

# Planning for 2022 and Beyond

*Presbyteries of SC and the  
Synod of South Atlantic  
Association of Presbyterian  
Church Educators*

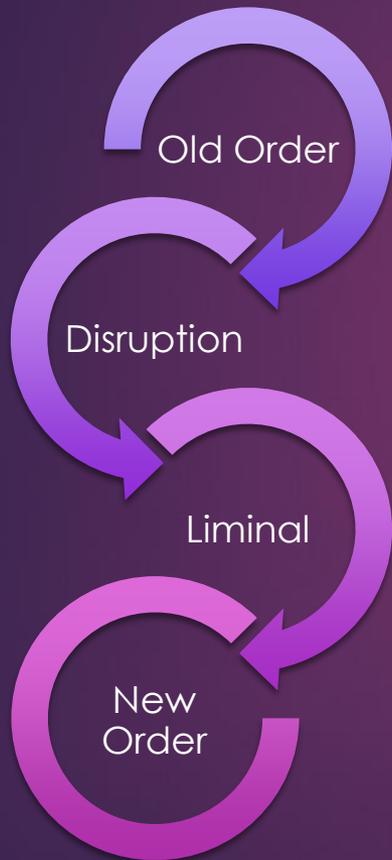


**CATZEL LAVECCHIA, MAPM, MARE**

# What have you learned in your prior three webinars?

- ▶ **Share one idea or learning from your first 3 webinars** (*You can type it in the chat or unmute yourself and share*)
  - ▶ *Designing Hybrid FF*
  - ▶ *Building Community*
  - ▶ *Formation for Christian Living*
- ▶ **4 steps for today**
  - ▶ **Building Capacity for Faith Formation**
  - ▶ **Technology - ideas and ways to use it**
  - ▶ **Evaluation processes and methods**
  - ▶ **What are your goals for engagement? How do you put a plan together?**

# Where Are We Today?



*Liminal* space - comes from the Latin root, limen, which means “threshold.”

The liminal space is the “crossing over” space – a space where you have left something behind, and you are not yet fully in something else. ... It shakes us out of habit and invites us to change...it is an Invitation to surrender and to be transformed

# What We're Learning

(What we need to  
do...)

Focusing on People (First)

Expanding Vision of Church & Faith  
Formation

Using New Hybrid Approaches

Being Synchronous & Asynchronous

Being Mobile

Using Traditional Tools in New Ways

Connecting through Social Media

# How can we Promote the Well-being of People

*How do we put people over programs?*

There is a tremendous opportunity for us to focus on well-being through pastoral care, community life, support groups, educational programs/activities, and resources.

*\*Every month over 30,000 people search Google for “church online.” They are seeking!*

- How can you listen for the anxieties, stresses, struggles, and worries of people of all ages?
- How can we proactively address the mental health needs of individuals and parents, and promote their sense of wellbeing, purpose, and meaning in life?

# How Will We Move into the Future?

**Will churches try to return to business as usual in faith formation—returning to the approaches, curriculum, programming, settings, and schedules they used prior to March 2020?**

**OR**

**Will leaders listen to the needs of their people and their situation today; identify how their lives have been impacted by the pandemic and the issues, struggles, joys, and challenges they face; discern how to respond to this new context; and then develop new and innovative faith formation—content, approaches, methods, media—that responds to people today?**

***How will you respond?***

# Focusing on *“How Shall We Live Now?”*

**As we enter the new post-pandemic world, the church has the opportunity to help people of all ages answer the question**

***“How shall we live now?”***

**The pandemic has disrupted our lives in ways that we have only begun to name. Everyone is searching for meaning and purpose – now in this new un-chartered post-pandemic world.**

- ◆ **What are the approaches, resources, people, and wisdom we need to address this question?**
- ◆ **How can we begin new approaches that being conversation, connection and community?**
- ◆ **How can we form people in a Christian way of life in this climate/setting?**



## Reflect for a few minutes:

Think of 5 words that describe your ministry experience during the pandemic.

Think of moments when your ministry was flourishing –  
Pre-pandemic  
During the Pandemic

What are your hopes for the next 3 weeks, 3 months, 6 months, year?

## Small Group Reflection

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION – 8 minutes and then sharing

# 1. Building Capacity for Faith Formation



How do we become capacity builders?

We develop our organization's strengths and sustainability.

We develop a capacity building mindset and an abundance mindset

Develop a capacity Assessment –

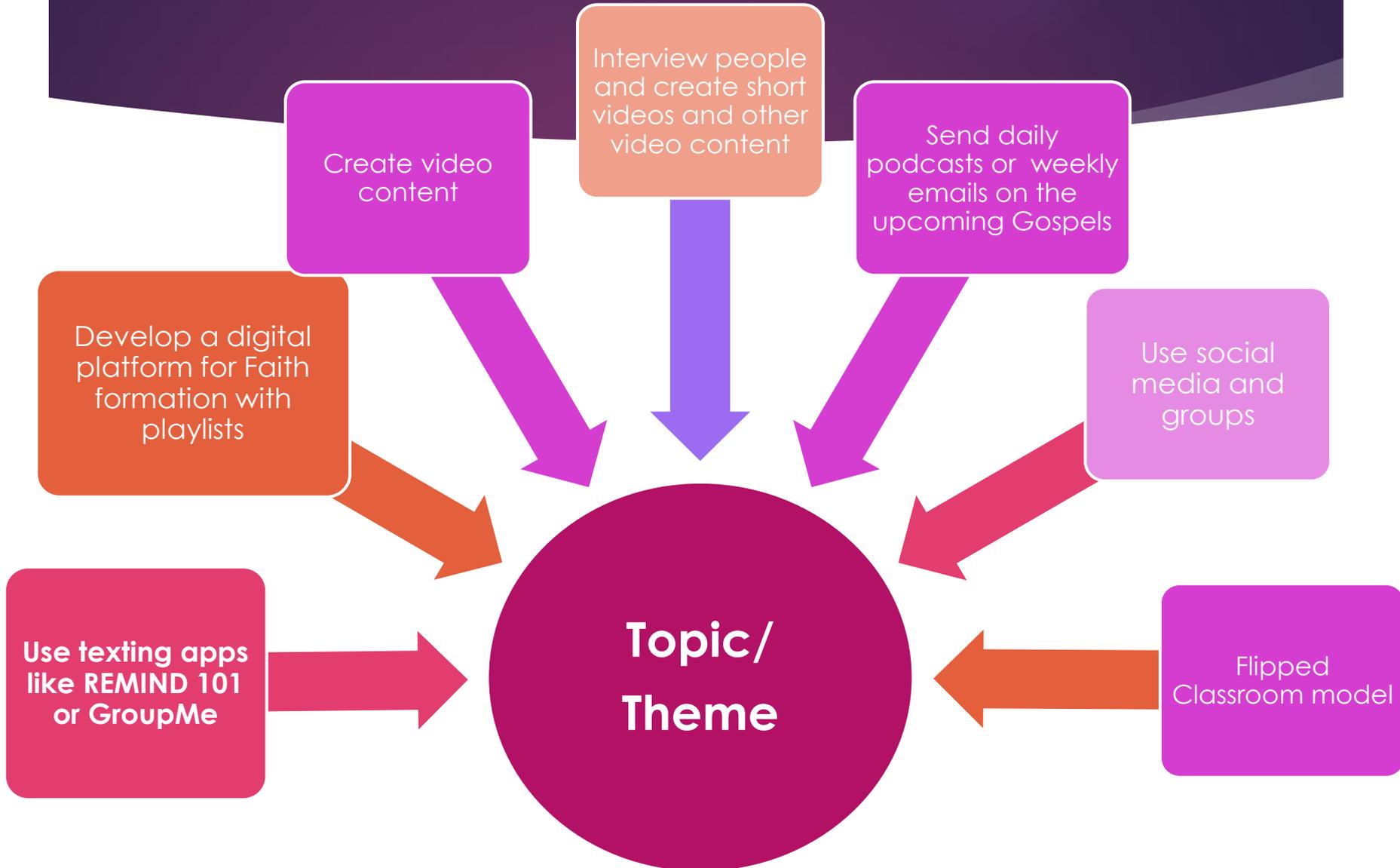
- *What capacities do you require? Of your staff? Volunteers?*
- *Space? Material resources?*
- *What is already available?*
- *What do we need?*
- *Create a blueprint of action*

- Create your capacity report

# Building Capacity for Faith Formation

- ▶ **Become Curators** - Curate new resources- there is a lot of free material out there! Website, apps, podcasts, online classes, videos - and much is free!
  - ▶ Research, **evaluate** and organize resources for your age groups, etc.
- ▶ **Develop Leaders Well**
  - Use a leadership checklist or survey (see resources on LLF)
  - Use a Ministries Guide and Gifts Inventory and match people
  - Equip and empower them, train them well

## 2. Use Technology



**Get feedback  
along the way**

**And then be  
ready to  
adapt!**

**Evaluate  
participant  
learning, reactions,  
real life  
applications and  
questions**

Surveys, focus groups, file  
card – 2 questions, texting  
apps, signs around the  
room and people move,  
apps that collect and  
tabulate data instantly  
and post visually, etc.

**3.  
EVALUATE,  
evaluate,  
evaluate**

## 4. How do you put a plan together?

- a. Be Informed by research on forming faith
- b. Focusing on goals for **faith maturing**
- c. Embracing **holistic faith formation**:  
intergenerational, family, and life stages
- d. Scheduling in **seasonal menus** with a variety of programming: content, formats, times, spaces
- e. Programming with **three models & three spaces**: online, hybrid, and physical
- f. Personalizing through **playlists** of faith forming content and experiences
- g. Evaluate and get feedback along the way

## B. Focus on Goals for Maturing in Faith for a Christian

### Jesus

- Developing and sustaining a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ

### Discipleship

- Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making the Christian faith a way of life

### Bible

- Reading and studying the Bible—its message, meaning, and application to life today

### Teachings

- Learning the Christian story and foundational teachings of the Catholic faith and integrating its meaning into one's life

### Praying

- Praying—together and by ourselves—and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines

# More Goals for Maturing in Faith

## Morality

- Living with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics and values

## Serving Justice

- Living the Christian mission in the world—serving those in need, caring for God's creation, and acting and advocating for justice and peace.

## Worship

- Worshipping God with the community at Sunday worship, ritual celebrations, and the seasons of the church year

## Engagement

- Being actively engaged in the life, ministries, and activities of the faith community

## Gifts

- Practicing faith in Jesus Christ by using one's gifts and talents within the Christian community and in the world

# C. Embracing Holistic Formation

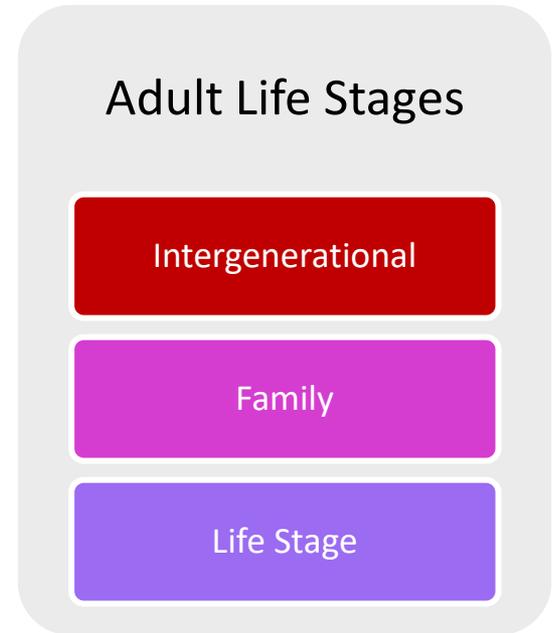
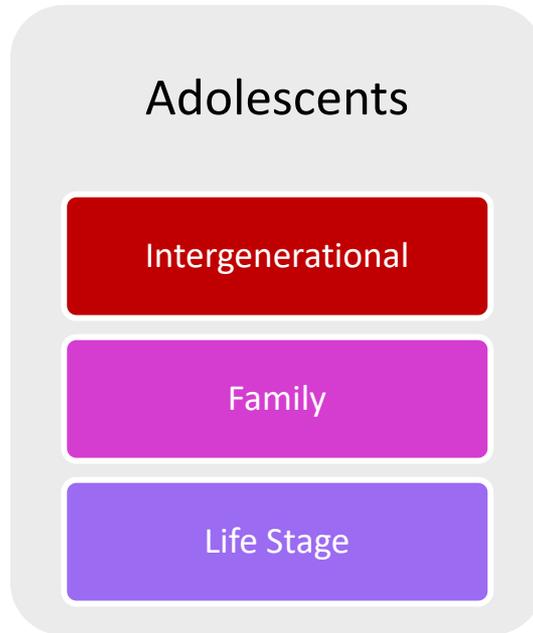
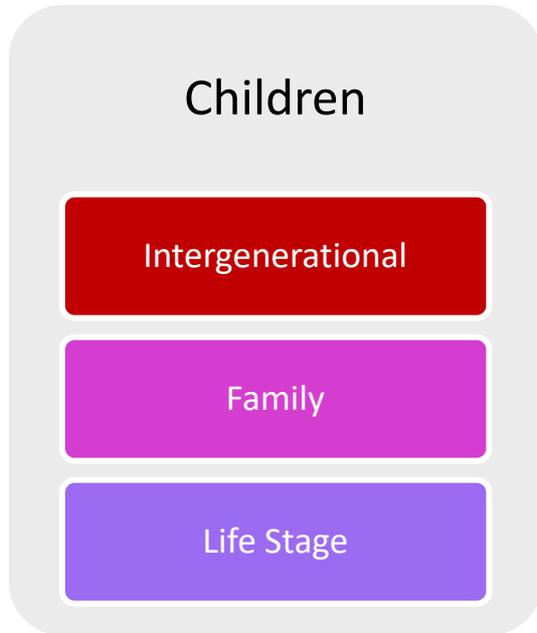
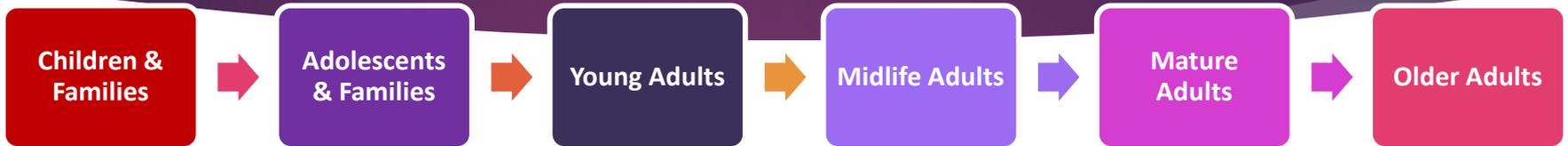
Intergenerational –  
let's reconnect  
generations

Family – let's bring  
families together and  
give them ways to  
grow as a family at  
home.

Peers or Life Stage  
– offer  
opportunities for  
people to gather  
with peers

# Holistic and focused on Life Stages

## *Three Kinds of Faith Forming Experiences*



# Holistic Faith Formation - Example

## Intergenerational

- Participate in several celebrations of Church year feasts & seasons
- Join the community in a service project
- Participate in a leadership role or church ministry

## Family

- Develop a faith practice each season: prayer, Bible reading, etc.
- Celebrate church year seasons at home
- Participate in two whole family programs at church
- Participate in two service projects as a family

## Life Stage / Peer Specific

- Select one's participation in courses, workshops, retreats, vacation Bible school, service projects and mission trips, etc.

# D. Plan monthly, Seasonal or yearly menus

Seasons: Sept – Dec Jan – April May – Aug  
 Variety of programming: content, formats, times, spaces



Programming	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4
Life Issues				
Spiritual Formation				
Scripture				
Theological Themes				
Justice & Service				
Seasons				
Prayer & Worship				

**E.  
Different  
Models and  
Spaces –  
  
Online only**

Livestream +  
online faith  
formation  
through playlists  
(can be self  
guided)

Livestream +  
online faith  
formation  
through playlists  
+ online small  
group meetings

Online faith  
formation  
(playlist) +  
online small  
group meetings

Online,  
asynchronous  
faith formation  
for individuals  
and families  
(playlists)

# Hybrid Programming

In-person gathered faith formation + at-home online faith formation (playlists)

In-person gathered + at-home online (playlists) + online gatherings

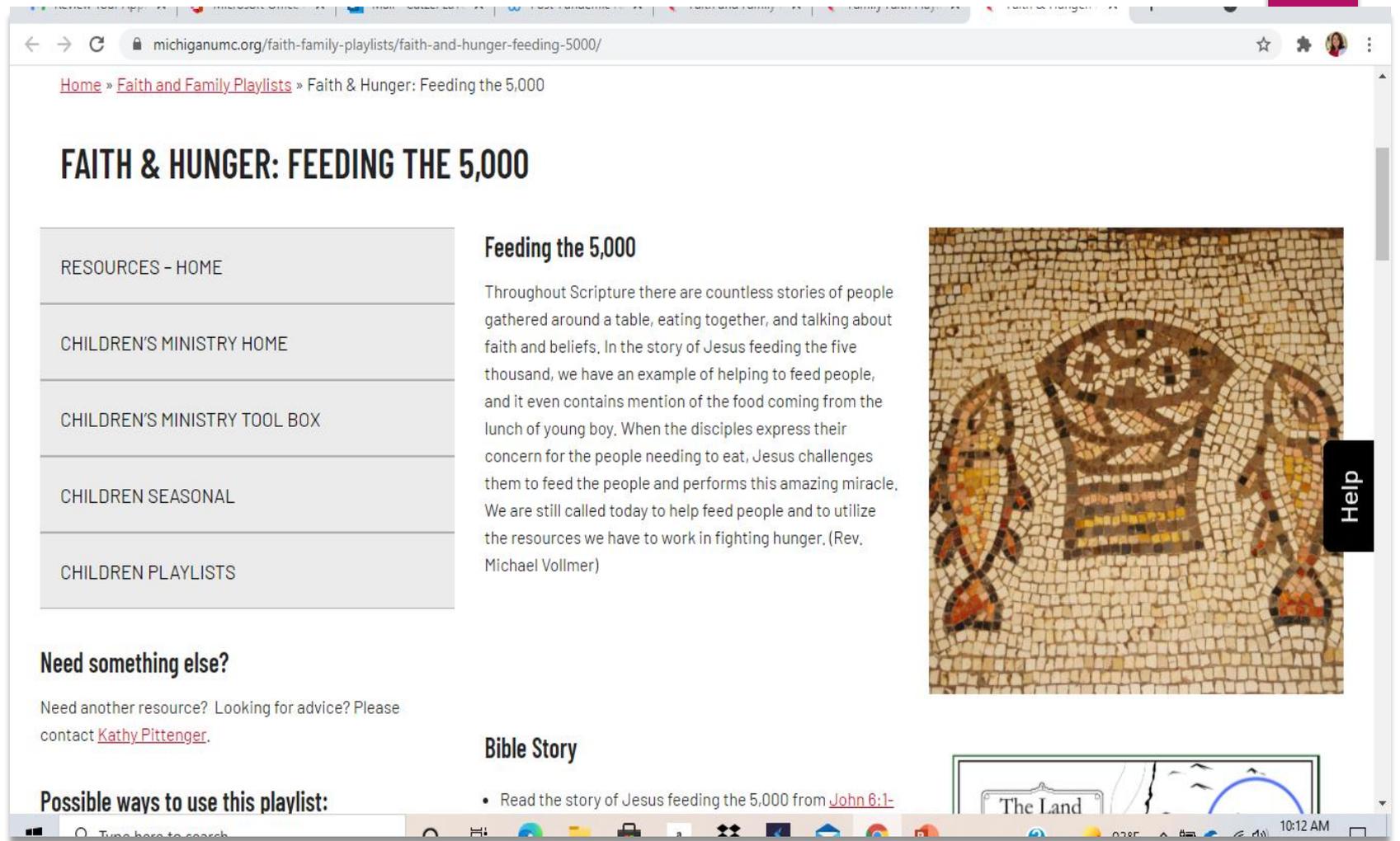
In-person gathered + livestream or video presentations + at-home online (playlist)

Online + in-person small group gatherings + playlist

Worship + online faith formation (weekly playlist)

Flipped Classroom – exploring content at home and when gathered focus on applying content

# Playlist example



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying [michiganumc.org/faith-family-playlists/faith-and-hunger-feeding-5000/](http://michiganumc.org/faith-family-playlists/faith-and-hunger-feeding-5000/). The breadcrumb trail is [Home](#) » [Faith and Family Playlists](#) » Faith & Hunger: Feeding the 5,000.

## FAITH & HUNGER: FEEDING THE 5,000

RESOURCES - HOME

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HOME

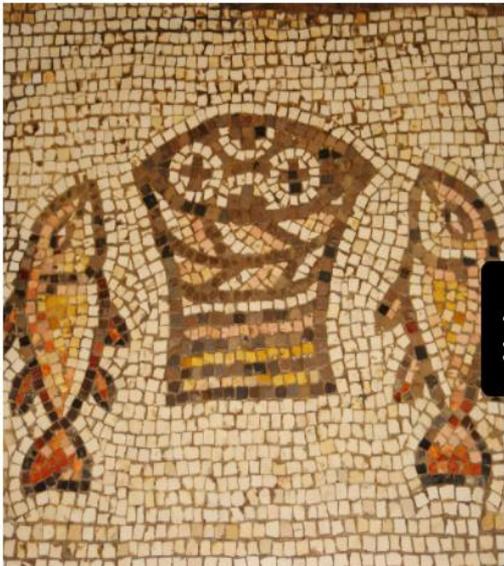
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TOOL BOX

CHILDREN SEASONAL

CHILDREN PLAYLISTS

### Feeding the 5,000

Throughout Scripture there are countless stories of people gathered around a table, eating together, and talking about faith and beliefs. In the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand, we have an example of helping to feed people, and it even contains mention of the food coming from the lunch of young boy. When the disciples express their concern for the people needing to eat, Jesus challenges them to feed the people and performs this amazing miracle. We are still called today to help feed people and to utilize the resources we have to work in fighting hunger. (Rev. Michael Vollmer)



A mosaic depicting a large fish, likely representing the miracle of Jesus feeding the 5,000. The fish is composed of small, light-colored tiles with some darker tiles forming its outline and scales. The background is a grid of light-colored tiles.

**Help**

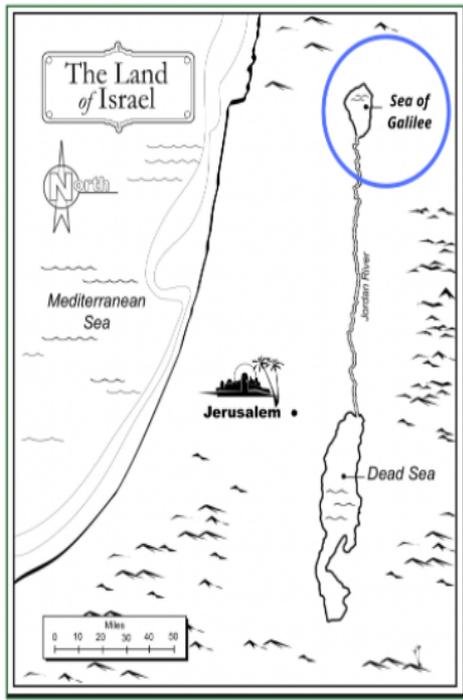
contact [Kathy Pittenger](#).

### Possible ways to use this playlist:

- Share with families to use on their own - perhaps after church to reflect on worship
- Use as a "Sunday School" or kids ministry time either in person or online
  - If using in-person - read the story together, use the wondering questions for discussion and to go deeper, bake the bread, read the book(s), and talk about how your group can take action against hunger, end with a blessing
  - If using online - read the story or invite kids to act out the story (can someone bring bread or fish or baskets or... props to help tell the story - or have a scavenger hunt for kids to find those object or objects that can be substitutes); talk about a question or two, choose one of the activities, or use one of your own, use the prayer or your own, and end with a blessing
- Use the Bible story and questions as a devotional at a gathering with families and then invite families to go deeper with the prayer list on their own.

### Bible Story

- Read the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 from [John 6:1-13](#) in your Bible or favorite Bible Story Book.
- Explore the map of Israel. Find the Sea of Galilee. Jesus did a lot of his ministry in this area.
- Wonder about the story together:
  - I wonder what it would have been like to be in the crowd listening to Jesus.
  - When have you been in a crowd with a lot of people?
  - When was a time when you were really hungry?
  - I wonder what the child who shared his bread and fish thought when his small meal fed so many people.
  - What do you wonder about?
- Prayer:
  - Dear God, thank you for stories of Jesus that teach us about sharing, caring for others, and miracles. Help us remember that you can use small things to make a big difference. We pray for those who are hungry and for those who share their food. Amen.



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Help

# Our Plan or Strategy

Create a Theme for the Year – overarching – “Come to the Table”

Plan for 4 months at a time – the Fall

- a Kick-off event - Parish Mission – intergenerational/ all parish
- Mini Ministry Fairs each weekend in the Narthex
- Parents only for Family Faith in October and November
- Children have online lessons weekly
- December parish wide events for All
- Youth Ministry Gatherings (both in person and virtual) and retreats on premise
- Confirmation sessions
- Parent meetings
- **Various Adult Faith Formation opportunities** – Justice & Peace hybrid course; Bible Study; Small Christian Communities kick off with 4 week film Festival – hybrid; group discussion of Cardinal’s Pastoral Letter “Returning to Grace” – online; RCIA Inquiry; SCCs, womens and mens prayer groups

**\*\*Deliberate care to not overbook space or overwhelm people**

# Questions to ask Yourself as you plan and look ahead

- ▶ Who stayed during the pandemic?
- ▶ Who left?
- ▶ Who was found?
- ▶ Who thrived?
- ▶ What new gifts, interests, or commitments have emerged?
- ▶ How has your community changed?
- ▶ What programs can you let go of? What began?
- ▶ What can you re-design?
- ▶ What surprises you and excites you?
- ▶ Because of the above, what are some next steps?

***What is our WHY?  
Where have we  
been?  
Where are we  
going?***

- ▶ **How can you build capacity for 2021-22?**
- ▶ **Begin slowly**
- ▶ **Be realistic**
- ▶ **Have a plan B (use multiple delivery methods)**

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION – 8 minutes and then sharing**

**In the past year or so, what have you learned?**

**What new things have worked? What has not worked? What do you want to keep?**

**What can you re-design?**

**What do you want to prune or stop all together?**

**What do you want to initiate? What is ripe for innovation?**

**Target audiences?**

**With what approach? Method? Tech? Space?**



***Thank you!***



**[www.LifelongFaith.com](http://www.LifelongFaith.com)**

**Go to “Planning Clinic” under Webinar or tools  
and article and the recording**

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