

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Great Idea!



A word from one of our partner churches...

TJ Remaley, our Quick Sheet author for this month shared a story that recently happened in worship. He indicated I could include it here:

"On Sunday, I preached on Jesus walking on water. During the Word for Children, I told the children what the story of the day would be about. A kindergartner raised her hand and said, "I already know this story! It's in the song 'Mary, Did You Know.'" She then proceeded to sing the first verse of the song, a cappella. "Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water." I honestly don't even care for the song, theologically. But what a beautiful moment. That kindergartner felt safe and welcome enough to sing a song that meant something to her. And the congregation responded not with laughter, but with applause."



Fall Regional Gatherings

Registration is still open and available for both of our regional gatherings this fall on the topic of Neurodiversity and Worship. Whether you come to the one-day Houston event at St. Philips Presbyterian Church (September 13) or the two-night Montreat event (October 28-30), I'm sure you will leave more knowledgeable on this topic and with tools you can use to enhance your worship experience for all.

Wonder of Worship funds everything except for travel for these events. Feel free to reach out at wow@ctsnet.edu if you have any questions. Here are the registration links: [Houston](#) and [Montreat](#)

Godly Play Fall Training Registration Open Now!

Registration is now open for our Fall Godly Play Training at Columbia Theological Seminary. The event occurs from November 17-19 and we can accept a total of 12 people. This 3-day training is fully funded by WoW except for travel. You can find the [link here](#) for registration or use the QR code.



Children's Ministry Refresh September 18, 2025

Come join us for our next online Children's Ministry Refresh. Our guest leader this time will be Dr. Jacob D. Myers, preaching professor at CTS and author of "Curating Church: Strategies for Innovative Worship" Here is the [registration link](#) for our 2:00 PM Eastern time Zoom event!



Spotlight: Bulletin Redesign



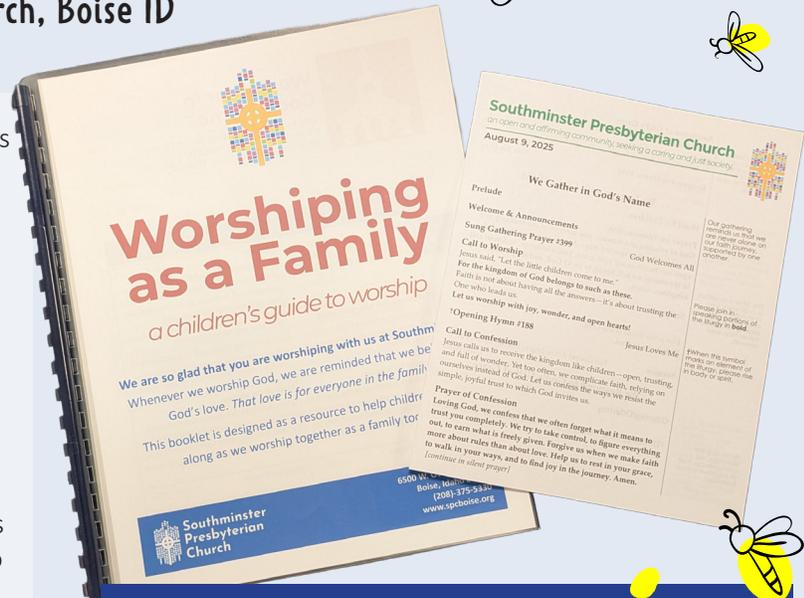
Redesigning Bulletins, Deepening Worship at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Boise ID

It started with a simple idea; we wanted to help families worship together. Thanks to the Wonder of Worship Quick Wins grant, we created a family worship guide. It's a colorful, user-friendly tool that explains each part of the service in the everyday language. The guide features two columns. One describes each part of worship, the other offers suggestions for what families might do or talk about in that moment. The guides are laminated and come with dry-erase markers so kids can "check off" each part of worship as they go.

The goal is to help kids feel more confident, and adults less overwhelmed. But as we wrote the guide, we bumped into language that didn't translate well for kids. Phrases like "Assurance of God's Pardon" would leave them puzzled. So, we swapped in simpler, meaningful language (grace!).

Then we analyzed our bulletin and realized it didn't match the guide. If we wanted the guide to be helpful, the bulletin needed to reflect the same changes. And truthfully, our bulletin had become a bit of an insider's guide; it was familiar to regulars but confusing to visitors and children, for example.

So, we updated the headings, simplified terms, and cleaned up the layout. We increased font sizes and added space for notes and doodles. Most important, we introduced margin notes to explain parts of worship and why we do them. Examples include an explanation of why the prayer of confession is stated in first person plural. Others explain why red is the liturgical color for Pentecost, and the historical origins of the mountain dulcimer.



Suddenly, we didn't just have a bulletin... We had a worship tool!

The response has been beautiful. Longtime members tell us they see the service with fresh eyes. Newcomers feel more at home. Parents can whisper less and worship more. And kids join in with confidence, thanks to resources that match what's in their family's hands.

What began as an effort to design a resource for children, expanded into a recommitment to help everyone grow in faith. Worship is for everyone. And the bulletin can help us all belong.



Rev. TJ Remaley (he/him) serves as pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church (Boise, ID), where he champions expansive welcome, deep belonging, and playful, justice-rooted worship.

