



Welcome!

Q and A

To ask the presenter a question, you will type that in the Q and A box.

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If you'd like to interact with chat, click the chat box and select "**chat to all panelists and attendees**" from the dropdown menu.

RECORDING

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TOO MUCH?

If the chat and/or Q and A interactions are too distracting, please feel free to close them now or at any time during the webinar.

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We Are All Children of God



Creating intergenerational spaces online, in-person, and hybrid

I am here in the heart of God

I am here in the heart of God

God is here in the heart of me

God is here in the heart of me

Like the wave in the water and the water in the wave

Like the wave in the water and the water in the wave

I am here in the heart of God

I am here in the heart of God

I am here in the breath of God

I am here in the breath of God

God is here in the breath of me

God is here in the breath of me

Like the wind in the summer and the summer in the wind

Like the wind in the springtime and the springtime in the wind

I am here in the breath of God

I am here in the breath of God

I am here in the soul of God

I am here in the soul of God

God is here in the soul of me

God is here in the soul of me

Like the flame in the fire and the fire in the flame

Like the flame in the fire and the fire in the flame

I am here in the soul of God

I am here in the soul of God

**I am Here in
the Heart
of God**

**This is a
repeat-after-me
song**

Children's Worship Forms

Children worship in a variety of contexts – with adults, with each other, alone

Multigenerational Congregations

In multigenerational congregations children are often given a special place to sit in the sanctuary and expected to be passive participants except for hymn singing. Children receive communion separately, do not preach, are not allowed to initiate prayer. Sometimes there are separate services for children with a message to obey their parents.

Baptist and Methodist churches are popular with children...outreach by Baptist and Methodist preachers, Baptist and Methodist organizational flexibility permitted latitude in religious worship style.

There has been a gradual drift toward separation as adults have found it difficult to control children in multigenerational churches.

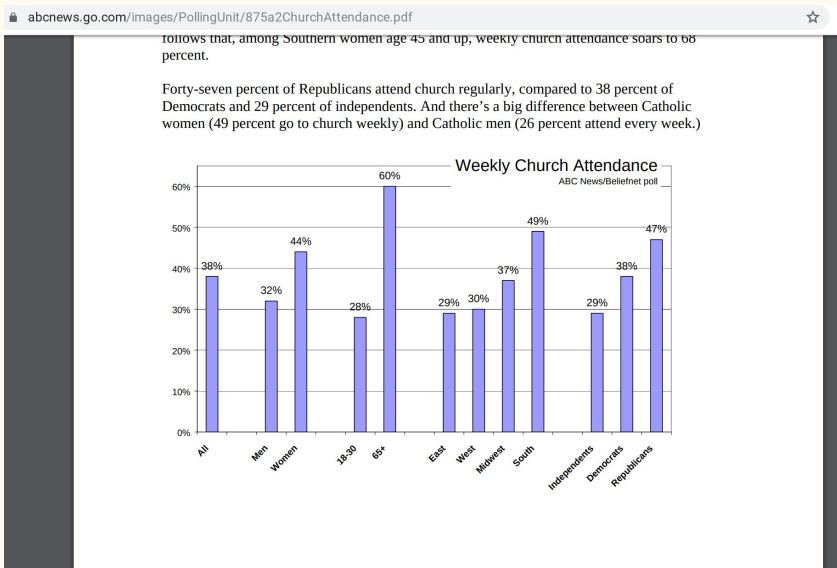
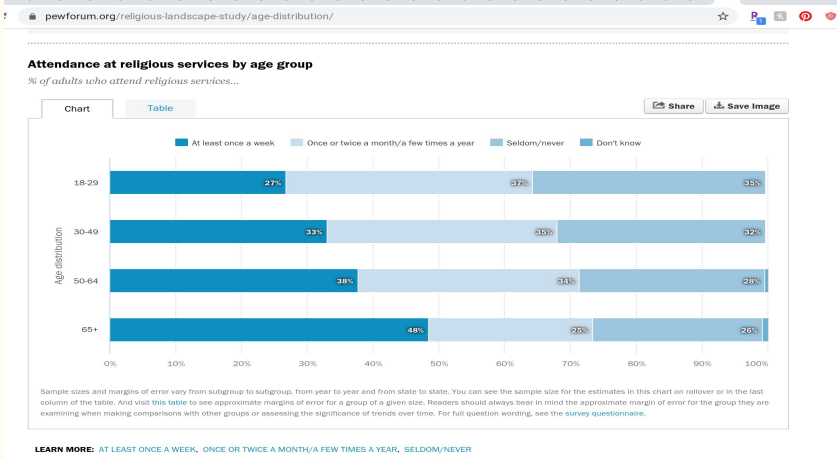
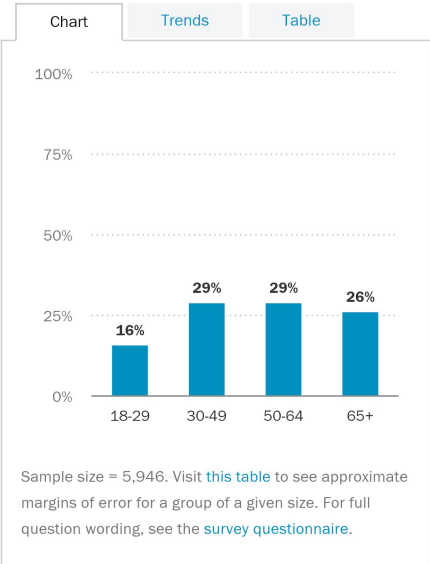
Does this sound familiar?

3:31

Age distribution among Mainline Protestants

% of Mainline Protestants who are ages...

Share Save Image



3:33

6 Important Chur... pushpay.com

Pushpay TALK TO AN EXPERT

- Seldom/never: 26%
- Don't know: 17%

AGE DISTRIBUTION BY RELIGIOUS ATTENDANCE

Attendance Level	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
At least once a week	1%	2%	3%	3%
Once or twice a month / a few times a year	3%	3%	2%	1%
Seldom / never	1%	1%	1%	1%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%

WHAT DO THESE STATISTICS TELL US?

It's interesting to note the demo

VIEW 10 RELATED PAGES



There are too many other options for children these days



Jesus Blesses the Little Children

Mark 10 (also happens in Luke and Matthew)

13 Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; 14 but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." 15 And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.



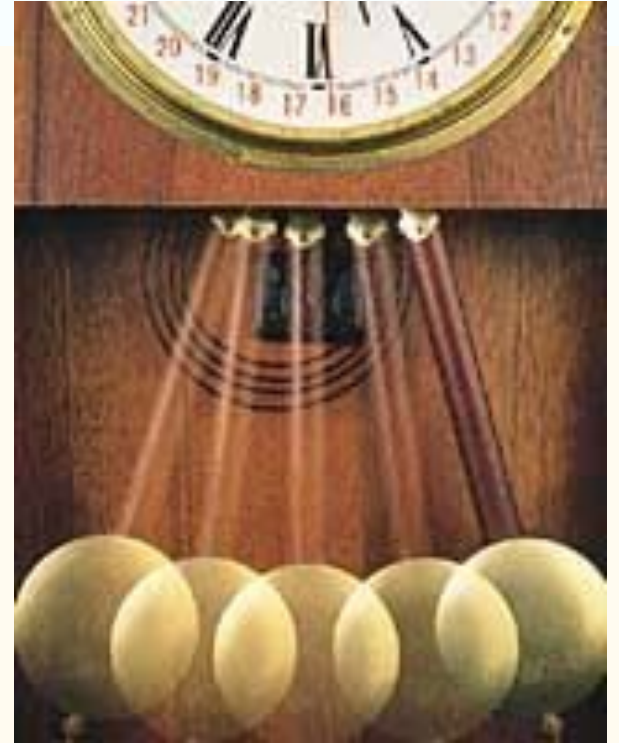
Swinging the Pendulum

Our current moment

- ❖ 100 years of adult-centered church
- ❖ Rapid decline in attendance and membership
- ❖ Churches not built for children

Jesus preferences the children and thus swings the pendulum toward children

Intergenerational church is social justice intended to liberate the most vulnerable among us



Safe spaces & intergenerational vs. multi-generational/all-ages

- ❖ There is no such thing as a "safe space."
- ❖ Particularly in regard to children.
- ❖ The world is not built for children.
- ❖ Trauma, for children, can happen anywhere anytime because children are less resourced to protect themselves.

Worship services and general church practices are often very unwelcoming to children with standards of behavior that are not developmentally appropriate for certain stages of childhood.

You can have a many generations in one room (multi-generational) and be negligent of the safety and needs of all present.

Intergenerational, as the term implies, asks all present to interact and engage in connective practice as a community. It is an intertwining as a way to provide care and consideration for each other.

Principles of Intergenerational Worship

Story

Song

Prayer



PRAYER

Repeat-after-me

Repeated

Call-out



SONG

Repeat-after-me

Repeated

Resource:
Music that
Makes
Community



STORY



Resources:
90 Second Sermons
Biblical Storytelling



God is Knot

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 **Rebecca Stevens-Walter**
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📱 470.6%			

top countries

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🇩🇪 335.2%	🇩🇪 47.7%	🇩🇪 364.7%	🇩🇪 123.0%
🇩🇪 358.8%	🇩🇪 100%		

THUMBNAIL



SOCIAL

Incredible engagement rate | **100.0%** YouTube

100% like ratio | **=0** fb likes | **0** reddit upvotes

2 YouTube Likes | **0** reddit comments

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LUKE
Pastor and Educator

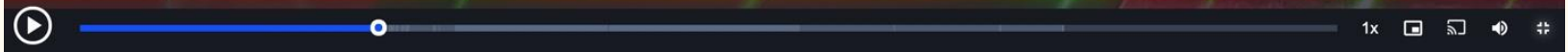
First Presbyterian
Church Brooklyn
NEWS

Christmas Eve

Gracie FPC News

LIVE

...MELS • CHRIST CHILD MAY BE BORN • SHEPARDS TO FOLLOW BRIGHT STAR • MORE SHEEP •



Principles of intergenerational church – online, in-person, multi-access

Safety – do an in-person safety assessment – baby/child proof the space

Outlet covers are a message of safety

Zoom is not safe

Hospitality – The digital space is a real space where people should be treated with dignity and respect. How would you want to be spoken to, interacted with in a space not built for you?

Accessibility – in-person churches are exempt from ADA compliance requirements – because churches lobbied for exemption – swing the pendulum

the term is "multi-access" We are creating multiple points of access

Assess your church culture – who is invited

Invite the uninvited – shift the culture

Notice

Intergenerational Church online

Safety -

Zoom programming is not appropriate or helpful for young children and parents/caregivers.

Write and distribute a media policy.

Can be anything from check-the-box to all media is our media

Understand consent and boundaries

Hospitality - active in the comments, speaking to people directly - in the comments, keep it short

Accessibility - sound quality, appearance, presentation

For older children (teenagers), they should be consulted as to how they want to do things like youth group and other interactions. As schools return to in-person there may be opportunities for Zoom engagement because they may not be as screen fatigued. Have the conversation first and then make decisions.

Pre-record as much as possible

Use YouTube, and its editing platform, for basic recording and distribution

Children's Worship Forms

Children worship in a variety of contexts – with adults, with each other, alone

Multigenerational Congregations

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Baptist and Methodist churches are popular with children...outreach by Baptist and Methodist preachers, Baptist and Methodist organizational flexibility permitted latitude in religious worship style.

There has been a gradual drift toward separation as adults have found it difficult to control children in multigenerational churches.

Does this sound familiar?

Slave Worship Forms

Slaves worshiped in a variety of contexts – with whites, with free blacks, with fellow slaves, in private

Mixed Congregations

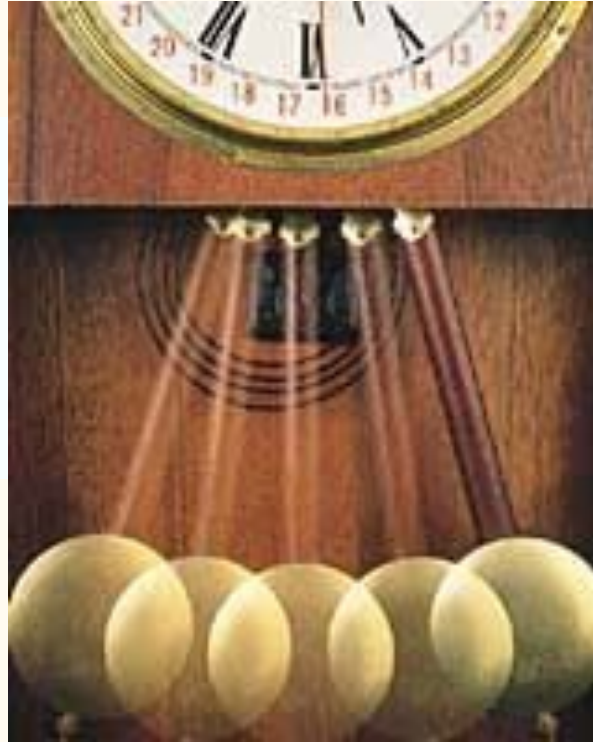
In white congregations slaves were usually segregated and expected to be passive participants except for hymn singing, received communion separately, could not preach, not allowed to initiate prayer. Sometimes there were separate services for slaves with a message to obey their masters.

Baptist and Methodist churches were most popular with slaves...outreach by Baptist and Methodist preachers, Baptist and Methodist organizational flexibility permitted latitude in religious worship style.

There was a gradual drift toward separation as whites found it difficult to control blacks in white churches.

- David Bromley, PhD, Virginia Commonwealth University

Swing the Pendulum



Assess

- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Hospitality
- ❖ Accessibility

Invite

- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Hospitality
- ❖ Accessibility

Notice

- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Hospitality
- ❖ Accessibility

Resources

Music that Makes Community

Biblical Storytelling

90 Second Sermons

Theresa Cho - *Living Waters*

Cindy Wang-Brandt - "Parenting Forward"

R.L. Stollar - "Unfundamentalist Parenting"

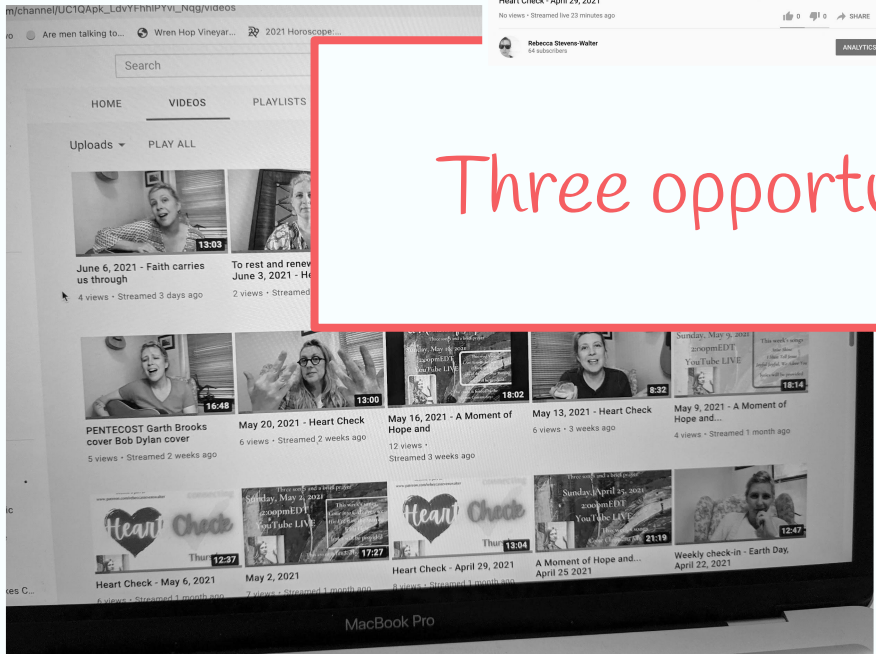
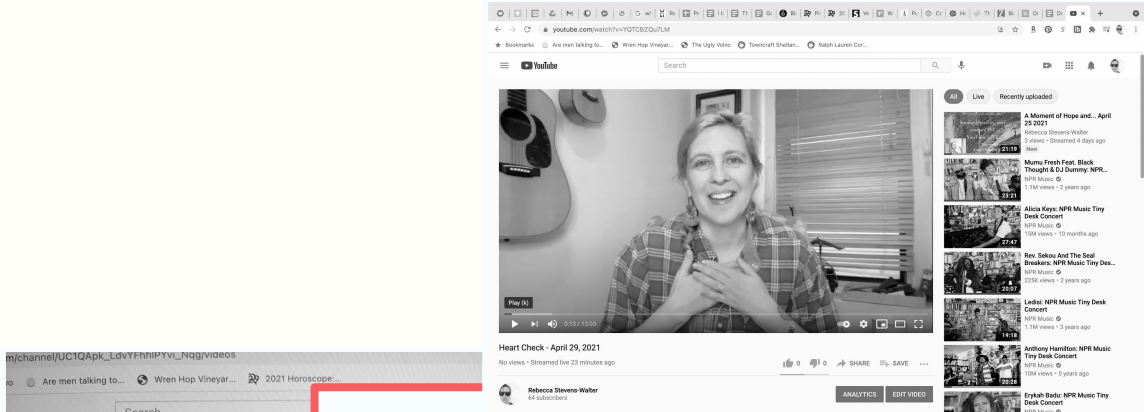
Our Whole Lives - OWL

The Spiritual Child
by Lisa Miller

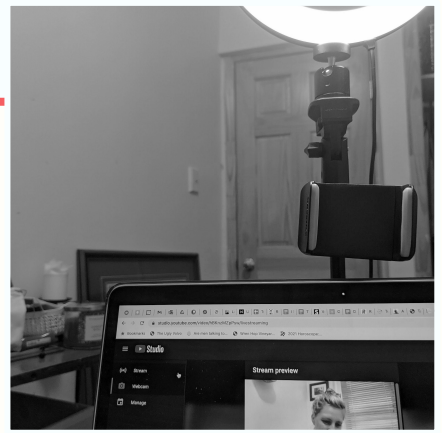
Godly Play

GenOn Ministries

The Big Box
by Toni Morrison
with Slade Morrison



Three opportunities to connect



A Moment of Hope and...

Three songs and a brief prayer



Sundays
2:00pm EDT
YouTube Live

Hosted by

Rebecca Stevens-Walter

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reflecting
breathing
connecting

Heart Check



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YouTube Live

Past guests:

- ❖ **Lenny Duncan**
Best-selling author and
public theologian
- ❖ **Ashley Detar Birt**
PCUSA LGBTQIA -
youth advocate
- ❖ **Pepa Peniagua**
1001 recipient
- ❖ **Bethany Peerbolte**
TikTok pastor

NEW

Ways of Being

Fridays
3:00pmEDT
IG Live
@anewrebecca

Conversations on new
and creative ministry



Hosted by
Rebecca Stevens-Walter

Opportunities for further engagement



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For Everyone Born

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead.

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free