

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – CHILDREN

## EARLY MORNING

### Children's Christian Education – Using *Godly Play*

Godly Play is a way of teaching the Bible that uses concrete materials to tell stories, while engaging head, heart and imagination. In Godly Play we seek to build a community of learners who explore the meaning of Bible stories together in ways that relate to their own experiences and interests. In this way, children begin to learn the vocabulary of faith, and gain the ability to use it to describe their own spiritual lives. In this presentation, attendees will experience a Godly Play lesson, and later hear a brief overview of the program from the viewpoints of an educator and a pastor, as well as learning how we introduced this program over three years.



**Melanie Millard** is a public school teacher and mother of two boys, who serves as head Godly Play teacher at White Plains Presbyterian Church. Her interest in Godly Play stemmed from her family's positive experience with Montessori pre-school education. She completed Godly Play Core Training in 2015 and has helped build the Godly Play program at WPPC over the past four years. She has mentored the Godly Play teaching team at WPPC. Under her leadership, WPPC has sent two additional teachers to Godly Play Core training, and is has introduced two additional teachers this year.



The Reverend **Lynn Dunn** is the Minister for Christian Education at White Plains Presbyterian Church, where she oversees programs for both children and youth. She first learned of Godly Play while helping a prior congregation evaluate new curriculum. At WPPC she began incorporating elements of Godly Play into her teaching and then completed Godly Play Core training in 2012. In 2016, she and Melanie Millard unveiled the church's newly redecorated Godly Play room, with a complete set of basic curriculum materials, in a beautifully repurposed space that invites children and youth into worshipful reflection.