



Woven River

What are your hopes and dreams for the new year?

What are your hopes for Church on the Square?

What are your hopes for your family and loved ones?

What are your hopes for your spiritual life?

What are your hopes for connection with community?

Steps:

- ❖ Choose a color of paper and cut out a fish (or two or three) to write your hopes on.
- ❖ Then choose a yarn or thread to attach it to.
- ❖ Weave the thread through, and your fish will be a part of the river! (Hint, if you'd like to avoid pulling the fish through in the weaving process, you can weave half-way, and then string your fish on after.)

A decorative border made of blue line drawings of various flowers and leaves, framing the central text area.

Streamer River

John baptized people in the River Jordan to remind them of their ancestors, starting over fresh in the land of Canaan. By being baptized, people got a chance to start over.

Help make a river we can take turns walking through!

Steps (different people can do different tasks):

- ❖ Cut lengths of streamers, 2-4 feet.
- ❖ Tape the streamers to a dowel rod
- ❖ Two people can hold two dowel rods while a third person walks under the water and out on the other side!

Questions: How does it feel to wash clean? What helps you get ready to start over?

A decorative border made of blue line drawings of various flowers and leaves, framing the central text area.

Streamer River

John baptized people in the River Jordan to remind them of their ancestors, starting over fresh in the land of Canaan. By being baptized, people got a chance to start over.

Help make a river we can take turns walking through!

Steps (different people can do different tasks):

- ❖ Cut lengths of streamers, 2-4 feet.
- ❖ Tape the streamers to a dowel rod
- ❖ Two people can hold two dowel rods while a third person walks under the water and out on the other side!

Questions: How does it feel to wash clean? What helps you get ready to start over?



Gratitude Letters

Part of getting ready for something new is being grateful for what has come before. These letters can be to anyone you want, whether they are someone you know very well, someone you haven't seen in a long time, someone who has passed away, or even to God or to a future or past you. You can keep your letter, mail it if you know your person's address, or leave it as an offering on the altar.

Christmas Crackers

There are 12 days in the Christmas season - still time to celebrate and enjoy the fun! These Christmas Crackers are some assembly required - decorate the outside first, and then assemble. Check the written instructions, or you can see a video here:





Baptismal Font

Baptism for John the Baptist was a preparation - getting ready for a changing world. When Jesus arrived and was baptized, it took on an additional new meaning. Being baptized is a symbol of God's love for you, the promise of new life, and joining the family of believers.

Have you been baptized? What might this covenant mean to you in the coming year? On the next page is an Affirmation of Faith from one of the covenants we follow at Church on the Square. Take time to reflect on what is speaking to you. When you're ready, use the water in the font to mark your forehead or hand with the sign of the cross as a way to remember and honor your baptism.



Affirmation of Faith

Celebrant: Do you put your trust in God
The Source and Ground of being

People: **I trust in God.**

Celebrant: Do you put your trust in the Christ the Servant, embodied in
Jesus of Nazareth and in the church?

People: **I trust in the Christ.**

Celebrant Do you put your trust in the Spirit, the Guide, the liberating
wellspring of life?

People **I trust in the Spirit.**

Celebrant Will you continue in spiritual practices that nourish your
spirit and bless the community of faith?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you are lost,
burdened, or in the wrong, accept God's invitation to begin
again?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the love of God,
present and at work in every time and place?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your
neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and
respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you respect the dignity of creation, always seeing the
spark of the Christ in all sentient beings and serving the well-
being of the great community of living beings?

People **I will, with God's help.**



Letting Go

Starting over often means letting go. For this station, consider: is there something you need to or are ready to let go of?

Steps:

- ❖ Choose a glass stone and hold it in your palm.
- ❖ Let it come to symbolize the person, the event, the habit, etc. that you are ready to let go of.
- ❖ If it feels right, say a prayer.
- ❖ Drop the stone into the vase and watch it sink through the water.
- ❖ Remember that falling motion as necessary if old thoughts or habits rise up again.