

Cultivate

2 messages

PRC Practical Resources for Churches

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innovative resources for faith formation

THIS IS IMPORTANT

I experienced an alarming situation recently, and after taking time to process it, I need to share a vital warning with you.

For years, I have urged churches to turn off livestream video during children's moments. While there were already many reasons to do this, a new threat just hit home.

What Happened:

A few weeks ago, I hosted a Zoom meeting on playground and pew basket tools for children in worship.

- The registration link was shared via social media and newsletters.

A dashed orange circle containing the text "very important information" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

**very
important
information**

- We used our standard security settings. (Registration required.)
- I did not record the meeting.
- I did not enable AI note-taking.

Despite these precautions, a few days later we discovered that an unauthorized site (WebinarTV) had published the entire recording online, complete with automated chapters and notes. I did not know about this. I did not authorize this. We received no request and were simply informed that this now existed.

One of the anonymous attendees with their camera off had recorded the session, either manually via third-party software or using a bot. It took days of aggressive take-down demands and dogged perseverance to get the video removed.

The Reality:

Standard Zoom protections, like passcodes and waiting rooms, do not prevent someone from recording their own screen using free software like OBS. If a link is public, your meeting can be recorded.

What You Need to Do Immediately To Protect Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults:

- **Re-evaluate Link Sharing:** Stop posting direct Zoom links publicly. Require pre-registration or send links only through secure, private channels. Keep your waiting room live. Only admit people you know.
- **Cut the Livestream:** Pause or redirect the camera feed when children, youth, or vulnerable adults are visible. Do this during children's sermons and youth participation moments EVERY TIME. If they are the reader for the day, video off. If they are delivering the message, video off. *If you can see the child, youth, or vulnerable adult, the CAMERA IS OFF OF THEM.*
- **Non-Video Participants:** We are used to people keeping their cameras off during Zoom meetings. I now require every person that I admit to a Zoom meeting that includes children, youth, or vulnerable adults to turn on their camera, even if it is for a moment, so I can verify I know them. For now, this is not a stand from which I will back down. It does not completely eliminate the possibility of this happening, but it will help reduce it significantly.

Want to talk this through? **Email me.**



Professional Development

Let's ease back into the programmatic year with some excellent webinars. All are FREE, thanks to our generous supporters. (All times are eastern time zone.)

- **Church Closure? You mean Religious Corporation Dissolution:** September 3; 2 pm
- **Grant Writing for Mission and Ministry:** September 10; 2 pm
- **Becoming a Church the Community Thanks God For:** September 15; 2 pm

- **Building a Digital Bridge:** September 17; 2 pm
- **What Matters: Unlock your Church's Hidden Potential:** September 24; 2 pm
- **Not Sure How to "Do Justice"? Start with Listening:** September 29; 2 pm

Faith Formation Resources

September's resources are **in the store!**

After a brief hiatus this summer, Into the Playground for the NARRATIVE LECTIONARY IS BACK! **Snag a copy here.** (Looking for RCL? **It's here.**)

Looking for **On the Go Blessings** for back to school?

Grab them here. It's a 15 second liturgy that grows deep roots with the generations. Copy/paste right into your favorite email or text server, set it to send, and know that you've provided families with a gentle, consistent way to start each week grounded in love, connection, and faith.

We made something new- **pew basket cards**! They're a really nice addition to your existing **pew basket and playground tools**. (Fun fact: this project has input from each member of my family. My husband and I have been parenting in the pews for the past 23 years and he gave me some of his favorite questions to discuss with the kids, which spurred our 7 kids to recall some of their favorites. They're between the ages of 6 and 23.)

Want to streamline your curriculum for the upcoming programmatic year? You can subscribe to **Into the Playground**, **Snapshots**, and **Visio Divina**. These popular resources are designed for you- they are intentionally intergenerational, require few supplies, and can be used without any additional teachers or leaders! Each resource runs from September through May and are delivered straight to your inbox on the first of the month prior (i.e. October's resources land September 1).

Intergenerational

Bookmark this as you plan your Back to School offerings next year. This was not a huge amount of work to pull off. Spoiler alert: the kids totally got it and recognized the liturgical color theme to the tablecloths wayyyyyy before the adults, including the altar guild. That type of information helps inform elements that I need to incorporate into future intergenerational formation events. (Is my office now strewn with lots of



**supports for
ministry**



intergenerational

different ways to interact with the colors of the liturgical seasons? Yes. Favorites so far are **these**, **these**, and **these**. I'll have activities for them in the window sills of our fellowship hall and a small station **set up with this** for those that need an option that is lower to the ground.)

I know that this was originally intended for that first pandemic Advent and Christmas, but **this online, all ages interactive Christmas pageant** is calling to me again this year. I kept the evening of the fourth Monday of Advent reserved on my formation calendar for something like this. I think we'll see a different group of people attend and participate in this ministry offering. It's not instead of our in-person offerings; it's along with all of our Advent offerings.



Ministry With Children

Will I see you here in November? Register using code 'cultivate' to get the early bird registration rate.

I have a creation care club on my schedule for Eastertide this year. **This project** is going to be our kick off. (I'm linking it to the themes of new from the old and God doing something new.)

I want to **make a version of these** for the angels in our Christmas pageant. I'm thinking the director of the pageant needs a set, too. ;)

You know how we always run out of pencils? I snagged **two boxes of these** and had a pencil sharpening party with the families, complete with leftover coffee hour snacks. I love using up items that would ordinarily head to the trash. We're set for pencils for the year.