

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Great Idea!



A word from the project director...

As we enter this Advent season, I hope you are able to take time to rest in the wonder of God's gift to us in the form of the baby Jesus.

This year, the church I attend, Oakhurst Presbyterian Church in Decatur, GA, is using the Advent devotional materials from [A Sanctified Art](#). I had a chance to explore these before the service this past Sunday using the QR code that was printed in our bulletin. They seem especially timely for this Advent as they are all about overcoming fear.

I'm curious about what you are using in your church or in your personal devotions for this season. Feel free to email your ideas to wow@ctsnet.edu

Have a blessed Holy season and we'll see you in 2026!

Kathy Dawson, WoW Project Director



Godly Play Training

We hosted another twelve participants for our Fall Godly Play Training on November 17-19. Mary Hunter Maxwell once again led the training with her gifted teaching and wisdom.

Our next training will be April 14-16, 2026 at Columbia Theological Seminary. Registration will open with the February newsletter. This training is fully funded by Lilly Endowment through the Wonder of Worship grant, except for travel. Housing, meals, and materials are all included.

Godly Play with Children and Families

After telling the Godly Play Advent stories for weeks 1 and 2, we had a time of Advent wreath making with the children and families who live on the Columbia campus. We used LED votive candles with purple and pink tape around them and many different mini ornaments of various Christian symbols that could be tied on to the wreaths with pipe cleaners.



Mark Your Calendars for these coming events in the New Year



Early February: Children's Ministry Refresh (more details to follow)

April 14-16: Godly Play Training (CTS Campus)

April 21-23: Regional Gathering at Loyola University Eco-Campus (outside of Chicago) on Infants and Toddlers in worship

More to come...

Tool Kit: Neurodiversity

This fall we have showcased the vast topic of neurodiversity. We organized regional gatherings and provided monthly quick sheets authored by people doing this important work. With this quick sheet we provide a list of related materials that can help your faith community. Why not begin with this filmed interview with Rebecca Spurrier, Deborah Huggins and Robert Welton, found on the Wonder of Worship website: <https://www.wonderofworship.net/>

Helpful Websites:

- Big Faith Resources- <https://bigfaithresources.com/>
- Presbyterians for Disability Concerns-<https://presbyteriansfordisabilityconcerns.wordpress.com/>
- The Julian Way- <https://www.thejulianway.org/>

What does neurodiversity look like in your congregation?

Model Churches:

These churches model intentional care for neurodiverse community members:

- Central Presbyterian Church, Summit, NJ: <https://centralpres.org/>
- First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater, OK: <https://stillwaterfpc.org/>
- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City, OK <https://www.wpcokc.org/>

Excellent Resource Books:

Autistic Women and Nonbinary Network, Emily Paige Ballou (Editor), Sharon daVanport (Editor) *Sincerely, Your Autistic Child: What People on the Autism Spectrum Wish Their Parents Knew About Growing Up, Acceptance, and Identity.* Boston: Beacon Press, 2021.

Eiesland, Nancy L. *The Disabled God: Toward a Liberatory Theology of Disability.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994

Lund, Sarah Griffith. *Blessed Minds: Breaking the Silence about Neurodiversity.* Nashville: Chalice Press, 2025.

Powell, Lisa. *The Disabled God Revisited: Trinity, Christology, and Liberation.* London: T&T Clark, 2023.

Spurrier, Rebecca F. *The Disabled Church: Human Difference and the Art of Communal Worship.* New York: Fordham University Press, 2019.