

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

Mr. Rogers Day – 20 Things to Do

Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and is a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation are worth remembering. Rogers was also a pioneer in the world of Christian education and formation of young children. *March 20th* was his birthday and the day that the PC(USA) has chosen to highlight all we can learn from his work. Here are 20 ideas for faith communities to engage in this emphasis day.

1. Ask everyone to wear a sweater to worship or your event in person or online. (post photos.)
2. Sing “Won’t You Be My Neighbor” in worship or at the beginning of your class or event.
3. Watch Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood clips as part of your worship service or education class.
4. Plan an adult education class using the documentary, the movie or one of the books about Mister Rogers.
5. Engage in Neighboring Sunday using suggestions from this [Neighboring Sunday QuickSheet](#)
6. Lead a children’s sermon about “being yourself”.
7. Mr. Rogers was ordained to the ministry of his TV show. Recognize and learn about those in your Presbytery that are ordained to serve in ministries other than a local church pastor.
8. Plan an intergenerational worship service using the [Walking in God’s Path of Peace Intergenerational Worship Quicksheet](#) based on Ephesians 6:15. Learn the newly composed hymn [Jesus, Teach us to Be Neighbors](#).
9. Learn about and support organizations that engage in early childhood education.
10. Ask your youth/young people to lead Storytime and conversation for children with
 - [Who Is My Neighbor?](#) by Amy-Jill Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and illus. Denise Turu. Blues and Yellows just don’t mix, and that’s how it’s always been—until the day Midnight Blue takes a tumble along the road and a Yellow named Lemon stops to help him. A free coloring sheet to go along with the book is available here: <https://www.flyawaybooks.com/resources>
 - Or choose one of the other books listed below.
 - Or listen to and discuss Mr. Rogers songs.
11. Make plans to use [Mister Rogers Intergenerational Curriculum](#) based on Mr Rogers’ Neighborhood. This is a free downloadable 4 session curriculum. <http://www.pcusastore.com/misterrogers>
12. Give families a set of [Peace Cards](#) for quick at home faith practice. See ideas on how to use them in this [Quicksheet](#).

13. Share one of the videos of Flyaway books being read by the author or an educator. [*Walking toward Peace: The True Story of a Brave Woman*](#) or [*Three Lines in a Circle: The Exciting Life of the Peace Symbol*](#).
14. Add books to your library around themes of peace and reconciliation, neighborliness, and kindness.
 - [*Who Is My Neighbor?*](#) by Amy-Jill Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and illus. Denise Turu
 - [*Walking toward Peace: The True Story of a Brave Woman Called Peace Pilgrim*](#) by Kathleen Krull and illus. Annie Bowler
 - [*Brian the Brave*](#) by Paul Stewart and illus. Jane Porter
 - [*A Very Big Problem*](#) by Amy-Jill Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and illus. Annie Bowler
 - [*Three Lines in a circle: The Exciting Life of the Peace Symbol*](#) by Michael G. Long.
 - See [Resource Roadmap](#) for additional suggestions.
15. Print a [poster size](#) of the Mr. Rogers Coloring Page and have people of all ages color it by placing it in your gathering space. Or send home the [8 ½ x11](#) coloring sheet size. Find the coloring page PDF's to print [here](#).
16. Use the newly revised version of [Peacemaking in the Family](#) to offer intergenerational events. The sessions are 1. Families and Feelings 2. Living in Families and Growing as Individuals 3. Families and Hard Times 4. Families and Celebrations.
17. Use the newly updated [Building a Neighborhood Together: An Intergenerational Peacemaking Project](#). The Neighborhood Build is based on Fred Rogers' ideas about relationships, creative play, pride in making things, family communication, and community and is an activity for all ages and all kinds of families to work together.
18. Encourage those in your congregation to be good neighbors, sharing Mr. Roger's principles of kindness and compassion in their community. Then post pictures of congregation members doing so on social media.
19. Set up a Mr. Rogers backdrop for people to take pictures and then share on social media.
20. What creative ideas do you have? Share them with the [Christian Formation PCUSA Facebook group](#).

For more ideas see the [Resource Roadmap](#) and visit www.pcusa.org/mrogers.

Office of Christian Formation: www.pcusa.org/formation

Office of Theology and Worship:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-and-worship/>

Office of Compassion, Peace, & Justice:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/>

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