

Wonder Box: Time for All Ages

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Why "Time for All Ages"?

- ❖ PROS & CONS
 - ❖ Multigenerational
 - ❖ Is it really?
 - ❖ Another learning style (Story)
 - ❖ Still only verbal
 - ❖ Highlights children while they're in the sanctuary
 - ❖ Can be patronizing or "parading" them for the benefit of adults

Time to discuss...

❖ How does your congregation do “Time for All Ages”?
...If at all...

❖ Pros?

❖ Cons?

❖ 5 minutes

≡ WONDER:

- ≡ Noun: A feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable.
- ≡ Verb: Desire to be curious to know something

≡ VERY UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST!

Why Wonder Box?

- ❖ Make it your own!
- ❖ Interactive & surprising
- ❖ Honors all generations
- ❖ Recognizes children as contributors without patronizing
- ❖ Uses multiple learning styles
- ❖ Integrated, well-planned, supports the service

HOW to do it?

Using Stories

- ❖ Legend of Ostara Bunny
 - ❖ Write your own
 - ❖ Adapt a favorite
 - ❖ Tell a story you love
- ❖ TELL, don't read
- ❖ Project pictures if you must!
- ❖ Use a familiar "hook"

Time to Discuss...

- ❖ Your favorite stories
- ❖ What object would go in the Wonder Box?
- ❖ 5 minutes

⚡ Grace: Undeserved Gifts

- ⚡ Be conversational
- ⚡ Use examples to which all ages can relate
- ⚡ Ask questions—encourage spontaneous responses
- ⚡ Don't put people on the spot, unless they've been "cleared" in advance

Using "Lessons"

- ⚡ What lessons or messages do you want to share with your congregation?
- ⚡ What objects might you put in the Wonder Box?

Time to Discuss...

Question:
“ **How to
choose
who to
call on?**”

Answer:

- ❖ **Spontaneous:**
Who hasn't had a chance lately?
- ❖ **Pre-arranged:**
Especially if it's a weird one
- ❖ **Pre-arranged:**
Birthday, etc.
- ❖ **More than one?**

Tips & Tricks

Question:
**“ How to
choose
the
object?”**

Answer:

- ⌘ It depends!
- ⌘ It can “drive” the story or lesson
- ⌘ It can “remind you” of the story or lesson
- ⌘ Potential for more objects!

Tips & Tricks

Question:
**“ How to
start?”**

Answer:

- ⚡ Now is our special time...
- ⚡ Reverend John is going to talk to the grownups about...
- ⚡ I need a helper
- ⚡ Honor the helper (Use names!)

Tips & Tricks

Question:
“ **How to
wrap up?**”

Answer:

- ⚡ Re-cap
- ⚡ As we sing the children to their R.E. Classes...
- ⚡ Will you help me remember...?

Tips & Tricks

Question:

**“ How
closely
should it
tie to the
service?”**

Answer:

- ⚡ Pretty closely!
- ⚡ Work with the worship leader
- ⚡ Forethought, not afterthought
- ⚡ Supports the service like a reading or hymn

Tips & Tricks

Question:

“How can I bring up hard, sad, or scary things with the Wonder Box?”

Answer:

- ⚡ This is good, and important to do.
- ⚡ Honor feelings
- ⚡ Give context without gore
- ⚡ Remind them of community, response, safety, and justice-making

Tips & Tricks

Q&A

- ❖ Do you have any questions?
- ❖ Please use the microphone
- ❖ Online viewers: Contact Rev. Christina Leone directly (see next slide)

THANK YOU!

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