



## September 15-17, 2023 – Playing in the Light: Godly Play®/Faith & Play™ Training for Quakers with Caryl Menkhus Creswell and Melinda Wenner Bradley

This experiential approach to religious education can transform your program for children and nurture intergenerational spiritual community. Learn and practice a method of storytelling grounded in deep respect for children, that explores the existential limits of their lives through wonder, play, and stories from the Bible and Quaker faith and practice. Discussions include:

- nurturing the spirituality of children
- exploring the “unspoken” lessons of spaces and methodology
- supporting children and families in the meeting community
- working with multiage groups and diverse needs
- weaving Godly Play/Faith & Play stories into a children’s program with other religious education resources available to Friends.

**Online:** Required Intro Session: September 10  
(Optional check-in session November date TBD)

**Onsite:** September 15-17  
West Hills Friends Meeting, Portland, OR  
*See schedule on next page*

**Cost:** \$150/person  
\$500/meeting (4+ participants)

**Register:** <https://forms.gle/XXZzjbJ2BnmF24Um7>



Materials for “Love’s Way” and “Ways of the Spirit” from Faith & Play Stories

**Caryl Menkhus Creswell** is a Godly Play Trainer and is recorded by Sierra Cascade Yearly Meeting; she has pastored among programmed Friends for 13 years. Jerome Berryman, the Founder of Godly Play, came to her Meeting as a scholar in residence and helped build a Godly Play program from the ground up. Two years later she was invited to become a trainer and has done training nationally and internationally for many years. Caryl is passionate about Godly Play. It has been formative in her own spiritual practice, in her work as pastor, and in deepening her respect and openness to children.

**Melinda Wenner Bradley** is a Godly Play Trainer and the Director of Communications and Training for Faith & Play Stories, Inc. She shares Godly Play and Faith & Play stories in children's programs, intergenerational worship, school classrooms, teacher workshops, and international gatherings of Friends. Her ministry weaves together interests in children's spiritual lives, program development, and support for families and teachers in faith communities and schools. Melinda believes we need to shift religious formation away from scholastic models and toward experiential, belonging-focused ways of being with children and inviting them into spiritual community with all ages.

## Playing in the Light: Hybrid Core Training Schedule

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### **Reading/Reflection**

Asynchronous reading for participants before online introduction session:

- Book: *Teaching Godly Play: How to Mentor the Spiritual Development of Children*
- Selections (PDF) from the Faith & Play Stories publication provided by the trainers

### **Online Sessions:**

Introduction (required)    Sunday, September 10, 4-5:30pm (PDT)  
Check-in (optional)        Date TBD, 60 minutes

**Onsite Sessions:**        Friday, September 15, 5:30p – 9:00p  
                                     Saturday, September 16, 8:30a – 6:00p  
                                     Sunday, September 17, 1:00p – 5:00p

\*Meals included in registration: Friday supper, Saturday morning coffee and lunch