

"Art for the Not Yet" Community Art Project Ideas for Churches

Twelve Community Art Ideas Organized by Prompt

PROMPT	ART PROJECT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	WORSHIP INTEGRATION
The Waiting Heart	Prayer Stars	Worshippers write prayers for someone who has not yet come home to faith, healing, reconciliation, or belonging. The prayers are folded into paper stars and strung into a mobile.	Invite people to write prayers during a sermon response or invitation. Display the stars in the sanctuary or hallway, then submit the piece or photos to BGAV.
The Waiting Heart	The Empty Chair	Place an empty chair in worship representing those still missing, searching, estranged, or not yet present. Members attach written prayers, fabric strips, or ribbons over several weeks.	Use the chair during pastoral prayer. Each week, pray for people the church is waiting for in love, not anxiety.
The Edge of Belief	Questions Wall	Create a display of anonymous questions people are carrying about faith, doubt, suffering, calling, or hope. Artists can respond with drawings, photography, collage, or poetry.	Invite people to submit questions before or during worship. Use the display to remind the church that questions can be holy ground, not spiritual failure.
The Edge of Belief	Faith Before Belief Soundscape	Record church members whispering short phrases: 'I'm still searching,' 'Help my unbelief,' 'I want to believe,' or 'God, are you near?' Layer the voices with music.	Play the soundscape during communion, prayer, or a sermon response. It could also become part of a digital art submission.
The Church Becoming	Clay in the Potter's Hands	Give worshippers small pieces of air-dry clay to shape into vessels, fingerprints, crosses, or simple forms representing how God is still forming the church. Combine them into one installation.	Use the clay during a sermon response. Display the finished pieces together as a sign that the church is still being shaped by God.
The Church Becoming	Neighbor Portraits	Ask members to create symbolic portraits of neighbors the church is learning to see again: teachers, immigrants, young adults, seniors, unhoused neighbors, business owners, or local families.	Feature one group of neighbors in prayer each week. Ask, 'Whom is God teaching us to see?'
The Work Before the Harvest	Seed Packet Prayers	Members write prayers for future generations, unseen ministries, or small faithful beginnings on seed packets. The packets are displayed, planted, or given away.	Bless the seed packets during worship. Children or youth could carry them forward as a sign of planting for a future they may one day harvest.
The Work Before the Harvest	Soil, Seeds, and Hands Mural	Create a collaborative mural with soil, roots, hands, seeds, rain, and early growth. Each participant adds one mark representing quiet faithfulness.	Build the mural over several Sundays. Use it as a backdrop for mission testimonies, commissioning, or offertory prayer.
The Mission Still Unfolding	Map of the Not Yet	Place a map of the church's town, Virginia, North America, or the world in a visible space. Members mark places, people, or callings they cannot stop thinking about.	Pray over the map during worship. Invite members to name communities where the gospel story is still unfolding.
The Mission Still Unfolding	Postcards from the Future	Worshippers write or illustrate postcards addressed to future neighbors, future believers, future church plants, or communities still waiting for hope.	Read selected anonymous postcards in worship. Bind them into a booklet or display them as a mission gallery.
The Creative Heart of God	'Let There Be...' Stations	Set up stations for painting, poetry, photography, collage, songwriting, and spoken word. Each station begins with the phrase 'Let there be...'	Use the stations before or after worship, or as a guided response to a sermon on creation, imagination, or new beginnings.
The Creative Heart of God	Digital Graffiti Wall	Collect drawings, prayers, short videos, spoken-word clips, music, and photos from the congregation. Edit them into a looping projection.	Project it during preservice, communion, or a missions emphasis Sunday. This is especially helpful for churches with more digital creatives than painters.



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