

September 30th---Congregational Self Portrait Activity

Our theme for the week is **Connected to Church**: What connects us to our church?

Did we ever think there would be a time that we could not walk into our sanctuary and worship as a congregation? The answer is probably not. There is an ache within us to be back together under one roof. To share in holy communion side by side, to witness the sacrament of baptism and feel connected as one people. Even though we can't be together for worship, the Holy Spirit connects us to Jesus and each other through our fellowship, service, and virtual worship.

Acts 2:42-47 gives us a reminder that we are a fellowship of believers.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Congregation self-portrait activity: The idea is for each member of your family to either draw a large picture of themselves or you may enlarge a photo (waist up or neck up). You may also send a photo of yourself to brandonmelton@nraleighpc.org and he will print it for you. We will then provide an opportunity for you to place your picture where you sit in the sanctuary. The hope is to have a representation of ourselves in the congregation and at the beginning of virtual worship to scan the sanctuary so we can see all our beautiful faces.

Supplies Included: poster board, scrapbook paper, glue stick

Supplies Needed: crayons, markers, scissors, enlarged photo if you like and YOUR IMAGINATION

Directions: (please refer to demonstration video attached to Sept 30th MAX email)

STEP 1: Each family member is to create a picture of yourself from either the waist or neck up. We've give everyone 11x14 poster board to get you started. Be creative! Use yarn, scrapbook paper, fabric, paint, crayons or markers to make your picture. Remember you can print a photo as well or send one to Brandon.

STEP 2: Bring your finished portraits to MAX on October 7th and you will have the opportunity to visit the sanctuary and place your portraits up.

**We will continue this activity into the week of October 14th so please have fun with your family and don't feel rushed. **

Balloon Bop

Purpose: Use this game to talk about the importance of supporting one another in community.

Supplies: You'll need a Bible, a beach towel, and 10 inflated balloons.

Directions: Pretend each of these balloons represents a person in our church. Let's play a game to try to keep all 10 balloons in the air at once. Have each person hold the edge of one end of the towel and stand apart so the towel is taut. Then shake the towel. Encourage them to continue to shake it as you add each balloon—trying to keep the balloons within the towel as long as possible. If any balloons bounce out, put them back into the towel as the participants continue to shake the balloons. Repeat as many times as you like!

Questions to Ask: What was it like to keep all the balloons in the air?

Connect to God's Word: **Read Acts 2:42-47.** Talk with each other about how keeping the balloons bouncing is hard work. You have to work together to make sure the balloons keep bouncing on the towel. You have to pay attention to each balloon and all of them together. This is like living in community with each other. We support one another while life sometimes "bounces" us around. We pay attention to each person's needs and to the needs of the whole community.



BASIC PIZZA DOUGH

INGREDIENTS

1 tsp active dry yeast
¾ cup warm water
2 cups all-purpose flour
¾ tsp salt
3 tbsp olive oil

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine yeast and water in a bowl. Let it sit for 10 minutes.
2. Add flour to a mixer bowl with the paddle attachment (hand-held works fine).
3. Add salt to the flour.
4. Turn the mixer on low, slowly add the olive oil.
5. Pour the yeast/water mixture into your mixer bowl.
6. Stop mixing when everything comes together. Transfer the dough to an oil-lined bowl and cover with plastic wrap. Let it rise for about 1 hour.
7. Enjoy!