



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

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AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

On UMCOR Sunday, consider using this children's activity as part of your Sunday school or other children's time. It is based on the lectionary texts for the Fourth Sunday in Lent in Year C (2 Corinthians 5:16-21). Adapt it for whichever Sunday your church celebrates UMCOR Sunday. The children's activity is designed to coordinate with the UMCOR Sunday "Ambassadors for Christ" liturgy, offering talk, sermon starter, children's message and children's bulletin.

Supplies needed for game board *(similar to Chutes and Ladders):*

- Large poster board with a 10 x 10 grid of 100 squares
- Number the board from 1 to 100
- In the first square write "Christ's Ambassador"
- Markers
- Dice
- Markers to be used as game pieces—one for each student

Supplies needed for the craft:

- Empty toilet paper rolls
- Twine
- Hole punch
(Ahead of time punch three holes around the top of the roll. Depending on the age of the students, string the twine ahead of time to hang the bird feeder.)
- Peanut butter (Use nut-free alternative if any students have allergies.)
- Birdseed
- Wax paper or something else to send the craft home in

Introduction

Repeat after me: *"We are ambassadors for Christ"*
(2 Corinthians 5:20).

An ambassador is someone who works to bring people together in agreement. They are peace builders. Paul wrote a letter to the early church and explained that "we are ambassadors for Christ."

When we act more like Jesus, we can help other people experience God's love. We become ambassadors for Christ.

One of the ways that we as United Methodists are ambassadors for Jesus is through UMCOR. When a neighborhood or community has been affected by a disaster, people serve through UMCOR to help share God's love by fixing up houses, making sure there is clean water and by listening and responding to what the people need. But one person or one church can't do as much as a lot of churches working together.

Today we celebrate UMCOR. And we celebrate how our church joins with other churches as ambassadors who can help people all over the world.

We can do our part to support UMCOR through caring for God's creation. Caring for the earth can help prevent the seriousness of some natural disasters.

Sing a Song

Let's sing a song about God's creation:

Lead the children in singing "My God Is So Big"

(<https://youtu.be/rFAjGK7MIKQ>) or another song that reflects God as the creator.

Activity: Make the game board and play

Let's think about 10 things that we want to avoid doing so that we do not harm the earth.

Write one answer in each of 10 random squares on the poster board. Then draw a slide from the harmful activity down to another square on the board.

Now let's think about 10 things that we can do that will help the earth.

Write one answer in each of 10 random squares on the poster board. Then draw a ladder from the harmful activity down to another square on the board.

Play the game by rolling the dice and moving forward the number of squares indicated. When a student lands on a chute, they slide down. When they land on a ladder, they move up. The goal is to get to the "Christ's Ambassador" square at the end.

Craft: Make the bird feeder

- If it wasn't already done, string the toilet paper roll with twine to hang the feeder when it is complete.
- Invite the children to spread the toilet paper roll with peanut butter.
- Invite the children to roll the rolls in a paper plate filled with birdseed.
- Wrap the bird feeders with wax paper so the children can bring them home.

Say:

Repeat after me: "We are ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Repeat after me: "We are UMCOR."

When you bring this bird feeder home, take it out of the wax paper and hang it outside. You will be part of taking care of the birds in your neighborhood. Make sure to take it down once the bird seed is finished so that you don't leave litter.

Prayer

And now let's pray and you can repeat after me:

Dear God

Thank you for Jesus.

Thank you for ambassadors
who show us God's love.

Thank you for UMCOR
that connect us to help others.

Make us strong ambassadors
Who care for all of your creation
And touch people around your world.

Amen.

For a longer-term children and youth creation care curriculum, consider Harmony Creation Care Curriculum by Crystal Paul-Watson and Lavanda Paul that was developed with funding from UMCOR's Earthkeeper program.