

WORLD COMMUNION OFFERING - LOVE KINDNESS

Activities Page - For All Ages

Written by Rev. Lanie Sipes

In this document, you will find a variety of activities to engage the “Love Kindness” theme further. Pick the activity or activities that will work best for your group and modify them as needed. You may decide to do your activity on the same day you do the rest of the lesson or you may want to meet again on another day, depending on your time and the activity that you choose for your group.

WORLD COMMUNION PAPER PLATE CRAFT

Supplies:

- Paper Plates
- Cut-outs Page (one per person - *see on page 4*)
- Scissors
- Glue and/or Tape
- Markers/Crayons/Colored Pencils



1. Give each person a paper plate and cut-outs page.
2. Ask people to color their plates to look like the world.
3. Next, have them color the people, bread, cup, etc. on their cut-outs page. Encourage them to make each of the people look different. (*If you are low on time, you can tell them they can color the people in at home instead.*)
4. Cut out the people, bread, cup, etc. (*Again, if you are low on time, you could have these already cut out for them.*)
5. Glue the words, bread, and cup onto the middle of the paper plate. Glue the plate cut-outs around the outside rim of the paper plate. Glue or tape the people cut-outs around the outside of the paper plate (line them up with the plate cut-outs). The easiest way to do this is to glue or tape their legs to the back of the paper plate.

MAKING BREAD TOGETHER

1. Choose a bread recipe and gather/buy ingredients. (You may want to use one of the [recipes from the Gathered at the Table resources](#).)
2. Bake the bread together. (*While it is in the oven, you may want to do one of the other activities on this page or go ahead and finish the lesson.*)
3. Use your bread for Communion or share with a neighbor. If you use for Communion, it will be best to make one or two big loaves. If you share with neighbors, maybe you could make mini loaves and each person could take one with them to share with a neighbor.

Another idea: If you have time, make multiple different types of bread to represent bread from different parts of the world and different cultures. Then use the variety of breads for World Communion Sunday.

PLAN & HOST AN ECUMENICAL/INTERFAITH MEAL & DIALOGUE

1. Decide who you will invite. Do you have ecumenical or interfaith neighbors nearby that you would like to get to know?
2. Extend the invitation(s). Get to know your ecumenical and/or interfaith neighbors (at least the leaders) a little bit before they arrive for the meal. Share with them why your congregation would like to have a meal with them.
3. If they accept your invitation, decide on a day/time together. Remember, each religious tradition has their holy or sabbath days/times.
4. Ask about dietary restrictions and plan accordingly. Depending on who you invite, the meal may need to be vegetarian, kosher, halal, etc.
5. Assign someone to be a “host” at each table. This will be a person who can show radical hospitality and help facilitate dialogue that is curious and appreciative, not contentious or argumentative. Remember that the goal of ecumenical/interfaith dialogue is mutual understanding and growth, NOT conversion. (Tip: If your dialogue partners agree, it may be helpful to start with a prayer and create a Conversation Covenant together before your meal. You may even have one person from each faith community lead a prayer from their tradition. The [Shared Values Facilitation Guide](#) from Interfaith America is a helpful resource.)
6. Plan out dialogue questions and have copies at each table or displayed up front on a screen that all can clearly see. (Round tables are the best for dialogue.) For your first meal and dialogue together, it is best to keep these simple. For example...
 - What is your favorite scripture/story from your faith tradition?
 - What is your favorite ritual from your faith tradition?
 - How do you practice your faith daily or weekly?
 - What teachings from your faith inspire service, mercy/kindness, and/or love to others (your neighbor)?
 - How does your faith shape the way you live?
7. End your time together with a word of thanks and a blessing.

Another option - Attend a worship service and/or meal of another faith tradition:

1. Reach out to neighboring faith communities to see if there is an opportunity to attend a worship service and/or meal with them (for example, a langar meal at a local Sikh gurdwara, a Shabbat service at a local synagogue, a Buddhist meditation gathering at a local temple, a Muslim prayer service at a local mosque, or a visit to a local Hindu temple). Make sure to introduce yourself and share why you are interested in sharing a meal with them and learning about their faith tradition.
2. Once you have a date/time, have people from your congregation who would like to attend sign-up. Let the host faith community know in advance how many people will be coming with your group.
3. Make sure to ask the host about dress and other requirements/expectations of visitors, and share with your group beforehand. It may also be helpful to do a quick overview of the host’s faith tradition before attending. [The Pluralism Project](#) has introductions to all the major religious traditions.

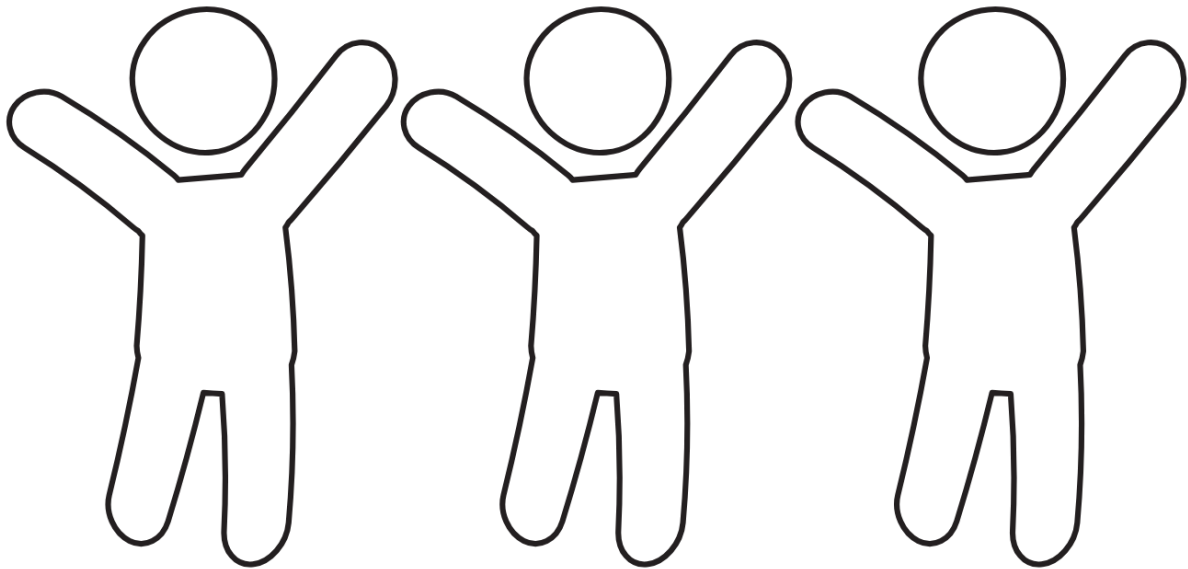
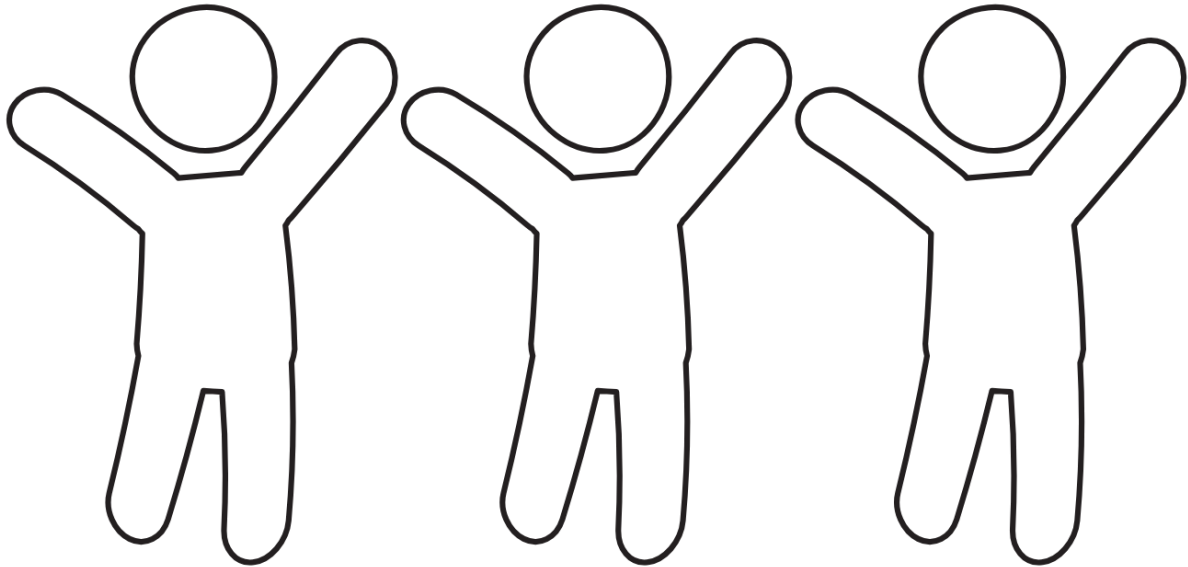
4. Following the worship service and/or meal, set aside some reflection time with your group and put together a thank you letter or card to send to the hosting faith community.

SPEED FAITHING

1. Set up two rows of chairs facing one another (one chair for each person in your group).
2. Have everyone sit in a chair.
3. Give a question prompt and set a timer for one or two minutes. People first share their name with their partner (the person in the chair across from them) and then take turns sharing their answers to the question.
4. When the time is up, have the person at the end of one of the rows move to the first chair in their row and everyone else in that row moves down a chair. Only one row of people moves and this is the row that will change each time (the other row stays seated the whole time).
5. Once everyone has a new partner, share the next question prompt and set the timer for one or two minutes again.
6. Repeat this as many times as you would like.

Question Prompt Ideas:

- What is your favorite Bible story or character? Why?
- What is your first memory of worship (or the Church)?
- What liturgical season is most meaningful to you?
- What led you to the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. (or this congregation)?
- What is something in our faith that you are curious about or would like to change?
- When have you experienced God's loving kindness/mercy?
- What is challenging for you about faith (or how does your faith challenge you)?
- What part of worship do you find most meaningful?
- Who is someone that has shaped and inspired your faith?
- What are your gifts and how do you share them with our faith community and the wider community?
- What justice issue do you connect with the most? Why?
- If you could meet Jesus face-to-face today, what would you say or ask?
- What is something from another faith tradition that you find meaningful?
- How does the PCUSA's identity as "reformed and always reforming" speak to you?



ONE BREAD
ONE BODY

