



# Faith Formation in a Post-Pandemic World

## *A Webinar Program for Designing Faith for 2021 and Beyond*

The pandemic disrupted all of life, including the ways that we have done faith formation. In the midst of the pandemic pastors and faith formation leaders have done amazingly creative work in faith formation, reaching and engaging people of all ages at home, in small groups, and online—using digital tools and methods, such as websites, digital playlists, video conferencing, streaming, online classrooms, and social media platforms. Their work was nothing short of a transformation in the *how* and *when* and *where* of faith formation.

Now as we emerge into the post-pandemic world, we can begin planning for the future of faith formation in Christian churches. Leaders are asking. . . .

- ◆ How have our people been changed by the pandemic? What new needs and hungers have emerged? How can we respond to their lives in the post-pandemic world?
- ◆ How do we build on the effective approaches and tools we used during the pandemic? How do we sustain our innovations into the future?
- ◆ Where are the new opportunities for forming faith? What's possible now?
- ◆ How do we build more resilient, responsive, and adaptive faith formation for the future?

This webinar program and accompanying resources from Lifelong Faith Associates seeks to answer the question: ***What will faith formation look like as we emerge from the pandemic in Fall 2021 and beyond?***

### **Program Details**

- We are offering seven webinar options. A sponsor can build a webinar series by selecting webinars from the list of webinars.
- The program is designed to be sponsored by a diocese, synod, conference, presbytery, or other regional church organization. It can also be sponsored by a group of churches. Sponsors will work with Lifelong Faith to set the dates and schedule for the webinars; and then promote the program and manage registrations and finances.
- The program is conducted by a team of trainers from Lifelong Faith Associates.
- The webinars are 90 minutes in length with presentation, group interaction, and application activities; and conducted on Zoom (provided by Lifelong Faith Associates).
- The program includes resources created to accompany each webinar and assist churches in designing faith formation—all provided on the [LifelongFaith.com](http://LifelongFaith.com) website. Videos from each presentation will also be available on the Lifelong Faith website after the presentation. All materials will be provided sponsors for publication on their websites.
- The stipend for each webinar program and online resources is \$500.

**For information and scheduling contact: John Roberto at Lifelong Faith Associates**  
**[jroberto@lifelongfaith.com](mailto:jroberto@lifelongfaith.com) or 203-232-1129**

# Designing Faith Formation for 2021 and Beyond

## A Webinar Program

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*Build your own webinar series using these webinar offerings.*

### 1. Designing Hybrid Faith Formation for the Post-Pandemic World (A presentation for faith formation with all ages)

For decades the church and faith formation have relied on in-person, fixed-time gatherings, events, and programming offered in physical spaces. The pandemic disrupted this “default” model, and pushed us to experiment with new models. **Hybrid** models of church and faith formation integrate in-person gatherings at church or in family groups or small group meetings with online content with a rich menu of faith forming experiences. Hybrid models hold together two important values: the importance of in-person relationships and faith forming experiences, and the importance of being responsive to the complexity of people’s lives and their religious-spiritual needs. Hybrid models expand faith formation opportunities for everyone, allowing leaders to become much more strategic about when, where, how, and for what we gather people because we can now integrate online with in-person faith forming. This webinar presents a variety of models for developing a hybrid future for lifelong faith formation in 2021 and beyond.

### 2. Building Community and Relationships in the Post-Pandemic World (A presentation for faith formation with all ages)

The **Building Community and Relationships** webinar inspires and equips leaders in engaging children, youth, adults, and families as they return from a time of hybrid or at home learning. So many things have happened since the pandemic began and each of us and our ministries are forever changed. We will address those changes, discover what was successful and help create a path forward to welcome, offer hospitality, build relationships and create community. We will identify the scriptural and communal foundations of hospitality, assess current efforts and look for new opportunities as we reimagine our ministries and serve those in the faith community. The webinar will offer tools and resources to assess, innovate and design simple, effective and practical ways to create a community of welcome, hospitality and engagement that brings together everyone in the community. If we get this right, all our ministry efforts will be more successful and impactful from the start!

### 3. Formation for Christian Living in a New World (A presentation for faith formation with all ages)

People of all ages today are asking the question “How shall we live now?” The pandemic has disrupted our lives in ways that we have only begun to name. We are searching anew for meaning and purpose – now in a post-pandemic world. What are the approaches, resources, people, and wisdom we need to address the “How shall we live now?” question? One approach is to focus on formation in Christian practices. We form people in the practices of the Christian way of life by drawing upon the wisdom of the Bible and Christian tradition, and connecting the practices to the “signs of the times” – the struggles, joys, needs, and hungers of people and communities today, and equipping people with the skills and ways to live the practice in their daily life. The webinar will present the vision and tools for

designs for designing Christian practices formation programs. There will examples of curriculum approaches, program designs, and learning activities that churches can use.

#### 4. Designing Children and Family Faith Formation for the Post-Pandemic World

The **Children's Faith Formation** webinar engages leaders in designing faith formation with children (0-10 years old) and parents that puts the primary emphasis on their lives and needs today, and how to best nurture their grow in faith and discipleship. The webinar presents a holistic approach to faith formation with children by incorporating intergenerational, family, and age group experiences; and presents practices and strategies for designing faith formation that reinvents current programming and develops new and innovative approaches to children's faith formation.

#### 5. Designing Adolescent & Emerging Adult Faith Formation for the Post-Pandemic World

The **Adolescent & Emerging Adult Faith Formation** webinar engages leaders in designing faith formation with youth and emerging adults (high school through the 20s) that puts the primary emphasis on their lives and needs today, and how to best nurture their grow in faith and discipleship. This webinar explores the unique life tasks, needs, interests, and spiritual journeys of youth and emerging adults today; and presents practices and strategies for designing faith formation in today's that reinvents current programming and develops new and innovative approaches to faith formation.

#### 6. Designing Adult Faith Formation for the Post-Pandemic World

The **Adult Faith Formation** webinar presents effective practices and approaches for faith formation with each season of adulthood - young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults – and the skills to design faith formation to address their unique life stages. The webinar presents strategies, programs, and activities for faith formation using online, hybrid, and gathered models of programming,

#### 7. Integrating Webinar: A Faith Formation Planning Clinic

This webinar is in the form of a clinic to guide churches in developing a plan for post-pandemic faith formation using the ideas and strategies presented in the webinars. The goal is to help each church build a plan, build capacity for implementing the plan (support systems, resources, people, etc.), and develop the strategies for implementing the plan.

## Presentation Team

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**Jane Angha** MTS is the founder of Ministry Blueprints, a company dedicated to hospitality, welcome and engagement training for faith communities. Jane served a Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry in Catholic parishes for over 20 years, worked as Project Coordinator for Young Neighbors in Action with the Center for Ministry Development and as a Diocesan Coordinator for Young Adult ministry in the Diocese of Green Bay. She is a national speaker, consultant, coach, teacher and trainer as well as a national conference speaker. Her website is [www.ministryblueprints.com](http://www.ministryblueprints.com).

**Rev. Dr. Tanya Marie Eustace Campen** is an ordained deacon in the Rio Texas Conference and currently serves as Director of Intergenerational Discipleship for the Rio Texas Conference Office. She has a Masters of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and a Doctorate in Christian education and congregational studies from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. Her research focus is children's spirituality. She has more than 20 years of experience as a Christian educator, youth director, and minister to children and families in the local church. She regularly teaches faith formation courses, webinars, and workshops for ministry leaders.

**Rev. Michael Droege** has been in youth and family ministry for 30 years. Along with his coaching work with Vibrant Faith, Michael currently serves as Associate Pastor of Wilson Memorial Church in Watchung, NJ, as an adjunct professor at Drew Theological School (Drew University), and is a frequent workshop and conference speaker with two decades of experience training and coaching leaders.

**Christine V. Hides** is the Minister of Discipleship at Kenilworth Union Church, and author of the website, Bless Each One: [ChristineVHides.com](http://ChristineVHides.com). She has two daughters in college and lives near Chicago. As a deacon in the United Methodist Church, she is called to develop faith formation resources that nurture imagination and participation in God's vision of peace and justice.

**Sarah Jarzembowski** is a native of Philadelphia, with a BA from Wagner College in New York, she began her church career in the Archdiocese of Chicago where she met her husband Paul and is currently working toward her Masters of Pastoral Studies with the Loyola Institute for Ministry. Sarah began her ministry volunteering for religious education in her home parish and participating in retreat leadership at a young age. Sarah has worked in youth and young adult ministries in the parish, college and diocesan levels including the Diocese of Joliet and most recently for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Sarah has spoken at numerous conferences and workshops across the country.

**Catherine (Catzel) LaVecchia** is the Director of Lifelong Learning at Church of the Presentation, Upper Saddle River, NJ. She has served in various ministry capacities for the past 30 years, including youth ministry, family faith formation, and lifelong faith formation. Catzel is most passionate about parish ministries, ministering to the differently-abled, and creating effective and meaningful faith formation opportunities for all ages. She has also taught theology and spirituality to college students for many years. She has a Masters Degrees in Pastoral Ministry and Religious Education and a Certificate in Church Management from Villanova's Center for Church Management.

**Jim Merhaut** is an award-winning author, national motivational speaker, internationally-known leadership training and an International Coaching Federated Certified Coach. He holds a Master of Science degree in Education from Duquesne University with an emphasis in adult formation. Jim has authored and co-authored several books and published dozens of academic and popular articles and essays on leadership and relationships.

**Rev. Kathy Pittenger** is an Ordained Deacon and serves as Children’s Initiatives Coordinator for the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church. Previously she served as the Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation for Central United Methodist Church in Waterford, MI. She earned a Masters of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. Her passion lies in the areas of children’s ministry, literacy awareness, discipleship pathways, and walking with people on their spiritual journey. Kathy has been involved with local school partnerships for over six years.

**John Roberto** is president of Lifelong Faith Associates and has spent a lifetime working in faith formation—teaching, writing, researching, and consulting. He founded Lifelong Faith Associates in 2006 to continue his work. His latest publications include *Faith Formation with a New Generation*, *Families at the Center of Faith Formation*, *Seasons of Adult Faith Formation*, *Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century*, and *Generations Together*. His website is [www.LifelongFaith.com](http://www.LifelongFaith.com).

**Sister Janet Schaeffler** is an Adrian Dominican Sister who has worked in parish and archdiocesan ministry in faith formation. She is currently ministering as an adult faith formation consultant and presenter. The author of hundreds of articles and several publications including *Deepening Faith: Adult Faith Formation in the Parish* (Liturgical Press, 2016). She teaches online courses through Boston College and the University of Dayton. She publishes GEMS - a monthly newsletter flowing from an ongoing international adult faith formation best practices study. Her website is [www.janetschaeffler.com](http://www.janetschaeffler.com).

**Denise Utter** is a freelance consultant, writer and a speaker and has been coaching with Vibrant Faith since 2018. She has worked in ministry and education for 30 years. Denise believes her work in parish and diocesan ministries informs her work today. She loves to inspire parish and diocesan leaders to reimagine faith formation, put families at the center of faith, and provide innovative approaches to faith formation and invites leaders to view the formation of parents from the perspective of calling. Denise has a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies from Catholic Theological Union.