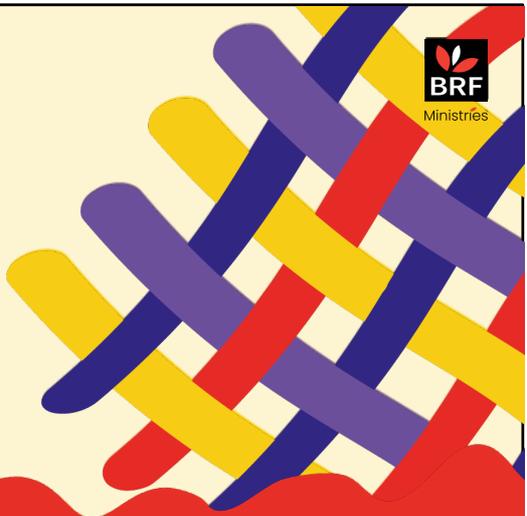




The Messy Church Conference  
**All Together**



**20-22 June 2025**

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equipping Leadership for Mission



**Process Art: Encouraging  
shared meaning making to  
grow disciples**

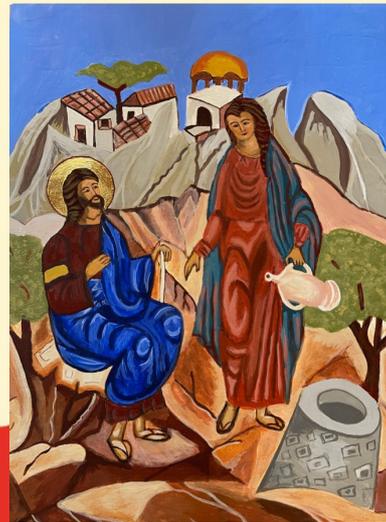
**Rev. Sandy Brodine**

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## How did you experience Art as a kid?



- “I can’t draw!”  
“I’m no good at craft/art!”
- Many of us carry these false narratives
- in our heads from some moment in
- our childhood....



### **Developmental benefits:**

Process art promotes fine motor skills, coordination, and sensory exploration, especially beneficial for young children.

### **Inclusive and adaptable:**

It provides opportunities for participation and success for individuals of various abilities and developmental levels.

## What is Process Art?



Process art provides children with a safe space to express their feelings, thoughts and ideas, helping them to better understand, manage and regulate their emotions.

Self-directed by the child with little to no direction from adult  
Allows the freedom for self-discovery and creativity  
No expectation for the end result  
Very relaxed and free of pressure

Product-oriented art, on the other hand, sets up the child with an expectation to create something specific that's envisioned by an adult. An example could be presenting a child with a yellow pom-pom, pre-cut cardboard shapes, googly eyes, and stickers with the expectation that the child would turn the materials into a baby chick.



Simple process art activities cheap materials. In this case a rainbow drawn with food colouring on shaving cream on plastic sheet as response to Noah's Ark story. Tactile and sensory friendly Encourages adults and children to act as co-learners, engaging in meaning making around the story together. Adults can play too rather than acting as facilitators of a child craft activity.



Example of a Process Art story telling – offering 2 different levels of sensory engagement Left – tell each stage of the story by creating it with shaving cream on a plastic sheet. Centre and right: tell the story with objects found in nature.

Process art response to “GodlyPlay-esque” reading of the Creation story (Genesis 1) at an outdoor (Messy Church goes Wild style) camp in Tasmania. Two options of activity: One with the sensory feeling of the shaving cream, the other with ‘found objects’ from the bush retelling the story.



Let's have a go at this activity as I continue to speak. This activity can be used in any 'water' stories: in this case with Jesus calming the storm. There is no 'right way' to paint with a cotton bud on foil – so it takes away from it being about producing a beautiful piece of art. It becomes about the feeling of the painting.... The slipping of the cotton bud on the foil with the wet paint. Sometimes the 'feeling' of doing the task can change the posture we hold in relation to the story and can help us to have new insights into what it

might have to say to me/us.



## Creative “All Age” meaning making

Intro to Common Ground Sunday Community (and Messy Church) as Creative Intergenerational Meaning Making Communities where people of all ages are able to grow in faith and learn from one another. Space for the ‘other’ (which includes me!) to be able to connect and join in at the table in making sense of faith.

Lucy Moore: All Age worship is about bringing together “otherness and togetherness” – bringing together people of all ages and stages together around a table to share the gospel and to discuss and make meaning of a

story together....

## Engaging all kinds of brains...

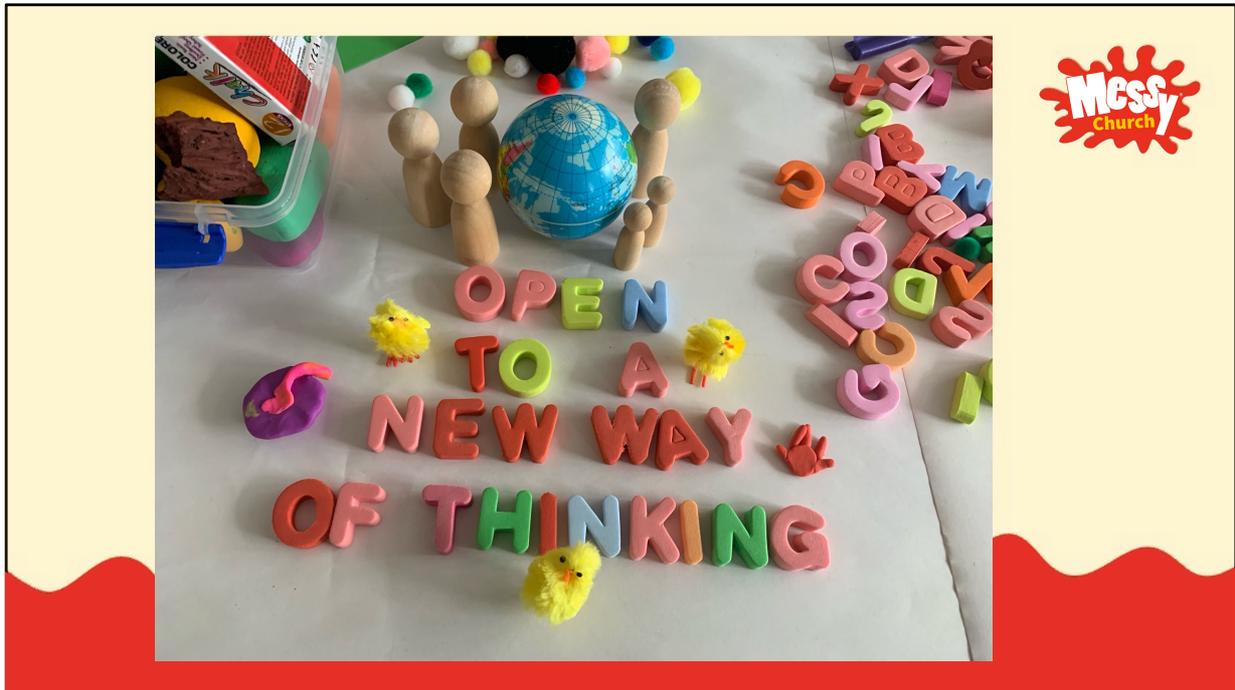


### Intro to Gardner's Multiple Intelligences

Different brains make meaning best in different ways....



Story of including gifts of all leaders in order to provide different modes of engagement... Russ from Western Vic loves to engage youth with sports equipment – says he has best faith conversations with kids that way. I hate sport... so how wonderful to have a team with a range of skill sets and activities which they enjoy! Russ was also happy to draw his love of sport activities on his hand in face paint. 😊



And this is the Goal! Being open to a new way of thinking... of hearing the voice of God.  
Random prayer offering one Sunday morning from the Common ground community...

**Process art focusses on activities that help participants make meaning individually, and in groups.**



**No set outcome (and meaning can be drawn from the process of the task...)**





Mandala meaning making – an opportunity for a lateral thinking exercise where a community can engage in making meaning around a central question together: in this case – “What kind of faith community is God calling us to be?”

## Process activity facilitates Intergenerationality



Sensory play activities are not just for kids! Even play doh can engage 30, 40 and 80 year olds to engage in meaning making together if you don't identify activities by age group.



This activity is a simplified version of the Japanese art of “Kintsugi”: repairing the broken with gold so that the repaired version is more beautiful than the original. In this case the activity was used to reflect on the story of Sarah and Hagar, and where God continues to work in the traumatic situation of Hagar and Ishmael being turned away. (Genesis). You can see that the Kintsugi activity was done alongside an Art response (line drawings by Rembrandt) to deepen the meaning making....

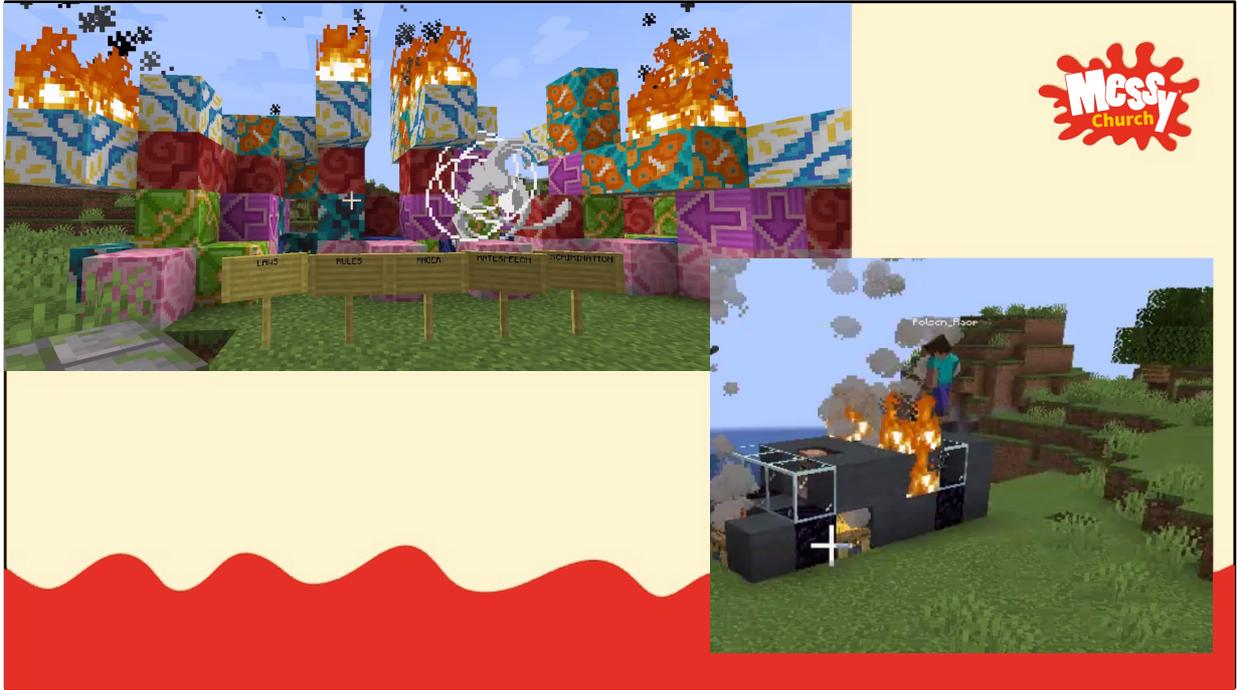


Process Art using off cut wood from reverse art truck... painted with chalkboard paint. Repeatable and cheap!

## Hearing the story in a new way...



Read reflection here: <https://victas.uca.org.au/minecraft-and-the-bible/>



## Pause and Paint (Icon painting with Teens...)



A plug for 'non-process' art!!

Reflection included in Younger Gen email "YG ENGAGE."



Contact details: [sandy.brodine@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:sandy.brodine@victas.uca.org.au)



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