



Worship, Learning, and Serving for Vital Congregations



What are Christian practices?

A number of spiritual or faith practices have been fruitful for Christians throughout history. They shape us as individuals and in community. They are named in various ways, but all direct God's people to a closer, deeper, experiential relationship with God and the people of God.

What is Faith Practices?

Faith Practices is a comprehensive education, worship, and activity resource for UCC churches structured around the things that we do: things like welcoming, giving, praying, and playing. Over the next **six years**, resources for **24 practices** will be released, **four practices in each program year**. These materials enable us to explore and observe these practices in a uniquely Christian way.

Is it a curriculum? Can I use it for Sunday School?

Faith Practices contains activity plans that are fully suitable for Sunday School classes across the ages, as well as with youth groups and adult studies. In addition, there are *Faith Practices* activity plans for intergenerational groups, community worship, seekers, and more. Although not primarily intended as a curriculum, the plans are specific and clear, and activities can be combined to form many 30-60 minute sessions within each practice.

Is it a Biblically based program?

Faith Practices activities have a sound Biblical foundation, and include age-appropriate Scripture study related to each activity's theme. One practice, "Encountering Scripture" (to be available in fall 2011), focuses on reading and exploring the Bible as a Christian practice. Each practice may include a number of relevant texts to the ways Christians live their faith. This resource is not organized in such a way that follows the Common Lectionary or a series of Bible stories but can be used to enhance resources that follow these patterns of organization.



What do you mean by "all church resources"?

Faith Practices is a web based resource for the whole church in many settings: from new members and seekers classes to seasonal studies, in fellowship and committee gatherings. It can be used in worship, youth ministry, church school and outreach. It can be used for leadership enrichment and visitation. The church pastor and staff, lay leaders, mentors and others will find something here to explore and share in the many contexts of the church. An annual online subscription gives everyone in the church access to *Faith Practices*, or it can be purchased in components.

What "Christian practices" are addressed in *Faith Practices*?

The first eight practices being offered in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 illustrate the range of topics being considered:

- Giving and Receiving Hospitality
- Living Stewardship
- Sabbath
- Playing and Living Joyfully
- Encountering Scripture
- Giving Testimony and Witness
- Praying and Making Ritual
- Working for Justice

Becoming a person of faith transforms one's life: How does one's life reflect that transformation? That's what Faith Practices is all about.