**Resources & Notes from the 7/30/2020 Faith Formation and**

**Youth Ministry Zoom Gathering**

**Google Classroom-**

Darci Warner (Middleton, WI) and Jenn Ringgold (Midland, MI/MI Conference UCC) have both been using Google Classroom to connect with children, youth and families during the pandemic. Darci says, “It’s a great venue to get stuff to parents in one place.” Jenn says it is working really well in her setting, too.

[www.classroom.google.com](http://www.classroom.google.com)

**Faith Formation Playlists and Bitmoji (virtual) Classrooms-**

Kim Looney (Syracuse, NY) would love to collaborate with people in this group to create a 24/7 platform for faith formation. She is interested in creating Faith Formation Playlists and virtual classrooms. To learn more, please check out these links or contact her at: [klooney@plymouthsyr.org](mailto:klooney@plymouthsyr.org)

**Playlists**: <https://www.launchfaith.com/> This link is on Christine Hides’ website (referenced below)

<https://michiganumc.org/resources/childrens-ministry-tool-box/faith-family-playlists/playlists/>

**How to create playlists**: <https://www.lifelongfaith.com/designing-faith-formation-playlists.html>

**Christine Hides** offers a lot of planning resources for faith formation. She focuses on multiple intelligences and intergenerational resources. Here is her website: <https://christinevhides.com/> You can subscribe to her **“Bless Each One”** blog.

Jenn Ringgold shared the link to Christine Hides’ **“S’more Prayer”**:

<https://christinevhides.com/2016/04/22/smore-prayer-recipe/?fbclid=IwAR1tTQlfW2RyOLf3BXRvWWtStCskgfRp2-lZHfhP1J6-wul0odj2fiKRXH8>

V**irtual Classroom Sample**: <https://e1b2bfc1a8a8a0886e78-5606079bb6b2e87661ee04914a6ffe8f.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploaded/s/0e10564457_1592495057_spark-bitmoji-classroom.pdf> ***(Kim received permission to share this link, but we have been asked to not contact the children’s minister who created the site. If you have questions, please contact Kim.)***  
**Virtual Classroom Tutorials**:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-P_WdQWPc8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGKTvlUbXxY>

**Tuesdays for Nurture & Thursdays for the Soul: Youth & Young Adult Racial Justice Rallies**

Last week the UCC offered two rallies for youth and young adults on racial justice. The conversations were excellent! Check out these links to watch the recorded events:

**No Justice No Peace: Youth & Young Adult Racial Justice Rally:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2R-GzVgkyg&t=49s>

**Youth & Young Adult Racial Justice Rally: White Silence is Violence:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqI_R8FCLfM>

**Thursdays for the Soul on Thursday, August 13th at 2:30 PM CT:**

The UCC is offering a webinar on ***BACK TO SCHOOL: How your Church can support your community's children*** next Thursday afternoon. To register:

<https://UCC.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nLZid6X0Q_m8jsZvd8Mr_Q>

**Christmas Program-**

Mary Burkett (Menomonie, WI) has written a Christmas program that can be videotaped in segments. This would allow families to record a segment to submit to be edited into the final product. The program is non-traditional and intergenerational. It was written as a project for the Wisconsin Conference Lay Academy. Mary will share this resource with us, but I wanted to let you know it exists. Watch for this resource to be shared in a future email!

**Miscellaneous Ideas for Faith Formation and Youth Ministry:**

* Stay in touch with children, youth and families by sending “thinking of you” postcards.
* If gathering outside, you can use hula hoops to create appropriate spacing between individuals
* Driveway “meet ups” can be a fun way of staying connected with youth/children in your congregation
* Cindy Birkner is creating a video library that churches can access as a resource
* Check out [www.kahoot.com](http://www.kahoot.com) to create fun quizzes to enhance your Confirmation or faith formation gatherings online
* Illustrated Ministries is releasing their **Beatitudes** curriculum soon: <https://store.illustratedministry.com/collections/formation-resources/products/the-beatitudes-an-illustrated-curriculum>
* Sparkhouse Online is now Sparkhouse Digital. Check out their website to learn more about how to use their curriculum online: <https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/sparkhouse-digital/>
* Several of you mentioned that you are taking the month of August off from meeting with youth online. The hope is that people can recharge and return to meeting virtually in the Fall. EVERYONE is looking for creative, engaging, fun ways to do this!
* Some of you plan to use Zoom for Sunday School and are looking at gathering as a large group for an opening and closing, but using Breakout Rooms for splitting into age-group classrooms for the activity/lesson portion of the class.
* Don’t forget to check out the webinars available from Practical Resources for Churches ([www.prcli.org](http://www.prcli.org)). They have a lot of resources to support your ministry!

**Confirmation Conversation-**

Lisa Hart (Wisconsin Conference UCC) will host a conversation about Confirmation on Zoom at 10 am CT on Wednesday, August 12th. You can register to participate in that conversation here:

*Register in advance for this meeting:*

[*https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrc-qspjksH9Hp\_35l\_bITcU91bEdPWJJ1*](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrc-qspjksH9Hp_35l_bITcU91bEdPWJJ1)

*After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.*

I plan to record this conversation and can make the recording available. I also plan to host future conversations on Confirmation on Zoom, so this is not your only chance to participate.

**Research:**

Cindy Birkner (Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC) suggested the book ***Belonging.*** This book shares research from **Springtide Research** about young people between the age of 13-25. <https://www.springtideresearch.org/belonging/>

From the “Mission” section of their website:

*Compelled by the urgent desire to listen and attend to the lives of young people (ages 13-25), Springtide Research Institute is committed to understanding the distinct ways new generations experience and express community, identity, and meaning.*

*We exist at the intersection of religious and human experience in the lives of young people.*

Janet Dahl (Verona, WI) has been following research on singing and COVID-19. I will send a link to more information on this when I get it. This is some of what Janet shared with us:

* Keeping a 6 foot distance when singing seems to work
* People should not sing for more than 30 minutes (risk increases when you sing longer)
* HEPA filters are important in helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19

**The latest recommendations on “Returning to Church” were released by the Wisconsin Council of Churches on 7/30/20:**

<https://www.wichurches.org/2020/07/30/returning-to-church-july-2020-recommendations/>

While these recommendations were written for Wisconsin churches, the information and recommendations may be helpful for people living in other states, too.