

UMCOR SUNDAY

Children's Activity



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

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This activity illustrates the before-and-after transformation that happens through God's grace (Ephesians 2:1-10) with comparisons with before-and-after UMCOR disaster response. This activity coordinates with the UMCOR Sunday "Created to Do Good Things" Children's Message and UMCOR Sunday Children's Bulletin.

Supplies needed:

- images of before-and-after scenarios (caterpillar/butterfly, storm/rainbow, person sad and alone/person joyful and surrounded by church community, home renovation project, etc.). Avoid using images of physical makeovers.
- UMCOR Sunday video: <https://youtu.be/72kikjAx70I>
- supplies for illustrations:
 - crayons or markers
 - stickers
 - glitter
 - other embellishments
 - piece of paper for each student
 - frames that accommodate the size paper you are using

CREATED TO DO GOOD THINGS

"We are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things."

Ephesians 2:10, CEB

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever seen a show or a commercial where there is a before-and-after process? <<<Show some of the before-and-after images>>> The changes are usually pretty dramatic. But when we see pictures like this, it is a good reminder that even when we are worried or sad about something, big changes are possible to make things new.

In our Bible lesson today, we hear part of a letter that Paul wrote to the Ephesian church. He wanted them to know that God loved them so much that when they are not living in ways that follow Jesus, it's time for a before-and-after makeover.

Read from Ephesians 2:1-10

The good news in this letter is that God created each one of us and is very proud of us. And through our life in Jesus, we know what we need to do to act in better ways that make us each feel like a new person.

Today in our church we observe UMCOR Sunday. UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief. We follow Jesus' teachings by thinking about the best way to help people and neighborhoods who need help after a storm, or food and clean water, health care or a place to live when it is too dangerous to stay at home. We don't help with the "before and after" on our own. But along with many other churches like ours, we work together to do good things that make a difference.



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Watch this video and let's think about some ways that we can help people in need.



 <https://youtu.be/72kikjAx70I>

CREATE A MASTERPIECE

Repeat after me these words from Paul's letter:

"We are God's accomplishment,"
"created in Christ Jesus"
"to do good things."

We are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things!

Some Bible translations say "you are God's masterpiece." A masterpiece is something that is created with excellence. Today you are going to create a masterpiece imagining how God sees you. Draw a picture of yourself when you are at your best doing "good things."

One way we follow Jesus is to do what he taught us. We care for one another and do what we can to help our neighbors. This past year, one of the ways we cared for our neighbors was by washing our hands and wearing our masks. Or maybe you brought food to the community food pantry. Sometimes you help grandparents or other family members. Or you offer a smile to someone who is sad.

Add specific mission and service projects your church or children's ministry or family have participated in

Remember when we saw images of before and after like the caterpillar and the butterfly? When we help our neighbors we also create a before and after situation. Think about what the "after" looks like in a situation like when we were part of a service project or another time that you helped someone. And I want you to draw a picture of it to create your own masterpiece. It can be put in a frame when you are done, just like other masterpieces.

Take about 10 minutes for the children to complete their masterpiece. Place them in paper or other types of frames.

After the children have finished their masterpiece, offer a prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for making each one of us in your image. Thank you for creating us to do good things. Thank you for UMCOR. Remind us that in every situation you are present and sharing your love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

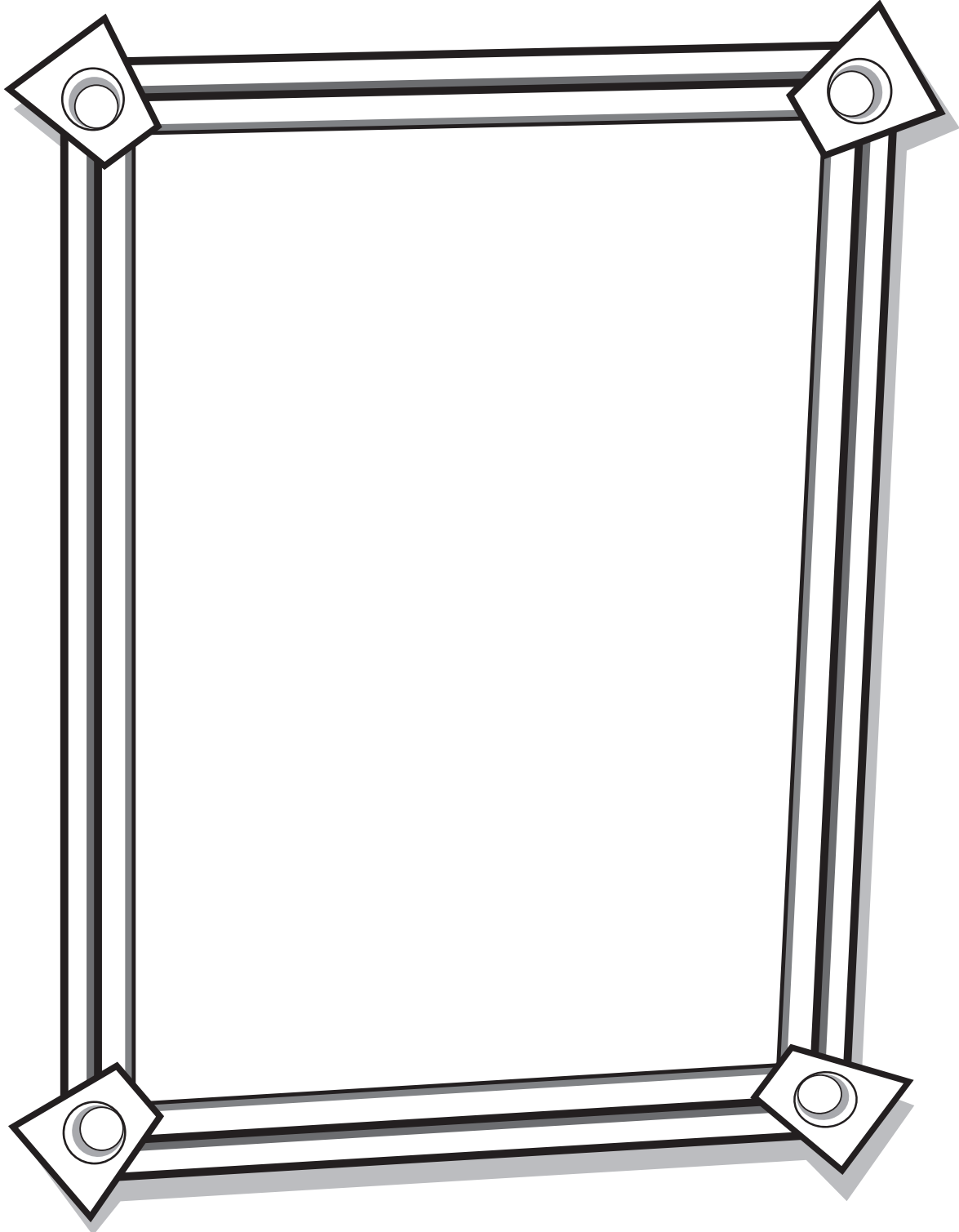


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