

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Great Idea!



A word from the project director...

I just recently returned from the Association of Partners in Christian Education Annual Event in Pittsburgh. It was another good conference and I enjoyed spending time with a stellar group of educators seeking certification.

Unexpectedly I ended up doing an impromptu workshop on Wonder of Worship for a group whose workshop presenters did not appear. So welcome some of our newest subscribers from that event!

One of the questions that was raised during this workshop was how you convince a church that intergenerational worship is important, especially when the music is oriented towards performance rather than participation. I suggested bringing some other scholars in as back up to our strong held beliefs as educators. Two authors that came to mind were John Roberto and Holly Catterton Allen, both of whom have books that put forward the case for intergenerational ministry and worship. What other voices would you suggest?

Kathy Dawson, WoW Project Director



Godly Play Training

It is finally time to register for our upcoming Godly Play training on the Columbia Theological Seminary campus. The dates were April 14-16, 2026. This is fully funded by Wonder of Worship (housing, food, registration, and materials). The only thing you will need to pay for is your travel to campus. We welcome individuals or small groups from churches and can take a total of 12 people for each training. Here's the link for registration: <https://bit.ly/4k4IXvo>

Chicago Regional Gathering

AAs we kick off our new theme of Infants and Toddlers, we want to invite you to our Chicago area regional gathering at Loyola University's Eco-campus. This funded experience from April 21-23 allows two nights of respite and engagement around the topic of infants and toddlers in worship. All housing, meals, and materials are included from Wonder of Worship. All you need to pay for is travel. We can accept up to 18 people who would like to be a part of this event. Here is the registration link for sign ups: <https://bit.ly/4rn9O7n>. Contact wow@ctsnet.edu for more information.



Infant and Toddler Resources

Dr. Dawn rundman is being quoted in this month's Quick Sheet. She has been instrumental in the [Frolic resources](#) for young children offered by Sparkhouse publishing. There are two different Bibles for young children and resources for preschool classes and family groups available. We don't often attend to the spiritual lives of our youngest children (ages 0-3)



Voices from the Field:

Dr. Dawn Rundman on
Ministry with Infants and Toddlers

WOW!
Wonder of Worship
Quicksheet 2.6
February 2026



Dr. Dawn Rundman, a former professor of Early Child Development currently creating resources for children and youth for Augsburg-Fortress Press/Sparkhouse is a vocal advocate for early faith formation. She is behind the Frolic Bible and curriculum that addresses these early years. In this quick sheet, we will be introducing her to you with some of her thoughts from the book that undergirds all of these grant projects on children, *Little Steps Big Faith: How the Science of Early Childhood Development Can Help You Grow Your Child's Faith*.

The First 3 Years

In talking about why she wrote this book, Dr. Rundman says, *"The first three years of life are a remarkable time of development for children, with many critical windows when early experiences can make lasting impressions."* (9)

Present and Worshipping

She makes a case for the importance of families attending church by drawing on brain research, attachment theory, and language learning. In talking about worship she indicates that *"...the central place where your child will benefit from hearing the language of faith is during worship with the community. When a young child is present with other worshippers, they are bathed in language about who God is, what God has done, and why we gather to worship God."* (121)

The Church as a Partner

Much of the book is addressed to parents of young children, but towards the end, she talks about the role of the church in the lives of young families. She has this cautionary observation as she begins this discussion, *"What church doesn't want to describe itself as 'the one with lots of families with young children.' Even so, many congregations are not yet examining how they may need to revise their programs, plan worship services differently, and redesign parts of their physical space to make church more welcoming to the young families they'd liked to see in their pews."* (113)



Little Steps Big Faith

How the Science of Early Childhood Development
Can Help You Grow Your Child's Faith

Dawn Rundman

Look for a podcast with Dr. Rundman later this spring along with additional resources to support work with Infants and Toddlers. All of us, at Wonder of Worship, look forward to walking alongside you as we share ways that our youngest disciples can best worship and pray with their faith community.

