



SEASON OF PEACE

Peace Fair

PLANNING GUIDE



Season of Peace Peace Fair

The Peace Fair is an intergenerational event that may be held during A Season of Peace, as part of World Communion Sunday, or at another time during the year. Eating together is an important component of the event, so be sure to plan for a meal.

Here is a checklist of things to begin doing as you plan for your Peace Fair:

- Select a date** and get it listed on your church calendar. World Communion is the first Sunday of October.
- Get approval** from the appropriate committees and the session. Consider inviting other congregations to join you in the Peace Fair.
- Recruit a committee** to plan the Peace Fair. Be sure to include representatives from many different groups within the church, including individuals or groups with an interest in peacemaking, social justice, hunger, environmental concerns, and children and family ministries.
- Find out** if your presbytery or synod has an International Peacemaker itinerating in your area. You may consider scheduling your Peace Fair around such a guest.
- Other potential guests** for the Peace Fair that you might want to consider inviting include mission co-workers, staff from local mission agencies, and representatives from local peace organizations.

Each congregation's Peace Fair will be unique. Some will choose to plan it on a Sunday or weekday evening and include a meal. Others may dedicate all of Sunday morning to the Peace Fair, including worship, educational offerings, and a meal.

One way to plan the Peace Fair is to have a central celebration area and as many additional rooms or gathering spaces as are needed for the activities. Each participant will receive a passport as they arrive, with a list of all of the offerings. As participants move from activity to activity, they will receive a stamp or sticker on their passport.

This Peace Fair planning guide includes instructions for planning the following activities. You may choose to use (or adapt) any or all of them, or to add your own.

Be sure to select and plan activities for all age levels.

Ideas for the shared meal

Throughout the Scriptures, table fellowship is the place where people set aside their differences and come together in peace.

Consider these meal options as you plan your Peace Fair:

- A covered-dish/potluck meal
- Consider a special theme for the meal, such as inviting participants to bring international dishes.
- Make sure you have options available for those on special diets, including salt-, gluten-, and sugar-free items and vegan and vegetarian dishes.
- Group soup: Invite each person to bring one vegetable to the Peace Fair. Wash, peel, and cube the vegetables and put them all in large stock pots with water and broth or bouillon. Simmer while the Peace Fair is going on, then enjoy the soup at the end of the event. Have a variety of breads to eat with the soup.
- At each table, leave one empty chair. Decorate the chair with a placement or table tent with one of the following words or phrases: *homeless, homebound, seeking employment, living with addiction, lonely, physically challenged, grieving*, etc. Invite the table to name any people they know living in that situation. Together, pray that those not represented at the table would be welcome in your hearts, minds, and prayers
- Print special place mats or table cards listing the questions below, for people to discuss during the event. Or put white paper table covers on each table, and provide crayons for participants to write or draw words and symbols to express their hopes and prayers for peace.
- What is your favorite meal memory?
- How does eating with others bring people closer together?
- Who is not represented at your tables? How can you be more inviting?
- How can we do more to make sure every person in your community and our world has enough food?
- How does our choice of food affect people in our community and world?

Passport to Peace

Print copies of the passport for each participant. You will need to customize the passport for the activities you have planned for your Peace Fair. Provide stickers, stamps, and stamp pads or hole punches at each station or activity.

See a sample passport on the next page.



Peace Fair

PASSPORT

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Can Sculpture | <input type="checkbox"/> Puppet Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Reflection on Peace Symbols |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study | <input type="checkbox"/> Games/Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drama Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Antibullying Pledge | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest Speaker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offering of Letters | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Station | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> World Map | <input type="checkbox"/> Age-to-Age Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Story Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Mural | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Gift Table | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |



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Activity Stations:

» **World Map Activity**

Post a large world map on the wall. Invite people to put pushpins in the map for places they have visited.

» **Music Center**

Create a room or space with a piano or recorded music. Invite one or more people to lead the singing of or listening to hymns or songs about peace.

Some options include:

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"
From *The Presbyterian Hymnal*:

295: "O Lord of Love, O God of Peace"

374: "Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace"

386: "O for a World"

432: "Canto de Esperanza (Song of Hope)"

450: "O Day of Peace"

537: "Shalom, Chavarim!"

From *Sing the Faith*

2171: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

2174: "What Does the Lord Require of You?"

» **Nature Center**

Invite a naturalist to lead a walk through an outdoor area near the church. Take along bags to collect trash or to bring back items from nature for a display table.

» **Bible Study**

Reserve a room or set up a circle of chairs for the Bible study. Use one of the Bible studies from *A Season of Peace*.

» **Antibullying Pledge: We are One**

Make a large poster with this antibullying pledge. Provide pens or markers for participants to add their name to the pledge.

We believe that no person deserves to be bullied and that every person has the right to feel safe, secure, and respected. We pledge that our church and we who are the church will be a bully-free zone.

- We will treat all other people with kindness and respect.

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32)

- We will not engage in name calling, threats, or any violent acts.

"Speak evil of no one, . . . avoid quarreling, . . . be gentle, and . . . show every courtesy to everyone." (Titus 3:2)

- We will be a safe place for those who have been victimized by bullies.

"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." (Matthew 18:5)

- We will speak out against any bullying we see.

"Let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another." (Ephesians 4:25)

- We will model the love and acceptance of Jesus.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

» **Canned Food Tower Build**

Invite people to bring canned food to donate to a local food pantry. As the food arrives, build a tower or a symbol using the cans. Arrange them as a dove, the PC(USA) symbol, a peace sign, or some other creation.

» **Alternative Gift Table**

Arrange to have opportunities for people to financially sponsor alternative gifts, such as Heifer Project animals, meals for a local food ministry, donations to a peace and justice ministry in your community, or donations for a church or youth mission trip.

» **Offering of Letters**

Choose a peace or justice cause or issue and provide paper and pens for people to write letters to elected officials about that issue. Provide fact sheets about the issue, sample letters, and the names and addresses of your local and national elected officials.

» **Story Center**

Arrange chairs and large pillows in a quiet area. Recruit several people to be storytellers. Collect books that express the Season of Peace theme and have storytellers read these throughout the event.

Below are some books to consider:

Oliver Button is a Sissy, Tommy de Paolo

The Butter Battle Book, Dr. Seuss

The Sneetches, Dr. Seuss

The Lorax, Dr. Seuss

Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down, Andrea Davis Pinkney (Little, Brown and Co., 2010)

A Place Where Sunflowers Grow, Amy Lee-Tai (Children's Book Press, 2006)

Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty, Linda Glaser (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2010)

Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship, Tim Tingle and Jeanne Rorex Bridges (Cinco Puntos Press, 2006)

Tomas and the Library Lady, Pat Mora (Dragonfly Books, 1997)

» **Prayer Center**

Arrange for a quiet area with comfortable seats for people to gather for prayer. Post newsprint and provide markers for participants to list prayer concerns. Provide index cards listing specific prayer requests for areas of the world in conflict.

» **Computer/Social Media Station**

- Set up several computer workstations on a table. Make sure you have Internet access.
- Set up a Facebook page or a blog site. Invite participants to share their reflections on the Peace Fair, and invite Facebook friends and others to join the conversation. Bookmark links to pages, including the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program, Presbyterians for Earth Care, and Tolerance.org.
- Invite participants to upload pictures of the Peace Fair or create a PowerPoint presentation on A Season of Peace.
- Load peacemakergame.com, a computer-game simulation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

» **Guest Speaker**

Invite a guest speaker to keynote your Peace Fair. Check with your Presbytery to find out if there are any mission co-workers itinerating in your area. Invite a representative from a local mission agency or peace advocacy group.

» **Puppets**

You will need:

- plastic spoons
- fine-point permanent markers
- quick-drying glue
- yard of fabric or fabric scraps
- scissors
- chenille stems

Use a permanent marker to draw a face on the spoon. Make simple clothing using material scraps. Make arms from chenille stems. Glue yarn or cotton to make hair.

Invite children to perform simple puppet plays based on Scripture stories, such as the feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:5–14), the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1–10), or the request of James and John (Mark 10:35–45).

» **Art Center**

- **Peace flags or banners:** Provide a variety of art materials, including fabrics, construction paper, glue, scissors, and markers. Print instructions for participants to create a peace flag with words and graphics representing what you and your congregation can do to be peacemakers in your community and the world, or have a group design and make a Season of Peace banner for your church.
- **Peace Sculptures:** Provide blocks of modeling clay. Print instructions for participants to create symbols and objects to represent peace.
- **Peace headlines:** Place a large piece of butcher paper or table covering on the wall. Provide markers or crayons. Write one or more of the following Scripture verses on the paper:

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! Psalm 133:1

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace. Isaiah 52:7a

Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says the LORD; and I will heal them. Isaiah 57:19

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Romans 12:18

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

Ephesians 2:14

And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

James 3:18

Invite participants to write words or draw pictures related to the verses listed.

Other Art Center Ideas

- Create a peace or friendship bracelet with beads, to keep or to share with a friend
- Peace jigsaw puzzles
- Make peace cranes

» **Recreation/Games**

Recruit someone to lead cooperative games.

» **Drama Center**

Invite a group of participants to prepare a short drama acting out the one of these stories. Provide simple costumes. Use a narrator to read the story as participants acts it out.

Luke 6:27–34

Turning the other cheek

Genesis 13:5–9

Abram and Lot settle differences

» **Mural**

Print the Benediction of St. Francis, and post a large piece of paper on one wall or table. Invite participants to draw symbols or pictures to illustrate the prayer. As an alternative, make four murals, one for each verse of the prayer.

» **Reflection on Peace Symbols**

Locate and print pictures and symbols of peace from different faiths and cultures, including a dove, an olive branch, a cross, Olympic rings, a rainbow, a peace treaty being signed (from the web), weapons being laid down, enemies shaking hands, the flags of the United Nations, and Nobel Peace Prize winners. Create a display with symbols of peace and the words of Romans 12:17–18: “Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

Invite people to reflect on the symbols using these questions:

- What are “the things that make for peace”?
- What are some situations in our community and world where peace is needed?
- What are things you can do to be a peacemaker?

» **Age to Age Circle**

This activity gives younger and older participants an opportunity to have a series of brief one-on-one discussions in which they share experiences and feelings about peace.

1. Arrange the chairs in two concentric circles, with the inner circle facing the outer one.
2. Ask the older half of the participants to sit in the inner circle and the younger

half to sit facing them in the outer one (or vice versa). Everyone should have a partner.

3. Ask a question for each pair to discuss. Begin with general questions, and then move to the peace questions. When they've had just enough time for each partner to speak (usually about 3–4 minutes), ask either the younger participants or the older participants to move one seat to the right so that each person has a new partner. Ask a new question.

Continue this for at least four rounds.

General Questions

- What is the best and worst thing about being your age?
- What subjects do/did you like the most in school?
- How many people are in your family?
- What kinds of problems do/did kids have?
- What do you do for fun?
What is your favorite food?
- Where have you traveled?
- What is your favorite kind of music?
Favorite song?
- What is your favorite holiday?

Peace Questions

- What situations in the community or world make you the saddest?
- How do you deal with people who are mean to others?
- What gives you a sense of personal peace?
- What things do you do to help people who are hurting?
- Who are the people that need our prayers most?

Benediction of St. Francis

May God bless you with discomfort

At easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships,

So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger

At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,

So that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears

To shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, hunger, and war,

So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and

To turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness

To believe that you can make a difference in the world,

So that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

Amen.