

Great Idea!



A word from one of our partner churches...

First Presbyterian Church (FPC), Clarion, held a Children's Sunday where the children led the worship service. The younger kids played chimes for the Introit and sang for the Offertory. The older kids led the rest of the service, and used puppets for the sermon. One kid was reluctant to lead, but when he got to deliver puns via a puppet he quickly volunteered. During the service FPC had a "Time with Adults" instead of a "Time with the Children." It was a wonderful time of worship where the children took the lead.

Rebecca Mihm
Pastor
First Presbyterian Church, Clarion,
Pennsylvania



Godly Play Training Dates Set for 2025- 2026

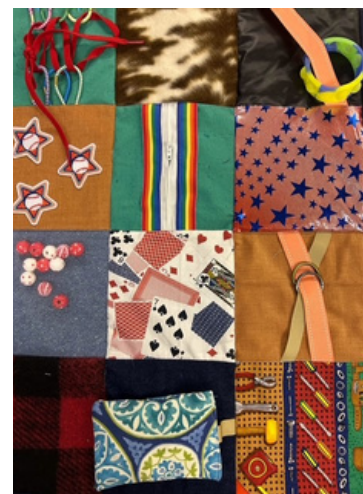
We now have the dates for the next two Godly Play trainings at Columbia Theological Seminary! We will welcome groups of twelve participants November 17-19 2025 and April 14-16 2026.

Registration for the fall training will begin on September 1, 2025. The link will be included in the September newsletter.

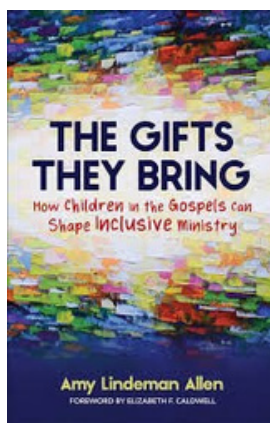
Mary Hunter Maxwell, our stellar regional Godly Play trainer will again be leading us. All expenses except travel to campus are covered by the Wonder of Worship grant.

A New Option for Fidget Tools for Worship

Many churches have quilting groups or prayer shawl ministries. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon has started making fidget blankets. While often used with Alzheimer's patients, these could easily become a part of a playground for younger children or to have in a comfort room or church nursery. Thank you to planning team member, Roberta Schlechter for sharing this idea.



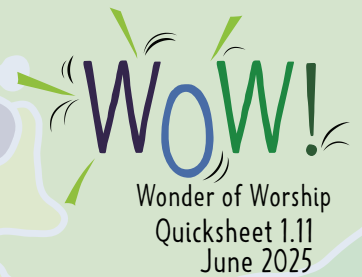
Summer Reading Anyone?



The Wonder of Worship Planning team is reading the book pictured here this summer. If you'd like to join us in a virtual discussion later this summer, please let us know at wow@ctsnet.edu.

Digging Deeper:

Children's Worship Experience in the Nigerian Church



In Nigeria, the vision of children's church is to nurture young people toward spiritual formation. Within the junior church or children's church, children live into worship and Word. They naturally feed into the main church as they grow. The spiritual development and growth of the children are in harmony with the vision and the themes of the worshipping community.

God's Chamber is a ministry based on Obadiah 1:21, to raise saviors/deliverers as such; "Those who have been rescued will go up to Mt. Zion in Jerusalem ... And the Lord himself will be King." The Junior

Church is carefully planned with this in mind. Children are an integral part of the whole vision of the ministry.

The age-appropriate messages reflect what is preached to the adults.

Most junior churches offer children the chance to participate in choir, drama production, greeters, media and

publicity, among others. Each

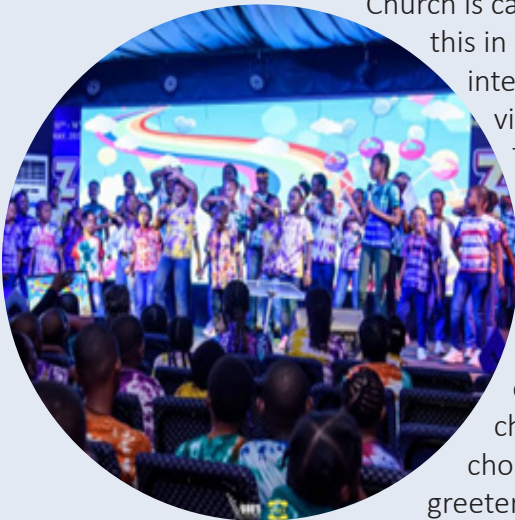
is in sync with the main assembly. In these classes, children experience rhymes to arts to role plays. It's all to help them learn about the gospel of Christ and their place in the body of Christ.



During Easter, Christmas, church anniversaries, Mother's/Father's Day, monthly, and other special occasions, children participate in ministries for the whole church. In God's Chamber Family Month, the junior church leads the entire service, including the Word Ministry. This helps them fully experience and embody their knowledge.

This ministry eases children into becoming Christian adults who delight in serving the Lord. The arts and cultural events help them to appreciate that all are divinely gifted.

The Junior Church is carefully crafted to build a Christ consciousness at a very tender age. The regular Sunday services are unique and wholesome and give children the opportunity for authentic learning and engagement with the Word. Every student is involved in all worship service elements.



Oluwaseun Obidipe is a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary, who ministers the gospel to children and also works as the project assistant to WoW.