

## Table of Contents

### **UCC Resources:**

- Taste the Bread (Communion)
- Touch the Water (Baptism)
- Come Unto Me: Rethinking the Sacraments for Children
- Getting Ready for Baptism
- Ideas for Celebrating World Communion Sunday from Global Ministries

### **Resources Shared by the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ:**

- Communion with Your Child (for children and parents)
- Do This to Remember Me (for families and church school)
- Jesus Loves Me: The Young Child and Communion (for Pastors and Church Educators)

### **Other Resources:**

- Celebrate Communion
- Complete Guide to Godly Play Volume 4
- You are Welcome, A Children and Communion Leader's Guide
- The Joyful Feast in God's Household

Background Information taken from the Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ (source: <http://www.ucc.org/beliefs/preamble-to-the-constitution.html> )

The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, **it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.**

### **An additional concept of baptism (shared by Rev. Emily Preston)**

An additional concept of baptism I began to talk with young parents about (knowing that neither had grown up in a church: SS/confirmation, etc.) was that through the ritual of water and prayer, the 'communication' line between that child and God was opened...now, the child could communicate on his/her own (when old enough) - his/her own "telephone line" as it were - and not have to just rely on the parents to do it for him/her. It seemed to be a concept easily understood and accepted and I heard it repeated several times over the years from parent to parent.

## **UCC Resources:**



### **Taste the Bread**

Author: Phyllis Vos Wezeman, Anna L. Liechty, and Kenneth R. Wezeman

Learn More/Order: <https://www.uccresources.com/>

*Taste the Bread* is designed for clergy and lay leaders to use in preaching to children from kindergarten through upper-elementary school. Using selected Scripture passages, the 30 sermons presented here focus on biblical stories and theological themes regarding Holy Communion.



### **Touch the Water**

Author: Phyllis Vos Wezeman, Anna L. Liechty, and Kenneth R. Wezeman

Learn More/Order: <https://www.uccresources.com/>

*Touch the Water: 30 Children's Sermons on Baptism* contains 30 sermons on Holy Baptism for use by clergy and lay leaders in preaching to children from kindergarten to fifth grade. The sermons are also adaptable for younger children as well as middle school-aged children.



### **Come Unto Me: Rethinking the Sacraments for Children**

Author: Elizabeth Francis Caldwell

Learn More/Order: <https://www.uccresources.com/>

This book addresses the realities of congregational and familial practices of the sacraments of baptism and Eucharist. The author provides models for intentional liturgical and educational transformation, offering a holistic sacramental education model that works to integrate education and worship in the lives of church members.



### **Getting Ready for Baptism, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition**

Author: Stillspeaking Writers' Group, Updated Release July 2014

Learn More/Order: <https://www.uccresources.com/>

An updated look at what baptism means today, for those preparing for baptism - whether parents or children, adults or congregations, and even clergy. Written from a variety of UCC perspectives by the Stillspeaking Writers' Group. Includes clear, accessible answers to frequently asked questions, and thoughtfully addresses issues such as "When, Where, and How Old?" and "Explaining Baptism to Children."



World Communion Sunday offers congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, they remember that they are part of the whole body of believers. For ideas on creating a meaningful worship experience for World Communion Sunday visit:

[http://www.globalministries.org/special\\_days\\_wcs\\_world\\_communion\\_sunday\\_ideas](http://www.globalministries.org/special_days_wcs_world_communion_sunday_ideas)

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

## **Resources Shared by the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ:**

Three booklets, originally printed as apart of the “Let the Children Come Series” by Round Table Resources, through the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, in 1992 are now available through the Connecticut Conference website in the hopes that more people can have access to these useful resources.

### **Jesus Loves Me: The Young Child and Communion**

This booklet is intended for pastors, Christian Educators, and other church leaders as a resource for discussion of full inclusion of children in the celebration of communion. The author, Donna Papenhausen, provides a solid review of historical precedent and theological opinion.

Available for download at:

[http://www.ctucc.org/files/ct+documents/faith+formation/jesus\\_loves\\_me.pdf](http://www.ctucc.org/files/ct+documents/faith+formation/jesus_loves_me.pdf)

### **Do This To Remember Me! - A Book for Families on the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

This booklet, written by Rosemary Turner, has been prepared as a resource for families on Communion. It may be used in preparing children for coming to the Lord’s Table at home or for family education programs at the church. One of the tasks of the church is to prepare children for a meaningful life-long participation in the sacraments. The church calls on the family to be involved in this process because it believes that the family is the most important avenue for Christian growth for children.

Available for download at:

[http://www.ctucc.org/files/ct+documents/faith+formation/do\\_this\\_to\\_remember\\_me.pdf](http://www.ctucc.org/files/ct+documents/faith+formation/do_this_to_remember_me.pdf)

### **Communion with Your Child**

This booklet, written by Bette Anne Crowell, gives a basic grounding in the meaning and practice of Holy Communion for the use of parents in preparing a child to participate in the sacrament.

Available for download at:

[http://www.ctucc.org/files/ct+documents/faith+formation/communion\\_with\\_your\\_child.pdf](http://www.ctucc.org/files/ct+documents/faith+formation/communion_with_your_child.pdf)

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

## **Other Resources\*:**

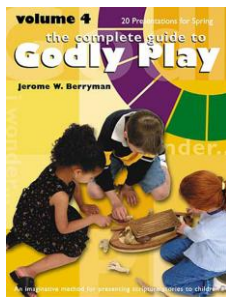
### **Celebrate Communion**

Author/Editor: Colleen Britton

Learn More/Order: 1-800-221-0910 or [info@educationalministries.com](mailto:info@educationalministries.com). ID# 5937

This is an older resource but still applicable for today. It provides materials for preparing children for communion. The lessons are designed to be presented to broadly graded classes in 15-20 minute sessions. They are divided into three sections:

- Communion Lesson Plans
- Communion Services
- Communion Related Learning Activities



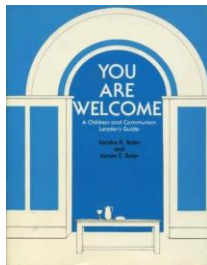
### **Complete Guide to Godly Play Volume 4 20 Presentations for Spring**

Author: Rev. Dr. Jerome Berryman

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

This volume includes three lessons on communion :

- Lesson 10: The Good Shepherd and World Communion
- Lesson 12: Circle of the Holy Eucharist
- Enrichment Lesson: Symbols of the Holy Eucharist

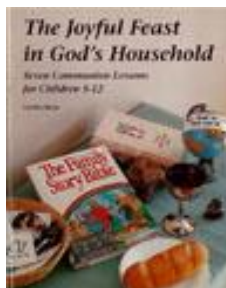


### **You are Welcome, A Children and Communion Leader's Guide**

Author: Sandra and James Boler

Publisher: United Church Press (1985)

Currently Available to Order (Used): <https://www.amazon.com/>



### **The Joyful Feast in God's Household**

Author: Carolyn Boyer

Download .pdf: <http://presbyterian.ca/download/the-joyful-feast-in-gods-household-seven-communion-lessons-for-children-5-12/>

*The Joyful Feast in God's Household* contains seven communion lessons designed to nurture children (5-12) along their journeys of faith.

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