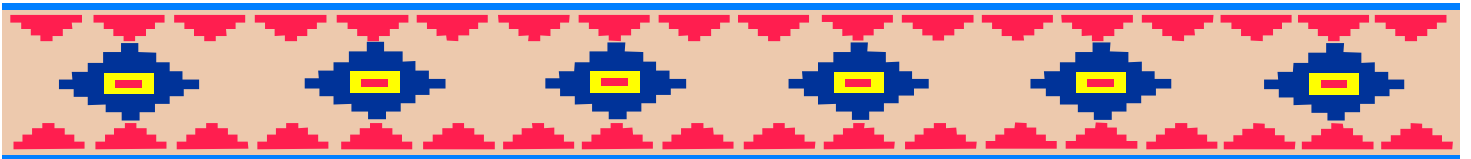


Godly Play is based upon the recognition that children have an innate sense of the presence of God. All they lack is the appropriate language to help them identify and express it so it can be explored and strengthened. The Godly Play approach teaches classical Christian language in a way that enhances the child's authentic experience of God so it can contribute to the creative life of the child and the world.



The First Congregational Church Ridgefield is hosting an introductory Godly Play training session on Saturday, February 23rd from 8:30 am until noon at 99 Main Street (the house next door to the church).

Northeast regional Godly Play trainer Linda Clapp will introduce Godly Play and demonstrate two Godly Play stories for participants.

We welcome all Christian educators and clergy to this introductory session, but space is limited. Please email Karen Halac to reserve your place at karenh@firstcongregational.com.

Participation fee: \$25 per person / checks made to the First Congregational Church with Godly Play training in the memo line.

To learn more about Godly Play from our trainer, please visit:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aw_mrzZJx00

What is Godly Play?

Godly Play teaches children the art of using Christian language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action - helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

When Christian language is learned by the Godly Play approach, it is learned as a means to know God and to make meaning of our lives. This approach is quite different from the traditional model in which the teacher tells the children what they need to know. Godly Play is not about things that are that simple. It is not just about learning lessons or keeping children entertained. It is about locating each lesson in the whole system of Christian language and involving the creative process to discover the depths of meaning in them. It's about understanding how each of the stories of God's people connects with the child's own experience and relationship with God. Godly Play respects the innate spirituality of children and encourages curiosity and imagination in experiencing the mystery and joy of God.

The goal of Godly Play is to show how to be open to the Holy Spirit, The Creator, and the Redeemer all at once and all the time in every place. To achieve this goal is to help children become deeply rooted as Christians and yet at the same time use this powerful language and community to be open and creative.

- Godly Play is a creative and imaginative approach to Christian nurture.
- Godly Play is based on long established, tried and tested approaches.
- Godly Play encourages participants to make meaning for themselves by inviting them into stories and providing the opportunity for them to connect the stories with their personal experience.
- Godly Play is a non-coercive way to encourage people to move into larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering questions and open-ended response time.
- Godly Play values process, openness and discovery.
- Godly Play is a way of preparing children to join in the worship and life of their congregations as they develop a deeper understanding of stories, symbols and rites.
- Although it was originally developed as a resource for children, Godly Play is now being used with a wide range of age groups in a diversity of settings.