

HAVE GOODWILL

Contributions from WDS Associate Shelley Walters

The theme scripture says that the community keeps the “goodwill of all the people” at heart. So the concluding time raises a question for further reflection after the benediction such as “What message does the world need? What can we do for the goodwill of all the people?” Here are some ideas for practicing goodwill with all generations each week that allow you to use materials you probably have at home.



Week One, Easter - Spreading Joy

After worship today, have a dance party through your neighborhood! Dress up in colorful clothes (the wackier the better to let loose!), grab some props (dancing ribbons, instruments), and choose a few songs you can move to. Have an adult drive slowly around the block with the music turned up, while your whole crew sings and dances to the music.

Alternative - meet up with friends on Zoom and dance together!

Second Sunday of Easter - Heartfelt Goodwill through “Hugs”

Send a virtual hug through email or text message to someone who may be in need of one. Contact your pastor or congregational care team for contact info if you would like to send it to someone in your church who is homebound.

Using a long piece of paper (or a few pieces glued together), trace your hands and arms. Cut out a heart and write a message of hope, joy, peace, or love, then glue the arms and hands to it to create a “hug.”

Sending physical mail is a little risky right now because surfaces can carry germs, so take picture of your “hugs” and send the photos digitally to anyone who may need a hug.





Third Sunday of Easter - Feast of Love, Straight from the Heart

Find a box or grocery bag to collect food donations for the next few weeks. Use markers or paints to decorate it with symbols of love. Include messages and intentions like “straight from the heart” or “feast of love.” Go through your pantry and take out things you wish to donate. The next time you go to the grocery store, intentionally purchase items to add to your food

donation collection. When you place any items in the box/bag, say a prayer of thank for those that prepared it, and a prayer of goodwill for those who will eat it. And as we blessed our meal in worship, bless this good - hold it and say “grateful!” Contact your local food pantry or food bank to find out when and where you can donate.

Fourth Sunday of Easter - Rocks Covered in Love and Hope

Make more “worry stones” to give away. Collect a few rocks that have a surface large enough for a design and smooth enough to paint. You can use the rocks from the “Rocks we Carry” worship activity together. Take these rocks – now symbols of the hard things – and cover them in love and hope.

Wash the rocks with soap and water, and dry them thoroughly. Using acrylic paint or permanent markers, each person can paint their rock with hearts. You can use Sharpies if you don’t want to use, or don’t have, paint. Once they are dry, leave them in places where people can see them (or give them away if you want) and feel hearts overflowed with gladness!





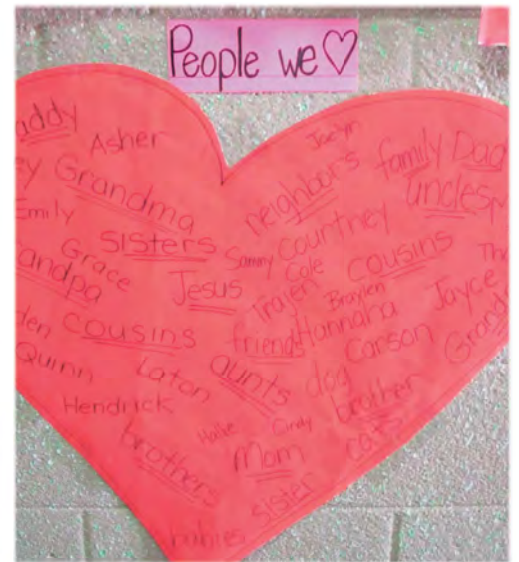
Fifth Sunday of Easter - God Boxes

As you move from our worship time in this space and turn your focus to the world around us, there is so much to be in prayer about as we seek to not let our hearts be troubled. As a container for your prayers (including the ones you wrote today during our Action Response time), and a reminder to go to God in times of anxiety or overwhelm, this God Box can serve as a way of letting go and a way of collecting our prayers for others. Repurpose empty tissue boxes or shoeboxes by decorating them

with colored paper, paint, or gift wrapping. You could glue small objects to the box - like crafting gems, buttons, or even pieces of broken CDs to make a mirror mosaic. There are lots of photos to spark your imagination on [Pinterest!](#)

Sixth Sunday of Easter - Hold People in our Hearts

Make a large heart out of whatever paper you have on hand. Fill the heart with names of people you keep in your heart. This is a good time to talk with your family about the people they are missing and hope to see when we are back together after we've been in quarantine. Take a photo of the heart and send it to the people you have named to remind them that you hold them in love.



Seventh Sunday of Easter - Stained Glass Hearts

Use tissue paper, cardstock, wax paper, and glue, you can make a colorful heart to hang these in your windows as a reminder to look at the world with the eyes of our hearts. Or hang them in a tree outside for others to enjoy as they go by. Here are the complete instructions for making these. As always, adapt if you don't have tissue paper.

You could also have fun making these heart glasses to look through, taking photos and sending to someone to brighten their day!

Pentecost Sunday - Sidewalk Messages of Good News

After worship together, take messages of good news, hope, joy, peace, and love to the community using the sidewalks outside your home and throughout your neighborhood. Share with your neighbors the good news that they are loved, that there is hope, and that we are all in this together. Make your designs as simple or orate as you like, with messages like, “peace be with you” and “you are so loved” for everyone!

