

## Resources for Youth Ministry

### Youth Ministry Alternatives

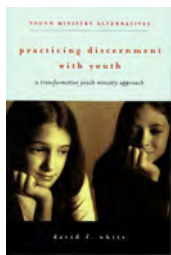
New series from The Pilgrim Press (order from [United Church of Christ Resources](#))

#### ***Practicing Discernment with Youth: A Transformative Youth Ministry***

***Approach*** by David F. White (The Pilgrim Press, 2005), \$24.00

How can responsibility for youth ministry be returned to local congregations? In *Practicing Discernment with Youth*, David White offers historical discernment practices in Christian communities, biblical reflection that emerged from the Protestant Reformation, and social analysis of Latin American base communities to offer new possibilities for youth ministries.

The book is divided into two parts. In Part One, a theologically based youth program is described. In Part Two, a practical program is played out so that local youth ministers can engaged groups in reflection and discussion.



#### ***Branded: Adolescents Converting from Consumer Faith***

by Katherine Turpin (The Pilgrim Press, 2006), \$24.00 (Order from United Church of Christ Resources)

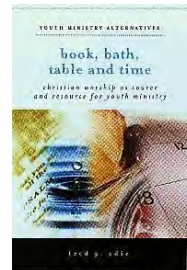
*Branded*, the second title in the Youth Ministry Alternatives series, addresses and examines three key elements: 1) the distortion of adolescent vocation in a consumer-focused culture; 2) the dream that adolescents would discover the freedom to live into a vocational path not dominated by consumer culture; and 3) an educational process of enlivening agency and imagination that would allow for such freedom of vocational development.



#### ***Book, Bath, Table, and Time: Christian Worship as Source and Resource for Youth Ministry***

by Fred P. Edie (The Pilgrim Press, 2007), \$24.00

Ideas for and suggestions on how to practice the liturgical holy things — bath (Baptism); book (Scriptures); table (Eucharist); calendar (the prayerful patterning of time) — in order to provide the church with a faithful ecology of life that is capable of forming Christian youth who experience God's presence, identify God rightly, and take up their baptismal vocations before God and for the world. Edie offers practical ideas that ground youth ministry in a playfully orthodox ecclesiology which holds liturgy and worship at its center, yet takes in to account and is sensitive to the characteristics of the younger generation so as to successfully engage them.



#### ***Lives to Offer: Accompanying Youth on Their Vocational Quests***

by Don Grinenko Baker and Joyce Ann Mercer (The Pilgrim Press, 2007), \$20.00

As an alternative to the consumerist, program-driven views of ministry with youth, *Lives to Offer* presents a different vision: youth ministry as a companioned walk with young people in search of vocation in its public and private dimensions. Adolescent stories of vocation, gleaned from research encounters with youthful collaborators, pepper this innovative resource. The ultimate suggestion the book makes is that the processes of adult accompaniment of youth on their vocational journeys can be a central focus and alternative vision for youth ministry today.

***Doing Girlfriend Theology: God-Talk with Young Women: A Transformative Youth Ministry Approach*** by Dori Grinenko Baker (The Pilgrim Press, 2008), \$20.00

This resource shows how to set up a Girlfriend Theology group, discern themes within the stories the girls tell, ask or prompt theological questions, and adapt the information of the book to groups other than girls. Small group and retreat leaders will find this to be a valuable resource.



***The Sacred Selves of Adolescent Girls: Hard Stories of Race, Class, and Gender*** by Evelyn L. Parker (The Pilgrim Press, 2008), \$24.00

Adolescent girls share with Parker and her co-authors stories that show how they struggle to make sense of their experiences of racism, sexism, classism, and heterosexism in light of their belief in God or their concept of a higher divine power. The six contributors and their perspectives are: Su Yon Pak (Asian American), Evelyn L. Parker (African American), Laura E. Donaldson (Native American), Daisy Machado (Hispanic), Dori Grinenko Baker (working-class White), and Patricia H. Davis (lesbian).



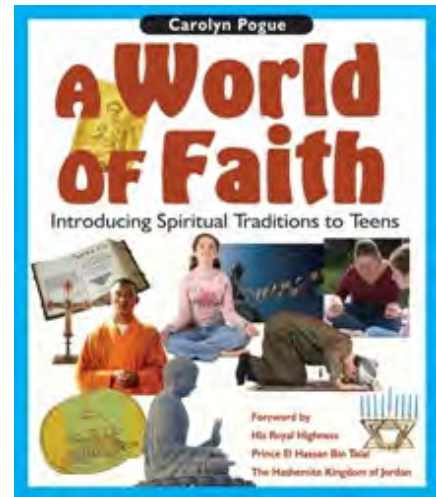
***Caffeine & . . .*** by Steve Case (The Pilgrim Press, 2008), \$7.00

This new resource for youth connects issues in the lives of youth with faith and the Bible. Great activities designed to be done in informal conversations wherever youth may meet.

***Caffeine & Character, Caffeine & Christ, Caffeine & Commitment, Caffeine & Confusion***  
*May be purchased in sets of 8 books for \$4.00 each.*

***A World of Faith: Introducing Spiritual Traditions to Teens*** by Carolyn Pogue (Cooper House/Woodlake Publishing, 2007), \$24.95  
Available from United Church Resources

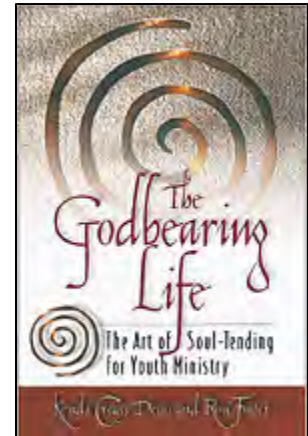
This would be a great book for use in a Confirmation Class or youth Sunday school class studying different faiths. It looks at nine different faith traditions: Goddess Tradition, Aboriginal Spirituality, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, and Bahai. Amongst other elements the “Golden Rule,” significant prayers, rituals, rites of passage and ceremonies of each faith are discussed. A youth from each faith offers information about their faith life. “This book invites and inspires teens to look beyond personal faith to explore the universal spirituality that can be found in all faith traditions.”



### ***The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth***

**Ministry** by Kenda Creasy Dean and Ron Foster (Upper Room Books, 1998), \$15.00 (Order from United Church of Christ Resources)

In *The Godbearing Life*, the authors offer a lively spiritual primer and practical guide for those who pastor young people. Dean and Foster re-chart a course for youth ministry through the classical spiritual disciplines of the church. The book identifies families, congregations, and mentor relationships as the “holy ground” where young people are most likely to say “Yes!” to God.



- *Single most mentioned resource recommended by UCC colleagues!*
- *From Connecticut Conference: This is not just my own recommendation; some of my Partners In Education colleagues here in CT would even put this as the number one “required reading” for youth workers (and I might even include for workers with children because of its emphasis on relationship.)*
- *From Massachusetts Conference: I really hesitate to give names of resources, because I don’t believe that there are really many good resources to help people develop youth ministries. Most of what is published is geared to developing youth groups. My number one read and recommendation is *The Godbearing Life*. This is what I recommend to folks who are wondering how to get transform their youth ministry. This is not an answer book, but one that will help people to begin to articulate youth ministry as opposed to youth group.*

### ***Soul Tending: Life-Forming Practices for Older Youth and Young Adults***

(Abingdon, 2002), \$12.00

Soul Tending expands on the ideas Kenda Creasy Dean and Ron Foster put forth in *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry* (published by Upper Room) and offers a practical way for senior high youth and young adults to study spiritual disciplines while strengthening relationships among participants. The study includes lessons on inward, outward, and corporate disciplines. The goal is that Christ would be formed in each participant. Youth and adults co-journ together as they examine classical and contemporary disciplines, supporting one another, and intentionally seeking encounters with God.

**Devo'Zine Magazine** (Upper Room Books) \$20.00 one year subscription

[www.upperroom.org/devozine](http://www.upperroom.org/devozine)

Devo'Zine is a teen magazine about real life, written by real people about a real God. This unique magazine for teens is designed to link teens to their peers and to help strengthen their faith. Devo'Zine Online features sample meditations from the magazine and the DZ Question. Each issue of the bi-monthly, 64-page, full-color magazine focuses on nine themes, one for each week. Each theme includes weekday meditations and a feature article on the weekend. Meditations may be read in chronological or random order.

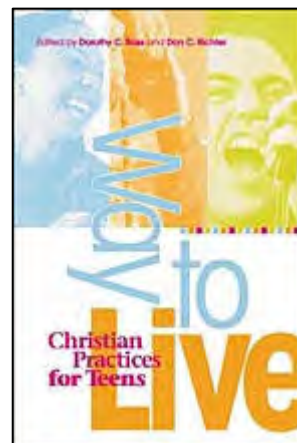


***Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens*** edited by Dorothy C. Bass and Don C. Richter (Upper Room Books, 2002), \$16.00, free Leader's Guide

[www.practicingourfaith.org](http://www.practicingourfaith.org)

I want to find a way to live that keeps me involved in what God is doing in me and in the world around me. Do you know a way to live that is like that? Eighteen teens and 18 adults tackle that question in *Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens*. Their different points of view and personal stories make living a Christian life **real**. Find out how Alexx dealt with all his stuff, how Marie expressed her creativity with a paint roller, what Jack learned about play. These are just a few of the Christian practices this team of writers explores. Some ancient Christian practices turn up as ways to deepen awareness of God's presence in our lives today. Discover how to use your imagination when reading the Bible – à la Saint Ignatius – and practice tuning in to God like Brother Lawrence of the 17th century. This graphics-filled book will start teens on the spiritual journey of a lifetime! Find even more stories and conversations at [www.waytolive.org](http://www.waytolive.org), a website for youth and youth leaders.

- *From Iowa Conference: That whole "series" is superb and would provide good material for leaders of youth. The first/basic book is Practicing Our Faith: A Way Of Life For A Searching People (Jossey-Bass Publisher, 1997) edited by Dorothy Bass.*



***Our Whole Lives: Sexuality and Our Faith*** (United Church of Christ, 1999), training required for purchase

[www.ucc.org/justice/sexuality-education/our-whole-lives.html](http://www.ucc.org/justice/sexuality-education/our-whole-lives.html)

*Our Whole Lives* is a series of sexuality education programs for four age groups: grades K-1, grades 4-6, grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. Written by professional sexuality educators, the programs provide accurate information for parents, teachers and pastors to use with children and young people to help them learn about sexuality in the affirming and supportive setting of our churches. The resources are based on the

Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education produced by the National Guidelines Task Force, a group of leading health, education and sexuality professionals assembled by the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States. There is a Parent Guide to *Our Whole Lives* Grades K-1 and Grades 4-6 that accompanies the *Our Whole Lives* resource for those age levels.



Contact:  
Ms. Ann L. Hanson  
Minister for Children, Families and Human Sexuality Advocacy  
700 Prospect Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
216-736-3718  
[hanson@ucc.org](mailto:hanson@ucc.org)

## **Faith Formation leading to the Rite of Confirmation**

- √ *Affirming Faith - Congregation's Guide*, United Church Press, \$25.00
- √ *Affirming Faith - Confirmand's Journal*, United Church Press, \$11.00
- The Access Bible*, Oxford University Press, \$29.99
- √ *My Confirmation - Revised and Updated*, United Church Press, \$13.00
- √ *The Rite of Confirmation: Moments when Faith is Strengthened*, Peter Monkres and R. Kenneth Ostermiller, \$13.00
- √ *Becoming & Belonging*, William R. Meyers, \$13.00
- √ *Leaving Home with Faith*, Elizabeth F. Caldwell, \$15.00
- √ *Blessing New Voices*, Maren C. Tirabassi, \$10.00
- √ *Daybook for New Voices: A Calendar of Reflections and Prayers by and for Youth* edited by Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I. Tirabassi, \$18.00
- Confirmation Certificates - Inclusive Language*, United Church Press, \$24.00
- Confirmation Certificates - Traditional Language*, United Church Press, \$24.00
- √ *The Day I Was Confirmed*, Hal Harrison, \$12.00
- √ *The Evangelical Catechism*, United Church Press, \$6.00
- √ *The Heidelberg Catechism*, United Church Press, \$6.00
- √ *Confessing Our Faith*, Roger L. Shinn, \$11.00
- √ *Hidden Histories in the UCC*, Volume 1, Barbara Brown Zikmund, \$15.00
- √ *Hidden Histories in the UCC*, Volume 2, Barbara Brown Zikmund, \$15.00
- √ *Pot Likker Stories for Teachers and Learners*, Larry Grant Coleman, \$10.00
- ε *Words for the Journey: Letters to Our Teenagers about Life and Faith* by Martin B. Copenhaver and Anthony Robinson, \$16.00
- √ *A User's Guide to the Bible (Insights Bible Study)*, Lynne Mobberley Deming, \$5.00
- The Bible and Spiritual Disciplines (Insights Bible Study)*, Holly W. Whitcomb, \$5.00
- Get Me to The Church Online*, Cheryl Perry, \$24.95
- √ *Youth Spirit*, Cheryl Perry, \$19.95
- Youth Spirit 2*, Brenda Eatman Aghahowa, \$19.95



## ***Blessing New Voices: Prayers of Young People and Worship***

***Resources for Youth Ministry*** by Maren C. Tirabassi (United Church Press, 2000), \$10.00

This book presents poems and reflections from more than 160 young writers (between the ages of twelve and twenty-one) in a medley of worship resources and prayers covering such far-reaching topics as anorexia, new relationships, teenage motherhood, suicide, remarriage of apparent, and many others. Created for the United Church of Christ National Youth Event in 2000, it was the first book of its kind.

- *From Massachusetts Conference Youth Ministry Staff: Maren Tirabassi's Blessing New Voices is superb. I think I have sold or given away 100's of these. The prayers help put leaders in touch with the thinking of youth and the chapters she writes are great for creating worship with youth. I am assuming that her new book to be introduced at NYE will be equally as good.*





***God In My Life: Faith Stories and How and Why We Share Them*** by Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I. Tirabassi (The Pilgrim Press, 2008), \$17.00

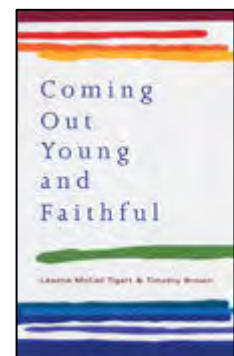
Reading these testimonies opens a window not only into the spiritual lives of many good friends and colleagues, but also onto the rich spiritual terrain that provides a footing and foundation for the witness of the United Church of Christ. I hope this collection will inspire a season of storytelling among a new generation of leaders who will write the exciting next chapters of our life. - John H. Thomas, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ

***Daybook for New Voices: A Calendar of Reflections and Prayers by and for Youth*** edited by Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I. Tirabassi (The Pilgrim Press, 2004), \$18.00

This is a collection of prayers, poems, and reflections for every day of the year, written primarily by youth. The book encourages listening to youth voices beyond the ordinary and “special” days such as Youth Sunday and Children’s Day, and contains two thoughtfully chosen biblical reflections per month. First distributed at the 2004 National Youth Event of the United Church of Christ.

### **More Youth Ministry Books from United Church Press**

- √ *Amistad*, Helen Kromer, \$16.00
- √ *Black and White Styles of Youth Ministry*, William R. Myers, \$18.00
- √ *Children Together*, Kathryn Goering Reid, \$15.00
- √ *Coming Out Young and Faithful*, Leanne McCall Tigert, \$15.00
- √ *Daughters Arise!*, Sally Windecker, \$10.00
- √ *Daughters Arise!*, Donna Humphreys, \$25.00
- √ *Life with Your Parents*, Herman C. Ahrens, \$2.50
- √ *Making a Home for Faith*, Elizabeth F. Caldwell, \$15.00
- √ *Youth at Risk*, Peter Christian Olsen, \$14.00
- √ *More Speaking of Sex*, Meg Hickling, \$19.95



***Words For The Journey: Letters to Our Teenagers about Life and Faith*** by Martin B. Copenhaver and Anthony Robinson, (The Pilgrim Press, 2003), \$16.00

Today, more and more parents are searching for ways in which to share their faith with their children. In response, two United Church of Christ pastors have joined together to write letters to their middle teenaged children to discuss what they call “matters of the heart.” The authors have composed letters about: God, church, Bible, vocation, relationships, and difficult matters. They discuss such topics as faith, doubt, prayer, sex, abortion, race, and homosexuality. Additionally, they discuss what God had their faith means to them in words that share love and deep hopes of their faith.

- *Massachusetts Conference: I also am currently recommending Words for the Journey by Copenhaver and Robinson. This is a super book for youth leaders, parents and teens. I can see confirmation being taught with this.*
- *From another staff colleague in the Massachusetts Conference: This book is a real gem. It is written in very accessible language. It includes Letters about God, Letters about the Church, Letters about Social Issues and Tough Subjects. I actually think it could form the basis of a really good confirmation program. It really should be in every youth leaders library and given as a gift to the youth in our churches.*

***Youthworker: The Contemporary Journal for Youth Ministry*** (Salem Publishing/CCM Communications), \$39.95/year (six issues per year)

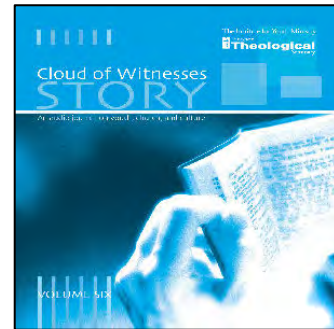
*Youthworker* journal is a bimonthly publication addressing the professional and personal concerns of serious youth workers in church and parachurch settings. Each issue includes in-depth articles exploring various aspects of that issue's theme (some past themes: Reinforcing Theology, New Horizons, Helping Kids in Pain, Spreading the Word, Student Worship) as well as non-thematic pieces. Article formats include thematic overviews, provocative responses from youth workers to pointed questions, interviews, first-person accounts of life in the youth ministry trenches, and columns focused on junior high ministry, family ministry, parachurch ministry, and volunteers.

- *From Connecticut Conference: When we had a person on our staff for youth ministry, he asked me to subscribe to Youthworker magazine. It has good, timely articles.*

***Cloud of Witnesses: An Audio Journal*** (Princeton Theological Seminary Institute for Youth Ministry), free

Web site: [www.ptsem.edu/iyw/](http://www.ptsem.edu/iyw/)

*Cloud of Witnesses* is an audio journal that offers theological reflection on youth ministry. It brings together a cloud of witnesses – scholars, pastors, lay people, and youth to encourage and support church leaders in their ministry. The journal is for anyone concerned with reaching young people with the good news of Jesus Christ. *Cloud of Witnesses* will feed your soul and rekindle your passion for ministry with thought-provoking interviews, excellent sermons, and inspiring voices.



***The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*** by Eugene H. Peterson (NavPress, 2002), \$39.99

*The Message* is a contemporary paraphrase of the Bible from the original languages, crafted to present its tone, rhythm, events, and ideas in everyday English.

***The Message Remix: The Bible in Contemporary Language*** by Eugene H. Peterson (NavPress, 2004), \$24.99

In *The Message Remix*, there are new verse-numbered paragraphs that will help you study and find favorite passages.

***Seasons of the Spirit: Lectionary-base Resources Connecting Worship, Learning, and Service*** (order from United Church of Christ Resources)

[www.spiritseasons.com](http://www.spiritseasons.com)

*Seasons of the Spirit* provides God's people with lectionary-based, ecumenical resources that empower all ages to be transformed in Christ as they:

- explore meaning and mystery in the Bible;
- celebrate in worship, sacraments, education, and service;
- engage in ministries of love, justice, and witness; and
- live in inclusive communities of faith shaped and led by the Holy Spirit.



Seasons of the Spirit (2005-2006) Ages 12-14 (9 Month) United Church Press \$ 135.00  
Seasons of the Spirit (2005-2006) Ages 12-14 (Summer) United Church Press \$ 45.00  
Seasons of the Spirit (2005-2006) Ages 15-18 (9 month) United Church Press \$ 135.00  
Seasons of the Spirit (2005-2006) Ages 15-18 (Summer) United Church Press \$ 45.00

***Gather 'Round: Hearing and Sharing God's Good News***

[www.gatherround.org/](http://www.gatherround.org/) (order from United Church of Christ Resources)

*Gather 'Round* is a Bible-based curriculum nurturing children, youth, and adults in becoming followers of Jesus: people who know and love God, interpret God's word, belong to God's gathered community, and share God's good news.



**Junior Youth**, Grades 6-8: Introduction, teacher plans for each week of the quarter. **Call:** Worship resources, readers theaters, skits, puzzles, discussion starters, and journaling pages. Posters, cards, games, and other items to engage interest and enhance learning.

**Youth**, Grades 9-12: **Search** is available as a download or on CD with an introduction and teacher plans for each week of the quarter. It includes 8 reproducible pages for student activities.

***Synago: Senior High Student-Led Small Groups*** (Abingdon Press). Leader's Guide \$10.00  
Student Guide \$6.00 each

Order from Cokesbury: [www.cokesbury.com/forms/curriculum.aspx](http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/curriculum.aspx)

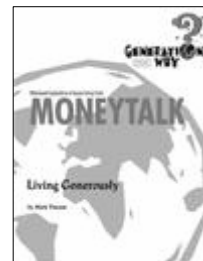
*Synago* is the Greek word for "come together." The goal of this resource is to strengthen members' spiritual relationship with God and Jesus Christ. Secondly, it will build Christian community within a circle of friends, in which group members practice and experience what it means to be in ministry to and with one another. This first of four volumes, *Light in the Dark*, provide 16 sessions for student-led senior high small groups. It also includes the necessary information for setting up and maintaining this approach to reaching and teaching senior high youth. The cell-group design calls for two student leaders, two adult "encouragers," and up to six additional youth members, usually friends—both church and unchurched. When the group reaches ten, it splits. The two new groups then grow again to ten. The model has proven effective in numerous areas and is especially appealing to senior-highs because it gives them leadership, encourages them to invite others, creates a safe place of spiritual intimacy, and deals with integrating Bible, life, and faith. Sessions covered in this study include: Caring for the earth, forgiveness, relationships, dating, temptation, and doubt.



- *From Minnesota Conference Resource Center Director: While I don't always agree with their theology, I like the concept of student-led groups.*

**Generation Why Bible Studies** (Mennonite Publishing House), \$12.99-\$14.99 per course  
[www.mph.org/flr/youth-genwhy.html](http://www.mph.org/flr/youth-genwhy.html)

In a time of violence, injustice, materialism, and hard questions, *Generation Why Bible Studies* help a new generation of youth apply the Bible to real life. With easy-to-use teaching materials, creative activities, hard-hitting discussion questions, and reproducible student sheets, these studies tackle the complicated issue of following Christ in the real world. Generation Why Bible Studies offer a topical yet systematic approach to the study of Scripture. The studies require no student pieces and are appropriate for Sunday school, youth group, retreats, or small group study.



- *From Massachusetts Conference: Another one of my favorites which has been around for a while is the “Generation Why?” Bible Study series for Youth produced by Faith and Life Resources. These Bible studies address issues of God, Jesus, the Church but also address social issues. It helps teens to put their faith into action and creates a marriage of faith life and secular life. The Fastlane series for Jr. High Youth by the same publisher is very good as well.*
- *From Minnesota Conference: It is an excellent curriculum resource. I just want to clarify that it is jointly published by Faith and Life Press (a Mennonite publishing entity) and Brethren Press (the Church of the Brethren publishing house). Both traditions bring a strong commitment to Bible, peace, and justice to the development table.*

**Trouble Don't Last Always** by Evelyn L. Parker (The Pilgrim Press, 2003), \$19.00

This book seeks to answer questions related to African American youth, critically examining African American adolescent spirituality and offering congregations a new theological framework for ministry with African American adolescents in the face of injustice and hopelessness. What results is the formation of a wholesome spirituality.

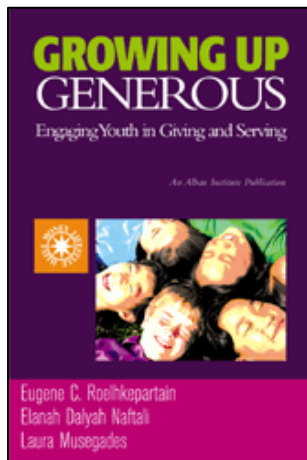
**Every Picture Tells a Story: 48 Evocative Photographs for Inspiring Reaction and Reflection** by Mark Oestreicher (Youth Specialties, 2004), \$29.99

When you trigger your students' emotions, memories, and dreams, you'll also unleash more God-driven conversation, insight, and truth than you ever thought possible! Great theory. But how? Visually, of course! We scouted the planet for 48 evocative, black-and-white photos that beg for reflection and contemplation. The 32-page leader's guide offers creative ways — with lots of Bible references — to use these images to stir up spiritual longings, launch discussions, open doorways into personal reflection, and kick-off Bible studies.



- *From Connecticut Conference: A number of our youth workers have used Zondervan's “Every Picture Tells a Story” with great creativity. It comes with 48 (I think) evocative black and white photographs and several suggestions for ways to use them. At least one church then had their young people go out and take their own photographs -- with quite profound results.*
- *From Massachusetts Conference: Every Picture Tells A Story by Youth Specialties is also a great resource tool. I have never read the instructions that come with this, but have developed my own ways of using this resource. Again, this helps get youth talking about spirituality.*

***Growing Up Generous: Engaging Youth in Giving and Serving*** by Eugene C. Roehlkepartain, Elanah Delyah Naftali, and Laura Musegades (Alban Institute, 2004), \$27.95



The authors create a mosaic of what is happening, and what could happen, in American Jewish and Christian congregations to cultivate in young people a deep and lasting commitment to giving and serving. Based on a two-year project by Search Institute, a nonprofit

research and education organization that specializes in the healthy development of children and adolescents, the book recognizes and highlights the roles of various congregational leaders (not only youth leaders) in shaping the attitudes of young people.

***Big Questions, Worthy Dreams*** by Sharon Daloz Parks (Jossey-Bass, 2000), \$27.95

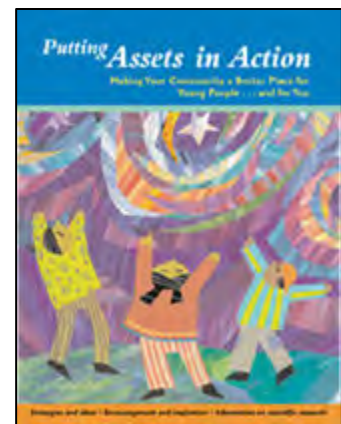
A smart and compassionate look at the challenges young adults face in their search for a place of belonging, integrity, and contribution – and a clarion call to thoughtful adults to actively mentor the next generation. This resource reexamines the twenty-something years and shows how crucial it is to create mentoring environments that recognize, support, challenge, and inspire the promise of young adult lives.

***Making a Difference: Leading Students in Life-Changing Service*** (Group Publishing), \$59.99  
[www.grouppublishing.com](http://www.grouppublishing.com)

Taking clothes or food to others in need...it seems like a simple thing to do. But how do you lead teenagers to have a “servant’s heart” all of the time? In this outreach adventure, guide teens to the “heart” of service with the exceptional experiences found in *Making a Difference*. Students will learn, serve and share by “adopting” a family to care for, studying biblical examples, discussing, journaling, and taking part in creative worship presentations--all reinforcing what it means to serve. Kit includes: CD, video, 1 leader guide and 6 student journals.

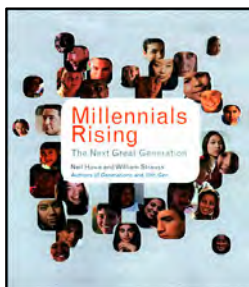
***40 Developmental Assets (Search Institute) Putting Assets in Action*** booklet, \$14.95  
[www.search-institute.org/assets/](http://www.search-institute.org/assets/)

Search Institute’s 40 developmental assets are concrete, common sense, positive experiences and qualities essential to raising successful young people. These assets have the power during critical adolescent years to influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults.





***Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation*** by Neil Howe and William Strauss (Vintage Books, 2000), \$14.95  
[www.millennialsrising.com](http://www.millennialsrising.com)



The authors show how today's teens are recasting the image of youth from downbeat and alienated to upbeat and engaged. The authors also show

- how Millennials are held to higher standards than adults apply to themselves
- how they're a lot less violent, vulgar, and sexually charged than the teen culture older people are producing for them
- how, over the next decade, they'll entirely recast what it means to be young and
- how, in time, they could emerge as the next great generation.

***Making God Real for a New Generation: Ministry with Millennials Born from 1982-1999*** by Craig Kennet Miller and MaryJane Pierce Norton (Discipleship Resource, 2003), \$15.00  
[www.discipleshipresources.org](http://www.discipleshipresources.org)

The Millennial Generation is on the verge of a key moment in its life. By 2006 we will see a youth boom larger than any of the youth booms of the past. Fueled by the largest generation the world has ever seen, this youth boom will shape the values and trends for the next 20 years. Perhaps the greatest challenge facing the church today is to be God's witness to our children and young people — to make God real for this new generation. Making God Real for a New Generation begins with an article entitled "Who Are the Millennials?" that gives an overview of some of the key characteristics of Millennials and issues they are facing. Following this introduction are four sections, each section focusing on how congregations and families can be witnesses for this generation.

***Adolescents in Crisis: A Guide for Parents, Teachers, Ministers, and Counselors*** by G. Wade Rowatt Jr. (Westminster John Knox Press, 2001), \$18.95

The Sept. 11 attack on the United States apparently has caused other national tragedies to pale in comparison. Some of these tragedies, including the Columbine massacre, involved school violence. In this book, Wade Rowatt focuses on the underlying reasons for school violence. Plus, he focuses on many other areas that are causing crises for today's youth. This is a very detailed book that will require careful reading. It is full of insights that are both frightening and enlightening. If you are a parent, someone who works with youth, or even cares about youth, this book belongs in your library.

***A Place at the Table: Struggles for Equality in America*** (Teaching Tolerance), Video, One copy free  
[www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

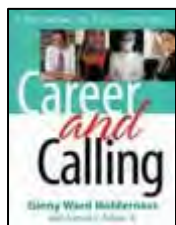
*A Place at the Table* tells the story of our nation's struggle to ensure liberty and justice for all. One major element sets the video apart from most historical documentaries: It is narrated entirely by young people. The book component explores this history in greater depth, while the teachers' guide provides 13 detailed lesson plans for use in the middle and upper grades. The kit includes: The film, *A Place at the Table*, in which young people describe how their families have found a place at the "American table," available in VHS format; the 144-page text, *A Place at the Table*; and the Teachers' guide.



***Teaming Up: Shared Leadership in Youth Ministry*** by Ginny Ward Holderness (Westminster/John Knox, 1997), \$18.95

Best-selling Christian educator Ginny Holderness gives us a comprehensive guide and workbook that involves youth in their own ministry programs and encourages them to become the church leaders of the future.

***Career and Calling: A Guide for Counselors, Youth, and Young Adults*** by Ginny Ward Holderness (Geneva Press, 2001), \$19.95



*Career and Calling* is an excellent guide for discovering God's calling. Written for students, young adults, and those who work with them, it contains a six-session, small group career counseling program that focuses on God's calling; individual's interests, gifts, and talents; and the world of work. The program also encourages the development of spiritual disciplines, scripture reading and study, journaling, mentoring, and conversations with professionals.

***Ted and Lee TheaterWorks*** (Mennonite Media), Video, \$24.95 each  
[www.mennomedia.org](http://www.mennomedia.org)

This Mennonite Comedy duo is dynamite when it comes to introducing youth to scripture, often offering a different perspective. Some of the video titles include: Fish Eyes (a series of Gospel stories), Creation Chronicles (90 minutes telling the overarching story of the Old Testament), Vocation Vocation Vocation (on Vocation), Bridge to Forgiveness (on Reconciliation), Don't Just Sit on Your Stuff (on Stewardship), and The Kingdom is Big Enough for You: God's Amazing Acceptance (on Grace).

***Beyond the News: Parenting Adolescents*** (Mennonite Media), Video, \$24.95  
[www.mennomedia.org](http://www.mennomedia.org)

This is a video on parenting for anyone who works or lives with adolescents. It looks at the culture influencing adolescents today, adolescent development, parenting issues, community and church involvement, and what it takes for adolescents to experience this stage of life as a positive time of growth. The 55-minute video has eight segments. Issue oriented video that goes beyond current headlines. It comes with a Study Guide and is segmented for easy use in multiple sessions. It is a dynamic discussion starter.

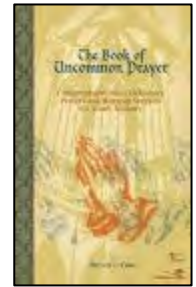


***Alternative Worship: Resources from and for the Emerging Church***  
compiled by Jonny Baker and Doug Gay with Jenny Brown (Baker, 2003), \$24.99

The book is amazing. It takes a part worship components from several worship gatherings and spaces in England and puts them into book form to inspire, teach, and to be used in your own context. The book has a lot of theological and creative richness in it and is a book that you will probably return to again and again for ideas and help in your own worship setting. I have seen parts of it used in traditional parishes and in brand new alternative worship spaces as well as seeker services. You may not use all of it but you will appreciate the time and effort put into all of it. The CD that comes with it is okay but the inability to cut and paste from it is a minor irritation.

***The Book of Uncommon Prayer*** by Steven L. Case (Zondervan, 2002), \$19.99  
***The Book of Uncommon Prayer 2: Prayers and Worship Services for Youth Ministry*** by Steven L. Case (Zondervan, 2006), \$19.99

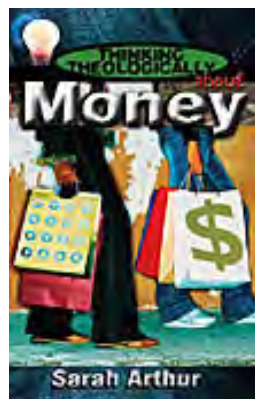
The CD is worth the cost of the book. *The Book of Uncommon Prayer* is an excellent resource for combining the energy of youth ministry with postmodern culture and the treasures of liturgical tradition. This book cuts across denominational lines. It comes with a “postmodern Eucharist CD” which is energy laden and reverent. The book contains worship ideas for many occasions. If you work with youth, avail yourself of this resource and take your youth deeper than the customary parties, games, snacks, and discussions on dating.



***Single-Digit Youth Groups*** (Abingdon, 2004), \$12.00

***Single Digit Youth Groups: More Activities, Plus Mission Ideas*** (Abingdon, 2006), \$12.00

Small churches and churches with small numbers of youth will be delighted that someone has finally written just for them! Marcey Balcomb helps them discover the joys and power of a single-digit youth group and provides the practical help they need. *Single-Digit Youth Groups* opens with the scriptural basis for creating a ministry for even one youth, certainly two or three. Other chapters examine the benefits of a single-digit youth group, how to find adult leaders, starting or re-starting a single-digit youth group, creating a cooperative youth group ministry, and dealing effectively with safety issues. Over half the book is filled with activities for single-digit youth groups (41 great activities, to be exact). From her years of experience programming for and ministering with small youth groups with a wide range of ages, Marcey Balcomb has put together a collection of experiences that work effectively with as few as one or two youth and that easily engage nine. In addition, the book gives information about essential and helpful forms for use in a single-digit youth ministry. These make short work of administration so leaders can spend more time in ministry. (Order from United Church of Christ Resources)



***Thinking Theologically About . . .*** (Abingdon Press), Leader \$8.50,  
Student \$5.50

This brand-new series will help you encourage your senior highs to think theologically about personal choices and such serious (sometimes controversial) issues as *money, the human body, relationships, popular culture, sexuality, and violence*. The Thinking Theologically About... series empowers students to develop skills in thinking critically rather than just working from opinion. Each volume includes six Scripture-based sessions with options for customizing, plus worship ideas (for use in the final session). The leader guide features everything from the student book, as well as detailed plans and background material.

***The Thoughtful Christian – For Youth*** (Presbyterian Church U.S.A.) Individual sessions  
\$10.00, Annual Subscription available  
[www.thethoughtfulchristian.com](http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com)

Bible study should be timely and stimulate our thoughts about Christian values and how they relate to today's world. *The Thoughtful Christian* is a Web-based resource center designed to attract and keep participants' attention. The youth resources from *The Thoughtful Christian* are perfect for youth education classes, youth groups, special studies, or individual reflection. The studies encourage class members to share their thoughts and beliefs while wrestling with questions that inform the way we live out our faith in everyday life.

The growing list of youth resource include studies based on movies (*Enchanted, Juno, Evan Almighty*), contemporary issues (consumerism, school violence, technology, cheating), Christian living (learning compassion, ethics, call), Bible and theology, spirituality, and more.

Prepared by  
R. Kenneth Ostermiller  
Minister for Curriculum Development  
United Church of Christ  
700 Prospect Ave  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
216-736-3866 [ostermik@ucc.org](mailto:ostermik@ucc.org)  
Toll Free: 866-822-8224 Ext. 3866  
Visit education resources on the UCC home page  
[www.ucc.org/education/index.html](http://www.ucc.org/education/index.html)

