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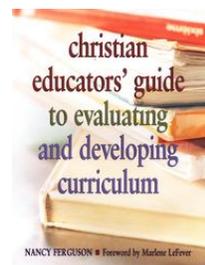
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Resources for Evaluating/Selecting Curriculum:



[How to Select Curriculum Resources for Congregations of the United Church of Christ](#)
(Published in 2008)



Christian Educator's Guide to Evaluating and Developing Curriculum

Author: Nancy Ferguson

Publisher: Judson Press, 2008

Learn More/Order: www.judsonpress.com , www.christianbook.com ,
www.amazon.com

Product Description from www.amazon.com. "A practical handbook for pastors, lay leaders, and Christian education committees who need help choosing a curriculum that suits their church's beliefs, practices, and membership. For some congregations, no preprinted materials will do--and this guide offers the tools you need to write your own curriculum. Includes a step-by-step process for evaluation of existing materials and creation of new resources!."

About the author, from www.judsonpress.com. Nancy Ferguson is a retired church professional with forty years experience in churches and camps. She is the former day camp director at Camp Hanover in Richmond Virginia and the project manager and editor of *New Earth: Christian Resources for the Outdoors*, an ecumenical curriculum for summer camps. Nancy is the author of eight books including *Teaching Younger Children (Ages 7-10) About God's Creation*, *The Retreat Leader's Manual* with Kevin Witt, *Retreats for Renewal: Five Intergenerational Retreats*, and *Training Staff to Be Spiritual Leaders*.

Ferguson holds an MDiv, a MA in Christian Education and a Ed.S. from Union Presbyterian Seminary (formerly Union Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education)

UCC Resources:



Caffeine & ...

Age Level: Youth

Methodology: Impromptu discussion starter

Author: Steven Case

Learn More/Order: <http://www.uccresources.com/products/caffeine-series-for-youth?variant=985375396>

The *Caffeine* series is a youth resource that can be used as a self-study or group study. These books are written in an accessible way, and include imaginative retellings of Bible stories that put Christianity into contemporary language and experience.

Current books in the series include:

Caffeine & Cash	Caffeine & Character
Caffeine & Christ	Caffeine & Celebration
Caffeine & Commitment	Caffeine & Confusion
Caffeine & Chutzpah	Caffeine & Courage



Faith Practices

Age Level: Multi-age & Intergenerational, Adult (35+), Young Adult (18-35), Older Youth (15-19), Youth (11-15), Older Children (7-11), Younger Children (3-7)

Learn More/Order: <http://www.ucc.org/faith-practices>

Faith Practices is an online resource that's transforming congregations into communities that worship together, learn together, and serve together. Faith Practices encompass every setting in your congregation (Christian Education, Workshop Rotation, UCC Identity & History, Living Practices in Daily Life).

Update July 2015: Faith Practices is no longer for sale, however, there are still plenty of links/activities accessible in Faith Practices. [Click Here](#) to access the entire Faith Practices resource - 24/7, 365. Plus it will never expire and you can download or print whenever you want.

Giving and Receiving Hospitality	Keeping Sabbath	Working for Justice
Giving Testimony and Witness	Living Stewardship	Experiencing Beauty
Playing and Living Joyfully	Encountering Scripture	Praying and Making Ritual
Discovering Gifts of Ministry	Honoring the Body	Blessing and Letting Go

A Scripture Index for *Faith Practices* is available at:

http://www.nhcucc.org/Documents/Christian_Education/scripture_index_FP.pdf

*Resources listed in this section have been successfully utilized and recommended by local church(es) in the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ.



The publishers of Gather 'Round have released a new curriculum: **Shine: Living in God's Light!** Shine continues many of the features that people loved about Gather 'Round, including faithful retelling of Bible stories, thoughtful reflection, creative activities, and an emphasis on discipleship, peace, service, and community. Shine has additional new features, incorporating some of the latest understandings of best practice in pedagogy. Both Gather 'Round and Shine are committed to nurturing children, youth, and their families in becoming faithful followers of Jesus: people who know and love God, interpret God's word, belong to God's gathered community, and share God's good news.



Shine: Living in God's Light

A project of MennoMedia and Brethren Press

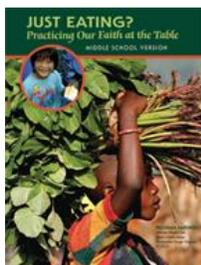
Age Level:

LED - Junior Youth (Grades 6-8)

Youth – Generation Why?

Learn More: <https://shinecurriculum.com/product-category/jr-youth/>
<https://shinecurriculum.com/product-category/generation-why/>

Help youth apply the Bible to real life and discuss their faith. Updated for a new generation, this all-in-one curriculum guides youth and their leaders on a journey for meaning and identity. Generation Why encourages youth to encounter and explore Scripture to make it their own. In a time of violence, injustice, materialism, and hard questions, *Generation Why* offers a different point of view. Topics include: Testing the Waters, How to be a True Friend, Fight Right, Called and Clueless, Do Miracles Happen, Do the Right Thing, and more.



Just Eating? Practicing Our Faith at the Table

Age Level: Middle School

Publisher: The *Just Eating* curriculum was developed by UCC affiliated Advocate Health Care in partnership with Church World Service, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. It was funded by a Practicing Our Faith grant from the Valparaiso Project on the Formation and Education of People in Faith and the UCC Genesis Fund.

Download: <http://www.ucc.org/justice/just-eating/Just-Eating-Middle-School-Adaptation.pdf>

Just Eating? Practicing Our Faith at the Table helps young people better understand the relationship between our faith and our food. The curriculum is available to download for free and includes fun activities, Bible stories and illustrations in story, song and screen that will challenge teenagers to think about food and our faith in new ways. *Just Eating?* is also available as a curriculum for adults and high school groups.

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Our Whole Lives

Age Level: Pre-school (3-4)
Kindergarten – Grade 1
Grades 4-6
Grades 7-9
Grades 10-12
Young Adults
Adults

Learn More/Order: <http://www.ucc.org/justice/sexuality-education/our-whole-lives.html>

Our Whole Lives is a series of programs for Human **Sexuality Education**. Written by professional sexuality educators, the programs provide accurate information for parents, teachers and pastors to use with children and young people to help them learn about sexuality in the affirming and supportive setting of our churches.

A complete (nationwide) training schedule for *Our Whole Lives* is available at:

<http://www.ucc.org/justice/sexuality-education/training-schedule.html>

(Note: "local" classes for 2018 are in Auburndale, MA)



Seasons of the Spirit

Seasons ENCORE: Age Level (Sunday school) Resources:

Youth 12-14

Youth 15-18

Seasons FUSION: Worship resources for engaging all ages in Faith Formation

Methodology: Lectionary Based, Designed for groups of 12-15 learners

Publisher: Wood Lake Publishing, Inc.

Learn More/Order: <http://www.seasonsonline.ca>

Seasons of the Spirit is **one inclusive program for the whole congregation**. *Seasons of the Spirit* supports faith communities and families in their life together by

- exploring meaning and mystery in the Bible
- being grounded in thoughtful theology
- empowering children, youth, and adults to be transformed in Christ
- inspiring and equipping leaders
- nurturing the imaginative spirit
- offering resources for all ages
- integrating worship, learning, and serving ministries

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Other Curricula Resources*:



Echo The Story

Publisher: Spark House, a division of Augsburg Fortress

Learn More/Order: <http://wearesparkhouse.org/teens/echothestory/>

Deepen your youth ministry. Experience the biblical narrative through storytelling, creative reflection, and dialogue.



re:form

Publisher: Spark House, a division of Augsburg Fortress

Learn More/Order: <http://wearesparkhouse.org/teens/reform/>

From the Spark House website: “You said it was time to jettison those crusty, sleep-inducing programs of the past. And we listened. You said youth ministry should be about exploration, not indoctrination. And we agreed. re:form is a totally new approach to youth ministry that trusts youth to wrestle with the historic Christian faith and theology.

re:form features two DVDs with 40 hilarious animated short films that frame the theological questions that youth really ask, an Anti-Workbook that’s chock full of individual and group activities, and a fully reproducible Leader Guide.”



colaborate Bible Study

Publisher: Spark House, a division of Augsburg Fortress

Learn More/Order:

<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286837/Colaborate-Bible-Study>

The colaborate Bible Study is a hands-on investigative learning that leads to deep engagement with the Bible, faith, and what it means to be a Christian.



**The
Thoughtful
Christian.com**

The Thoughtful Christian.com

Age Level: Youth and Young Adults

Methodology: DVD based discussions, study tools

Learn More/Order: <http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com/>

The Thoughtful Christian.com is an ecumenical site dedicated to helping Christians and seekers understand, share, practice, and be challenged in their faith. For youth and young adults they offer the INformed series of downloadable lesson plans on topics such as: Eating Disorders, Sexuality, Alcohol Abuse, Being Faithful in a Digital World, Bullying, Gender, Equality, and Diversity, Honesty and Truth Telling, Peer Pressure, and Body Image.

<https://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com/Products/CategoryCenter/CUYO!INF/informed.aspx?categoryId=CUYO!INF>

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The Best of Whole People of God Online

Age Level: 3-18 (grouped as Nursery, Beginner, Primary, Junior, Youth)

Multi-Age Summer Session

Resources for Intergenerational Worship

Methodology: Lectionary Based

Learn More/Order: <http://www.wholepeopleofgod.com/>

The Best of Whole People of God Online is a complete online Lectionary-based Sunday school curriculum. It includes weekly age-level lessons as well as worship resources for leaders. WPOG is priced especially for small churches - one license grants your church access to ALL of the age-level and worship materials.

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