

**Recommended Resources for Ministry with Children, Youth,
and Intergenerational Contexts
Living Skies Region
United Church of Canada**

Many of these books are available through our wonderful public library system! If you live near Saskatoon, McNally Robinson Booksellers offers a 20% discount to churches on most books (and you're supporting local!). Go upstairs (or phone and ask for the children's department) and register for the discount and they can also order books for you that aren't in stock at the moment. If McNally isn't accessible for you, the titles with McNally links here would also be available through Indigo or Amazon.

Curricula

- United Church of Canada First Third Ministry Summer Camp Curriculum – developed for summer camps by Pacific Mountain Region and Chinook Winds Region. It can be adapted for VBS, day camps, Sunday School, or other contexts. FREE for use by United Church ministries!
 - [Gather Round](#) 2026
 - [Alive Curriculum](#) 2025
- United Church of Canada – [The Go Project](#) – children, youth, and confirmation
- United Church of Canada – “I am a Changemaker” - [available at UCRD](#) - 6 week teaching anti-racism with children curriculum
- [Illustrated Ministry](#) - Lectionary materials, children's bulletins, VBS, Stickers, Colouring Posters... they have it all!
- [Godly Play](#)
- [Shine Curriculum](#) - Mennonite Church, inclusive language and justice focus
- [SparkHouse](#) – (Lutheran – ELCA) babies, children, youth, adults, VBS, MANY curriculum options for various sizes of church communities.

- [Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints](#) – designed for middle years (grade 6-8) but has lots of flexibility for older or younger groups

Children's Bibles – Storybooks and Paraphrases

- [The Peace Table](#) - connects nicely with the Shine Curriculum
- [The Just Love Story Bible](#)
- [Growing in God's Love, a Story Bible](#)
- [Tiny Truths Illustrated Bible](#)
- [Children of God Storybook Bible](#) – by Desmond Tutu – beautiful illustrations by different authors on each page
- [Spark Story Bible](#) – Sparkhouse
- [Frolic First Bible](#) – Sparkhouse
- [Frolic Preschool Bible](#) – Sparkhouse – next step after Frolic First Bible – created for emerging readers
- [God's Stories as Told By God's Children](#) – by The Bible For Normal People
- [Wonder](#) by Meredith Miller – for adults to read, and then share Bible stories with kids

Bibles for Older Kids and Teens

- [The Book of Belonging](#): paraphrase with beautiful prose, inclusive language
- [Deep Blue Bible](#) (CEB) - many different colours and covers, great option to present as a gift from the congregation (consider having adults in the church highlight their favourite verses and write a little note!)

Learning about Faith Formation for Young People

- [Little Theologians](#), Dave Csinos
- [A Gospel for All Ages](#), Dave Csinos
- [Faith Like a Child](#), Lacy Finn Borgo
- [Queerfully and Wonderfully Made](#), Leigh Finke (*Living Skies Region has a copy of this that you're welcome to borrow!*)
- [Welcoming and Affirming: A Guide to Supporting and Working with LGBTQ+ Christian Youth](#), Leigh Finke (*Living Skies Region has a copy of this that you're welcome to borrow!*)
- [Faith Formation in a Secular Age](#), Andrew Root - A helpful take on the current culture and climate for youth and young adults in the church, and practical thoughts on connecting with young people

Faith Formation at Home

- [Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home](#), Traci Smith - Ideas for practicing faith at home through simple traditions, ceremonies and spiritual practices. See also the Christmas, Easter and Prayer versions.
- [Meredith Miller's shopify](#) - printables for faith at home or with a group, including some excellent scavenger hunts.
- [Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family](#) Kara Powell - Practical ideas for faith at home
- [Bless 5: Praying with Kids](#) – a practice of praying for friends and family with children
- [I Wonder, Engaging a Child's Curiosity About the Bible](#), Elizabeth Caldwell - A thoughtful guide for helping children engage the Bible

- [Sabbath in the Suburbs](#), MaryAnn McKibben Dana - Thoughts about keeping the sabbath as a family
- [New Zealand Prayer Book](#) - Beautifully written prayers and liturgies, contains some family litanies as well . PDF Version (free) [available here](#).
- [Devotions](#), Mary Oliver - Lovely book of poems that can be read around the table or at other times in a family's day
- [New Directions for Holy Questions](#), Claire Brown and Aneeta Peebles

Books: Parenting and Faith at Home

- [Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Kid Doesn't Have to Heal From](#), Meredith Miller -
 - Discussion guide for Woven [available here](#)
- [Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance](#) - A great read on how to help children succeed (and how to apply these lessons to ourselves)
- [Raising White Kids](#) , Jennifer Harvey – US context but applicable to anywhere there is racism and colonialism
- [Parenting Forward: How to Raise Children with Justice, Mercy and Kindness](#), Cindy Wang Brandt
- [The Blessing of a Skinned Knee](#), Wendy Mogel
- [Six Needs of Every Child](#), Jeffrey Olrick and Amy Olrick
- [Forming Resilient Children](#), Holly Catterton Allen

Books: General Leadership and Theology

- [The Social Media Gospel](#), Meredith Gould - Helpful overview of using technology in ministry
- [5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations](#), Robert Schnase - helping congregations thinking through what's important.
- [Piloting Church](#), Cameron Trimble
- [God, Gospel & Gender: A Queer Bible Study for Teens](#), Margie Baker (adults could and should do this study too!) *Living Skies Region has a copy that you are welcome to borrow!*
- [Dear Church: a Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in America](#), Lenny Duncan
- [When Church Stops Working](#), Andy Root
- [Field Notes for the Wilderness](#), Sarah Bessey
- [Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart](#), Brian McLaren
- [Original Blessing: Putting Sin in its Rightful Place](#), Danielle Shroyer

Children's Books

- [Make Room, a Child's Guide to Lent and Easter](#), Laura Alary – great for Lent and Holy Week, thoughtful treatment of the cross, see other books by Laura Alary
- [Cory and the Seventh Story](#), Brian McLaren and Gareth Higgins
- [Maybe God is Like that, Too](#) and [Maybe I can Love My Neighbor Too](#), Jennifer Grant
- [Grit and Grace: Heroic Women of the Bible](#) and [Gritty and Graceful](#), Caryn Rivadeniera – a picture book and a chapter book version of great stories!
- [Picturing God](#), Ruth Goring – female images of God
- [Candle Walk: a Bedtime Prayer to God](#), Karen Holsinger Sherman
- [What is God's Name](#), Sandy Eisenberg Sasso – female images of God
- [Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints](#), Daneen Akers – has an accompanying curriculum but stands beautifully alone
- [The Wonder that is You](#), Glenys Nellist – beautiful baptism gift
- [The Day When God Made the Church](#), Rebekah McLeod Hutto
- [Images of God for Young Children](#), Marie-Helene Delval
- [God's Paintbrush](#), Sandy Eisenberg Sasso – see other children's books by Sandy as well!
- [When God Made You](#), Matthew Paul Turner – also available as a board book. Beautiful baptism gift! Anything by Matthew is a great choice.
- [What is God Like?](#) Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner – absolutely beautiful imagery of God using expansive language and pronouns
- [God's Dream](#), Archbishop Desmond Tutu

- [Praying in Color, Kids Edition](#), Sybil MacBeth
- [The Lord's Prayer](#), and [Psalm 23](#), Tim Ladwig
- [A Church for All](#), Gayle E. Pitman – celebrates diversity and LGBTQIA+ inclusion, and is based on a real church
- [When God Was a Little Girl](#), David R. Weiss
- [Dear Mama God](#), Daneen Akers – female imagery of God
- [Mother God](#), Teresa Kim Pecinovsky – stunning female imagery of God
- [Heart Talks with Mother God](#), Bridget Mary Meehan
- [The Memory Tree](#), Britta Teckentrup – death of a loved one
- [The Invisible String](#), Patrice Karst – reminder of the invisible connection of love through separation anxiety or death of a loved one
- [The Invisible Leash](#), Patrice Karst – dealing with the death of a beloved pet
- [Love Letters from God](#), Glenys Nellist – a fun way into Bible stories! Check out the Easter and Christmas editions as well

Children's Books for Advent and Christmas:

- [All Creation Waits](#), Gayle Boss
- [All the Colors of Christmas](#), Matthew Paul Turner
- [All is Bright](#), Clay Anderson and Natalie Merheb
- [Brown Baby Jesus](#), Dorena Williamson
- [Refuge](#), Anne Booth and Sam Usher – story of Jesus and his family as refugees in Egypt
- [The Birds of Christmas](#), Tomie dePaola
- [Sounding Joy](#), Ellie Holcomb

If you are looking for a book to connect with a specific Bible Story or using the Lectionary, [Storypath](#) is a Presbyterian resource that lists books that can often be found at the library that related to the text or the theme.

Intergenerational Ministry Resources:

- [Messy Church](#)
- [CRCNA Intergenerational Church Toolkit](#) – Christian Reform Church North America
- [Uniting Church in Australia](#) – Intergenerational Church resources
- [Uniting Church in Australia – South Australia](#) – resources including 4 services ready to go
- [Karen Ware Jackson](#) - Creative Intergenerational Worship
- [Faith Inkubators](#) - Resources for home and intergenerational gathering - Lutheran roots
- [GenOn Ministries](#) - Supporting Churches with Logos and other Intergenerational Programming, including LIFT
- [InterGen](#) – Chris Barnett – resources for intergenerational services
- [STRANDZ](#) – A series of training videos from New Zealand about intergenerational ministry
- [Intergenerational Christian Formation](#), and [Intergenerate](#), Holly Catterton Allen

Websites

- [Jesus Glue and Glitter](#) – created by a wildly creative minister in the United Church of Canada – awesome collection of printables, activities, and magazines. Free and low-cost options!
- [Development and Peace](#) – international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada with excellent peace and justice activities.
- [Traci Smith's Website](#) - Faith Formation resources with an emphasis on faith + family and faith at home
- [Building Faith](#) - Resources by season and topic, lots of faith-at-home
- [Flame Creative Children's Ministry](#) - Tons of creative ideas for children's ministry in organized categories
- [Vibrant Faith](#) - Coaching and consulting around faith formation
- [Theresa Cho](#)- Presbyterian minister with beautiful creative prayer stations and other interactive, intergenerational worship ideas
- [Rows of Sharon](#) - Episcopalian Christian Educator with outstanding articles and resources
- [Free Range Worship with Lilly Lewin](#) - Creative prayer station and experiential worship ideas
- [Worshiping With Children](#) - Revised Common Lectionary links
- [Salt Project](#) - Customizable Videos and printable resources
- [Faith 5](#) - Faith at Home Resources
- [Mark Yaconneli - The Hearth Community](#) - Training for transformational storytelling

Concepts to Explore

- Stages of Faith, Fowler
- Stages of Faith, Westerhoff
- [Fowler's Faith Development, from Keely's Perspective](#)
- [Faith Development Theories](#)
- [Pew Research Centre - Research on the Religiously Unaffiliated \(Nones and Dones\)](#)

Facebook Groups

- Birthing Cross+Gen Community
- Progressive Youth Ministry
- Unfundamentalist/Progressive Children's and Youth Ministry
- Progressive Children's and Youth Ministries

Continuing Education & Conferences:

- [First Third Ministry](#) – United Church of Canada
- [Atlantic School of Theology](#)
- [Fuller Youth Institute](#)
- [Intergen Ministries](#) – Australia
- [Center for Excellence in Christian Education](#) – Union Seminary
- [Practical Resources for Churches](#)
- [Progressive Youth Ministry](#)
- [Synod School](#) – PCUSA Synod of Lakes and Prairies (Iowa)