

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Great Idea!



A word from one of our partner churches...

Front Pew Crew

Our youngest ones, ranging in age from 5 - 11, sit in the front two pews with an adult volunteer. They each have a clipboard of their own that is stocked each week with items related to the liturgy and liturgical season. Each clipboard also contains drawing materials which provide our children the opportunity to have their "own stuff." The children often draw their own pictures of the front of the sanctuary which sparks wonderful conversations about the items and colors that are present. Their drawings are then used as a bulletin cover for future Sundays. They love to see their name and artwork displayed! Each Sunday, the children are supplied with a bulletin of their own and they track each part of the service, learning how to look up the next hymn, participate in responsive readings, prepare for the offering and offer prayers among other things. They frequently raise their hand to offer a prayer during the Prayers of the People and two of them serve as acolytes each week. Sitting in the front allows them to feel seen and valued.

Erin Fee,
Hanover Presbyterian Church Elder,
Newark, Ohio



Coming This Spring...



We have had an overwhelming response for our virtual gathering for May 8. Registration is now closed for this event, so that we can have substantive conversations with participants.

If you have registered you will receive both a box of physical materials and the ability to be among the first to view our filmed interview with Dr. Tony McNeill and Mr. Paul Vasile, two phenomenal musicians who have much to share on this topic.

If you have great interest in this topic, but weren't able to register for the event, the videos will eventually be available on our website, for use in your congregations.

Welcome, Oluwaseun Obidipe!

We have a new assistant for Wonder of Worship, Oluwaseun Obidipe. Oluwaseun is from Nigeria, West Africa, she moved to the US as an international student and bagged the MAPT degree from Columbia Theological Seminary.



Oluwaseun, fondly called Seun, comes with a wealth of over 12 years of serving in various capacities in Children's Ministry and church administration. She has a passion for the spiritual formation and development of children.

Charity Cho has returned to her home in Malaysia, but will still be assisting us with updating the website.



Children's Ministry Refresh on May 1

We know that you are in the midst of the busy Lenten season leading up to Easter. We invite you to consider a refreshing time with colleagues for after this busy season. Our next Children's Ministry Refresh will happen on Zoom at 2:00 PM Eastern time on the National Day of Prayer, May 1. Come join Sara Hayden for a time of engaging storytelling from some of our newest churches. Here's the link: <https://forms.office.com/r/VuFaXGSy0V>

Visual Arts in Worship

Visual Arts speak to many members of the worshipping community, especially to children. To enrich the spiritual experience for your congregation, consider how visual arts are integrated into your worship space. This quick sheet provides resources to enhance the visual presence of your different worship spaces.

MIX UP YOUR MEDIA!
Consider how fiber arts, sculpture, pottery, mosaic, photography and more could be used.

Getting Started:

- Are they projected on screens?
- Can you find visual arts within your weekly bulletin?
- Are they integrated into your architecture?
- Are there communal art projects that all ages can work on together?
- Is there a liturgical arts team that changes the look of the sanctuary for different seasons?
- Do you have visual artists in your congregation?

Online Resources

Web Gallery of Art- Collections of mainly European artists, from the 3rd to 19th Centuries

Revised Common Lectionary-Vanderbilt University
(Click on “Resources” then “Art” for visual art suggestions that coordinate with the lectionary passages.)

Stushie Art- Artwork for both Revised Common Lectionary and Narrative Lectionary. Some art is also available in black and white for coloring sheets

Two of my favorite contemporary artists:

- [John August Swanson](#) (digital rights can be purchased through <https://www.eyekons.com/>)
 - [He Qi](#)

Two sources of free searchable photo databases:

[Unsplash](#) and [Pexels](#)

DID YOU KNOW? To find artwork that requires only a Creative Commons license, you can use Advanced Google Image Search and set the “usage rights” to this option. This helps when trying to show an image for a metaphor or theme you may be using.

REACH OUT!
Many contemporary artists will provide a limited use license for worship. For instance: [Cody Miller](#) or [Martha Kelly](#).

Something New?

Do you want to create Original or Collaborative Art? Here are some additional sources.

A Sanctified Art- works with churches and conferences to create unique projects for your community and has an extensive library of digital images.

Illustrated Ministry- offers collaborative age-appropriate coloring projects for various seasons and themes

IN HOUSE ARTISTS! Invite the children of the congregation to create artwork that could be photographed for use in a variety of ways, such as projected slides, bulletin covers, or cards for a church member. These could also be displayed in the narthex or other areas of the church.



The Rev. Dr. Kathy Dawson
serves on the faculty of Columbia Theological Seminary and directs the Wonder of Worship project.