

Creating the Nativity with Prayers: A Sacred Advent Activity



This is a Nativity scene that we created at FUMC, Colorado Springs. We began with 3 flats covered with felt and then outlined the figures using black string. It looked like a blank coloring book page.

Each week, during Advent, we used slips of torn colored paper, wrote our prayers on them and pinned them to the felt and these filled in or “colored” the pictures.

The adults and families added prayers to the center panel of Mary holding Jesus each week at our Wednesday night dinners. We had a speaker, followed by contemplative prayer time and then, as a carol was sung, each family came forward and pinned on their prayers.

During Sunday School, the children would have a sacred moment and then write their prayers on white slips of paper which they would come forward and pin on the angels.

Our week-day preschoolers had 4 Sacred Circle Times each week of Advent and during the contemplative prayer time, they held a little star. One at a time they came up, and as they shared their prayer out loud, we pinned it to the panel.

All three panels were put together and used for the Christmas Eve, Christmas Sunday and the 12 days of Christmas.

It was such a holy Advent as we watched the nativity come to life with our prayers!

*Special thanks to the banner group at FUMC, Angela McKibben and Jerry Hurst who were the artists behind this. I have the ideas but can't make them! Yay for teams of volunteers!