

#ResistHarm

IDEAS FOR FEBRUARY ACTS OF LOVE AND SERVICE

What can you do? What can your class or group do?
What can your church do?

WORSHIP

- **Conduct a reaffirmation of the marriage covenant or family blessing service (Find examples of this service <https://resistharm.com/worship>)**
- Offer a healing service for LGBTQ, POC, people with disabilities, immigrants, and others marginalized by our Church and society
- Use Ash Wednesday as a time to confess our participation in harm against members of our own community and those listening in from the outside. Invite people to name particular harm they may have caused (against others or themselves), and name the harm caused by our institutions and communities.
- Invite people from the LGBTQ community to preach, give testimonies, or participate in worship in meaningful ways
- Create and use rainbow altar cloths or other displays of solidarity in the sanctuary
- Study sermons from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's Strength to Love. Sing Mark Miller's "Only Love Can Do That," which has lyrics from Dr. King's sermons
- Lift up stories of LGBTQ persons who have lived out brave and daring love
- Dedicate a special offering for LGBTQ causes in your local area or nationwide

CHURCH

- Hold a justice-focused prayer vigil
- Place a #ResistHarm banner or sign in front of your church
- Create a display telling the story of the struggle in The UMC for equity and justice for all God's people, and make the display readily visible at your church
- Start or become a Reconciling Church, group, class, or district group
- Mentor another group or church in your area through the Reconciling process
- Create a welcoming statement for your church that includes affirmation of ALL God's people
- Host a fundraiser for LGBTQ causes in your local area or elsewhere
- Host an anniversary party for all couples
- Offer a marriage encounter course or retreat specifically for LGBTQ couples
- Host a meal with and for LGBTQ people and/or organizations in your area
- Display rainbow flags or other signage outside churches and homes

CHURCH, GROUP OR INDIVIDUALS

- Make quilts, scarfs or shawls of love for a shelter (a disproportionate number of LGBTQ youth experience homelessness)
- Mentor an LGBTQ youth
- Volunteer at PFLAG, Trevor Project, Family Equality Councils, LGBT National Help Center, Human Rights Campaign (HRC), Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), Transgender Law Center (TLC), or another organization focused on the LGBTQ community
- Work with your community
- Plan a poetry reading by members of the LGBTQ community and other marginalized persons
- Create a human rainbow photo of a gathered group of people to post on social media
- Create safe community spaces for LGBTQ people in your community
- Create an artistic expression of support for LGBTQ people
- Display works of art by local LGBTQ artists in your church or community center
- Attend an event in support of or to learn how to be better advocates for LGBTQ persons and other marginalized people
- Speak up for and advocate for policies that positively impact the LGBTQ community
- Share your own story of becoming an LGBTQ-affirming or Reconciling United Methodist with friends, family, and on social media