

# 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](https://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](https://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?

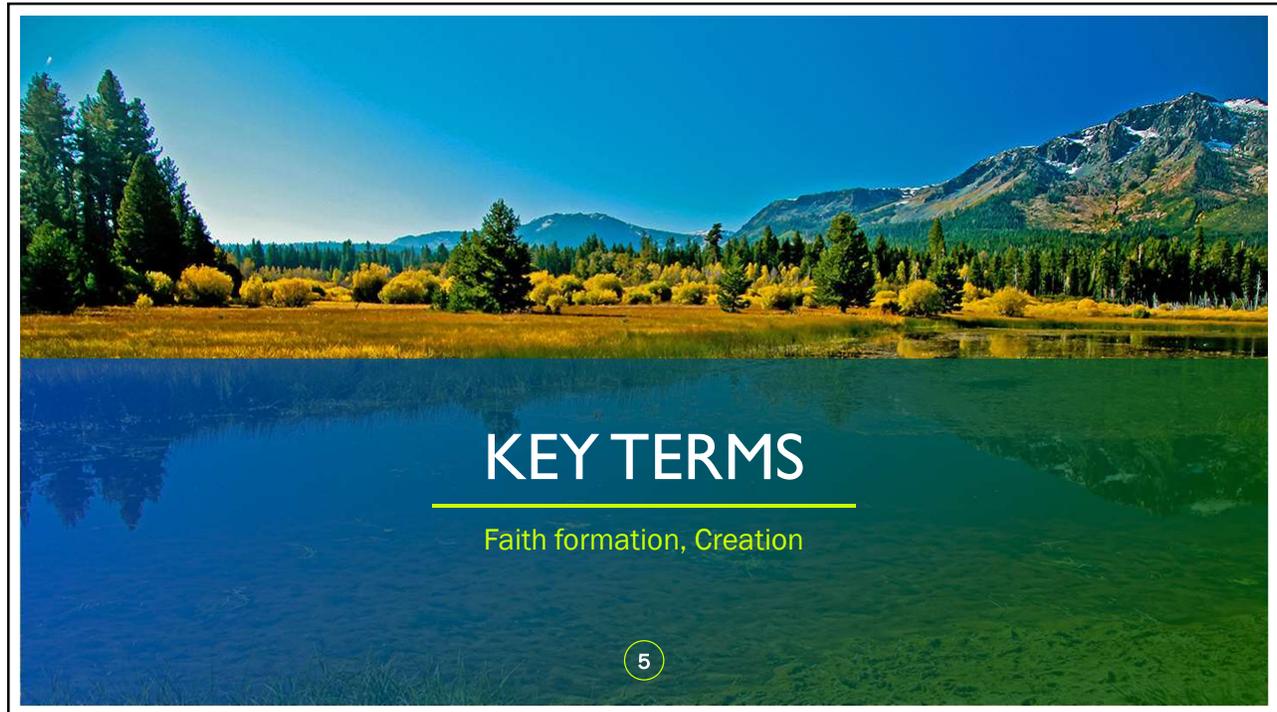


# PONDERING QUESTIONS

Go to this link:  
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- 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?





# 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Christian Education	Faith Formation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom centered</li> <li>• Content – text centric</li> <li>• Resident expert teacher</li> <li>• Empty vessel students who need to be filled with knowledge</li> <li>• Child-centered</li> <li>• Church as locus</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Institution</li> <li>• Consumption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All ages</li> <li>• All aspects of life</li> <li>• Content matters, learning</li> <li>• Practices matter</li> <li>• Holistic: Heart, soul, mind, strength</li> <li>• Experience and intuition matter</li> <li>• Forming, Informing, Transforming</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contextual</li> <li>• Connected, networks</li> <li>• Engaged, participatory</li> <li>• Curator</li> <li>• Mentor</li> <li>• Pilgrim</li> <li>• Age appropriate and intergenerational</li> <li>• Holistic</li> <li>• Interested</li> </ul>

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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

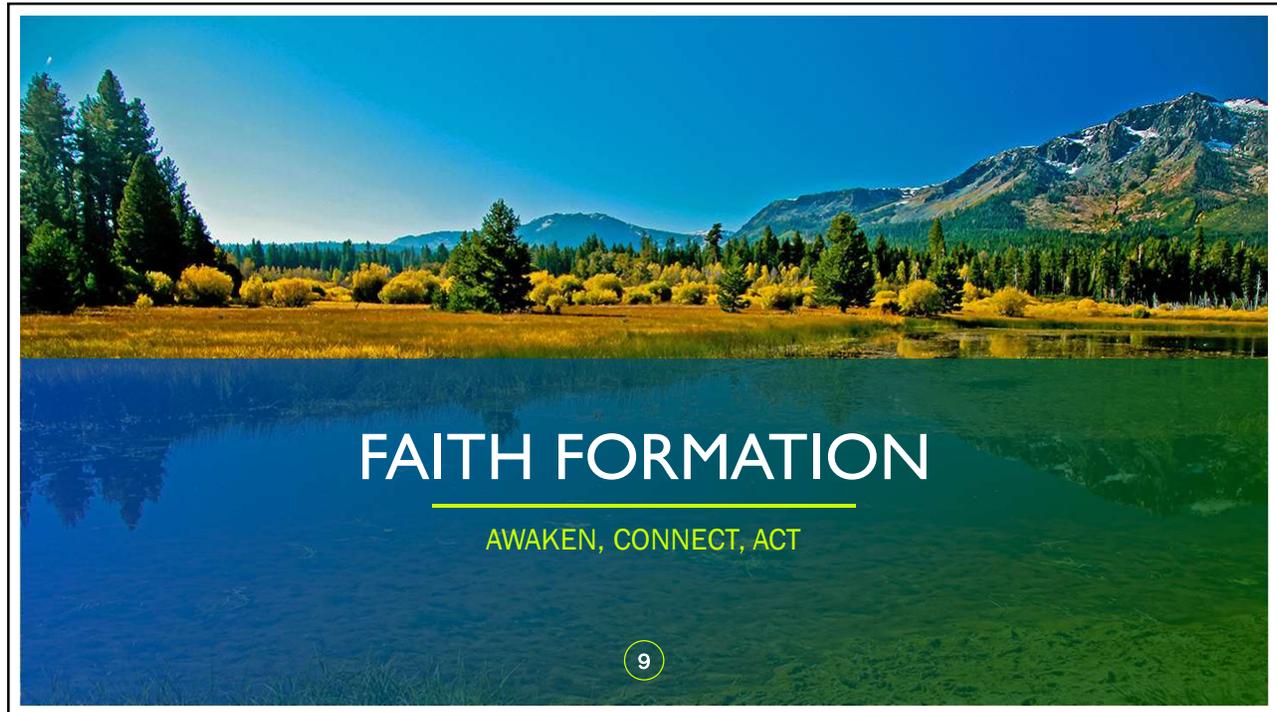
- Sin is  
dominion/destruction/isolation/ignorance
- Static
- Separating (spirit/body dualism)
- Idolizing individuality
- Dulling activities
- Overuse

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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:  
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- 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](https://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

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John Roberto, Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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](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](https://www.littlerenegades.com/products/mindful-kids-activity-cards?gclid=CjwKCAiw9uKIBhA8EiwAYPUS3GonJmEP5LhSdeDk7072T01b1VdN3x2tlcWAR2OJNM_leGGVSzIV3xoCDIEQAvD_BwE)

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