

Subject: VBS, a tale of two brothers, and care-giving and grief resources for the hard times
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Iowa Religious Media Services

eNews

April 2017

Regular Business Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 am-4:00 pm

Office Closures

Monday, May 29 -
Memorial Day

Looking for the perfect video clip? **New Streaming Video Option**

IRMS has expanded its video streaming offerings to include **new** access to a video clip library. Watch this space each month to check out a different featured clip or you may contact us at questions@irms.org or (515) 277-2920 for more information.

Click and enjoy this month's Video Clip:

[Dare To Dance](#)

Password = 4I8EADG9BE

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This issue of *eNews* covers a gamut of useful resources! Wondering how to field an inexpensive but significant VBS program this summer, especially if you don't have a lot of kids?



In our *Featured Resources* section, we offer a selection of resources to help you meet the task this summer! From a new VBS workbook to ideas for an arts camp, from a Veggie Tales program to a hunger-focused experience, from general Bible stories, to ideas for music and outdoor games, IRMS can help!

Our *Resources in Use* details the connection between two brothers in two different denominations in two Iowa cities who share a passion for the excellent resources from IRMS!

Finally, our *Meeting the Challenge* segment is a response to a Sunday school class that requested help in dealing with members with declining health as well as the death of a valued class member and friend.

Like the IRMS collection, the resources in this *eNews* cover a range of age groups and topics. IRMS is ready to help you address all the topics that are swirling in the church at this time. Contact us, and we will help!

Yours,

Sharon

P.S. You won't want to miss this month's video clip accessible in the left-hand column!

Featured Resources: Planning for summer, Vacation Bible School and beyond

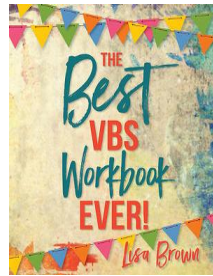
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Where in the World is the Executive Director

April 22 - Iowa United Methodist Laity Day, Indianola First United Methodist Church

May 10 - IRMS Board Meeting

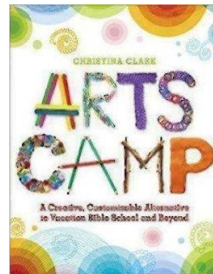
May 16 - IRMS Preview Committee Meeting



[The Best VBS Workbook Ever!](#)

(BK1978) (NEW)

provides the tools necessary to craft a creative, custom VBS program. This book enables you to identify and meet the specific needs of children by engaging them in intentional theology and embracing their unique mission and ministry gifts. (Lower Elementary-Jr. High)



[Arts Camp: A Creative, Customizable Alternative to Vacation Bible School](#)

(BK1898) uses music, visual art and media, dramatic storytelling, movement, and game-playing to enter into Bible study around an established theme. The book's flexibility allows it to be used in any number of ways including as an alternative to a VBS curriculum. (Lower Elementary- Jr. High)



[Animated Stories: Bread from Heaven \(DV80\)](#)

is a delightful retelling of the feeding of 5,000 that will captivate viewers with its brisk storytelling, original songs and entertaining action. This 30-minute animated story is part of the *Animated Stories* collection including [Animated Stories from the New Testament \(DV80=\)](#) and [Animated Stories from the Bible \(DV67=\)](#). Each disc in this comprehensive collection of Bible stories comes with a workbook filled with activities suitable for kids

of all ages, making it a great resource to build or augment a stimulating VBS. (Pre-K-Upper Elementary)



[Veggie Connections \(KT195\)](#)

offers a collection of 52 creative, customizable classes featuring all of your favorite VeggieTales characters. By selecting specific lessons, you can build a creative and fun VBS based on a solid biblical foundation. This kit includes

VeggieTales clips, reproducible materials, activities, craft ideas and a leader's guide with lesson plans suitable for kids ages 3 years to 5th grade. (Pre-K-Upper Elementary)

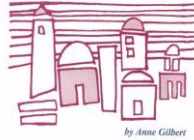


[Children's Hunger Program Educational Kit \(KT202\)](#) is a great resources to teach

children about the issue of hunger. Focusing on the Bible, information and action, this hunger kit provides plenty of ideas and activities to help you build a program for a variety of settings including VBS and summer camp. (Pre-K-

Upper Elementary)

*LIFE
AND
BIBLE
TIMES*



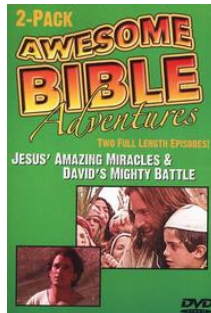
[Life and Bible Times \(KT272\)](#) is a complete unit of Bible stories, activity sheets, creative writing, reading, creative arts, field trips, recreation and worship, perfect to build a meaningful VBS experience at your church. Adaptable materials are split into three levels: Level I for ages 4-6 years old, Level II for 1st through 3rd grades and Level III for 4th-6th grades. (Pre-K-Upper Elementary)



[Parachute \(KT53\)](#) is a perfect tool for outdoor games for VBS. IRMS has two from which to choose, a 20' parachute with 16 handles or a 24' parachute with 20 handles. Each comes with an audio CD *Playtime Parachute Fun* and a book *Parachute Play Revised & Expanded*

that provides instructions for a variety of parachute games. Be sure to reserve your parachute early! (Pre-K-Adult)

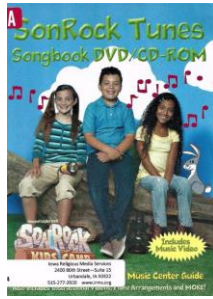
New from the Lutheran Resource Center:



[Awesome Bible Adventures: Jesus' Amazing Miracles/David's Mighty Battle \(DV1443\)](#)

(NEW) features two Bible stories: *Jesus Taught Us to Have Miraculous Faith* and *David's Mighty Battle Proves that God Is Bigger than Anyone or Anything!* This resource is part of the [Awesome Bible Adventures \(DV1443=\)](#) series which includes a total of six stories, each about 20 minutes long with lesson plans containing crafts, activities, discussion suggestions, and a closing prayer. (Pre-K-Upper

Elementary)



[SonRock Tunes: Songbook DVD/CD-ROM \(DV1514\) \(NEW\)](#) is full of easy-to-learn, catchy tunes with a message to help kids make a choice to follow Jesus. Energetic songs, simple piano arrangements, guitar chords and word charts are included in this reproducible resource. (Lower Elementary to Junior High)

Resources in Use: Two brothers, two cities, two denominations!

Davenport First Presbyterian Hits the Ground Running with a New Subscription



*First Christian Church,
Des Moines*

"My brother, John Fairweather at First Christian Church in Des Moines, introduced me to IRMS. John told me that First Christian has used IRMS

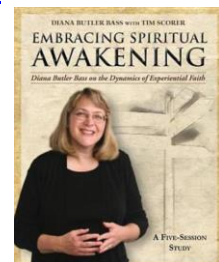


*First Presbyterian
Church, Davenport*

successfully in their educational planning for quite some time," shares David Fairweather, part of the Adult Christian Education (ACE) committee at Davenport First Presbyterian Church. David was intrigued and began using the IRMS online catalog to search available materials. He found that the IRMS collection includes a vast mix of materials for all ages on a variety of topics and in several presentation formats. After David presented his findings to the rest of the ACE committee, the decision to purchase an annual subscription was made very quickly.

"We'd been using a service called *Wired Word*, which was well-received by many but was unpredictable. The process of receiving the study material was not cohesive, organized or well-thought out, which made preparation difficult. With IRMS, we found many more choices from a broad spectrum of presenters and theologians." Initially First Presbyterian Church chose

[Embracing Spiritual Awakening - Diana Butler Bass on the Dynamics of Experiential Faith \(DV1182\)](#), which is part of the [Embracing Series \(DV926=\)](#). David found that by previewing the material and creating a detailed outline of topics with questions to prompt discussion, the class engagement has remained very high. "Even with two spring breaks and lower service numbers, our class



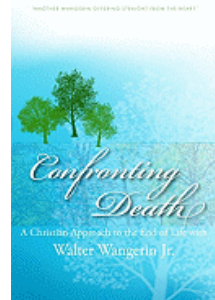
has maintained its attendance and is full of in-depth discussion," he shared.

David understands that committees will change over time and believes an IRMS subscription will help ease transition and maintain continuity. He shares, "With engaging material, quality presenters and the ability to plan ahead, future facilitators will be able to continue the format that has now been established and is working well." If your church does not currently have an IRMS subscription and you'd like more information about how IRMS can partner with you in your ministry, please call 515-277-2920 and talk to one of our library associates.

Meeting the Challenge: Resources to help process aging, care-giving, and grief

Q: *Our adult Sunday school class recently experienced a loss due to health-related issues and a death. This made us wonder if IRMS might have any resources that would help our class process our grief, better understand the changes happening in our lives and the lives of those we love, or to help others in roles of care-giving.*

A: *While the topics of grief, aging and care-giving are rarely easy topics to broach, IRMS has a selection of high-quality resources to help groups work through these issues in caring and insightful ways. As always, please contact us (515.277-2920) or questions@irms.org for additional suggestions!*

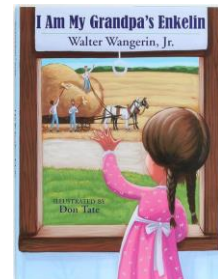


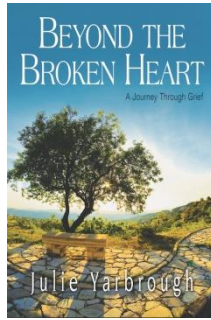
[Confronting Death: A Christian Approach to the End of Life with Walter Wangerin, Jr. \(DV701\)](#)

shows us how to look forward to the world to come without dismissing our responsibilities here and now. Speaking from the heart, Walter Wangerin, Jr. poignantly explains how, throughout his two-year battle with cancer, his faith has sustained and prepared him to meet death. Session two of the five session study is especially powerful when he asks that people

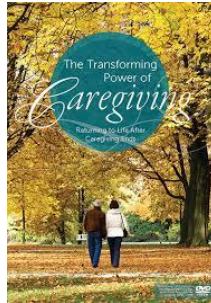
continue to care for his wife following his death. (Sr. High-Adult)

The IRMS collection also includes Wangerin children's book [I am My Grandpa's Enkelin \(BK1299\)](#), written to help his grandchildren deal with his approaching death. (Lower-Upper Elementary)

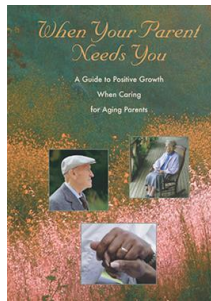




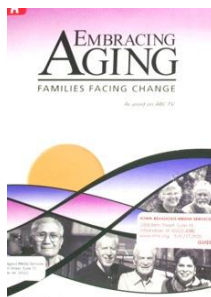
[Beyond the Broken Heart: A Journey through Grief \(KT320\)](#) is an eight-week resource providing a support and ministry program for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Offering participants the opportunity to connect with others who are also grieving, the sessions are designed to help the heart understand while walking together through the stages of grief. (Adult)



[The Transforming Power of Caregiving - Returning to Life after Caregiving Ends \(DV1338\)](#) provides a compassionate look at the phases of the post-caregiving life. Whether you have cared for your loved one for a single year or for many, when it ends, it will feel abrupt. Exploring who you are and what you've learned once your caregiving experience has ended is an essential step forward. (Adult)



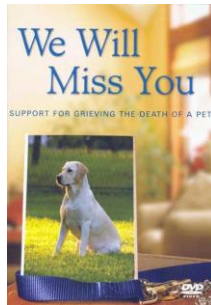
[When Your Parent Needs You: A Guide to Positive Growth When Caring for Aging Parents \(DV965\)](#) looks at what happens when you take on the never-ending task of caring for your parent, while still balancing your own work and personal life. This 35-minute resource for support groups generates conversation and provides answers to some of the most challenging questions. (Young Adult-Adult)



[Embracing Aging: Families Facing Change \(DV684\)](#) introduces us to families a lot like our own. With as much courage and grace as they can muster, they find themselves facing the challenges that come with the process of aging. While this 58-minute documentary is intended to be shown in its entirety, it can be divided into ten parts for study and discussion. (Adult)



[Peege \(DV36\)](#) is the story of an aged, blind, stroke-afflicted grandmother in a nursing home. When her family comes to visit her at Christmastime, they try to make bright, innocuous, superficial conversation while struggling with their own deep feelings. The eldest grandson is from time to time overwhelmed with memories of his relationship with Peege through the years. In a touching scene at the close of the 28-minute film, he is finally able to communicate his love to her. This classic, award-winning film is a meaningful example of how to reach out to older adults. (Jr. High-Adult)



[We Will Miss You: Support for Grieving the Death of a Pet \(DV1134\)](#) explores the many ways we grieve when we've lost a beloved animal companion. The unique human-pet bond is examined by experts in this 31-minute program, providing support and advice on how to navigate the loss of a pet. (Sr. High-Adult)

New from the Lutheran Resource Center

[View from the Inside: Older Adults \(DV1497\)](#) (NEW) is a loving testimonial to all older adults, both current and future. This 21-minute video consisting of the innermost thoughts and feelings of those in their sixties and older captures the essence of what it truly means to be "old." IRMS also has [View from the Inside: Alzheimer's Disease - The Journey Within \(DV372\)](#) from the same series. (Jr. High-Adult)

IOWA RELIGIOUS MEDIA SERVICES is an ecumenical multi-media resource center and lending library supported by six mainline denominations in Iowa and the Upper Midwest.