

Ideas for World Water Day

Last updated February 2010

World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

Throughout the seven weeks of Lent the Ecumenical Water Network publishes weekly meditations on its website as a way of trying to raise awareness of water and justice around World Water Day. The reflections are always accompanied by some campaigning links and ideas for activities which we hope will inspire and help individuals and congregations to work towards local and global water justice.

Included here are just a small sample of the many possible activities that you could organize in your congregations or elsewhere for World Water Day and during Lent.

Are you already planning an activity for World Water Day? Do you have ideas and comments about how we can achieve a just distribution and sustainable use of our most precious resource? Then let us and others know about your ideas and experiences at www.oikoumene.org/7-weeks-for-water

1. Bible Studies

Seven Weeks for Water (Ecumenical Water Network)

- Share our weekly Bible reflections with others in your congregation
- Discuss the reflections in your Bible study group and share your results and comments on the website of the Ecumenical Water Network

Seven Weeks for Water: www.oikoumene.org/7-weeks-for-water



Bible Study by John Buttars (United Church of Canada)

- Welcome and introductions, opening prayer and song (10 min.)
- Divide into small groups. Share stories of times when water has been the medium for an important experience of God's presence and / or where water has been experienced as a threat (30 min.)
- In small groups, use the Bible study suggestions in "Water and the Bible" (35 min.)
- Gather in plenary to share your observations (40 min.)
- Closing prayer and song (5 min.)

Download the suggestions for Bible study:
[Water and the Bible](#)

2. Worship

Prepare a service on the theme of water or incorporate some of the following resources into your normal service, for example, on the occasion of World Water Day (22nd March):

- Liturgical resources for World Water Day 2010 are available at www.oikoumene.org/7-weeks-for-water
- [Water Worship service \(KAIROS\)](#)
- [Worship with Water \(Church World Service\)](#)
- [Talking about Toilets \(Christian World Service\)](#)

3. Exhibition: How much water do we eat?

An exhibition on virtual water

- Learn more about our consumption of "virtual water" (the water being used in the production of food and other goods) at <http://www.waterfootprint.org>
- Find out about opportunities for an presentation or exhibition in your congregation, school, clubs etc.
- Build a "virtual water cube" which illustrates the quantities of different products that can be produced with 1000 litres of water.
- Prepare some explanations and background information on virtual water and global water use which you can hand out or exhibit with the cube.



Download fact sheet and instructions for the virtual water cube exhibition at <http://www.oikoumene.org/?id=5566>

4. Study Session

A study session with water stories of people from Lesotho, the Philippines and El Salvador (based on a United Church of Canada partner survey).

- Welcome and introductions, opening prayer and song (10 min.)
- Participants read the stories (15 min.)
- Divide into small groups to discuss the stories (40 min.)
- Break (10 min.)
- Gather in plenary for small group reports (20 min.)
- Brainstorm ways of presenting stories to the faith community to raise awareness (35 min.)
- Closing prayer and song. (5 min.)

Download the United Church of Canada [study session on global water issues](#)



Ecumenical Water Network

<http://water.oikoumene.org>

5. Get Involved

Getting involved in the Ecumenical Water Network is easy:

- **Help** the Ecumenical Water Network continue to animate and mobilize vibrant faith-based initiatives. [Donate now.](#)
- **Participate** in and promote EWN events and materials such as:
 - The [Seven Weeks for Water](#) Lent campaign
 - The [EWN Newsletter](#)
 - The “[Virtual Water Cube](#)”
 - [More](#) materials and resources
- **Share** your experiences and stories on water with us.
- **Sign-up** as a supporter of EWN to express your support for our work and to offer your talents and expertise.
- **Spread the word** and let others know about the Ecumenical Water Network, for example, by linking to our website, forwarding our newsletter, or talking to others about what we do.
- **Educate yourself** and share what you learn with your congregations and friends.
- **Reflect** on water, the environment, and justice in your **prayers and worship.**
- **Support communities** in need by making a donation to one of our participant organizations or by giving somebody a "just gift".

More at: water.oikoumene.org

