

NEWS FROM LYNNE PABST

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News Flash From Your POINT Partner

As your POINT partner, I am happy to announce that the producers of Presbyterian Curriculum are working hard to support you during the pandemic by adapting curriculum for use in a virtual mode.

Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible Curriculum has a new component especially designed to traverse the uncertainty of Sunday School this fall midst the pandemic.

"Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible Curriculum is getting a new guide! This guide will help turn your unit into a dropoff kit for each family in your congregation. We tell you what to put in the kit and where to pull the information from the unit." (POINT Newsletter)

Teaching the Revised Common Lectionary Feasting on the Word Curriculum now has a guide for virtual use. Go to https://www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Item/14709/Feasting-on-the-Word-Curriculum.aspx?fbclid=IwAR1WEOQb0-7vjY1enpdB4gw3We4YsuYkGwNXdVD5vvgg_O-N6-C779VVvs1e4 to find out more about this option.

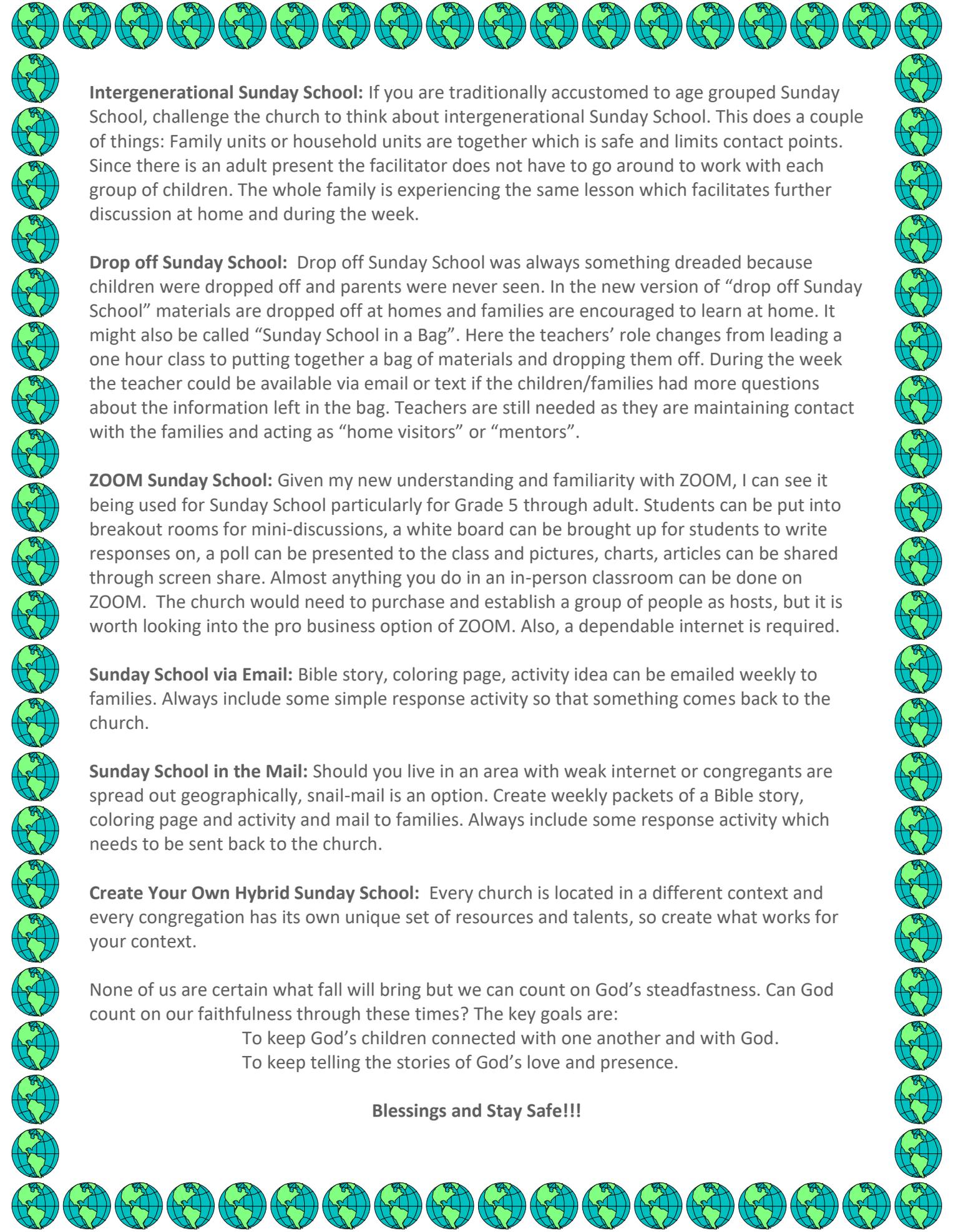
Growing in Grace and Gratitude also will have some additional virtual resources and its own page.

"Growing in Grace & Gratitude additional resources for pandemic-friendly education are moving to their own web page so that you can easily share the link with everyone. Starting with the fall quarter, all of the same resources we have been featuring through social media will be there: the free children's Bible story, story audio, coloring sheet, adaptations for online use for ages 3-5 and 5-10." *(POINT Newsletter)*

Now that we see what some of the resources are for Fall Sunday School, let us examine some of the modes of delivery available to churches midst the pandemic. Remembering that every day the status of things changes, here are some options. (In every in-person option, it is assumed participants are wearing masks.)

Outdoor Sunday School: As long as weather permits, create outdoor classrooms. Children/Families socially distanced on the church lawn listening to a story and doing a simple activity on their own blanket can be not only a wonderful and safe experience for the church family but also a witness to the larger community. So much of what we do is hidden behind doors. God may be calling us through this pandemic to take our lights out from under those bushels of church walls.

Large Space Sunday School: Move the Sunday School out of the small classrooms and into your sanctuary or fellowship hall where children/families can social distance more easily.



Intergenerational Sunday School: If you are traditionally accustomed to age grouped Sunday School, challenge the church to think about intergenerational Sunday School. This does a couple of things: Family units or household units are together which is safe and limits contact points. Since there is an adult present the facilitator does not have to go around to work with each group of children. The whole family is experiencing the same lesson which facilitates further discussion at home and during the week.

Drop off Sunday School: Drop off Sunday School was always something dreaded because children were dropped off and parents were never seen. In the new version of “drop off Sunday School” materials are dropped off at homes and families are encouraged to learn at home. It might also be called “Sunday School in a Bag”. Here the teachers’ role changes from leading a one hour class to putting together a bag of materials and dropping them off. During the week the teacher could be available via email or text if the children/families had more questions about the information left in the bag. Teachers are still needed as they are maintaining contact with the families and acting as “home visitors” or “mentors”.

ZOOM Sunday School: Given my new understanding and familiarity with ZOOM, I can see it being used for Sunday School particularly for Grade 5 through adult. Students can be put into breakout rooms for mini-discussions, a white board can be brought up for students to write responses on, a poll can be presented to the class and pictures, charts, articles can be shared through screen share. Almost anything you do in an in-person classroom can be done on ZOOM. The church would need to purchase and establish a group of people as hosts, but it is worth looking into the pro business option of ZOOM. Also, a dependable internet is required.

Sunday School via Email: Bible story, coloring page, activity idea can be emailed weekly to families. Always include some simple response activity so that something comes back to the church.

Sunday School in the Mail: Should you live in an area with weak internet or congregants are spread out geographically, snail-mail is an option. Create weekly packets of a Bible story, coloring page and activity and mail to families. Always include some response activity which needs to be sent back to the church.

Create Your Own Hybrid Sunday School: Every church is located in a different context and every congregation has its own unique set of resources and talents, so create what works for your context.

None of us are certain what fall will bring but we can count on God’s steadfastness. Can God count on our faithfulness through these times? The key goals are:

- To keep God’s children connected with one another and with God.
- To keep telling the stories of God’s love and presence.

Blessings and Stay Safe!!!