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| May 6, 2020 FAITH FORMATION: GROWING TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS |

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| **Did someone say Vacation Bible School?https://ci5.googleusercontent.com/proxy/Z04hzywNuv2Z-uZrxuAFOMe7LMDssdLLFu9YOnbZH5nkeKp-oDnobqjznmL1cN8m6zMIpI5TiCARD7DHyd3FkNHXGq1nRDz_y72jSuM4dmhIL_Nc6XE5LW0Zjv_XwfJpafq1pMc7GqD3bdXILa6okm-kwm9GkA=s0-d-e1-ft#https://mcusercontent.com/97f16d9c230780d6354d01572/images/a1a0e5b2-6b41-4101-83eb-5b24e4a6c9aa.png**Hello, Faith Formation Friends!This is week seven of social distancing for me and week eight of working from home. I am longing for in-person interactions with my family, friends and colleagues. I am wondering how I got this far into this much solitude with so little prayer. What a great opportunity this has been to “be still and know,” yet so much of the time I also have felt “alone and anxious.”Even so, I am sustained by moments with God, who like a mother or father, comforts and holds us when we are alone and anxious,“...for God knows how we were made; God remembers that we are dust.“...for as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God’s steadfast love toward those who revere God.“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name!”\*Take a moment now to close your eyes, breathe in the breath God breathed into you, and be held in that steadfast love.*\*excerpted and adapted from Psalm 103***Okay. Ready to think about Vacation Bible School?**I’ve been hearing folks are wondering what to do: you’ve bought *God’s Great Big Beautiful World,* but how will you use it? Rest easy—the Shine editors called an emergency meeting to come to your aid for both VBS and Sunday school. Read on...**Shine curriculum: Two new digital options coming soon!**https://ci3.googleusercontent.com/proxy/LlEGWH3Jra4GdSWQO6ArChlbmPzOoviVD3je6N-75VcjlZRutpYTThO8Opm2k1puket2s9hpy3g3rJclNg6u5ZsDyfbq0McSQ728v0ZjEI_M1UQSWYMCllgWEo3LCgskdgIvyjRJKyScpkqHM09Dze84rblT5w=s0-d-e1-ft#https://mcusercontent.com/97f16d9c230780d6354d01572/images/10557f23-7bf1-4b31-93c2-0e70de1587ff.jpgShine will offer a digital Parent Guide for Fall 2020 that has a simple, weekly plan for families to share the Bible story, pray, sing and do an easy activity together. This guide can be used with Shine’s leaflets, student magazines and the new Bible storybook, *All of Us: God’s Story for You & Me*. This new Parent Guide is designed for congregations that will be meeting digitally this fall.https://ci4.googleusercontent.com/proxy/FpkqFahhg-b0p632VlBPOHEcgQQ4T2sO_BkS0LJtgwpHjfYUHUivkSzel-60vQaDwGZqyz_vldoGqS0f9258oPLcidLRPfax_bI8nopWY_p-6LPn_h1w9vkzVwtqQrA8DFPreEjBN4MlOfcLkZpZz_vn82CN3rHtWPWTQQ=s0-d-e1-ft#https://mcusercontent.com/97f16d9c230780d6354d01572/_compresseds/2e8e38e9-8715-4cda-958b-4d4c07b54463.jpgShine’s VBS will release a new digital upgrade! Shine is developing strategies, adaptations, and digital products to help churches and families explore *God’s Great Big Beautiful World* VBS in new ways amid social distancing. Visit [**ShineCurriculum.com**](https://mennoniteusa.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=97f16d9c230780d6354d01572&id=f6d456b0b6&e=7ec7bb6be2)and follow Shine on social media sites to keep tabs on all the creative new ideas and products for making *Great Big Beautiful World* your most memorable VBS yet! Okay, here’s a treasure every faith formation and children’s minister needs to know about: [Storypath](https://mennoniteusa.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=97f16d9c230780d6354d01572&id=c2ecbff9d7&e=7ec7bb6be2" \t "_blank). And if I’m the last one to know about it, please don’t tell me! 🤣 The folks at Union Presbyterian Seminary recommend a children’s book that fits the Revised Common Lectionary AND one that fits the Narrative Lectionary — yes, both! You also can look up books by scripture passage because, after all, some of us don’t follow any lectionary! Go, go — What are you waiting for? Check it out!!Also, in case you missed this, there are lots of helpful tidbits in our [Technology Best Practices video series](https://mennoniteusa.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=97f16d9c230780d6354d01572&id=720c39a1bd&e=7ec7bb6be2)related to virtual meetings, online worship and work tools. Created by Crystal Washington, a technology strategist and certified futurist, the series includes 15 concise and winsome mini-videos.  |

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| How do we plan for ministry post-pandemic? What will change going forward? Watch this video: [Church in These VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous) Times](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uAKQXagwms&feature=youtu.be&ct=t%28FFnewsDec18_COPY_01%29). |

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| **My favorite lines from this video:**“An analog church asking whether online life is relevant is like Sears asking whether Amazon is relevant.” —Carey NieuwhofP.S. Sears is out of business.P.P.S. Online life is 24/7, not just for an hour on Sunday mornings.This is worth repeating: **Online life is 24/7, not just for an hour on Sunday mornings.**What are we doing to meet our members online? Find lots of ideas in [this webinar by John Roberto](https://mennoniteusa.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=97f16d9c230780d6354d01572&id=94f1a82571&e=7ec7bb6be2) and the [Powerpoint notes](https://mennoniteusa.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=97f16d9c230780d6354d01572&id=30d6f4ffa5&e=7ec7bb6be2" \t "_blank) that go with it. |

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