

August 2024



Dear friends,

When my husband and I first began Christopherus 20 years ago, we did so out of a wish to help people be more self sufficient. We were living on our own little hobby farm at the time and being independent was something we felt was very important. Our children grew up surrounded by people who wished to create their own lives as free from outside intervention as possible—our close friends who we homeschooled with shared the same beliefs.

We were one of the first of the Waldorf homeschool options which people could choose to use. There were two others at the time: one was very beautiful but clearly classroom based as it had been created by Waldorf teachers; and the other, created by a man who became a good friend, quite consciously moved away from Waldorf (even though to this day the erroneous belief that it has anything to do with Waldorf persists).

Our hope was, out of the depths of the deeply healing impulse of Waldorf education, to provide resources which would empower parents to make their own choices and create their own unique homeschools. We always spoke clearly against the 'little school at home' approach and never created materials which were scripted, telling a parent what to say and exactly what to do.

Christopherus is a truly healing form of education because it speaks to the universality of the human condition: a wondrous paradox of being human is that while each of us is completely unique, we all share a common path of development, no matter our race, religious background, sex, nationality or other attribute. Children come to this earth to learn and learning is another word for healing.

And so, in the wake of the covid thing, we steadfastly refuse to have anything to do with putting children on screens. We added the phrase 'promoting a screen-free childhood' to emphasize this ([click here to listen to Donna's recording on the harmful effects of screens on children](#)). How sad we are when we hear that so-called Waldorf teachers advertise online lessons for children. Online for the parent-teacher I get—but I do not get how one can say one works out of a healing impulse and yet somehow be okay with teaching a child via a screen. The heart of the teacher-student relationship is a karmic one: this is a deep aspect of the therapeutic work. It cannot take place via a screen.

So that does indeed mean that homeschool looks nothing like school. No parent can do every lesson well. No parent can play a musical instrument, knit, crochet, garden, be a math whiz, draw, paint....the list goes on. But what a parent can do is show his or her children, not through words, but through life itself, that she is the boss of her own life, creating her own life, doing what she knows is best for her family. She can struggle and learn and she can also let her children see that we all have limitations and that is ok. She knows when to say 'we are not doing that' and when to say 'this is how we live as a family.'

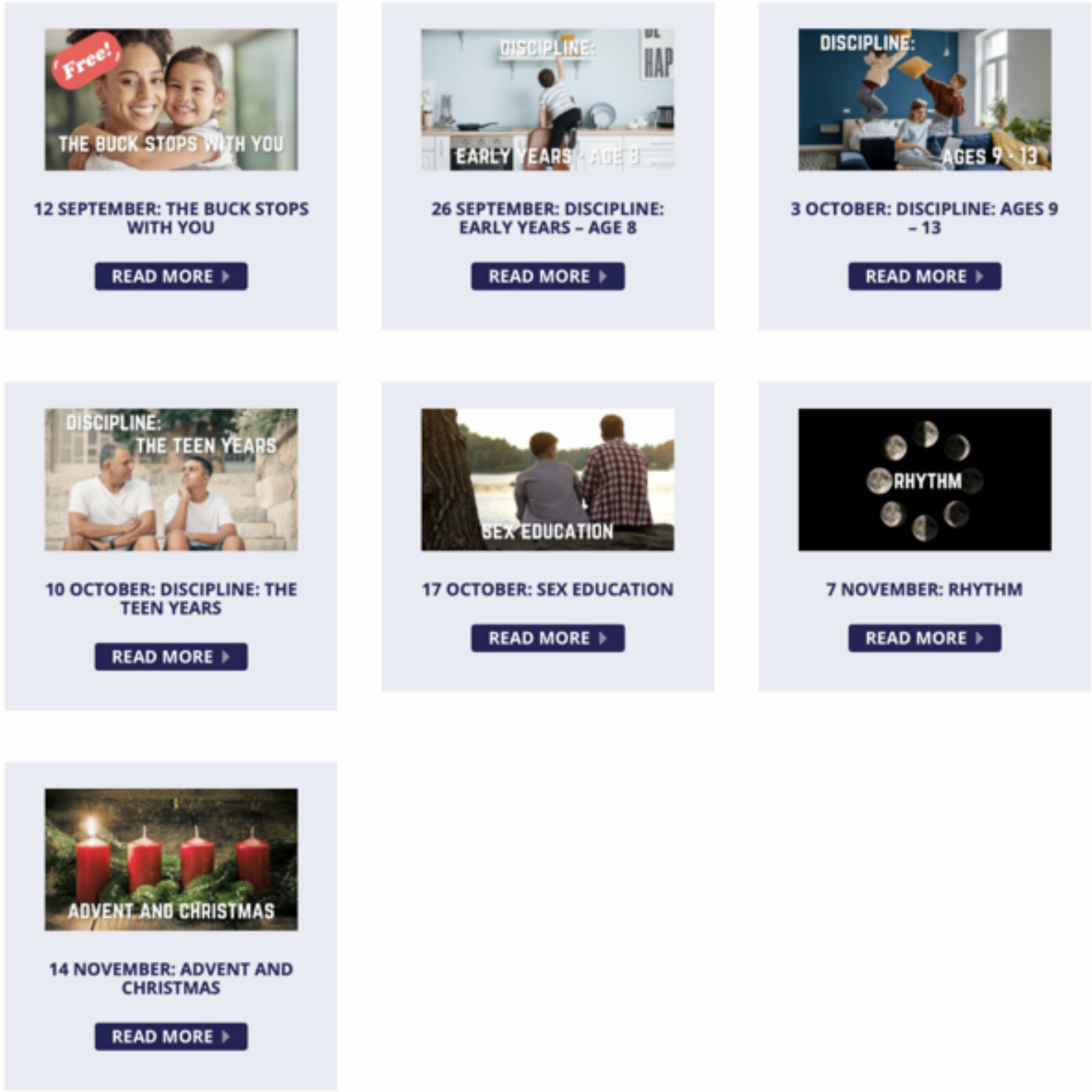
This is the spirit out of which Christopherus was born. Our dearest wish is to empower parents to strengthen themselves in this challenging world and to raise children within the healing heart of the family.

Fall webinar series

Got some good ones for you all! The main topic is discipline and we kick off with a free webinar focused on parental self development, the basis for any kind of discipline regarding one's children. That is followed by three webinars focused on specific age groups, from early years into the teen years.

The webinar on 'rhythm', the basis of any healthy homelife and homeschool approach features as well; the hot topic of sex education and then we finish with a webinar focused on Advent and Christmas.

[Click here to read more and to register.](#)



Speaking of webinars, we have now put excerpts from two of our most important webinars, [An Introduction to Anthroposophy](#) and [Child Development](#) on our blog.

Seventh Grade Chemistry

I had thought I was going to create a series of teaching videos for the parent-teacher and a few brief notes for seventh grade chemistry. As I worked my way through the material, however, it became clear that no videos were necessary (if one needs more guidance, there are a zillion resources on the internet—I give some suggestions for that). So I increased the length of the notes and we now sell that as part of the [Seventh Grade Syllabus](#).

Seventh grade chemistry is a wholistic and hands-on exploration of the interplay of earth (matter), air (gas), water and fire (heat), providing a solid basis for next year's more abstract chemistry.

Eighth grade chemistry, which will be focused on kitchen chemistry and a lab kit and encompass a study of molecules and atoms, will be a part of the Eighth Grade Syllabus.

Til September,
Blessings on your homeschool journey,
Donna

