

## Intergenerational Engagement

### *Contributions from WDS Associate Shelley Walters*

This time together at home gives us a unique opportunity to engage in worship in ways that deepen our relationships across generations. Parents, grandparents, and older siblings, the activities that may seem just for kids can enrich the worship experience for any age.

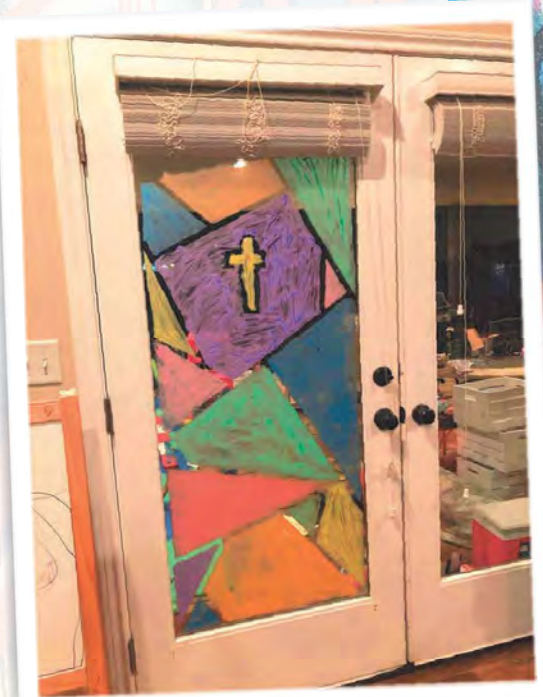
### **Creating a Worship Space**

Gathering around a computer or television can feel less than holy. These spaces are usually for work time or relaxing time. In order to make this an intentionally sacred space, here are a few ideas:

- Gather at your kitchen or dining table with a laptop or tablet if you can. This allows you to participate with one another with space for your food and for you to write and color.
- If you are unable to gather at a larger table, use a smaller, dedicated surface.
- In the middle of your table, place a candle, a bible, and any other small item that helps to center you. You could include a small bowl of water to remind you of the waters of your baptism, or sprigs of greenery to connect you with creation.
- During this time when we are not able to worship in our church sanctuaries, we encourage you to keep this home sanctuary space set up throughout this time to remind you of God's constant presence in our lives.
- Fun idea – if there is a window near your space, use blue tape and washable paint to create a “stained glass” window.

### **Making a Cross**

During Holy Week, take some time in nature and collect sticks to make a cross for your worship space at home. Simply tie the sticks together with twine or yarn – whatever you have on hand – and place it in your worship space before Easter.



*Repurposing Junkie*





### Flowers for Your Cross

Just before Easter morning, either collect flowers from your yard or garden, or use tissue paper or other colored paper to make flowers. (See our [“Heart of the Matter” Pinterest board](#) for ideas and instructions.) As you prepare for worship on Easter morning, place these flowers on your cross – making this barren symbol bloom with joyful celebration of the resurrection.

### Rocks We Carry

Collect a few rocks – one for each person – that are small enough to fit in your hand and big enough to feel some weight. Gather with

your family in your home worship space in a circle. Have each person start by holding a rock, and go around the circle naming the hard, heavy things they are carrying right now. This could be worry about a loved one, fear of getting sick, loneliness without seeing friends, difficulty with school or work at a distance. Encourage and model naming specific things while holding and looking at your rock.

When everyone has shared, place your rocks in the middle of the circle, and pray together, “God we carry hard, heavy things, but we know we do not carry them alone because you are with us. Just like the rock that was rolled away from Jesus’ tomb, you are rolling away things from our lives to bring new life. Help us know you are bringing hope and joy and new possibilities. Amen.”

### Rocks Covered in Hope

Sometime after you have shared in the “Rocks we Carry” activity together, you can take these rocks – now symbols of the hard things – and cover them in hope.

Wash the rocks with soap and water, and dry them thoroughly. Using acrylic paint, each person can paint their rock with hearts. You could also just use Sharpies if you don’t have access to paint. See the “Have Goodwill” document for another way to use these painted rocks.







### **Dancing Ribbons**

If you want to add some fun and get excited about your Praise God dance time in worship each week, you can make dancing ribbons. Take any ribbons you may have at home – or you can use a plastic table cloth cut into strips – and tie them to a bracelet or hair tie. Ribbons cut to about 2 feet long give a colorful flourish to this Easter Season Dance Party in your worship. You can use these for the scripture reading on Pentecost Sunday as well!

### **Breaking Bread**

When you prepare food for breaking bread together in worship, make this an intergeneration experience. Think of ways each person can have a part in creating the feast.

### **Coloring Our Hearts**

Print out one Heart Coloring Page for each person, and bring crayons or something to color with to your worship space. Throughout worship time, you will hear the word “heart” again and again. To focus on the heart of the matter, color or doodle in a heart each time you hear the word “heart.” See some coloring pages at the end of this document.





Cut watercolor paper, cardstock, or other heavy paper into pieces of different sizes and shapes. Using thin permanent markers, write who or what you are praying for. Then hold them in prayer in your heart while you watercolor over the page.

Whenever anxiety or fear comes from listening to the news, go to your wall and add to it. Spend a little time at your prayer wall each day.

Continue to add to the wall, slowly forming a heart in which you hold all of these prayers.





## Easter Egg Baskets

The tradition we had as kids on Easter was waking up to a basket filled with candies, chocolate rabbits, and other goodies. Families could make "baskets" for one another - either simple paper baskets or just decorate containers you have at home - and fill them with things you love about one another.

Here are three prompts

- 1) what that person does well,
- 2) what you love about the person,
- 3) and how you show love to each other.

Fine these homemade basket ideas and others on our [Pinterest board!](#)





## Easter Egg Messages through until Pentecost

We have no way of knowing, but we can hope and imagine that we will be back in our church worship spaces with our faith communities by Pentecost. Each week after we have gathered for worship, take a small piece of paper and write a short message of something that stuck out to you, something you learned, a word or phrase that you needed to hear. Gather these messages and collect them through the weeks. When you are able to gather together again with your church, we love the idea of hosting an Easter egg hunt and hiding the messages in the eggs along with other goodies for children and families to find and share. If Pentecost comes around and we are still not able to gather together, it may still be possible to host a virtual church party online and invite each family to gather together for a celebration of reading the messages. If we are back earlier, wonderful! Keep collecting the eggs at home until Pentecost. This is a great way for us all to solidify the idea that Easter is a “season” and not just a “day.”

