I could explain them to a non-religious friend.	0	1	2 3 4 5
2. I have a good knowledge of the Bible, including its major events and themes, and I know how to read it for maximum understanding.	0	1	2 3 4 5
3. If someone were to ask me, "What do United Methodists believe?" I feel confident in my ability to answer them.	0	1	2 3 4 5
4. I understand basic Christian ethics, and I know how to draw upon my faith to come to conclusions about important moral and ethical issues.	0	1	2 3 4 5
5. I have a good understanding of God's will for human beings, and I know how to discern his will for my life in particular.	0	1	2 3 4 5

loving God

1. I know God has the power to transform lives and I'm open and responsive to whatever that may lead in my life.	0	1	2 3 4 5
2. I lay aside my own desires and sense of importance and submit to God's will for my life.	0	1	2 3 4 5
3. As a means of growing in Christ, I prayerfully practice various spiritual disciplines in my life.	0	1	2 3 4 5
4. I am experiencing "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22) in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.	0	1	2 3 4 5
5. I have a group of friends who grow in faith together and challenge each other to grow deeper in Christ.	0	1	2 3 4 5

serving God

1. I invest time in building my relationships with God and with others.	0	1	2 3 4 5
2. I know my God-given spiritual gifts, and am actively serving Christ by using those gifts.	0	1	2 3 4 5
3. I give back to Christ by giving to the church and to others in proportion to my income, with at least 10% as my goal.	0	1	2 3 4 5
4. I spend time serving in God's world by helping meet critical needs and showing what it means to follow Jesus Christ.	0	1	2 3 4 5
5. I am actively nurturing the spiritual lives of others, sharing my faith story, offering spiritual encouragement and leading others to Christ.	0	1	2 3 4 5

Place your self-assessment number for each question below and add across, giving you an overall total.

Knowing: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ Total Head _____

Loving: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ Total Heart _____

Serving: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ Total Hands _____

■ No one can concentrate on too many things at once. Look first at the individual questions, and then turn to the inside of this folder to consider next steps. Seek to find one or more areas in which you can grow in your relationship with God. Use the following scale as a general guide to the three levels:

0-2 Level 1 3-4 Level 2 5 Level 3

Knowing God

We can never fully understand God (if we could, we wouldn't have much of a God!). But the mysteries and questions are not obstacles to growth – they are an invitation to continually journey deeper in our understanding of God and the Kingdom to which he invites us. As we increase our understanding of the God we worship and serve, which is what the word "theology" means, we increase our capacity to live the life God designed us to live. Calendar items and volunteer opportunities marked with the knowing designation will lead you to a deeper understanding of the mysteries of the kingdom.

Loving God

What we think and what we do are expressions of who we are. Trying hard to change ourselves is a losing proposition – but when we're traveling with God and letting God work in our lives, we find that transformation becomes a beautiful reality! When you see a calendar item or volunteer opportunity marked with the loving designation, it means that participation will draw you into a deeper level of love for God and neighbor.

Serving God

The Christian life is about more than correct thoughts and a loving attitude, it's about living our calling to be salt and light in the world. This means doing the work of the kingdom. Calendar items and volunteer opportunities marked with the serving designation will help you get your hands dirty for the kingdom. These include mission opportunities, volunteering and much more.

Take the next step today.

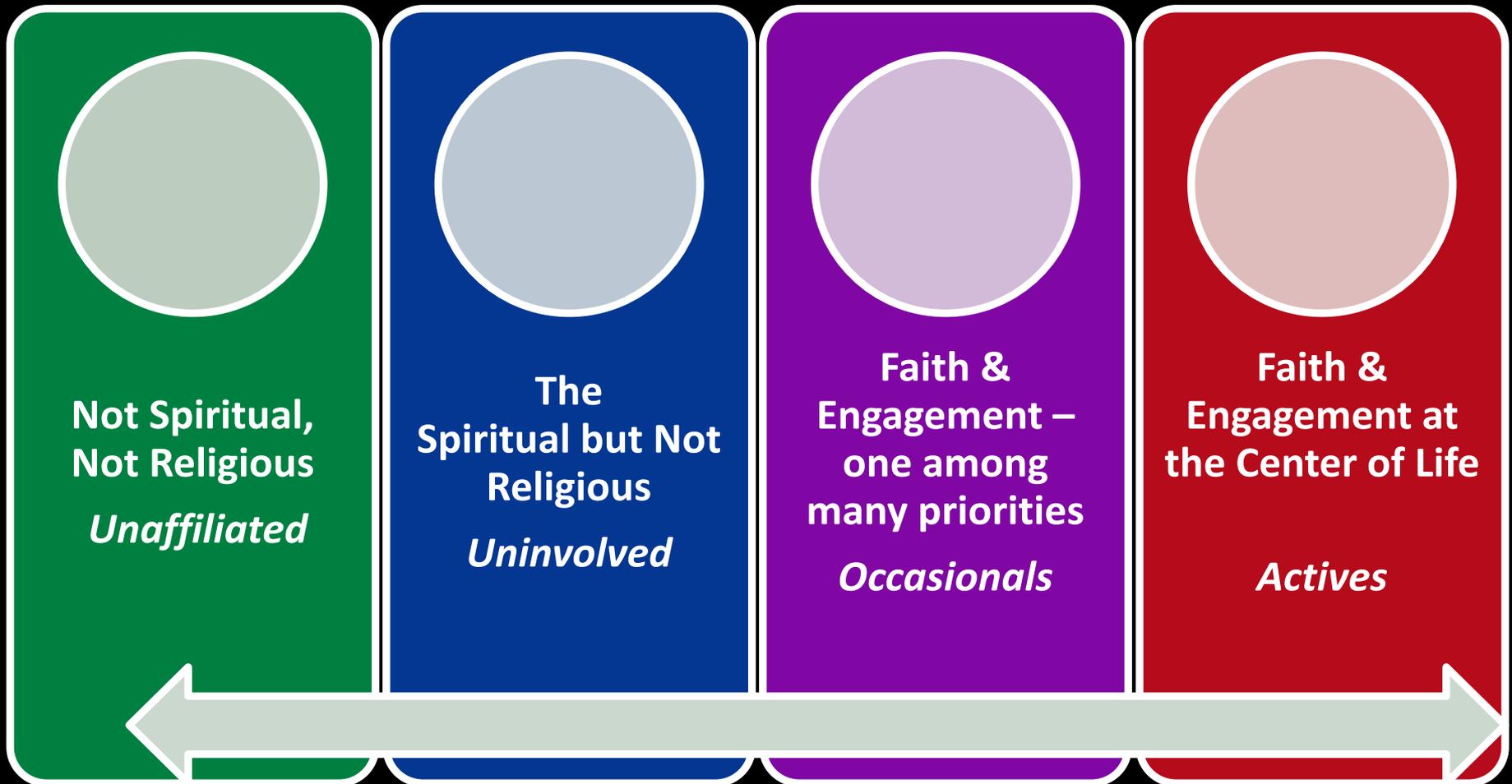
Visit www.cor.org/nextsteps or the Connection Point in the Narthex to view a detailed listing of classes and service opportunities and to register.

Discipleship Pathway Self-Assessment

Note: These are not rigid categories but general ideas of where you are currently in relationship with Jesus. Use them to identify what your next steps can be.

		Exploring	Getting Started	Going Deeper	Centering
Deeply Rooted	Relating to God	Acquaintances	Friends	Good Friends	Intimate Friends
	Prayer and Meditation	Sometimes I pray (ex: at the beginning or end of the day, or at meals).	I pray for the needs of others in my life, community and around the world. I reflect on my day, and confess struggles to God.	I set aside intentional time each day to pray and learn new methods of prayer. I have a prayer partner/group to encourage to me.	I continue to increase my prayer life by learning practicing contemplative prayer and fasting. I spend time in silence and solitude each day. I lead others in prayer.
	Scripture Reflection	I occasionally read the Bible for knowledge and understanding.	I read the Bible for knowledge and understanding, and also listen to how God speaks to me through Scripture.	I spend time each day reading and reflecting on Scripture to listen for God speaking to me. I study scripture with others.	I am exploring new ways to read and study the Bible. I read Scripture and write personal reflections as I listen to God.
Branching Out	Corporate Worship	I attend worship when a friend invites me, it is convenient, or I feel a need.	I attend worship once or twice a month and realize that God is present with me every day.	I participate in worship regularly and set aside time to connect with God daily.	I live my life increasingly aware of God's presence and seek to please God in all I do. I lead worship.
	Small Group Community	I am loosely connected to or interested in a class or other group.	I regularly attend a GIG or other small group.	I am involved and interconnected with my group. The group is an important part of my spiritual practice.	I lead my group by being present with them mentally and spiritually. I am learning to be honest with this trusted group.
Bearing Fruit	Gift-based Service	I occasionally volunteer or would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities.	I have taken a spiritual gifts survey to identify my gifts. I regularly help do God's work.	I am using my spiritual gifts to make God's love real in the world.	I am actively pursuing ways to sharpen my gifts (practice, studies, classes, etc.) even if it takes me outside my comfort zone.
	Financial Generosity	I thank God for providing for my needs. I occasionally give a monetary offering and consider it a response to God's love and provision in my life.	I budget money to give to God's work. When I hear about critical needs, I give.	I've committed to move toward a tithe (10% of income). I have studied finances from a spiritual perspective and consider how I spend my income because all I have belongs to God.	I give 10% of all income to God's work and respond with more when prompted to do so. I consider how all assets can be used by God. I've provided for a portion of my estate to go to God's work. I'm beginning to live a life defined by generosity as I'm led by God.
	Invitational Evangelism	I admire others who can talk about their faith and am exploring questions in my own faith.	I am finding and making friends and am willing to accept others as they are. I invite others to church.	I am actively trying to relate more to people outside of the church in ways that reflect God's love and acceptance of them. I share my faith.	I intentionally seek to build relationships with people in order to share God's love. I mentor others on their faith journey.

Spiritual Religious Identities



Designing Steps 1 & 2

Target Audience & Description

- Surveys
 - Focus Groups
 - Interviews
 - Research
 - Reviews
- Sample Themes – Mature Adults**
1. Dealing with retirement
 2. Making life plans, finances, health
 3. Becoming a grandparent
 4. Making a difference in the community and world
 5. Incorporating family changes and transitions
 6. New ways of living and relating as a married couple
 7. Caring for aging parents
 8. Taking time to read the Bible and learn more about my faith
 9. Growing spiritually and exploring spirituality for the 2nd half of life
 10. Connecting with people my age; talking about things that matter to us
 11. Dealing with loss

Designing Step 3 - How & Where

Identify how/where you will use the Pathways model

1. Sacraments/milestones: Marriage, Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, beginning church faith formation, etc.
2. RCIA, evangelization, and new member processes
3. Gathered faith formation events and programming
4. Parenting meetings
5. Small groups: affinity groups, interest groups, Bible study groups,
6. On-ramps where people in your church might start the discipleship journey

Designing Step 4 – Characteristics

Develop the characteristics of faith growth you want to use in your Pathways model. For example:

1. Option 1. Use characteristics of faith growth specific to the life stage (such as family faith practices) or the content of the event (such as preparing for confirmation)
2. Option 2. Use characteristics of maturing faith

Key Characteristics of Maturing Faith

1. Developing and sustaining a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ
2. Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making the Christian faith a way of life
3. Reading and studying the Bible—its message, meaning, and application to life today
4. Learning the Christian story and foundational teachings of the Christian faith and integrating its meaning into one's life
5. Praying—together and by ourselves, and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines
6. Living with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics and values
7. Living the Christian mission in the world—serving those in need, caring for God's creation, and acting and advocating for justice and peace.
8. Worshipping God with the community at Sunday worship, ritual celebrations, and the seasons of the church year
9. Being actively engaged in the life, ministries, and activities of the faith community
10. Practicing faith in Jesus Christ by using one's gifts and talents within the Christian community and in the world

Adult Faith Growth Pathway

We believe that growth in our relationship with God and in following Jesus (discipleship) is a lifelong process. We are constantly trying to grow deeper in our relationship with God and in living the Christian way of life each day. Our church is committed to helping you grow wherever you may be in your faith journey. We are committed to helping you live the Christian way of life everyday.

To help you discover areas for growth and to help us serve you better, please take a few minutes to complete the Adult Faith Growth Pathway. It will help you identify strengths and areas of growth in your own life. Use these statements to assess where you are honestly and prayerfully. Rate “How true each statement is for you” using the rating scale: 1 = Rarely true of me, 2 = Sometimes true of me, 3 = Occasionally true of me, 4 = Almost always true of me, 5 = Always true of me.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. I am growing in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. My faith shapes how I think and act each and every day. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. I make the Christian faith a way of life by integrating my beliefs into the conversation, decisions, and actions of daily life. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 4. I am aware of God present and active in my own life, the lives of others, and the life of the world. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. I have a real sense that God is guiding me. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 6. I seek spiritual growth by actively pursuing questions of faith, learning what it means to believe in God, and what it's like to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 7. I devote time to reading and studying the Bible. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 8. I use the Bible to discover how I should think and act. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 9. I pray to God and take quiet time to reflect and listen to God. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 10. I am growing spiritually through spiritual practices such as contemplation, <i>lectio divina</i> , praying Scripture, daily Examen (reflection), and meditation. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 11. I can articulate the fundamental teachings of the Christian faith. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 12. I am growing in my understanding of the Christian faith—beliefs, traditions, and practices. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 13. I exercise moral responsibility by applying Christian ethics, virtues, and values to making moral decisions. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 14. My faith helps me know right from wrong. | |
| 15. I live a life of service by caring for others and reaching out those in need. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 16. I am involved in ways to promote social justice and address injustice in the world. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 17. I am involved in actions to care for creation. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 18. I share the Good News of Jesus through my words and actions. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 19. I participate actively and regularly in the worship life of the church community. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 20. I participate in the life, ministries, and leadership of the church community. | 1 2 3 4 5 |

Ways I Can Grow

- Areas Where I Need to “Get Started” (look at the numbers 1 and 2)
- Areas Where I Need to “Grow” (look at the numbers 2 and 3)
- Areas Where I Want to “Go Deeper” (look at the numbers 4 and 5)

Designing Step 5 – Discernment

Develop a ‘discernment continuum’ that gives people a way to reflect on their current growth

Inquiring--Getting Started--Making Progress--Going Deeper

“How true each statement is for you?”

1 = Rarely true of me

2 = Sometimes true of me,

3 = Occasionally true of me

4 = Almost always true of me

5 = Always true of me.

Approach #2. Personalize the Offerings



The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation

A Network of Adult Faith Formation Experiences, Programs, Activities, & Resources

Personalize the Offerings

Playlists Tailored to Different Faith Needs

Playlist:

Reading & Studying the Bible

Getting Started

- Participate in the “Welcome to the Bible” program at church
- Watch the video programs on how to read the Bible
- Watch the video program with an overview of the Old Testament and New Testament
- Use the Guide to select a Study Bible and find the Bible online
- Participate in the 30-Day Bible Experience: Reading one Gospel (Matthew, Mark, or Luke)

Growing

- Develop a daily plan for reading the Bible
- Participate in the lectio divina reflection group after Sunday worship
- Learn how to pray with the Bible
- Join a Bible study group (church, home, coffee shop, online)

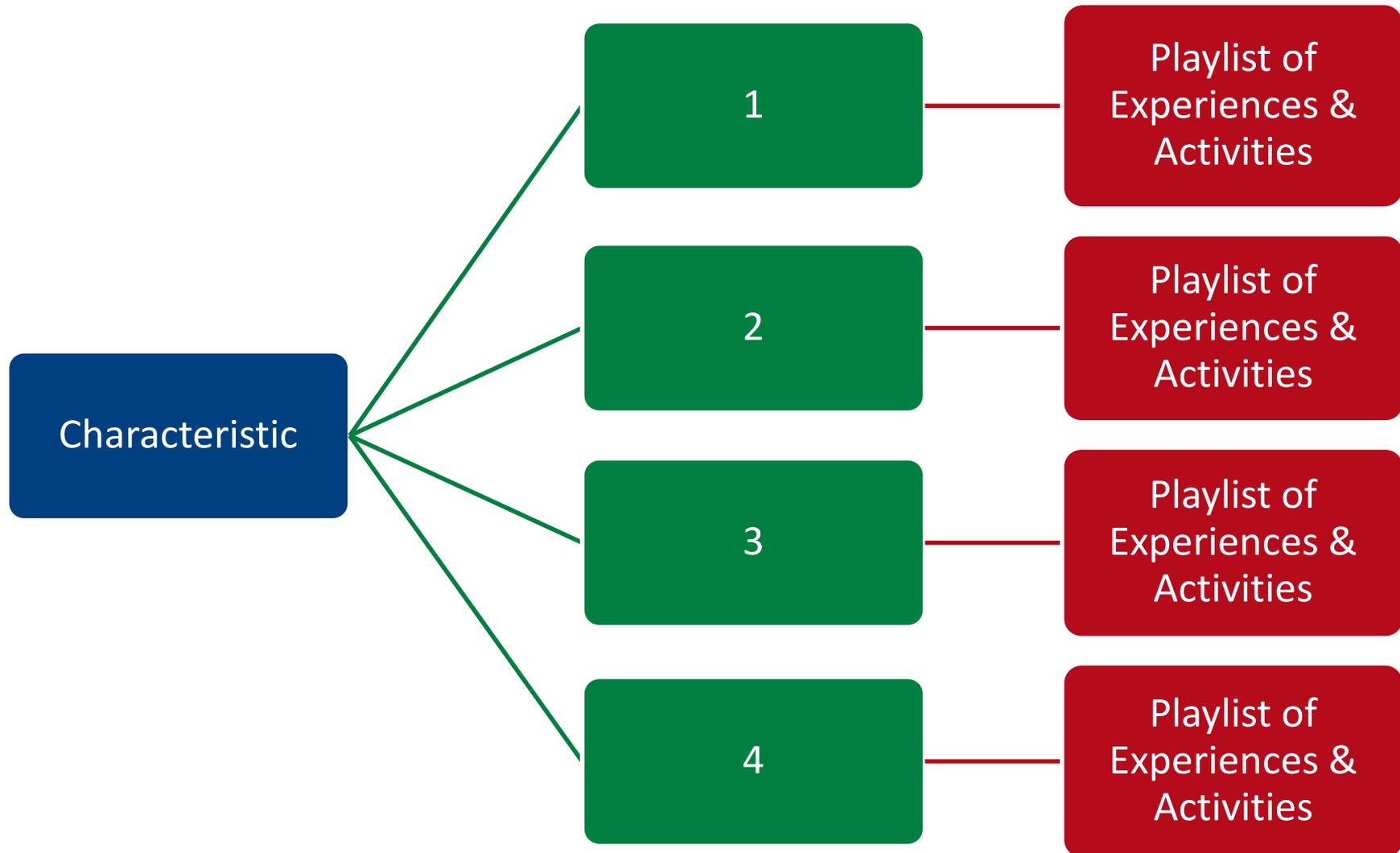
Going Deeper

- Read the Bible in 365 days
- Develop a personal Bible study plan
- Take an online course: Hebrew Scriptures, Gospels, Letters of Paul
- Study and pray the Psalms as a spiritual practice

Playlists for Faith Formation



Personalized Pathways of Faith Growth



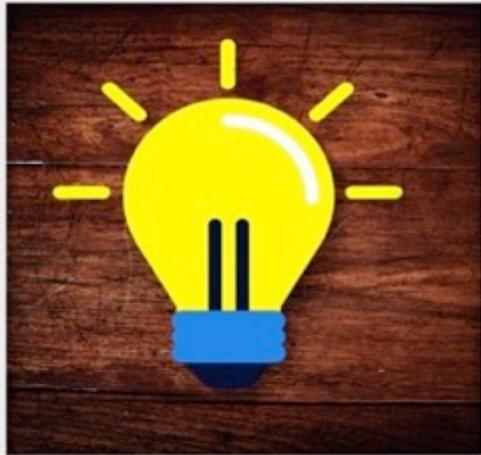
Learning Playlists

- ★ A learning playlist is a curated group of digital and local learning experiences and resources (e.g. videos, websites, books, games, articles, etc.).
- ★ A playlist weaves together these learning experiences into a sequenced pathway centered on a common theme.
- ★ Playlists broaden opportunities to engage in cohesive, interest-driven connected learning experiences that combine a variety of ways to learning: peer settings, family settings, intergenerational settings, community/world settings, and online settings.
- ★ Playlists create a rich network of experiences for learners.

Curating Playlists

- ✦ Books
- ✦ Audio / Podcasts
- ✦ Video and movies
- ✦ Apps and digital programming
- ✦ Website content and activities
- ✦ Courses, programs, workshops at church and online
- ✦ Church life, ministries, and events
- ✦ Small groups at church, home, community settings
- ✦ Art, drama, music
- ✦ Service and action projects, mission trips
- ✦ Retreats
- ✦ Field trips
- ✦ Mentoring

Digital Faith Formation Strategies



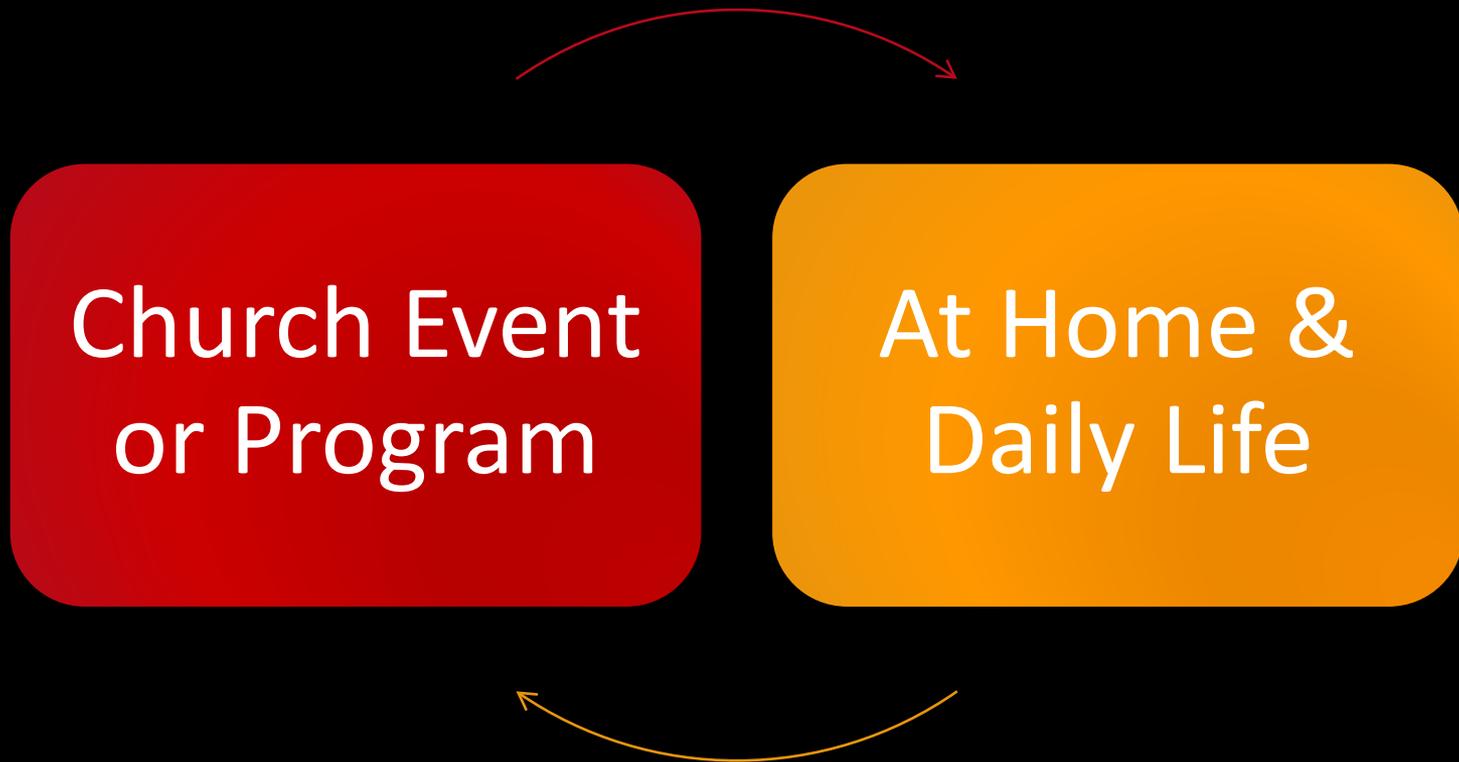
IDEAS



Digital Methods for Faith Formation

1. Extend a church event or program
2. Design one event or program, offer it in multiple platforms
3. Prepare for and follow-up an an event or experience
4. Flip a gathered program
5. Integrate online and gathered
6. Create online only experiences
7. Use webinars, Facebook live, podcasts, etc. to deliver programming directly to people

Extend the Event



Sunday Worship

- Learning
- Praying
- Reading the Bible: Daily Readings
- Living



The Sunday Website
of Saint Louis University

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3rd Sunday of Easter A

April 30, 2017

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LECTIO DIVINA -- SUNDAY, MAY 7TH, 2017

Home » Lectio Divina



ARCHIVES:

SUNDAY, MAY 7TH, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

READING FROM JOHN 10:1-10

Other Readings:
Acts 2:14s, 36-41, 1 Peter 2:20b-25

LECTIO

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

¹ "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber.² But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.³ The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.⁴ When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice.⁵ But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of

AN AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE PRODUCTION

OPENING THE WORD

4th Sunday of Easter
The Good Shepherd



[▶ PLAY](#)

The Five Loaves™

Reflection resources for parishes, faith sharing groups and individuals.



	05-07-17 (4th Easter)
	04-30-17 (3rd Easter)
	Resurrection of the Lord

May 1-7, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Easter

How do you listen to the Good Shepherd's voice? Prayer is the spiritual practice that allows us to listen with the heart. In the busy sounds of everyday life, in difficult times, essential listening requires silence.

Timothy R. Smith's poignant song, *Give Me Ears to Listen*, provides a moment for reflection.

[Subscribe to Between Sundays Free!](#)

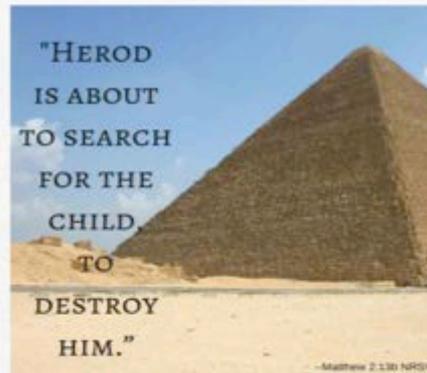
Events The Five Practices Weekly Video for Your Website

Events from The Five Loaves

The Five Practices of Christian Disciples

In Site™
Weekly Gospel Reflection on your parish website

Tri-Saints Lutheran Hardy, NE



"HEROD
IS ABOUT
TO SEARCH
FOR THE
CHILD,
TO
DESTROY
HIM."

—Matthew 2:13 NRSV

Image created on Canva. Photo "pyramids" by mknott on flickr.com CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

The Sunday after Epiphany (transferred): January 14, 2018

This is the LAST week of #jesusbirthatoz
We will celebrate Baptism of Our Lord
next Sunday, January 21, 2018.

Focus Verse

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." (Matthew 2:13 NRSV)

Dig Deeper Devotions: #jesusbirthatoz

Annual Meeting Questions

For Families

For Youth

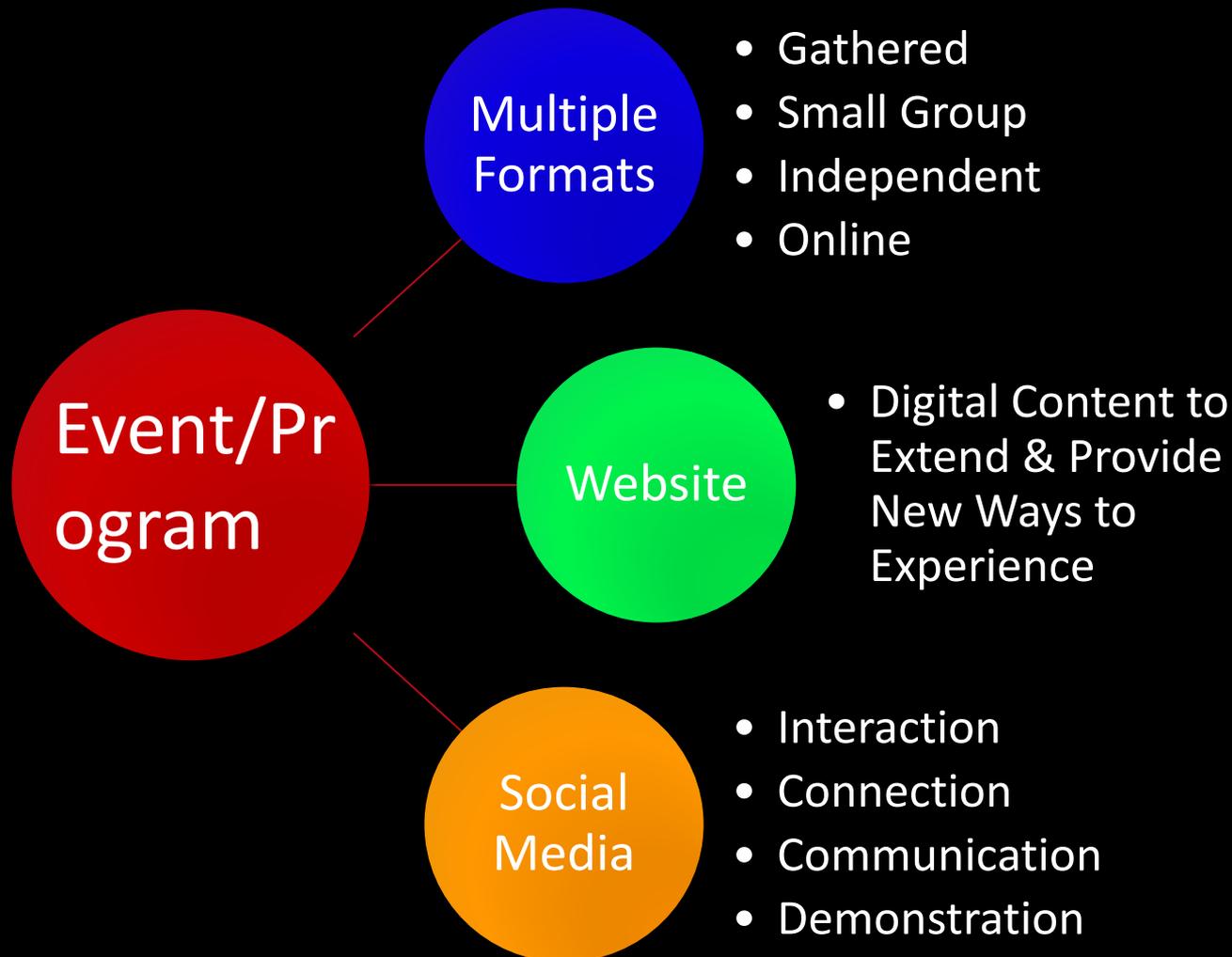
For Adults

See and Hear the Word



Find links to more Christian Education resources for all ages here:

One Event/ Program, Multiple Formats



Build on an Event/Experience

Preparing

- What types of experiences, programming, activities, and resources will you develop to prepare people for the event?

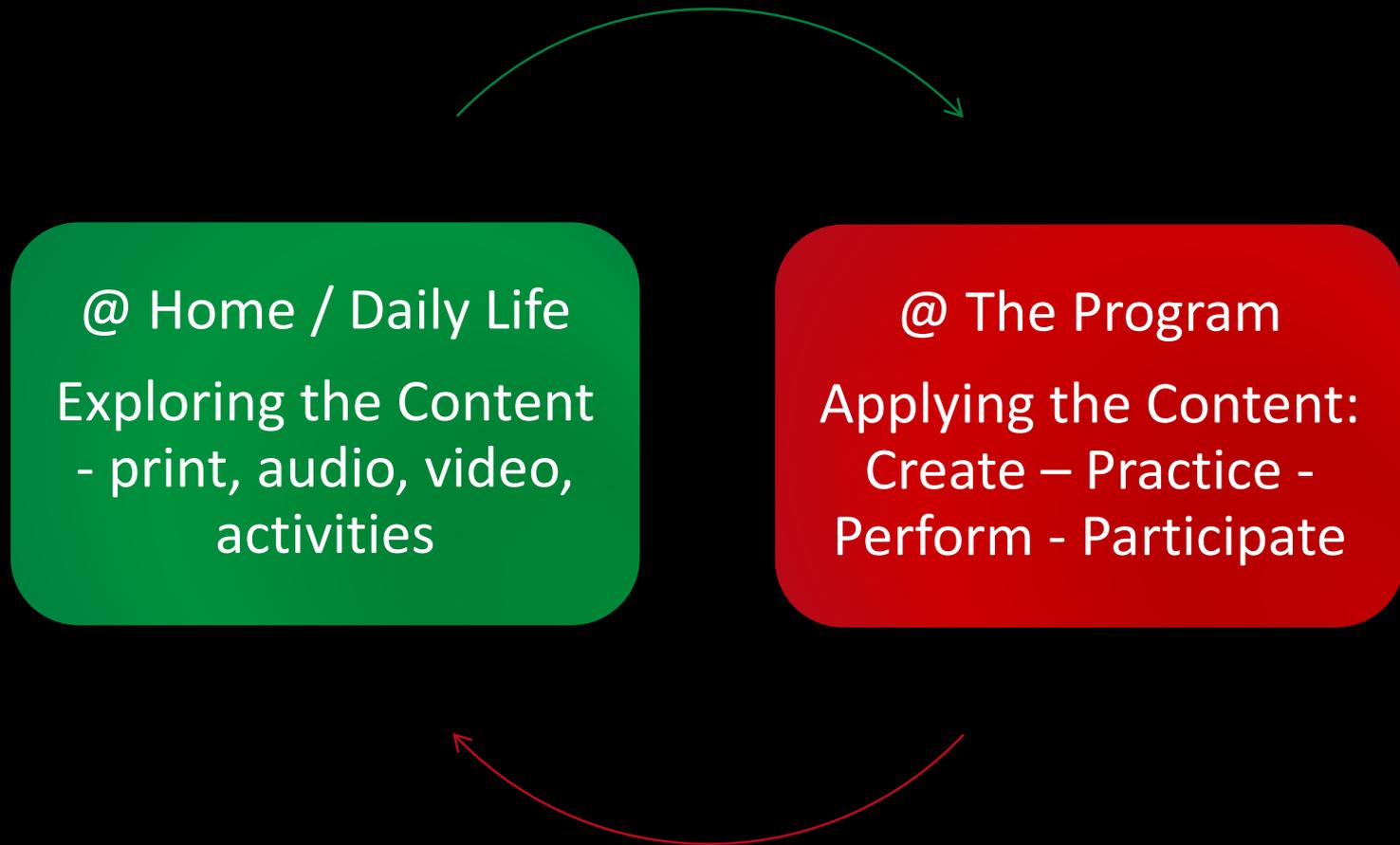
Experiencing

- How will you design the event?
- How will you engage age groups, families, and the faith community?

Living

- How will you sustain/extend the event?
- What types of experiences, programs, activities, and resources will you offer people?

Flip the Model



Christian Initiation & New Member Formation



Flip the Model



HOME PRACTICES E-COURSES FILMS BOOKS ARTS QUOTES BLOGS EXPLORATIONS ABOUT

ON-DEMAND E-COURSES

- Retreats on Classic Practices**
30+ retreats
Step-by-step instructions from well-known spiritual teachers on practices from the world's religions. Emailed lessons, audio, video, teleconferences.
- Retreats on Sacred Texts**
15+ retreats
Passages from sacred texts and commentaries by our teachers on living the wisdom. Rumi, The Gospel of Thomas, The Psalms, The Gospels, A Course in Miracles, the Qur'an, the Tao Te Ching, and more.
- Elder Spirituality E-Courses**
5+ programs
For elders by elders, e-courses that reframe aging. Plus practical programs on the spiritual work of this stage of life.
- Practicing Spirituality: The Religions**
10+ e-courses
40-part programs using representative excerpts from books by teachers from each tradition, each with a suggestions for how to practice the wisdom in your daily life.
- Practicing Spirituality: Places, Activities & Relationships**
10+ e-courses
40-part programs using book excerpts and practice suggestions to show how to be spiritual at home, at work, in nature, during illness, with children, and more.
- Practicing Spirituality: Master Teachers**
25+ e-courses
40-part programs using excerpts from the writings of spiritual masters as the starting points for a variety of everyday spiritual practices.

OUR E-COURSES

Most of us love to go away on a spiritual retreat to:

- reflect upon our lives,
- nurture our connection to Spirit,
- discover great teachers,
- learn spiritual practices,
- find a spiritual community.

We bring the retreats to you! S&P e-courses, designed to fit your schedule and your budget, turns your email inbox into a spiritual retreat center.

MORE ABOUT OUR E-COURSES

- Current E-Courses with Practice Circles
- What People Are Saying
- Custom E-Courses
- FAQs
- S&P E-Course Brochure (PDF)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCHNext

Online Christian Learning from expert teachers in scripture, liturgy, prayer, family, self-care, church history, theology, and more

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Courses

ChurchNext launches a new course every week. Here's a list of those currently available. Just click on the class for more information.

Bible Study

- animate: Bible 1 with Eric Elson, Phyllis Tickle, and Rachel Held Evans
- animate: Bible 2 with Nadia Bolz Weber and Jane Musilek
- animate: Bible 3 with William Willimon and Jay Bakker
- animate: Practices 1 with Brian McLaren and Sara Miles
- animate: Practices 2 with Mike Slaughter and Phyllis Tickle
- animate: Practices 3 with Shute Claiborne, Emma Okens, and Doug Pugh

Approaching Scripture with Vicki Garvey
Getting More Out of the Bible with Justin Welby
Introduction to the Bible with Mark Zabriskie
Introducing the Psalms with Isaac Everett
Introducing the Gospels with Michael Card
Introduction to the Book with George Gethse

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ChurchNext Links

ChurchNext: Learn from expert teachers in Scripture, liturgy, and important Christian topics. You can interact to a safe, online environment that's convenient, accessible, and affordable.

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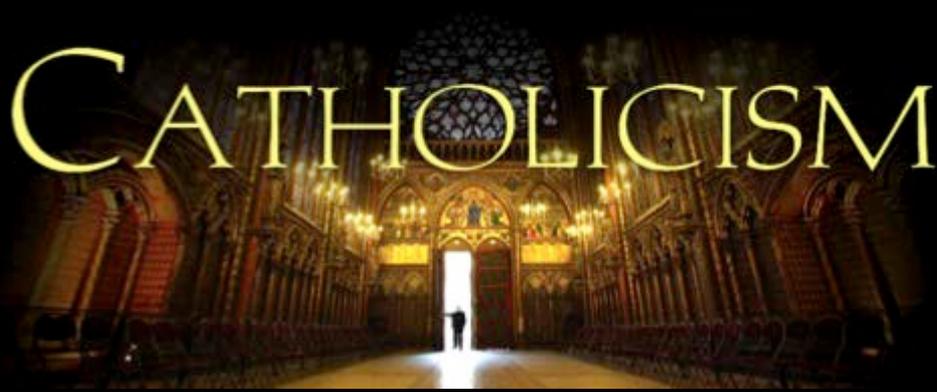
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Flip Christian Initiation

CATHOLICISM



ASCENSION
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Integrate Online and Gathered

THE SLATE PROJECT

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COMMUNITY



CHURCH WITH A CLEAN SLATE

WHAT'S NEW

The Slate Project
is a new kind of Christian community
that gathers both on-line and face-to-face
in Baltimore, Maryland.

We are a movement
to change the church from inside the inside out.

We are committed
to following the way of Jesus together,
into our local and digital neighborhoods
and discerning in community
how to be the church in the 21st century.

Connect with The Slate Project on-line and face-to-face:

- Mondays** What: **#BreakingBread** (Dinner Church)
Where: 4 E University Pkwy Bmore, MD 212
When: 6 PM EST
- Wednesday** What: **#SlateReads** (Live Tweet Chat- Book Discussion)
Where: Twitter-- use the digital bookmark #SlateReads
When: 8 PM EST
- Thursdays** What: **#SlateSpeak** (Live Tweet Chat- new topic each week)
Where: Twitter-- use the digital bookmark #SlateSpeak
When: 9 PM EST



#BreakingBread

Our weekly face-to-face worship experience happens on Monday nights with a "dinner liturgy" we call #BreakingBread.

Starting at 6pm, everyone is invited to participate in transforming our "borrowed space (graciously offered to us by the **Episcopal Cathedral** of the Incarnation and Diocese of Maryland) into an intimate dinner setting for thirty or so people.

#SlateSpeak
One way to connect with this new kind of Christian community happens Thursday nights, 8pm EST, over on Twitter. Follow #SlateSpeak. Join the conversation.



#SlateSpeak 101

- #SlateSpeak, a progressive Christian forum where faith and everyday life meet in an explosion of awesome conversation.
- You can follow the #SlateSpeak conversation using [tweetchat.com](https://www.tweetchat.com), [twubs.com](https://www.twubs.com), or [tweetdeck.com](https://www.tweetdeck.com). To enhance your experience.
- We do not automatically agree with everything that we read. #SlateSpeak is a safe space for critiques & challenges.
- We do not shame or blame each other here. We make respect each other's experiences and hold space for each other's truths.
- It is totally acceptable to follow along silently, but feel free to engage if/when you feel comfortable. #SlateSpeak.
- If you have a question, feel free to ask it! We are a friendly bunch.



Wow. That last hour was awesome.
Thanks **#slatespeak** for a great chat



#SlateReads is our on-line book study that happens on Twitter every Wednesday night at 8PM EST.

There is a reading for each week and the conversation is informed by those readings.

Follow the hashtag #SlateReads to participate!

Integrate Online and Gathered

GOD ON TAP

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GOD ON TAP BLOG

We post news and updates about God on Tap and discussion topics for upcoming gatherings. Feel free to leave a comment and sign up to receive new posts by email!

DISCUSSING CREATIVITY AT GOD ON TAP TOMORROW NIGHT!



Join us for God on Tap tomorrow night, July 26th at 7:30pm at Forest & Main Brewing Company in Ambler. Our topic: creativity.

When the universe seems to be sending you signals, its best to pay attention.

Lately, I've been hearing a lot about creativity—how it works, what fuels it, what inspires it, and what prevents it.

From a podcast reminding its listeners of the importance of boredom for creativity, to

reading authors like Stephen King and Anne Lamott describe their writing process, to Elizabeth Gilbert's TED talk about your elusive creative genius, to a conversation just this past week with my friend like Jim Kast-Keat about how he creates great projects like his *Thirty Seconds or Less* videos. (He describes his creative process as something akin to throwing spaghetti against a wall and seeing what happens.)

Creativity. Its a common thing. We create all kinds of art, theatre, music, school lesson plans, woodworking, gardens, beer, designing, writing, business plans, you name it. We may not have created ourselves, and yet we do create and craft and shape our lives as we tend to our relationships, work, and callings.

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Discussing Creativity at God on Tap Tomorrow Night!

[READ MORE](#)



God on Tap Tomorrow Night: Mapping our Spiritual Landscapes

[READ MORE](#)



God on Tap Tonight: What do we mean by Religious Freedom anyway?

[READ MORE](#)

Advent or Lent Online "Curriculum"



Welcome to Advent



Advent Activities

Advent Wreath: Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass: Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. [Go to Blessing of Advent Wreath.](#)

Advent Candles: Decorate a set of Advent candles for your family to use during this season of hope, peace, love, and joy. [Go to Vibrant Faith at Home.](#)

Alternative Advent: Kids create an alternative advent calendar to benefit a charitable organization in their town. Instead of just opening boxes on an Advent calendar or moving Santa from one slot to the next, use Advent as a time to collect donations or goods for a local charitable organization. [Go to Vibrant Faith at Home.](#)

Jesse Tree: The Jesse Tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The Jesse Tree is named from Isaiah 11:1; "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse Tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse Tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history. [Go to Jesse Tree online.](#)

Advent Daily Devotional



 [2017_advent_devotional.pdf](#)
Download File

Family Advent Calendar (English & Spanish)



 [advent-calendar-2017-family-bilingual.pdf](#)
Download File

Children's Advent Calendar



 [advent-children-calendar.pdf](#)
Download File

 [advent-childrens-calendar-spanish.pdf](#)
Download File

Best Advent Ever - Daily Reflections: Starting December 3, the first Sunday of Advent, you'll receive daily emails with short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Hunt, practical tips to incorporate into your everyday life, and personal stories from Dynamic Catholic team members. [Go to Best Advent Ever.](#)

Sacred Advent Daily Reflections: Embrace the Advent season as a sacred space from the ease of your e-mail inbox. *Sacred Advent* is a daily e-mail prayer break during a busy season. Each day invites you to a step-by-step progression of praying with a Scripture reading and related points of reflection. The messages also include suggestions for further exploration of Advent themes through additional online articles and prayers. [To to Sacred Advent.](#)

Online 40-Day Lent Curriculum

Church →	Daily & Home	← Online
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ash Wednesday• Lenten Sunday liturgies• Stations of the Cross• Lenten prayer• Lenten retreat• Lenten service• Lenten soup suppers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fasting• Praying• Service/Almsgiving• Lectionary reflection• Family Lenten activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lenten learning resources• Lenten calendar• Daily Lenten prayer• Weekly table prayer• Video resources• Online retreat experience

Online Pastoral Care

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Person's Name

NOLAN L., CaringBridge User

KRISTEL S., CaringBridge Donor

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No more repeating the story over and over. Connect with all of your family and friends at once, giving you time to focus on what matters.

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Online Learning

BOSTON COLLEGE

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BC Home > schools > stm home > crossroads > opportunities

STM Online: Crossroads Courses

COURSES OFFERED

REGISTER **COURSE SCHEDULE**

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SCRIPTURE
Discover the riches of the Bible with an introductory level overview of a specific book of the Bible, or with a course that offers a thematic exploration of Scripture.

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What does it mean to be a Catholic Christian? This category includes a range of courses that define this essential identity and describe core beliefs.

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How Do You Serve?

LEARN HOW STEP CAN ENRICH YOUR VOCATION AND YOUR LIFE

<p>School Teacher</p> <p>STEP provides you with continuing education, customized courses for unique groups, and full participation for students in Discernate formation.</p> <p>Learn More ></p>	<p>Deacon</p> <p>STEP provides you with continuing education, customized courses for unique groups, and full participation for students in Discernate formation.</p> <p>Learn More ></p>	<p>Catechist</p> <p>Whether you are a DRE, a CRE, or a volunteer catechist, STEP can help you with basic catechist certification as well as more advanced courses.</p> <p>Learn More ></p>
<p>Lay Minister</p>	<p>Diocesan Director</p>	<p>Adult Catholic</p>

Courses Starting on June 12

- Biblical Literacy Forums
- Catholic Faith and Tradition for Teachers
- Christian Conscience and Ethical Discernment
- Care Course: Intro to the Catholic Faith
- El Camino de la Fe: Discerning Callings
- Intercultural Church: Foundations/Practices
- Stare to the New Testament
- Liturgy: Guide for the Perplexed
- NSA: Can We Get the Rise Right?
- Women and Catholicism in the U.S.
- Youth Ministry 101

SPIRITUALITY PRACTICE RESOURCES FOR SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

HOME PRACTICES E-COURSES FILMS BOOKS ARTS QUOTES

ON-DEMAND E-COURSES

Retreats on Classic Practices
30+ retreats
Step-by-step instructions from well-known spiritual teachers on practices from the world's religions. Emailed lessons, audios, videos, teleconferences.

Retreats on Sacred Texts
15+ retreats
Passages from sacred texts and commentaries by our teachers on living the wisdom. Ibum, The Gospel of Thomas, The Psalms, The Gospels, A Course in Miracles, the Qur'an, the Tao Te Ching, and more.

Elder Spirituality E-Courses
5+ programs
For elders by elders, e-courses that reframe aging. Plus practical programs on the spiritual work of this stage of life.

Practicing Spirituality: The Religions
10+ e-courses
40-part programs using representative excerpts from books by teachers from each tradition, each with a suggestions for how to practice the wisdom in your daily life.

Practicing Spirituality: Places, Activities & Relationships
10+ e-courses
40-part programs using book excerpts and practice suggestions to show how to be spiritual at home, at work, in nature, during illness, with children, and more.

Practicing Spirituality: Master Teachers
25+ e-courses
40-part programs using excerpts from the writings of spiritual masters as the starting points for a variety of everyday spiritual practices.

Webinar Live Presentation

Upper Dublin Lutheran Church



Teens and Digital Media: Our First Facebook Live Event!

Join us for our first Facebook Live event from the comfort of home or while you're out and about on your smartphone as Pastor Keith is joined by Bethany Stolle, who will present on what parents need to know about teens and digital media. Tune into the [UDLC Facebook page](#) at 8pm Eastern Time on November 6th to watch and share your ideas and questions. This is open to everyone. Please forward this email or share our [Facebook event](#) with a friend! - Keith

Program Description

The mall. Public parks. Friends' houses. The lunch room. The physical spaces that were central to socialization, extracurricular learning, and identity formation for many of us have increasingly shifted to digital spaces. And there are implications for parents, teachers, ministry leaders and anyone else who works with young people. This workshop will explore digital media trends among kids and teens, the diversity of experiences when it comes to youth and social media, how adolescents are working out their identities through "networked publics," and considerations for faith formation with a tech-connected generation.

Transforming Our Role

Balancing Both Roles

Current Roles

- Developing religious content
- Designing programming
- Managing programming
- Teaching/Facilitating programming

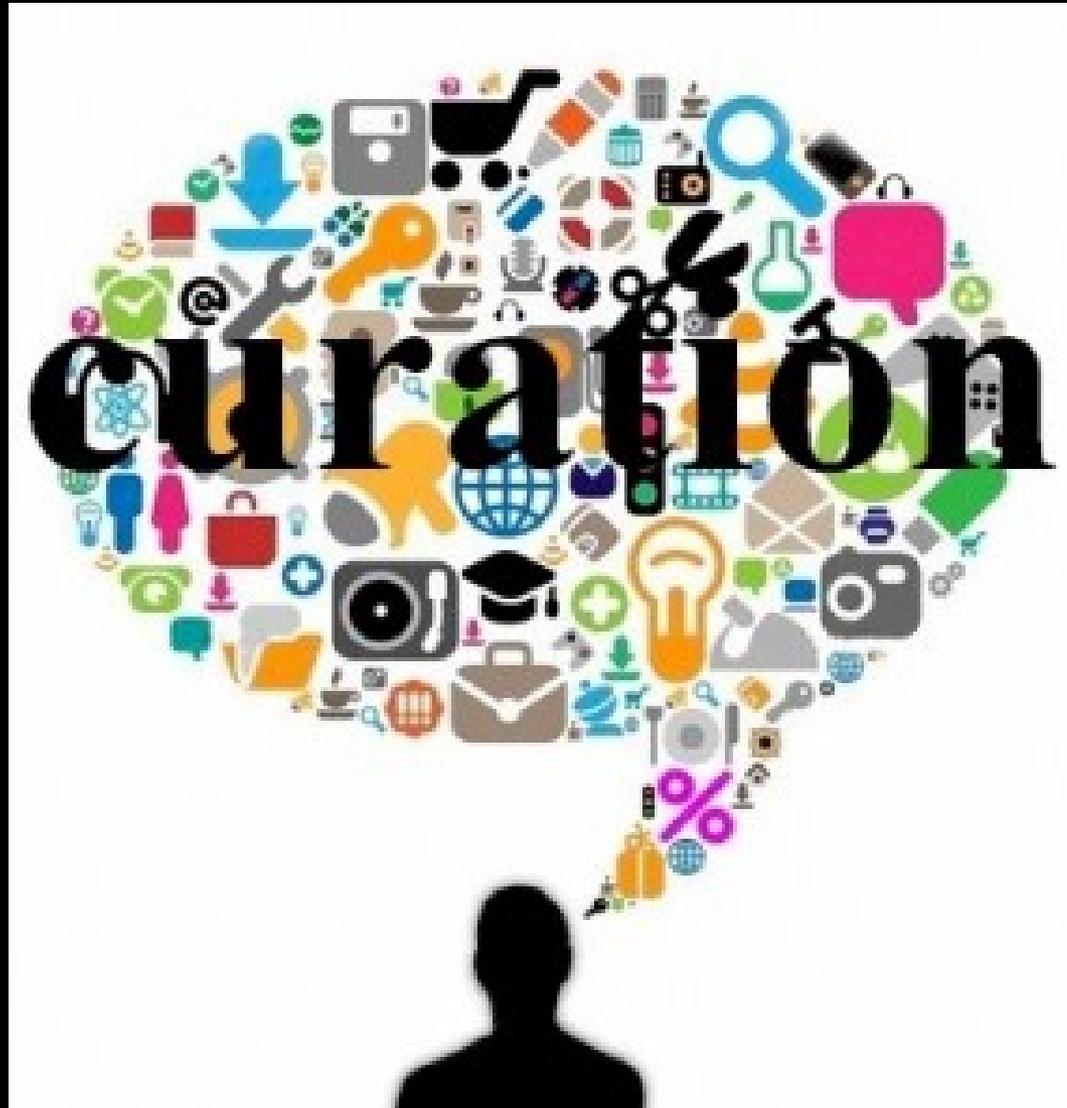
Emerging Roles

- *Designing* faith forming environments—*architecture*
- *Designing Digital Platforms* for faith forming content
- *Curating* religious content and experiences

New Leadership Roles

- ✦ We are becoming *learning architects* who design and/or identify environments which can become settings for faith formation, e.g., homes, workplaces, coffee shops, online communities, and more. We can design content and experiences to “deliver” to that setting.
- ✦ We are becoming *designers of digital platforms* (websites, social media) where people can connect with each other, access content, engage in learning activities, and more. These platforms provide 24x7 faith formation.
- ✦ We are becoming *curators* of religious content and experiences. When there is an abundance of content, our role shifts from creator to curator. Curators are engaged in finding and identifying high quality content in all formats, matching it with the needs of people, providing the content on a digital platform (and often in gathered settings), and engaging people with the content.

Curating Faith Formation

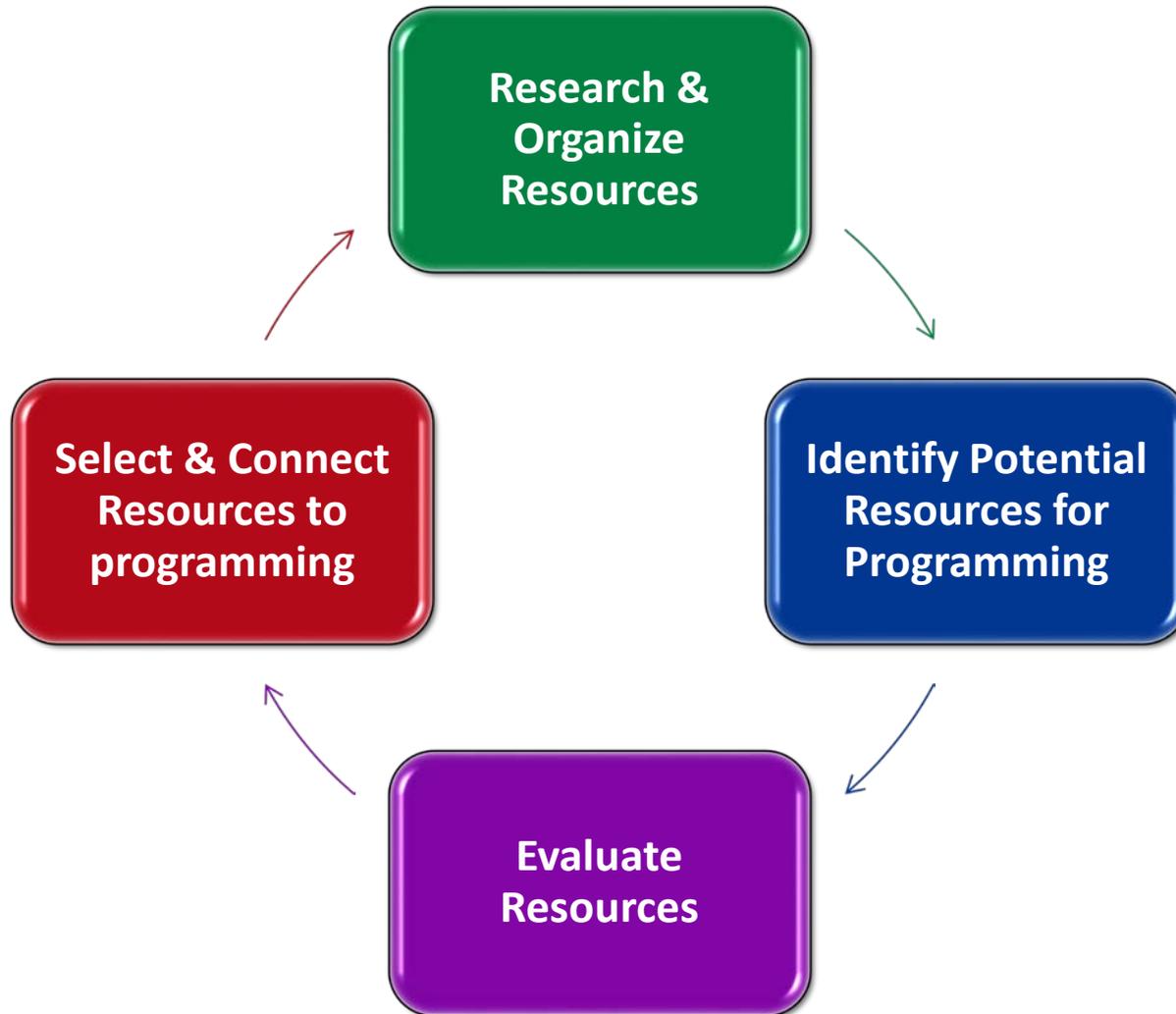


What is Content Curation (Beth Kanter)

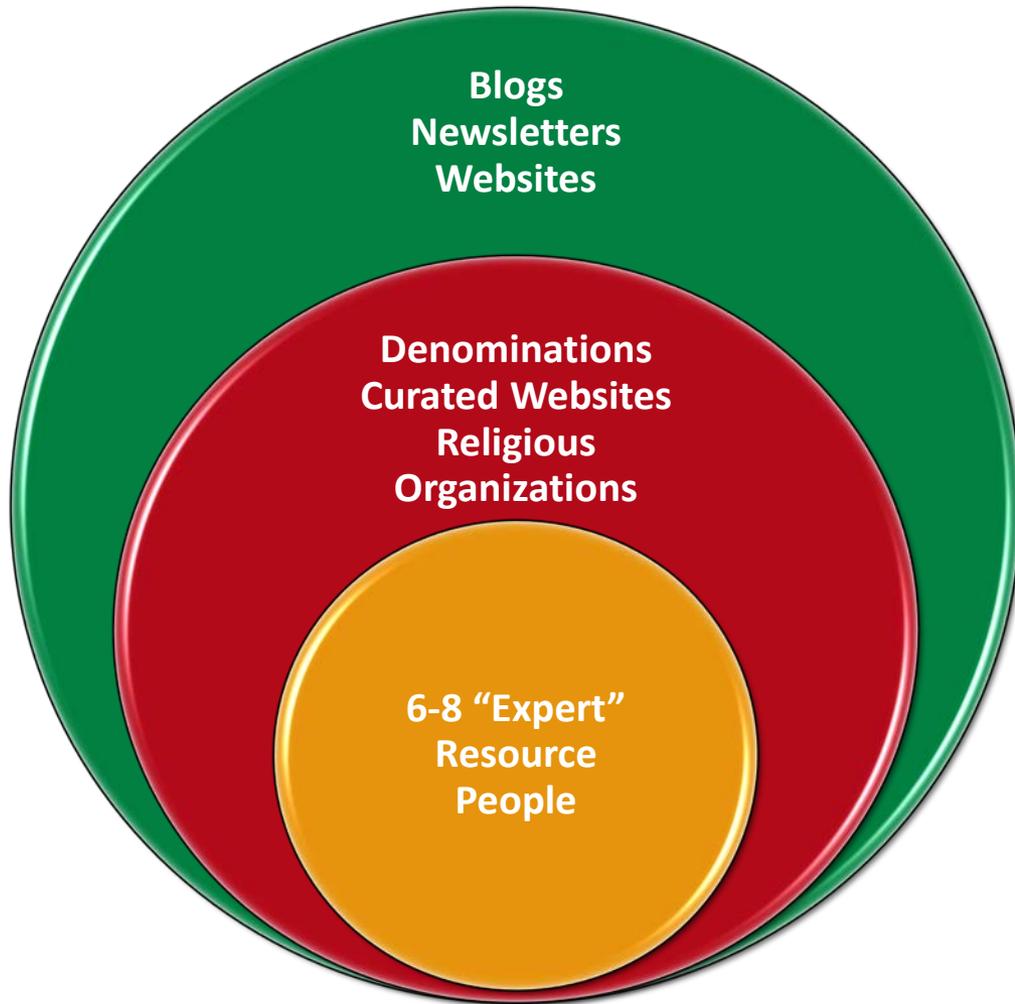
Content curation is the process of sorting through the vast amounts of content on the web and presenting it in a meaningful and organized way around a specific theme.

- The work involves sifting, sorting, arranging, and publishing information.
- A content curator picks the best content that is important and relevant to share with their community.
- It isn't unlike what a museum curator does to produce an exhibition: They identify the theme, they provide the context, they decide which paintings to hang on the wall, how they should be annotated, and how they should be displayed for the public.

Curating Religious Content



Develop Trusted Sources



Develop a Research Checklist

1. People: teachers, mentors/guides, guest presenters
2. Community programs: churches, agencies, organizations,
3. Educational institutions: colleges, seminaries
4. Retreat and spiritual life centers, monasteries
5. Denominational programs, events, websites
6. Museums
7. Books (with study guides) & E-books
8. Apps
9. Audio podcasts & audio learning programs
10. Videos & video learning programs
11. Online courses & online activities
12. Television shows
13. Organizational websites
14. Resource center websites

Develop Evaluation Criteria

- ✓ Biblical content and interpretation
- ✓ Theological content and emphasis
- ✓ Developmental appropriateness
- ✓ Ethnic-Cultural appropriateness
- ✓ Inclusive of diversity
- ✓ Respect for diverse ways of learning
- ✓ Appearance and visual appeal
- ✓ Ease-of-Use
- ✓ Quality of Experience
- ✓ Applicable: Able to be incorporated into daily and home life