

Out of the Box Service-Learning Materials for Love Beyond Borders

This service-learning curriculum begins with a box. We often see Amazon Boxes/Target Boxes and a variety of boxes arrive at our homes and churches. Boxes are designed to hold things and to deliver materials. Boxes can also be used to deliver vaccines and supplies to countries throughout the world. Boxes are needed to ensure the safety of what is inside. Yet what if these boxes can be taken apart to learn about “Love Beyond Borders?”

This is a faith-based approach to raising awareness and funds to contribute to UNICEF USA’s incredible interfaith movement to End the Pandemic. Youth and children are encouraged here to think outside the box with both their thoughts and their actions.

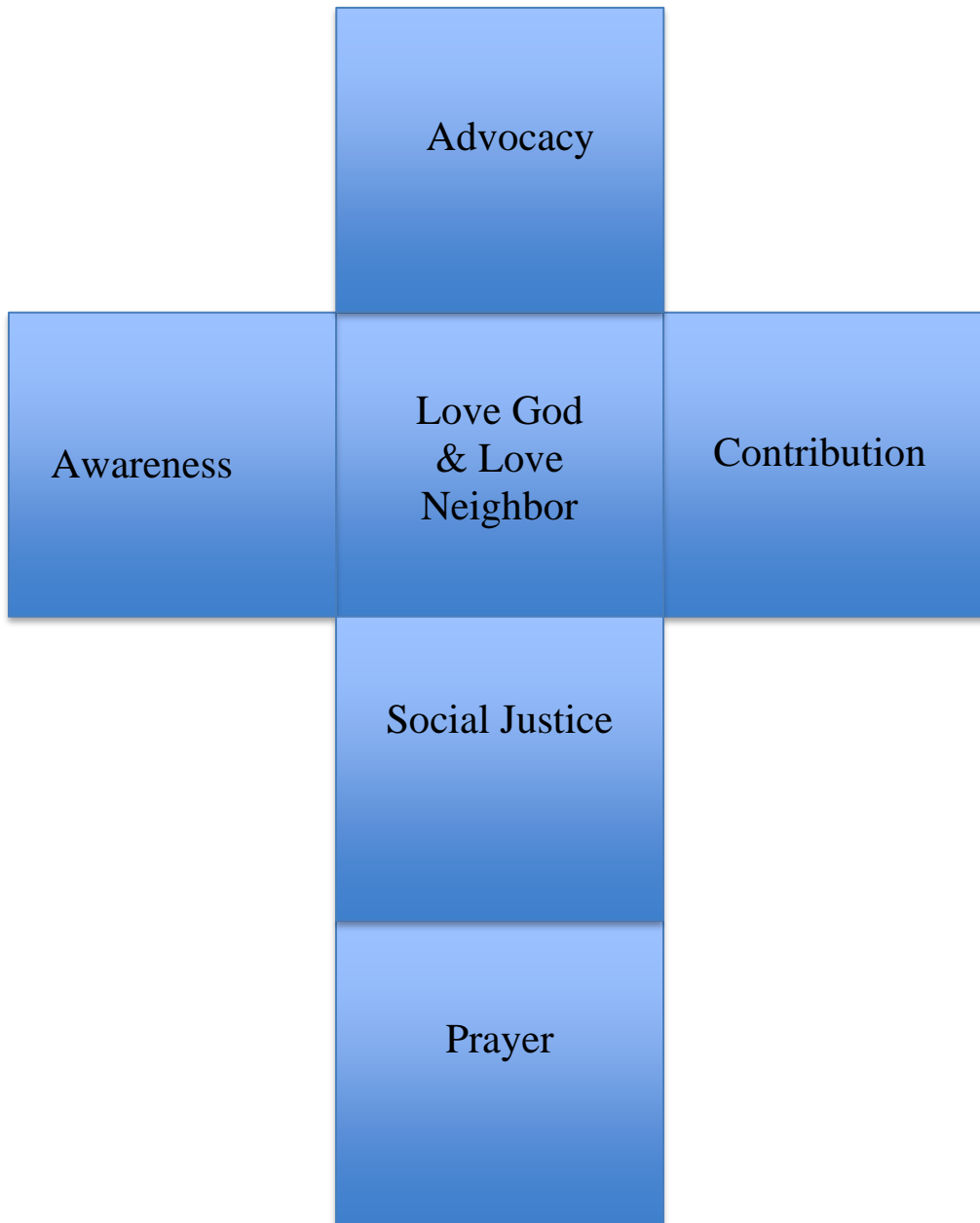
Love Beyond Borders strives to make people aware of the worldwide need for vaccines, advocate for equal distribution as a justice issue and to contribute financially to supply COVID-19 vaccines to places in the world who struggle to get the vaccine.

What is involved in this Material?

This curriculum is centrally rooted in the theme **Love God & Love Neighbor**, built upon a foundation of **Social Justice** and **Prayer**. These six areas are to encourage children and youth in their churches to become more aware of the need for Christ's love to travel beyond borders to be a part of a movement to end the Pandemic. It is designed to build upon the three ways that Love Beyond Borders wants to engage the local church with **Awareness – Advocacy – Contribution**. At the heart of this movement is a desire to embrace our call as Christians in the Methodist Tradition to Love God & Love Our Neighbor. It calls us to ask who is our neighbor and how can we love them. Social Justice and Prayer are also connected in this curriculum as a way to highlight that love is demonstrated through action that calls us to prayer and that prayer can motivate us to action.



These are boxes that contain things, but boxes can be put together and they can also be taken apart, which, if you do it a certain way can reveal an unexpected shape.



CENTRAL THEME: Love of God and Love of Neighbor

BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF: Social Justice and Prayer

TO ENGAGE THE LOCAL CHURCH IN: Awareness, Advocacy, and
Contribution

*We will come back to this in Session One on Page 5

How can this curriculum be used?

There is a variety of ways to use these Service-Learning Materials. The curriculum can be used in a day, or it can be used over the course of six weeks. It is designed to be adaptable to the local church setting. Here are some ideas of how to use this curriculum.

- Six Week Sunday School Lesson
- Youth Retreat – 37 hours to End the Pandemic
- Service-Learning Vacation Bible School
- Friday Night Activity
- Small Group Study Experience
- Coffee Time with the Larger Church after Worship
- Mission Saturday Service Event for the Whole Church

This curriculum was designed to be used with children and youth. Adjustments may need to be made according to the age and skills of those involved. Like any curriculum it can be adaptable. If you would like help adapting the curriculum and/or implementing this curriculum for your local church setting, please contact Courtney Randall at crandall@umcmmission.

SESSION ONE: Love of God and Love of Neighbor

Note to Facilitator:

This is the first session for the curriculum. Based upon how well the group knows one another there may be a need to do a few “getting to know you games.” This would help establish some connects before the conversation begins. If the group is already well known to one another think through how the pandemic may have been lonely for youth and children. This will allow you as the facilitator to create safe spaces for conversation and honest dialogue.

This session of love of God and love of Neighbor is the central theme. As you prepare to lead this session take some time not only to prepare the materials but also to prepare your heart to share about how loving God is loving neighbor and loving the neighbor is loving God.

It is also important for the facilitator to know how each of six sections work together. The central theme of “Out of the Box” is Love of God and Love of Neighbor. It is built upon the foundation of Social Justice and Prayer. This enables us to engage the local church in awareness, advocacy, and contribution.

Supplies needed for this session: medium boxes for each participant, scissors, tape, map of the world, large pieces of paper/posterboard, crayons, markers, list of countries getting COVAX vaccines, gathering prayer, closing prayer

Agenda for Session One:

- Gathering Space and Opening Prayer
- Introduction to Out of the Box and Opening Framing
- Activity One—Building the Box Cross
- Debrief
- Activity Two—Who Is My Neighbor?
- Debrief
- Activity Three—Global Citizenship Prayer
- Debrief
- Session Wrap Up & Closing Prayer

Gathering Space and Opening Prayer

If possible, have the space filled with boxes and invited the group into the space. Briefly describe what this “Out of the Box” experience is like and why they are here. Explain that this is a safe space and participants are encouraged to ask questions and to be honest. The group will be asked to be kind and to be open to learning new things.

The Opening Prayer can be read this first evening from one of the leaders. As the sessions continue have a child/youth write the prayer on a large piece of paper so that it

can be read by all those there. If you have non-readers in the group or those who are hesitant make the prayer invitational but not forced. Prayer helps the group to know that God is with them in this space.

**Prayer for the beginning of the time together
(USE AT THE START OF EACH SESSION)**

*Gracious and Loving God,
You sent your Son, Jesus Christ into this world
To bring light, love, and salvation for all
Jesus lived a life that transcended borders of social status and geography,
Help us as we gather to love our neighbors be open to ways you may be calling us to
extend that love to those in our world who need vaccines:
Who struggle to have adequate access to health care,
Who have lost loved ones to COVID,
Whose lives continue to be restricted and harmed due to the pandemic.
Let us be your hands, your feet, and your voice in this time.*

Framing:

It is helpful when gathering for an activity such as this one to ask those participating why they are here. It helps to know what is motivating them and what inspires them. You might hear that some of them are here because their parents asked them to come (this is okay too). If you ask the question at the beginning, then you can ask them what they learned at the end. The understanding of the WHY is the purpose of this session.

Framing this session is the central theme of Love of God and Love of Neighbor begs the question WHY we should care and WHY we should advocate and WHY we should act and contribute. Why is a question often of curiosity and so we are asking the youth/children to be curious?

Building the box will give each participant a visual for the six different sections as well as a guide to learning how they are connected.

Activities:

1. Building the Box Cross

Each participant will be given a box. These boxes can be donated by members of the church and/or you can ask the children/youth to bring a box. Have on hand some box cutters (adults use only) as well as scissors and tape. You will help the children and youth take apart the boxes so that they make the shape of the cross. With markers they will be asked to write the words on the sections of the box as illustrated on page

2. Who Is My Neighbor Activity

If the group is going to engage out of the box actions and thoughts, then to begin we start at heart of it all. Love Beyond Borders is a faithful response to loving our neighbors. Have a large piece of paper or a poster in the middle of the floor.

Ask the children to draw their answers to these two questions:

1. Who is your neighbor?
2. Where do they live or call home?

PART ONE: Children/youth can draw or write their responses for 10 minutes. At the end of the time children are encouraged to share what they wrote. As they share one youth is asked to make a list of the responses to be used at the end of the time together (in a prayer they will write).

PART TWO: After they share one of the volunteers brings out a large map and puts it on the wall.

Along the map these four scriptures will “frame” the four sides.

- 1 John 4:21 (NRSV) – *The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.*
- Matthew 7:12 (NRSV) – *In everything do to others, as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.*
- Romans 13:8-10 (NRSV) – *Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who love another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.*
- Mark 12: 29-31 (NRSV) – *Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”*

Is our understanding of neighbor restricted to those who live next door to each of us? Jesus encourages us to see our neighbor not as a geographical restriction but as an expression of love throughout the world. Jesus throughout his adult ministry was homeless yet he shared meals, healed many, and spoke with all kinds of people in a variety of places.

3. Global Citizenship Prayer

Part of understanding our neighbor is recognizing how we are connected. We are a part of our communities, our churches, and our world. As we become more aware of the greater world around us, we can increase our understanding and our love for those throughout the world. Many of the vaccines will go to places that are both familiar and unfamiliar to the youth and children.

Gavi launched the COVID-19 Vaccines Advance Market Commitment (COVAX AMC) as the first building block of the COVAX Facility. The Gavi COVAX AMC is the innovative financing instrument that will support the participation of 92 low- and middle-income economies in the COVAX Facility – enabling access to donor-funded doses of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines. The AMC, combined with additional support for country readiness and delivery, will make sure the most vulnerable in all countries can be protected in the short term, regardless of income level. Based upon www.gavi.org/gavi-covax-amc

Pull up the list of countries and have the children look at the list of countries to receive the vaccines and then place a finger on a globe where the country is located.

I pray for the people of _____.
I pray for my siblings in _____.

Session Wrap Up & Closing Prayer:

One way to debrief is through an interactive prayer. Tennis balls are great for this session wrap and closing prayer. Line the tennis balls around the map and ask each one to grab a tennis ball. Have the group hold the tennis balls. Each person gets a chance to share something they learned about God and/or about someone else in the group. When they are done sharing about God and/or their neighbor they toss the tennis ball into the box. Ask a youth/child to be a ball retriever who is also willing to read the closing prayer. When everyone has shared then ask one youth/child who is the box runner to read the closing prayer.

Closing Prayer

*God we thank you for this special and sacred time together,
Help us take what we have learned and what we have shared out into this world.
(hand motions praying hands extending outward)
Give us courage to speak up and advocate for those who are in need during this
pandemic (motion hand to mouth)
Give us wisdom to find ways to invite other to contribute to raising funds for vaccines
(motion open hands)
Give us eyes to see and words to continue to pray for and to love our neighbors
throughout the world (lift up the hands)
In the name of the one who taught us how to love our neighbors,*

*In Jesus Christ's name we pray,
Amen.*

Love of God and Love of Neighbor Resources:

<https://www.wpaumc.org/blogdetail/our-wesleyan-heritage-love-god-love-neighbor-15240063>

SESSION TWO: Social Justice

Pandemic Impact on Health Services and Hunger

Note to Facilitator: Jesus was concerned for the life of the individual as well as the community. Social Justice involves access and opportunity for all people, especially those who are vulnerable. The pandemic not only effected the physical health of people, but it also impacted the emotional well-being of families, raised food insecurity, and caused disruptions to ways of life.

Supplies needed for this session: large ball of yarn, 4-5 large boxes, blue tape, opening prayer, closing prayer, scissors

Schedule for Session Three:

- Gathering Space and Opening Prayer
- Framing Session Three
- Activity One—Connections (Spider Web)
- Debrief
- Activity Two—Here to There
- Debrief
- Session Wrap Up & Closing Prayer

Gathering Space and Opening Prayer:

This session involves social justice. It is an exercise and lesson in social connections. For this opening prayer have extra copies of the prayer. Have the group line up by birthday months starting with January through December without talking. Once the group has lined up by month and day then break them into groups of two. Have the two children/youth introduce themselves and share where they were born (City/State/Country). After they have shared, ask the pair then to take turns reading the prayer.

Prayer for the beginning of the time together (USE AT THE START OF EACH SESSION)

*Gracious and Loving God,
You sent your Son, Jesus Christ into this world
To bring light, love, and salvation for all
Jesus lived a life that transcended borders of social status and geography,
Help us as we gather to love our neighbors be open to ways you may be calling us to
extend that love to those in our world who need vaccines:
Who struggle to have adequate access to health care,
Who have lost loved ones to COVID,
Whose lives continue to be restricted and harmed due to the pandemic.
Let us be your hands, your feet, and your voice in this time.*

Framing:

Defining the term: Jesus loved everyone, no exceptions. Jesus saw the sacred worth in all people regardless of their political standing, economic means, or social status. Social Justice is an extension of his ministry. Social justice means that everyone deserves equal political, economic, social rights and opportunities. As Christians who follow Christ we are called to be justice-seekers who bring about change and transformation in this world.

It is helpful here to know how this call to social justice lead a Missions Team from the Cathedral of the Rockies UMC (Boise, Idaho) to initiate Love Beyond Borders. The Missions Team had an important conversation with the founders of “Love My Neighbor” in Canada. This led to a forming of a campaign in the United States through the United Methodist Church that partners with UNICEF USA to raise awareness and funds for equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines around the world. Love Beyond Borders is the name of the campaign.

The Love Beyond Borders campaign aims to raise funds for the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines around the world. The initiative has emerged from First United Methodist Church, Boise, ID and seeks to engage The United Methodist Church in partnering with UNICEF USA in support of UNICEF and COVAX' s efforts to equitably deliver COVID-19 vaccines. All funds raised will be sent to UNICEF USA for this project.

(from Global Ministries Website describing Love Beyond Borders Campaign – <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-2079-love-beyond-borders-the-interfaith-movement-to-end-the-pandemic.aspx>)

Activities:

1. Connections (Spider Web)

Using a ball of yarn, have the group stand in a circle. This exercise acknowledges how COVID-19 has impacted our lives and the lives of people throughout the world. The person with the string starts the sentence:

During the pandemic it has been difficult/challenging

After they have shared, they hold the end of the string and pass the ball to someone else in the circle. After that youth/child has shared then they hold the end of the string and pass the ball of yard to another person.

Once everyone has gotten a chance to share there is a visible connection, web, of how the pandemic issues and challenges are connected. They can then sit in a circle and have the web dropped to the floor.

Debrief: How is the pandemic issues effecting other parts of the world? What impacts does it have on more vulnerable populations in countries without vast resources?

For an older child and/or youth you can take this one step further by having notecards with these key words on them: access to health care, hunger, access to education, homelessness, loss of jobs, orphans, death, limited water, isolation, no internet access

Using these topics talk about how our siblings in other parts of the world have been impacted by the Pandemic where resources and where money is limited.

For a younger group you may have to share how these are interconnected by using a short story or example.

*Please visit the Love Beyond Borders website for example stories that can be shared. The recent story from Panama dated Jan. 6, 2022, is a great resource.

<https://icrinc.org/2022/01/06/love-beyond-borders-a-story-from-panama/>

2. Activity from Here to There

UNICEF and COVAX have had to be creative and innovative during the pandemic to get supplies to the places they are needed. This is an activity where groups are asked to get a box of ‘supplies’ from one place to another. As the activity continues it become more and more difficult to move the box from one place to another.

Using a role of blue tape or masking tape place two lines on the floor about 20 yards apart. The group will be divided into teams of 5 people. These groups are asked to take the box from one side to the other.

First round – they must carry the box using 10 feet touching the ground

Second round – they must carry the box using 8 feet touching the ground

Third round – they must carry the box using 6 feet touching the ground

Fourth round – they must carry the box using 4 feet touching the ground

Fifth round – they must carry the box using 2 feet touching the ground

If a group is unable to carry the box they are asked to sit down until all the groups are done. It is a challenge to get to the fifth round.

Debrief:

The point of the game is two-fold

- The first two rounds were meant to be easy and to be quick. In high-income countries roads and access to airplanes makes distribution easier than in lower-and-middle income countries where roads and transportation may not be as advanced. Having less “feet” touch the group is like having less options to distribute vaccines. How does transportation effect distribution?
- A lot of social justice work is done in collaboration. People and groups need to work together. The UMC is partnering with UNICEF USA in support of UNICEF

and COVAX's efforts to get supplies and vaccines to areas in the world who need it. UNICEF has a history of getting vaccines into remote places throughout the world. COVAX is the facility supplying the vaccines to the world's most vulnerable. There is a huge funding gap between the need and the supply.

Session Wrap Up & Closing Prayer:

Have the group get back into the pairs that they began the session with today. Hand each pair some scissors, then ask them to take a part of the spider web. Have each person take a piece of the string and loosely tie it around the wrist of the other person. This is a reminder that we are connected to each other and to our siblings in the world. As justice-seekers we can bring about changes that help ensure equal opportunities to all.

At the beginning they read the prayer taking turns. For this closing time let the pairs read the pray together.

Closing Prayer

*God, we thank you for this special and sacred time together,
Help us take what we have learned and what we have shared out into this world.
(hand motions praying hands extending outward)
Give us courage to speak up and advocate for those who are in need during this
pandemic (motion hand to mouth)
Give us wisdom to find ways to invite other to contribute to raising funds for vaccines
(motion open hands)
Give us eyes to see and words to continue to pray for and to love our neighbors
throughout the world (lift up the hands)
In the name of the one who taught us how to love our neighbors,
In Jesus Christ's name we pray,
Amen.*

Social Justice Resources:

Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA)
www.mfsaweb.org

SESSION THREE: Prayer

Holy Conversations and Prayers for the People

Note to Facilitator: Prayer is a holy conversation with God. Children and youth (as well as the adults) may have different experiences with prayer as well as a range of comfortability praying. The theme of this prayer section is prayer as a conversation with God who hears the cries of the world.

Supplies needed for this session: birthday banner flags you can get at a party store, markers to write on the flags, a shoebox, 3x5 notecards, pens, printed out flags for the countries, scraps of paper, glue sticks, pencils, poster boards

Schedule for Session Two:

- Gathering Space and Opening Prayer
- Framing Session Two
- Activity One—Prayer Flags
- Debrief
- Activity Two – Prayer as Art
- Debrief
- Activity Three – Prayer Box
- Debrief
- Session Wrap Up & Closing Prayer

Gathering Space and Opening Prayer:

This session will involve prayers. To begin this section, if possible, send everyone on a brief scavenger hunt to gather these three items: United Methodist Hymnal, pew prayer cards, and a post-it note. It is helpful if you have a stack of post-it notes surrounding a place in the church. Once they have gotten those three items have them come back to the gathering space.

Ask how many of those gathered now who have a phone? A phone is a way for us to communicate, to share information, and to build relationships. PRAYER is a conversation we can have with God. There is no ‘right’ way to pray, and prayer can involvement movement as well as silence and stillness.

As the group continues to learn about Love Beyond Borders prayer is vital. As the groups to break into small groups to find a prayer in the United Methodist Hymnal that speaks to them. Have them share it with the larger group.

Once all the groups are done sharing have them look at the pew prayer cards. Why are these prayer cards in the pews? Sometime sharing prayers is difficult and we need others

to pray for us and with us. The prayer cards also connect us to God and our neighbor. What happens when a prayer card is shared in the congregation?

The third item is a post it note. Have each person in the group write “I am praying for you. Signed _____” and put it in the center of the circle. Have one of the leaders put a post it note on each of the members of the group. They are being prayed for during this time. The person who received the post-it note can wear it throughout the session. We will come back to this later.

After two sections, extend an invitation for someone in the group to read the Gathering Prayer. If no one takes the invitation be willing to pray it as the leader. It models that prayer is invitational and opportunities to pray are asked not forced.

**Prayer for the beginning of the time together
(USE AT THE START OF EACH SESSION)**

*Gracious and Loving God,
You sent your Son, Jesus Christ into this world
To bring light, love, and salvation for all
Jesus lived a life that transcended borders of social status and geography,
Help us as we gather to love our neighbors be open to ways you may be calling us to
extend that love to those in our world who need vaccines:
Who struggle to have adequate access to health care,
Who have lost loved ones to COVID,
Whose lives continue to be restricted and harmed due to the pandemic.
Let us be your hands, your feet, and your voice in this time.*

Framing:

Leaders know the group and their comfort levels with prayer. Encourage the group to think outside the box by inviting them to expand their understanding of what prayer looks like and sounds like. This will help the prayers to be more engaging and inspiring.

The group has been praying for the adults and children who will receive vaccines through Love Beyond Borders. These are people they do not know but are their neighbors. Today the group is being prayed for by others in the group.

Activities:

Activity 1: Prayer Flags

The Love Beyond Borders Campaign is supporting UNICEF’s efforts to distribute vaccines to 144 low-and-lower-middle income countries. Some of these countries the group may be familiar with while others may be less known. Prayer is a connecting language where we connect to God as we pray for others.

The group is making a prayer flag that can be displayed in the local church:

- Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Dem. Rep., Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, The Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Korea, Dem. People's Rep., Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Yemen, Rep.,
- Angola, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Rep. Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Arab Rep., El Salvador, Eswatini, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyz Republic Lao PDR, Lesotho, Mauritania, Micronesia, Fed. Sts., Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, West Bank and Gaza, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Dominica, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Kosovo, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Samoa, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tonga, Tuvalu.

You can divide this list into smaller lists and give a couple country names to those groups. Each prayer flag has the name of the country and can also have a picture of the flag. Once the country flags are completed attach them to the string and display them in the space.

Debrief: What does the group think upon seeing the flags all displayed? How can this information of the countries make the prayers with God more descriptive? How can we be honest in our conversation with God as we pray for places, we may not be able to find on a map and/or have never heard of before today? How can geography enhance our prayer language?

Activity 2: Prayer as Art

Does the church have stained glass windows? Many stained-glass windows in the churches were designed to share Biblical Stories. People would often come to see these windows to pray and connect with God. In this activity you will be given a bag of paper scraps which the group (in small groups) will be asked to turn into a prayer window for “Love Beyond Borders.”

The design for the window is up to the small group, it simply must convey an image or a picture that illustrates “Love Beyond Borders.”

If the group is struggling with images have them think about some of the themes so far: love of God & love of neighbor, Vaccines for All, and Justice.

Activity 3: Prayer Box

Prayer is not easy. In a conversation people share, people discuss, and people ask questions. Prayer is an opportunity to ask questions to God. In asking children and youth can discover more about themselves. This shoe box is a prayer box designed to be used throughout the rest of this experience.

The notecards next to the box are there to allow for the children/youth to ask questions and to ask for prayers. There is space where the children/youth can note

- This is a private prayer please do not share with others
- This is a public prayer that can be shared with others in this group

Throughout the time together the leaders will check the box and share those prayers that are marked as “Public” for the group.

Session Wrap Up & Closing Prayer

Ask one of the members of the group to start the prayer line. They will look at their card and then ask the person who is praying for them to stand next to them. Repeat this pattern until all the youth/children have found the person who is praying for them. What started as a line should become a circle. Have the group sit in a circle. Then ask the person who is was last in the line share how the person praying for them could more specifically pray for them. Each person shares a more detailed prayer.

The more we know about a person and a place the deeper our prayers become and the more involved our dialogue with God becomes. By praying for a specific thing for another allows the connections with our neighbors to become stronger. In the coming sessions we will be learning more about the children and youth who Love Beyond Borders will be helping.

Invite the group to say the closing prayer together:

Closing Prayer

God, we thank you for this special and sacred time together,

Help us take what we have learned and what we have shared out into this world.

(hand motions praying hands extending outward)

Give us courage to speak up and advocate for those who are in need during this pandemic (motion hand to mouth)

Give us wisdom to find ways to invite other to contribute to raising funds for vaccines (motion open hands)

Give us eyes to see and words to continue to pray for and to love our neighbors throughout the world (lift the hands)

In the name of the one who taught us how to love our neighbors,

In Jesus Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Prayer Resources:

For additional prayer resources please see the resource section located at the end of this curriculum.

SESSION FOUR: Awareness *for Love Beyond Borders (COVAX and UNICEF)*

Note to Facilitator: Awareness comes with information and intentional conversation. The natural curiosity of children and youth make for a great place in which to start. This session the children/youth will get an opportunity to see short videos that help to connect story to this Love Beyond Borders Campaign.

Supplies: TV and/or Computer to show the UNICEF clips

Schedule for Session Three:

- Gathering Space and Opening Prayer
- Framing Session Four & UNICEF Video
- Activity One—UNICEF Distribution Team
- Debrief
- Activity Two – Sharing Signs
- Debrief
- Session Wrap Up & Closing Prayer

Gathering Space and Opening Prayer:

One of the things that this pandemic has highlighted is that wealthier countries have more access to health resources, supplies and vaccines for COVID-19. UNICEF has already delivered vaccine to over 144 low-and-lower middle-income countries and is working with them to ensure an equitable supply of this life-giving vaccine. Being aware also involves knowing the challenges that come with distributing the vaccine for COVID-19.

As the children/youth are called to be aware in this session, ask them to pray the opening prayer standing up and to be aware of how this shift in their position makes them more aware of the words of the prayer.

Prayer for the beginning of the time together (USE AT THE START OF EACH SESSION)

*Gracious and Loving God,
You sent your Son, Jesus Christ into this world
To bring light, love, and salvation for all
Jesus lived a life that transcended borders of social status and geography,
Help us as we gather to love our neighbors be open to ways you may be calling us to
extend that love to those in our world who need vaccines:
Who struggle to have adequate access to health care,
Who have lost loved ones to COVID,
Whose lives continue to be restricted and harmed due to the pandemic.
Let us be your hands, your feet, and your voice in this time.*

Framing:

The video resource from UNICEF (it is less than 1 ½ minutes) is a great place to start this section. <https://unicefusa.app.box.com/s/kztk9mff8ak5y8rytywzwbw9yt4xrgpv4>
It provides visuals of vaccines being delivered throughout the world. It is a video of invitation.

Activities:

Activity 1 – UNICEF Distribution Team

This video is informative as well as invitational. COVAX brings together experts from around the world to collaborate on research and development of a wide range of COVID-19 vaccines and the manufacturing, procurement, and delivery of the vaccines. COVAX ensures equitable and broad distribution of the vaccines. UNICEF is the partner who implements the COVID-19 vaccines worldwide. UNICEF provides the education and the health workers to administer the vaccine.

In this activity the group is broken down into groups of 4-5 youth/children. Each group is asked to pick one of the following countries: Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Dem. Rep., Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, The Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Korea, Dem. People's Rep., Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Yemen,

When the group has chosen their country, they are given the following instructions:

Buying and Distribution Team

Welcome to _____. You are part of the UNICEF distribution team for this area. You have seen what the area needs, and you have been given \$10,000 to spend on vaccines and equipment. How will you spend the \$10,000 and why? Write out your plan on the back of this page.

THE COST OF SUPPLIES (FROM UNICEF)

- **\$19.50** could provide 10 people with two doses of the vaccine
- **\$50** could provide 160 face masks to help keep health workers from breathing in hazardous or infectious airborne particles
- **\$100** could provide 10 diagnostic test kits to help increase the identification of infections
- **\$150** could provide 3,000 syringes, which will be used to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to recipients
- **\$210** could provide 10 portable vaccine carriers for the safe transportation of vaccines that enables a health worker to deliver critical vaccines
- **\$11,000** could provide 6 oxygen concentrators

Now return to the group leader who will ask you to roll the dice for a situation which will mean you will have to adjust your expenses. Re-write your new plan on the back side of this paper and be prepared to share with the group.

Situations (have each group roll the dice and then implement the situation into their activity)

If they roll

- 1 – Flash floods have destroyed the road routes, waiting for the roads to open again means your group is delayed and half the vaccines expire.
- 2- There is an outbreak in the local school and diagnostic tests are needed in the school for 1000 students. If you do not already have these kits you will need to relocate the funds.
- 3- While the syringes were delivered by airplane to your site the boxes were damaged, and you lost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the syringes you purchased. Without the syringes you cannot administer the vaccines.
- 4- A donation was made to UNICEF for an additional 20 portable vaccine carriers.
- 5- One half of your health workers have caught the COVID-19 virus. With half the work force you must cut back how many vaccines you can administer by $\frac{1}{3}$.
- 6- You are given an additional \$3,000 but it must be used towards getting 2 oxygen concentrators.

Debrief:

How did it feel to receive a situation that made the supply money less or more? What role does money play in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines?

How can being aware of the inequality of vaccine distributions in lower-and-middle income countries lead us to action?

Activity 2 -Awareness and Innovation

This video released by UNICEF tells of how a mobile van is getting vaccines to villages in Malawi. In places where a health clinic is not close, this clinic comes to them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGOOUmFLMp4>

Part of being aware also means hearing people’s stories. In this video we get to hear people sharing about how vaccines are making a difference.

Part of being aware means also be innovative at problem solving. Innovation means looking at things differently, outside of the box.

Create a “Love Beyond Borders” Poster that makes people aware of the great need for vaccines in small groups. Yet each group can only use 15 words on the poster. Everything else must be communicated with pictures.

Session Wrap Up & Closing Prayer

Awareness is information. The group looked at information through videos and heard stories. Stories are unique experiences. As the group comes to a close take five minutes with a partner to share “My experience of COVID-19.” Children and youth are free to share what they would like about their experiences. Hearing the stories of others helps us know how to pray for one another.

Say the closing prayer together

Closing Prayer

God, we thank you for this special and sacred time together,

Help us take what we have learned and what we have shared out into this world.

(hand motions praying hands extending outward)

Give us courage to speak up and advocate for those who are in need during this pandemic (motion hand to mouth)

Give us wisdom to find ways to invite other to contribute to raising funds for vaccines (motion open hands)

Give us eyes to see and words to continue to pray for and to love our neighbors throughout the world (lift the hands)

In the name of the one who taught us how to love our neighbors,

In Jesus Christ’s name we pray,

Amen.

Awareness Resources:

Information for Love Beyond Borders

Facebook Page for Love Beyond Borders

<https://www.facebook.com/LBBUMC/>

Love Beyond Borders Website

<https://icrinc.org/>

Interfaith movement to End the Pandemic Website

<https://www.unicefusa.org/interfaithmovement>

Video Resources for Information about Love Beyond Borders:

<https://unicefusa.app.box.com/s/kztk9mff8ak5y8rytywzwbw9yt4xrgpv4>

<https://www.unicef.org/supply/covid-19-vaccine-market-dashboard>

Information for Love Beyond Borders

SESSION FIVE: Advocacy

Finding Your Voice

Note to Facilitator:

This is a session that involves trust and honest dialogue. As the facilitator it is important to create a sacred space by asking the group to respect one another's thoughts. It is not so much about responding to questions in a 'right' or 'wrong' manner. Advocacy is about finding your voice and speaking with others for justice.

Supplies: costumes for the Biblical characters, lines for the characters, the cross box, a sign saying, "I agree" and "I do not agree"

Schedule for Session Five:

- Gathering Space and Opening Prayer
- Framing Session Five
- Activity One—Advocates in the Bible
- Debrief
- Activity Two – Finding Your Voice
- Debrief
- Session Wrap Up & Closing Prayer

Gathering Space and Opening Prayer:

This session is about advocacy and finding one's voice. For children and youth this is not always easy. Into this opening space ask the children/youth who they can name as brave humans who speak up in the face of wrongdoing. It could be someone alive or died, someone who is famous or is not as well known, someone who was articulate or who struggled with their words. The children and youth may or may not remember the exact words spoken by these brave humans. Yet the effect of speaking up and speaking out has left a strong impression on them.

Have the group split into pairs. Take turns with the prayer reading every other line. When the prayer has been shared this way then repeat the prayer saying the opposite lines. Prayers spoken like this helps us to hear words we speak differently.

Prayer for the beginning of the time together (USE AT THE START OF EACH SESSION)

*Gracious and Loving God,
You sent your Son, Jesus Christ into this world
To bring light, love, and salvation for all
Jesus lived a life that transcended borders of social status and geography,
Help us as we gather to love our neighbors be open to ways you may be calling us to
extend that love to those in our world who need vaccines:
Who struggle to have adequate access to health care,
Who have lost loved ones to COVID,*

*Whose lives continue to be restricted and harmed due to the pandemic.
Let us be your hands, your feet, and your voice in this time.*

Framing:

Advocacy is exciting but it can also be scary to find one's voice and to speak up to others. Looking at advocates in the Bible is a way to encourage the group that there are different approaches to advocacy. The second activity is done to help the group find their voice on a variety of topics relating to "Love Beyond Borders." In finding one's voice it is also okay to express "I do not know."

Activity 1: Advocates in the Bible

United Methodist Church and Society Website
(www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy).

Have a child/youth in the group read the following statement from the United Methodist Church and Society Website:

The Bible and Advocacy

Scripture both inspires us and informs our advocacy. In the Old and New Testaments, we hear God's call for us to do justice (Micah 6:8), to repair brokenness in our communities (Isaiah 58, 61), and to love one another (John 15). The prophets and Jesus consistently warn leaders who would oppress and deny justice to others. And throughout the Bible, God calls faithful women and men to challenge these unjust leaders and serve as advocates for justice and peace.

Ask for volunteers to play the persistent widow, Aaron, the Good Samaritan, the midwives Shiphrah and Puah. When they have gotten dressed in the costumes they then come and share their lines with the group:

- **Persistent Widow** Hello, I am the persistent widow from Luke 18. As a widow I had very little power in the Biblical times, but this did not stop me from going to the judge and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." The judge may call me bothersome, but I believe I am persistent in pursuing justice. I cannot remain silent in the face of injustice.
- **Aaron** Greetings, my name is Aaron, you may know me as Moses' little brother. Sometimes my brother Moses is a little reluctant to do what God asks of him. So, I have helped accompany him. Together we assembled all the elders of Israelites and announced

God's intentions to deliver God's people. My voice is one of accompaniment and encouragement. I will not remain silent in the face of injustice.

- **The Good Samaritan** Blessings to you fellow travelers, I am the Samaritan, sometimes I am called the good Samaritan for my actions. When traveling through the countryside towards Jericho I saw a lying at the side of the road. Robbers had stripped him, beaten him, and left him half dead. This man is my neighbor, so I bandaged his wounds, put him on my animal and brought him to the inn. I told the innkeeper to take care of this man. I will not remain silent in the face of injustice.
- **Shiphrah and Puah** We are the Hebrew midwives ordered by the King of Egypt to kill all the boys born to the Hebrew women in Egypt. Yet, we feared God so we let the boys live. When questioned by the King of Egypt we said that the Hebrew women were so quick in birth that as midwives we missed the births. Killing the baby boys was wrong. We will not remain silent in the face of injustice.

Debrief:

What injustices were these Bible characters speaking up against?

How did they use their voice?

Which character do you relate to in this activity?

What did it cost them too speak up and to act?

Activity2: Finding Your Voice (Uses Cross from Session One)

This activity is designed to talk through some of challenges in advocacy especially as it relates to vaccines and vaccine distributions. The room will be set up with the cross box in the middle. The youth and children are asked to start by standing around the cross. A youth will read a statement and the participants will have the option to go one of two spaces on the floor signifying "I agree" or "I do not agree." The floor set up should look like the following:



The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has a great resource on “How to talk to my friends and family about getting vaccinated for COVID-19.”
<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2021/how-can-i-talk-to-my-friends-and-family-about-getting-vaccinated-for-covid-19>

This is good information to be used to prepare for a conversation on misinformation.

The group will stand around the cross then they are asked to respond to a statement with the two choices

- I agree
- I do not agree

By places their feet near the sign signifies their response. Once they have identified their thoughts, they will be asked why they felt one way or another. This is not an activity designed to have a ‘right’ answer but rather an opportunity to express thoughts, opinions, and beliefs as it relates to advocacy. It is also okay for the participants to say “I do not know.”

Part of advocating means addressing misinformation.

Ask why you agree or disagree? Try to stress that it is important to hear everyone’s views.

They are asked to come back to the cross to have a longer conversation. What is the role of misinformation especially as it relates to vaccines and COVID-19? What

misinformation have you heard? Does speaking up for what is right involve pointing out misinformation? Why or why not?

Speaking up when something is wrong will cost me something.

Ask why you agree or disagree? When they come back to the cross- what does it cost us to speak up and advocate for others? What makes people be silent? Why is this hard?

Adults do not listen to youth and children.

Asked why you agree or disagree? This might be a hard subject for some. Give space and time for children/youth to share. When they are done ask them to come back to the cross. When have children in the Bible or in current day been advocates when something is wrong? Why is it hard to speak up as youth/children? Who can help you?

If countries have an abundance of vaccines they should share their resources with other countries that do not.

Ask why you agree or disagree? When they come back to the cross ask them -What does this statement have to do with issues of affluence and access to health care?

As people of faith, followers of Jesus Christ, we are compelled not only to speak up but, to act.

Ask why you agree or disagree? When they come back to the cross ask them when they have used their voice to speak up when something is wrong. What is difficult about speaking up and advocating for something?

Session Wrap Up & Closing Prayer

Advocating involves finding your voice and naming what is an injustice. Finding one's voice is not easy and often times it can be difficult to share what may not be popular. Yet as the Bible characters illustrate, one's faith calls us to speak up and to speak out when things are not right and when people are being hurt.

As this session wraps up ask those in the group to share what they would use their voices to SPEAK UP and SPEAK OUT to advocate towards COVID-19 vaccine distributions for the world. When someone shares the group then responds "We will not be silent in the face of injustice."

For example:

COVID-19 vaccines are not just for the wealthy countries.
We will not be silent in the face of injustice.

Where you live should not determine the access you have to health care around the pandemic.

We will not be silent in the face of injustice.

Once those who wanted to share were able to share, the group can say the closing prayer together:

Closing Prayer

God, we thank you for this special and sacred time together,

Help us take what we have learned and what we have shared out into this world.

(hand motions praying hands extending outward)

Give us courage to speak up and advocate for those who are in need during this pandemic (motion hand to mouth)

Give us wisdom to find ways to invite other to contribute to raising funds for vaccines (motion open hands)

Give us eyes to see and words to continue to pray for and to love our neighbors throughout the world (lift the hands)

In the name of the one who taught us how to love our neighbors,

In Jesus Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Awareness Resources:

United Methodist Church and Society Website

(www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy).

SESSION SIX: Contribution

Out of the Box Contribution

Note to Facilitator:

This group has prayed together, learned together, laughed together, found their voices together and now they are going to contribute together for “Love Beyond Borders.” This concept of contribution involves raising funds to help get supplies and vaccines to some of the most vulnerable places in the world. Yet, this is not just a fundraiser. By understanding this as a contribution the group is going to be offering their own gifts to make others aware of this need and to advocate for our neighbors.

By contributing the individual and collective gifts of the group will help to offer health supplies and vaccines to end this pandemic.

Your help will be needed in thinking through logistics especially as it relates to the space and possible permission forms for participation.

Contributions and offerings can be shared through Global Ministries Advance. This is the giving arm of the United Methodist Church and all gifts made to Love Beyond Borders 100% goes towards this campaign. Here is the link to the site:

Advance Site for Love Beyond Borders (through Global Ministries of the UMC)
<https://advance.umcmission.org/p-2079-love-beyond-borders-the-interfaith-movement-to-end-the-pandemic.aspx>

Supplies needed – paper, pen, gifts sheet, post-it notes, markers, supplies for the fundraiser

Schedule for Session Five:

- Gathering Space and Opening Prayer
- Activity 1: Contributions of Gifts
- Activity 2: Planning the Fundraiser
- Fundraising Resources
- Post-Fundraiser Debrief/Session Wrap Up & Closing Prayer

Gathering Space and Opening Prayer:

If possible, have all the boxes scattered in the space when the group enters. Invite the participants to sit near their box. The group is going to be asked to think “outside the box” to help plan a contributing event to raise awareness and funds for “Love Beyond Borders.”

The group has learned, prayed, moved, and now the group will be contributing. Contributing to “Love Beyond Borders” is an offering to God. The group contributes by

raising awareness and raising funds for “Love Beyond Borders” to help ensure that the vulnerable places in the world have access to the COVID-19 vaccine and medical supplies they need.

Unlike other possible fundraiser, this one will be guided by the gifts of the individuals and the group. The first activity will help to name different gifts and then to think creatively how these gifts can be a part of the fundraiser.

On this last day of saying the opening prayer, is there a child/youth who would like to lead it. If no one volunteers, this is okay, then have a leader who is ready to read and invite the others to participate.

**Prayer for the beginning of the time together
(USE AT THE START OF EACH SESSION)**

Gracious and Loving God,

You sent your Son, Jesus Christ into this world

To bring light, love, and salvation for all

Jesus lived a life that transcended borders of social status and geography,

Help us as we gather to love our neighbors be open to ways you may be calling us to extend that love to those in our world who need vaccines:

Who struggle to have adequate access to health care,

Who have lost loved ones to COVID,

Whose lives continue to be restricted and harmed due to the pandemic.

Let us be your hands, your feet, and your voice in this time

Framing:

As the facilitator help the group to share creative ideas. Before ideas turn into plans allow for some conversation. Let the group name and own their gifts and see how those gifts can be an offering.

Activity 1: Contributing our Gifts

Hand out a pad of post-it notes to each participant. Ask the children/youth to think of gifts that the group has. A gift can be a skill, an experience, or a shared talent. These gifts can be out of the box and creative.

For example: There was a group of youth who were quiet but loved to read. So, they created a fundraiser where they did a Read-A-Thon and people pledged for them to read. They raised funds and awareness for educational needs in India.

The group has seven minutes to think of the gifts of the group. Ask the children/youth to write one gift on each post-it note. At the end of the time have a youth/child be the organizer who takes the post-it notes (once it has been shared) and puts it on the wall.

Encourage each child/youth to share all the post-it notes even if things have been said before by others. Sometimes common answers help a group come to a decision.

When everyone is done sharing look at the final responses –
What surprised the group? What was in common? What response was a hidden gift?

Now break the group into small groups and give them the Fundraising Ideas for “Love Beyond Borders.” Give each group 15 minutes to plan a presentation on a fundraising idea for the group. In the presentation make sure to mention

1. The name and date of the fundraiser
2. In what way is the groups’ gifts contributing to the event
3. How will this event make others aware of “Love Beyond Borders”
4. Is there a specific target amount/supply goal for the event?

Once the groups have presented then the group gets to choose an event to be the fundraiser. If there is a close tie, then suggest mixing two ideas together if it works.

Activity 2: Planning the Fundraiser

Making the Team – this is a team effort so there needs to be a combined effort to make sure the fundraiser is a success. Here are some suggestions for the teams:

Fundraising Director:

Communications Point Person:

Awareness Team (educates about “Love Beyond Borders”, presentation at the event):

Publicity Team (invites people to the fundraiser):

Set-Up and Take-Down Team (works in the physical space):

Prayer Team (prays for the event, writes prayers at the event, sends thank yous):

Supply Team (gets supplies before the event, has supplies on hand during the event):

Goal for the Fundraiser: having a common goal is a way to help invite others to contribute, the UNICEF list in fundraising resources is a helpful tool

Think about using the prayer flags, paper window prayers, boxes opened as sharing tools for the event)

Fundraising Resources:

THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT (UNICEF INFORMATION)

- **\$19.50** could provide 10 people with two doses of the vaccine
- **\$50** could provide 160 face masks to help keep health workers from breathing in hazardous or infectious airborne particles
- **\$100** could provide 10 diagnostic test kits to help increase the identification of infections
- **\$150** could provide 3,000 syringes, which will be used to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to recipients

- **\$210** could provide 10 portable vaccine carriers for the safe transportation of vaccines that enables a health worker to deliver critical vaccines
- **\$1,000** could provide the delivery of vaccines to fully vaccinate 250 people
- **\$11,000** could provide 6 oxygen concentrators
- **\$1,000,000** could provide the safe transport of 25 million doses of vaccines within a low-income country



Love Beyond Borders: An Interfaith Movement to End the Pandemic

Fundraising Ideas for Love Beyond Borders^[1] These houses of worship fundraising suggestions were compiled by Emilie Kroen of Abundant Health from the successful methods used during the Imagine No Malaria Campaign. Questions about these activities can be directed to Emilie at abundant.health@umoi.org

- Comedy Night for the Cause^[1]
- Congregation Challenge (\$1,000 pledge each) - Love Beyond Borders^[1]
- ^[1]
- Booth at community festival^[1]
- Lent "40 Days of Self Denial" (Something like: Give up Starbucks w/ \$'s going to ^[1]LBB)^[1]
- Fudge sales^[1]
- Birthday Party^[1]
- House Party^[1]
- Mother's Day Tea^[1]
- Cover the calendar with \$10 pledges^[1]

- Speak before community groups like Rotary, Chamber [SEP]
- Yard sale [SEP]
- Mother's Day Campaign [SEP]
- Tithe from other fund raiser [SEP]
- "Rock Out COVID" - Solicit pledges for time rocking in rocking chairs [SEP]
- Car wash [SEP]
- LemonAID Stand [SEP]
- Alternate Christmas [SEP]
- Pancake breakfast [SEP]
- Pizza Baking Kits [SEP]
- Make and sell knitted scarves, bracelets, etc. [SEP]
- Bid to Shave Pastor's head bald [SEP]
- Walk/Run/Bike Ride "COVID Run" "Making Strides" "Faster than the Pastor" [SEP]
- Newspaper articles about plan to End the Pandemic and how folks can help. [SEP]
- Advent Campaign [SEP]
- Concert with LBB display and proceeds go to LBB [SEP]
- Basketball Shoot Out in conjunction with Youth Authority [SEP]
- Retirement Giving as gift to honoree [SEP]
- Over the Top for COVID appeal to exceed organizations fundraising pledge [SEP]
- Silent Auction [SEP]
- Talent Show [SEP]
- _____ Dinner [SEP]

- Teach a needed skill [L] [SEP]
- Take a short-term job and donate all the pay [L] [SEP]
- Baby-sitting proceeds (parents' night out) [L] [SEP]
- Host a Movie Night (with permission of course) and invite the community [L] [SEP]
- Facebook fund raiser [L] [SEP]
- Send info and request for donation to family and friends [L] [SEP]
- Get a letter of support for your campaign from an influential person (like the [L] [SEP] Bishop?) [L] [SEP]
- Make buttons "Support Equitable Vaccine Distribution" and sell them [L] [SEP]
- Invite artists to donate one of their pieces and hold an art show to sell them [L] [SEP]
- Have children create Christmas Cards, duplicate and sell them [L] [SEP]
- Get a matching donation from your employers [L] [SEP]
- Give a talk to non-profits about the need for equitable vaccine distribution and [L] [SEP] request donations [L] [SEP]
- Giving Tuesday Promotion [L] [SEP]
- VBS Display + Dress Up the Pastor (Salmon Creek 2014) Challenge [L] [SEP]

E. Kroen Annual Conference 2013 (amended 5/22/2021) Fundraising Ideas

Session Wrap Up & Closing Prayer

Each person will receive a box with their name in the center. The box will remain open for this exercise. See the resource page for a copy of the open box.

Out of the Box was a lesson in engaging Love of God and Love of Neighbor. This was the starting point to understand the need to respond to the unequal distribution of COVID-19 vaccines during the pandemic.

We care because God loves us and calls us to love our neighbors both locally and globally. Unequal distribution of vaccines and health care is an injustice. There is something we can do and this movement is called "Love Beyond Borders." As a movement suggests there is a need for action. You have something to contribute you are

contributing in powerful ways by being aware and by offering funds to make sure COVAX supplies can get to UNICEF teams to be distributed.

You are making a difference in the lives of your siblings. You are helping to bring an end to this pandemic. Your offering of time, heart, and voice encourages others.

You are a gift. So, in this last closing session these open boxes are being passed around as so that others may name your gifts and write words of affirmation (you are kind, you are loved). When the open boxes have been passed around the group meets again in a circle for the closing prayer.

Closing Prayer

God, we thank you for this special and sacred time together,

Help us take what we have learned and what we have shared out into this world.

(hand motions praying hands extending outward)

Give us courage to speak up and advocate for those who are in need during this pandemic (motion hand to mouth)

Give us wisdom to find ways to invite other to contribute to raising funds for vaccines (motion open hands)

*Give us eyes to see and words to continue to pray for and to love our neighbors throughout the world (lift the hands) *invite the group to shout out the countries where Love Beyond Borders hopes to impact*

In the name of the one who taught us how to love our neighbors,

In Jesus Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

RESOURCES

PRAYERS/WORSHIP RESOURCES

Prayer for the beginning of the time together (USE AT THE START OF EACH SESSION)

*Gracious and Loving God,
You sent your Son, Jesus Christ into this world
To bring light, love, and salvation for all
Jesus lived a life that transcended borders of social status and geography,
Help us as we gather to love our neighbors be open to ways you may be calling us to
extend that love to those in our world who need vaccines:
Who struggle to have adequate access to health care,
Who have lost loved ones to COVID,
Whose lives continue to be restricted and harmed due to the pandemic.
Let us be your hands, your feet, and your voice in this time.*

Prayer at the end of the time together (USE AT THE END OF SESSION)

*God, we thank you for this special and sacred time together,
Help us take what we have learned and what we have shared out into this world.
(hand motions praying hands extending outward)
Give us courage to speak up and advocate for those who are in need during this
pandemic (motion hand to mouth)
Give us wisdom to find ways to invite other to contribute to raising funds for vaccines
(motion open hands)
Give us eyes to see and words to continue to pray for and to love our neighbors
throughout the world (lift the hands)
In the name of the one who taught us how to love our neighbors,
In Jesus Christ's name we pray,
Amen.*

Prayer at the conclusion of the Out of the Box activities (USE AT THE END OF THE PROGRAM OF EVENTS)

God, you created this world and all the neighbors who inhabit it. Help these resources reach those in need during this pandemic. May the Holy Spirit be with those deliver and administer the vaccines, be with those who receive the vaccines. Help us to be changed from this experience so that we may be disciples of Jesus Christ who radically love our neighbor in deep ways. Thank you, God, (encourage the youth and children to share about their experience as a prayer of thanksgiving).

When the prayer is coming to a close, hand each of the participants a small box that they can take apart (copies of the cross can be used). As they take it apart this is the way to leave the space.

Offering Prayer (USE AT DEDICATION OF FUNDS)

Gracious and loving God, accept these gifts and contributions to love our neighbor by supplying vaccines. May those who distribute them and those who receive them be blessed by this gift of love. As we do not know the names of the individuals who will receive them, we acknowledge you know their names. We call them our neighbors. May this gift be an offering of justice and of healing in this time of pandemic. In Christ's Name we pray, Amen.

Children and youth can include their own prayer for the dedication of the funds for *Love Beyond Borders*. This prayer can be shared with the Pastor and the Worship Team. Offering could also be a time for the youth/children to share about *Love Beyond Borders* as a discipleship moment.

Children's Message and Prayers for Worship (IDEAS FOR WORSHIP)

- It is powerful to have children and youth share in worship about their experience
- Sometimes a short presentation and where they experienced God is a great Children's Message
- The prayers listed above could be used in some context for worship

LEARN MORE

Love of God and Neighbor Article

<https://www.wpaumc.org/blogdetail/our-wesleyan-heritage-love-god-love-neighbor-15240063>

Methodist Foundation for Social Action

www.mfsaweb.org

Advocating - United Methodist Church and Society Website

www.umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy

Facebook Page for Love Beyond Borders

<https://www.facebook.com/LBBUMC/>

Love Beyond Borders Website

<https://icrinc.org/>

Video Resources for Information about Love Beyond Borders:

<https://unicefusa.app.box.com/s/kztk9mff8ak5y8rytywzwbw9yt4xrgpv4>

<https://www.unicef.org/supply/covid-19-vaccine-market-dashboard>

Open Box Resource

