

Intergenerational activity: Notes of presence



(For children, youth, adults, or mixed age groups)

Objective: In creating origami art for communities in need; the intergenerational group may nurture bonds and creatively discover ongoing ways to partner in OGHS and affirm solidarity with impacted neighbors. The created items become a tangible symbol of your solidarity—a way of telling others you are here for them.

Supplies: Colorful construction paper, recycle bin, and other craft materials (glitter, stickers, markers, etc.).

Instructions: Have groups sit around tables, ensuring that each table has a variety of generations represented—you might do this by arranging people by birth month. Invite groups to decorate paper with prayers and messages of peace and encouragement, then fold the paper into origami cranes and hearts. In addition to (or instead of) origami, the group may choose to make prayer cards, write poetry, and/or create other affirmations through art as expressions of solidarity. While you work, have someone read the theme scripture (Matthew 25:31-46) and invite conversation about it at the tables. Also share about the work of OGHS (see other leader's guide materials). Consider how the offering helps you be present with and share God's love with people who are suffering.

Your creations can be given away in order to build or continue relationships of support, symbolizing unity, sharing, and community. Identify an appropriate organization or individual to receive your creations, and talk with them *before* doing this activity.

- Pick an appropriate local organization your congregation supports—like a nursing home, prison, or children's hospital OR
- Encourage your church members to give their creations to a neighbor or friend

Incorporate a blessing and dedication of your cranes or cards in worship.

Background: Peace Cranes are rather popular and have been used by communities around the world to respond to natural disasters, crisis, and suffering. In the United States, The Peace Crane Project has circulated cranes between cities impacted by gun violence. For example, cranes from Newtown, Conn. (the location of the Sandy Hook shooting) were sent to Orlando, Fla. after the shooting at the Pulse nightclub.

