

Welcome

Creation-centered Faith Formation will start shortly

As we are gathering, ponder these questions:

What was your first significant experience in creation?

What, who, how did your faith and love of creation connect?

When did your faith/experience call you to action?

Open a new tab and go to: pollev.com/shellybarrickparsons823

Session overview

Where we are headed together

- Ice breakers and pondering questions
- Key terms
 - Creation
 - Faith formation
- Context
- Creation centered faith formation:
 - Awaken, Connect, Act
- What's working for you
- Practical tidbits: practices, curriculum
- Questions comments feedback

ICE BREAKERS

Go to this link:
pollev.com/shellybarrickparsons823

- We will use the online poll to answer these two icebreaking questions and see what others say:
- What is your favorite season?
- Where is your favorite/go-to outdoor space?

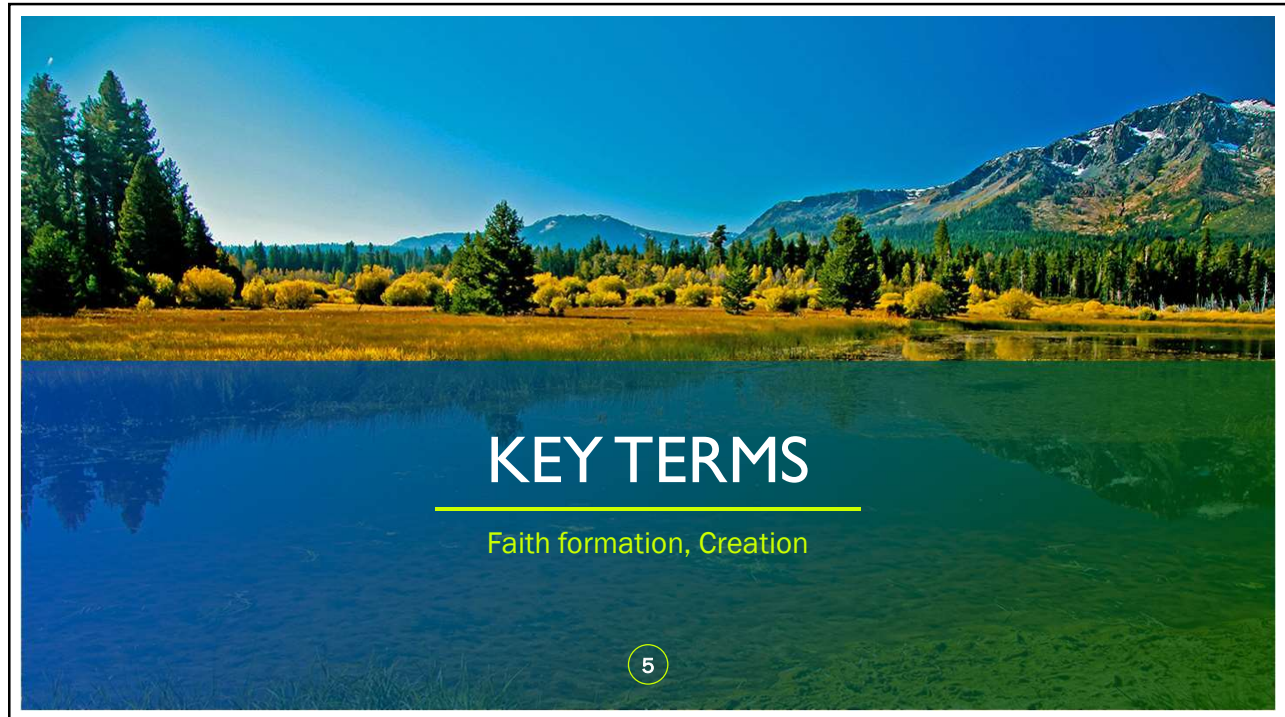


PONDERING QUESTIONS

Go to this link:
pollev.com/shellybarrickparsons823

- We will use the online poll to answer these three questions for pondering:
- How/when did you fall in love with creation/first memories of that love, joy, wonder igniting?
- When/who/how did your faith connect with love of creation?
- When/how/what did your experience of nature and faith drive you to action?





KEY TERMS

Faith formation, Creation

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CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

Faith formation seeks to build lifelong followers of Jesus Christ in community who love God, self, and neighbor.

John Roberto, Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century

Christian Education

- Classroom centered
- Content – text centric
- Resident expert teacher
- Empty vessel students who need to be filled with knowledge
- Child-centered
- Church as locus
- Education
- Institution
- Consumption

Faith Formation

- All ages
- All aspects of life
- Content matters, learning
- Practices matter
- Holistic: Heart, soul, mind, strength
- Experience and intuition matter
- Forming, Informing, Transforming
- Contextual
- Connected, networks
- Engaged, participatory
- Curator
- Mentor
- Pilgrim
- Age appropriate and intergenerational
- Holistic
- Interested

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CREATION

God saw everything [God] had made: it was supremely good. (Genesis 1)

Affirmations

- God created the world, declared it good
- We are not the only ones declaring God's glory
- Creation is connected and interconnected
- Our individual and collective practices have consequences
- Call: Stewardship/nurture/cultivation/community
- Dynamic/creative/ongoing
- God continues to create
- Jesus' teaching were grounded in creation
- Creating, Redeeming, Sustaining

Opposing Creative Goodness

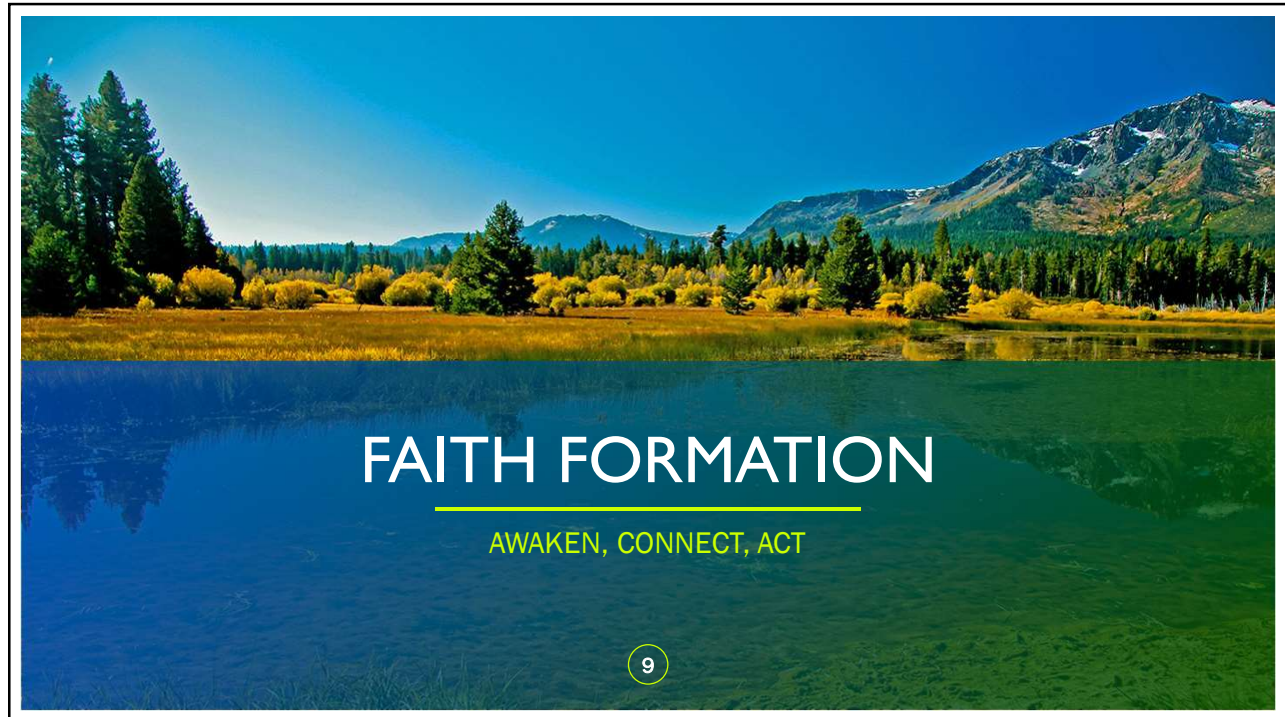
- Sin is dominion/destruction/isolation/ignorance
- Static
- Separating (spirit/body dualism)
- Idolizing individuality
- Dulling activities
- Overuse

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CONTEXT

Anxiety, urgency, despair . . . And a new interest

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FAITH FORMATION

AWAKEN, CONNECT, ACT

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AWAKEN

God is present. . . In the breezes that cool us, in the thunder that startles us, in the beauty that surrounds us. . . Faith formation's first task is to awaken our senses, reinvigorate awe and wonder, and practice gratitude

ELEMENTS

- Slow down
- Develop the following practices
 - Wonder/curiosity
 - Joy
 - Awe
 - Wander
 - Gratitude
 - Attention

PRACTICES

- Get outside
- Silence and song
- Reconsider play spaces
- Native planting
- Wildlife habitats/<https://www.nwf.org/certify>
- Gardens: <https://edibleschoolyard.org/>
- Examen
- Nature walk
- Art & imagination
- Five senses
- Breath prayer
- Camping on the church lawn
- Green hour
- Birding
- Wonder bowl
- Nature journal
- Go to camp!!

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CONNECT

Our scriptures and tradition provide an affirmation of God's creative work, our goodness, and our responsibility.

ELEMENTS

- Apply wonder to engaging scripture
- Wellbeing and goodness as keys to understanding scripture
 - Created goodness
 - Wellbeing of all creation
 - Broken and fearful world
 - Hope
- Contextual, asking what folks are bringing to the text
- Our tradition (scripture) is not fixed

PRACTICES

- Language – inclusive, not dualistic
- Prayer – images of God, acknowledgement of creation, lifting up the diversity of God's good world,
- Worship – where are you facing in worship? Whose concerns are named? What do you confess?
- Sacraments – where do your elements come from?
- Engagement with the stories of our tradition that honor God's creation
- Confession—acknowledging all is not right
- Lectio divina, breath prayer, sacred readings
- Speak the truth in love (safety and liability)

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SCRIPTURE

Go to this link:
pollev.com/shellybarrickparsons823

- We will use the online poll to answer:
- What are creation-centered scriptures? Share some lines.

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ACT

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives (Brief Statement of Faith)

ELEMENTS

- We are awakened to God's creative work, power, and love in creation
- We connect with our tradition that reminds us of our call to careful stewardship of our neighbors (all living creature)
- We recognize that we are not living in ways that reflect God's creative power and desire for wellbeing for all creation, therefore
- We are called to action. . . Strengthened and informed by our love of creation and our faith tradition

PRACTICES

- Citizen scientists/[heat mapping](#)
- Local greening and conservation organizations
- Green your community: tree planting, regulations, parks, public transportation, trail networks
- Educate ourselves on connections between poverty and environmental concerns (food deserts, heat islands, resilience)
- Legalize unstructured play
- Advocate for curriculum changes (Project Learning Tree, Project Wild)
- What did this action awaken? Inspire? Cause awe, wonder?

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SHARE

Go to this link:
pollev.com/shellybarrickparsons823

- We will use the [online poll](#) to answer:
- Share an experience or example of creation centered faith formation

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PRACTICAL TIDBITS

Faith formation seeks to build lifelong followers of Jesus Christ in community who love God, self, and neighbor.

John Roberto, Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century

CURRICULUM

- God's Big Beautiful World, VBS, Mennonite
- Outdoor Ministry Curriculum: <https://insideoutcurriculum.com/>

ODDS & ENDS

- Faith formation and consumption
 - Food/eating
 - Supplies
 - Publicity

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RESOURCES

Books, websites, etc

- https://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/reimagining_faith_formation_book.pdf
- UPSem storypath. books on creation: <https://storypath.upsem.edu/tag/creation/>
- *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv
- *Inhabitation: Ecological Religious Education*, Jennifer Ayres
- *Reforesting Faith*, Matthew Sleeth
- *Sacred Sense: Discovering the Wonder of God's Word and World*, William P. Brown
- <https://insideoutcurriculum.com/>
- <https://www.christianbook.com/great-beautiful-world-starter-mennomedia-vbs/9781513806389/pd/806389>
- Eco guide to Greening Churches, 2018, PEC/Earth Care Congregations
- https://www.littlerenegades.com/products/mindful-kids-activity-cards?gclid=CjwKCAiw9uKIBhA8EiwAYPUS3GonJmEP5LhSdeDk7072T01b1VdN3x2tlcWAR2OJNM_leGGVSzIV3xoCDIEQAvD_BwE

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