

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

Mr. Rogers Emphasis Day

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. This QuickSheet is a compilation of ideas and resources for faith communities to engage in this emphasis day.

Ten Things To Do

1. Ask everyone to wear a sweater (post/share photos.)
2. Sing “Won’t You Be My Neighbor” in worship.
3. Watch Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood clips as part of your worship service or education class.
4. Plan an adult education class on the documentary or 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. Have a worship service led by children.
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 one of the suggested books or with Mr. Rogers songs.

PCUSA Resources

Compassion, Peace & Justice:

- [*Building a Neighborhood Together: An Intergenerational Peacemaking Project from Family Communications*](#)—Producer of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood”. This free downloadable booklet describes the process for building a neighborhood out of boxes and other everyday household supplies. It is an activity for all ages and all kinds of families working together. The Neighborhood Build is based on Fred Rogers’ ideas about relationships, creative play, pride in making things, family communication, and community. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/building-a-neighborhood-together-an-intergenerational-peacemaking-project-from-family-communications/>
- [*Peacemaking in the Family by Mr. Rogers—Four Intergenerational Events for Your Church, by Fred Rogers and Barbara Marsh*](#) - This free downloadable adaptable resource, developed in 1984, is both timeless and timely, coauthored by Rev. Fred Rogers. This resource is organized around four areas of family life – feelings, growth, hard times and celebrations – and identifies peacemaking skills that can be employed to strengthen all members of a household. For each topic there is helpful background information and an intergenerational program design. It is based on the book *Mr. Rogers Talks with*

Parents, written by Fred Rogers and Barry Head. Even though it is over 30 years old, the lessons held in this resource and the inspiration of Fred Rogers are as relevant and important today as they were when first written. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/peacemaking-in-the-family-by-mr-rogers/>

- Peace Fair - This is an intergenerational event which is a part of the Season of Peace materials from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/season-peace-peace-fair-planning-guide/>
- Season of Peace Doodle Coloring Poster. This is available for download in a variety of sizes.
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/season-peace/>

Presbyterian Publishing, Flyaway Books, Westminster John Knox:

- [*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>
- [*Walking toward Peace: The True Story of a Brave Woman Called Peace Pilgrim*](#) by Kathleen Krull and illus. Annie Bowler (Available March 2, 2021)
 - Tells the true story of Peace Pilgrim, a female activist and spiritual leader who sacrificed everything to travel by foot around America promoting peace.
 - A free downloadable maze to go along with the book is available for download here:
<https://www.flyawaybooks.com/resources>
- [*Brian the Brave*](#) by Paul Stewart and illus. Jane Porter
 - Brian thinks all of his fellow sheep can play together—until the others say they can only be friends with sheep that look and speak just like them. This playful book encourages children to challenge bias and prejudice.
 - Free printable puppets to go along with the book are available for download here:
<https://www.flyawaybooks.com/resources>
- [*A Very Big Problem*](#) by Amy-Jill Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and illus. Annie Bowler
 - The first garden in the world is filled with diverse characters who are competing for God's love until they're reminded that God's love is big enough for everyone and that without one another, there would be no garden at all.
- [*Peaceful Neighbor: Discovering the Countercultural Mister Rogers*](#) by Michael G. Long
 - A look at the convictions of Mister Rogers and how he expressed his beliefs through his TV program.
 - Watch YouTube videos of Michael G. Long talking about Mister Rogers here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhvNYxXXbDo&list=PLMR2Znm_Fp-xlA5sZpPATaKADPwzMbg7i
- [*Neighborhood Church: Transforming Your Congregation into a Powerhouse for Mission*](#) by Krin Van Tatenhove & Rob Mueller
 - A resource that helps inspire churches to become a vibrant and engaging community partner with the families and neighborhoods living around them.
 - A free church study guide and sermon Scripture ideas are available here:
<https://www.wjkbooks.com/Products/0664264786/neighborhood-church.aspx>
- [*Mister Rogers Intergenerational Curriculum*](#) based on Mr Rogers' Neighborhood. This is a free downloadable 4 session curriculum. <http://www.pcusastore.com/misterrogers>

Theology and Worship:

- *The Presbyterian Book of Common Worship*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018. This includes services for the dedication or blessing of health care facilities, schools, community service agencies and homes. See pages 670-684.
- Everyday God-Talk Video about Mr. Rogers with Jeff Eddings
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-and-worship/everyday-god-talk/>

Movies and Television

- A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood – Movie, Sony Pictures 2019
Study Guide available <http://resources.abeautifulday.movie/>
- Won't You Be My Neighbor? - Documentary Movie, Universal Studios 2018
- Mister Rogers and Me – Movie, Wagner Bothers 2010
- Mister Rogers' Neighborhood - <https://www.misterrogers.org/>
- Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood - <https://pbskids.org/daniel/>

Other Resources

- The Fred Rogers Center - <https://www.fredrogerscenter.org/>
- *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: A Poetry Book of Mister Rogers* by Fred Rogers, Quirk Books, 2019 (This also includes the words from his songs and could be used as part of creative liturgy.)
- Mr. Rogers testifies to Congress about Public Television
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKy7ljRr0AA>
- Who is My Neighbor: Learning to Love Like Jesus Vacation Bible School (2019) from MennoMedia
<https://www.faithandliferesources.org/Curriculum/vbs/vbs2019/Overview/>
- *The World According to Mister Rogers: Important Things to Remember* by Fred Rogers, Hachette Books, 2003

Some Scripture Connections

Matthew 22:34-40	The Greatest Commandment
Luke 10:25-37	Who is my neighbor?
Luke 14:15-24	Story of the Great Dinner
Jeremiah 1:4-8	Before I formed you, I knew you
John 21:15-17	A story of Peter and Jesus
Acts 10:28-36	A story about Peter and Cornelius
Genesis 33:1-11	A story two twin brothers
Deuteronomy 10:17-21	A story of the Hebrew people

Hymn Suggestions

[*Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*](#), Westminster John Knox, 2013 (GTG)

God of the Sparrow (GTG 22)
For the Fruit of All Creation (GTG 36)
Like a Mother Who has Born us (GTG 44)
Jesus, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (GTG 203)
Now Go in Joy (GTG 745)
When the Poor Ones (GTG 762)

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound (GTG 766)
What Is the World Like (GTG 771)

Visit www.pcusa.org/formation to learn more about the Office of Christian Formation.

Visit <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/> to learn more about the Office of Compassion, Peace & Justice.

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