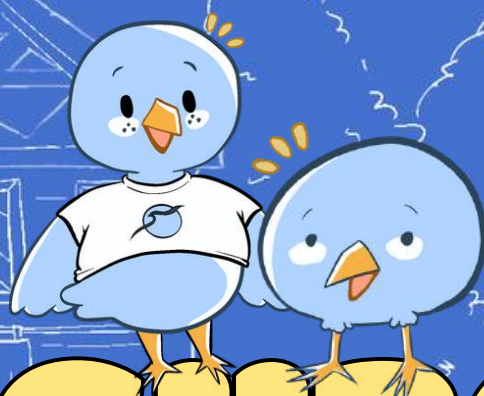




# AGAPE\*

A PEACEMAKING  
GUIDE FOR KIDS



# NEIGHBORS

\* MAY  
2025

ISSUE  
04 \*





# Dear Reader

## Hi Friends,

I am excited to welcome you to the new and improved Agape Magazine! My name is Miriam, and I am so lucky to get to work with all of the special people who help to write, edit, design, and publish this magazine.

Sometimes I feel scared and sad when I think about all of the ways people are hurting in our world.

While it is easy to feel stuck in these big feelings, I've found it is important to focus on the people around me who I can help!

One way to think about who we can best help is to think about our **neighbors** – the people who are close to us, whether they live next door or sit beside us in class.

By choosing to be kind and care for our neighbors, we can make the world a little better!

**You, my friends, have the power to make a difference!** I hope the stories in this magazine show you how to notice your neighbors and see how you can show up for them.

*Peace, Miriam*

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



# Table of Contents



3

BE A NEIGHBOR

5

BELOVED  
COMMUNITY

7

OFFICER  
CLEMMONS' FRIEND



8

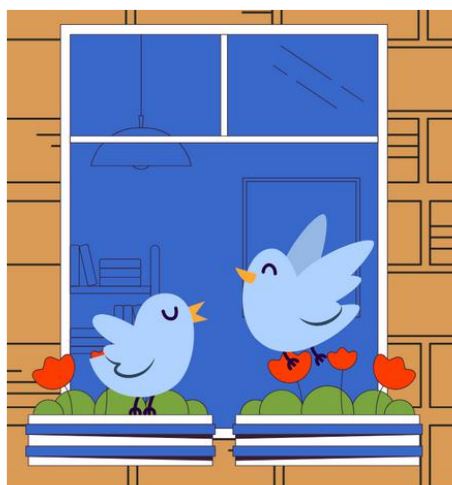
BEING A NEIGHBOR  
TODAY

9

ACHI

10

PIPE CLEANER  
PEOPLE



11

BOOK NOOK

12

BIOS + CITATIONS

# Be a Neighbor Wherever You Are

Who do you think of when you think of a neighbor?

**K**ids on your block or in your classroom. Maybe an adult who does nice things with your family – like sharing treats or helping out. Some neighbors work together to make their community welcoming and safe for everyone. Others help older people feel not so alone.

Feeling alone is a big problem in our world. You might feel lonely sometimes – even if you have friends - or you might know of people who feel isolated.

Maybe they're experiencing a big change like starting over at a new school or parents splitting up or an older sibling moving away.

Some young people struggle with anxiety, some live in homes where there is violence. Some children from other countries might feel targeted and afraid.



Instead of being a **bystander**, we can choose to do the opposite and be an “upstander” and come to the aid of **vulnerable** neighbors.

At some time or another, we all need people who respect us, listen to us, and show **empathy**.

If we stretch our thinking, we can see that neighbors are other human beings wherever they live– **all people deserve respect, kindness, support and love.**

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called this kind of love “agape” love, the highest kind of love – “the love of God operating in the human heart.”**



It's easy to view others we disagree with as the enemy. We're not interested in talking with them or playing with them, or trying to understand why they act the way they do.

People who have different skin colors, family traditions, ideas about God, or ideas about the world are often treated unfairly.

When people act in unneighborly ways they might not be at peace with themselves. Maybe they picked up ideas that certain people are bad from someone close to them.

Maybe they have been told they are better than certain other kids. Or, maybe they're hurting inside and so they choose to lash out.

We can never really know why a person acts the way they do, but all of these feelings and beliefs can harm a person's true peacefulness.

## GLOSSARY

**Bystander** - A person who stands by and watches something happen

**Empathy** - To understand someone else's feelings

**Vulnerable** - Someone or something in need of care or protection

**Transformation** - A big change from one thing into something new

**Injustice** - Unfair treatment or a situation where someone is wronged

**Compassionate** - Showing care towards someone who needs it

**But not everyone acts in a "neighborly" way. What can we do then?** We all know or have watched people who bully or are unkind to people who are different from themselves.

We're stuck thinking that people can't change. But small actions between unlikely people can sometimes show a surprising common interest or concern that can open the door to **transformation**.

While relating to people with whom we disagree is good, it is still important to call out the ways that they might be hurting others. To be a good neighbor, we say no to **injustices**.

**Being a neighbor means treating others with kindness, understanding and helping them when they need it.**

Our country needs more **compassionate** neighbors who will stand up for their fellow human beings.

**At school and in your community, how are you showing up as a neighbor?**

**BY PAM SMITH,  
ADDIE WYATT CENTER  
FOR NONVIOLENCE  
TRAINING**



# \* What is \* Beloved Community

BY ANESU

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a big fan of being a neighbor.

He wrote a lot about making the world a better place – and one of the ways he imagined that happening was by building a **“Beloved Community”**.

He believed that by treating one another with kindness and respect, people would be able to transform their communities into places where everyone felt safe and taken care of. In this piece, my friend Anesu explains what **“Beloved Community”** means! - Miriam

**W**hen you think of the word **‘Beloved’**, **think of someone close to you**, this could be your parent, sibling, friend, or pet, it is someone **who is loved by you**.

Love in this context is **agape love**, the kind of love you show when you do something for someone else without looking for something in return.

If you imagine your heart like a flame, your beloved is someone who can feel the warmth of your fire and sees the light of your heart.







When you think of **‘Community,’** think of those who can show you how to love and offer love. This could be your friends, the people in your class, or your next-door neighbors.

Imagine a campfire made up of everyone's flame, no matter the size or amount you bring, it's more than enough when added together, and everyone can sit around roasting s'mores.

It's the feeling you get when you see the flames dancing in their eyes, and understand the same fire is also reflected in your own eyes as well.



**‘Ubuntu’** is a similar African idea that means, “I see the love and humanity in you, and I know they are real because of the same way you see them in mine.”

**Putting it all together, the Beloved Community are the people you can trust and who can put their trust in you to bring out the best in each other through love, patience, and understanding.**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who makes up your community?
- How can you make your community a better place?
- Think about Dr. King’s idea of Beloved Community – what do you imagine it to be like?



# Officer Clemmons' Friend

BY MIRIAM

**F**or a man named Fred Rogers, teaching people to be good neighbors was most important.

For over twenty-five years, Mr. Rogers hosted a kids tv show called “**Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.**” (You know Daniel Tiger - he is part of Mr. Rogers’ neighborhood.)

One of Mister Rogers’ friends in the neighborhood was **Officer Clemmons.**

Officer Clemmons, who was a police officer on the show, was the **first Black actor to spend a lot of time on a kids TV show.**

You see, when Mister Rogers’ neighborhood was on TV, many people in this country treated Black people unkindly.

They were not allowed to drink from the same water fountains, go to the same schools, live in the same neighborhoods, or play on the same playgrounds.

This was called segregation. Some white people acted violently towards Black people just because their skin was a different color.


**This still happens today but in different and similar ways.**

During the summer of 1969, many white people were angry about sharing swimming pools with Black people.

They were unkind and sometimes violent towards Black people when they tried to go swimming. Some pools decided to close so no one could swim instead of allowing all people to swim there.

While many people were acting un-neighborly, Mister Rogers wanted to teach the kids watching his show a different way to act.

Sometimes people need someone to show them how to be good neighbors – especially to people who do not look, think, or act like them.





He took time to invite Officer Clemens to share his wading pool to cool their feet off on a hot day. When they were done, Mister Rogers even shared his towel with Officer Clemens.

While it was only one part of his show, **it was an important example – even for adults – for how neighbors of all skin colors deserve to be treated.**

(And for those of you who come from the Church of the Brethren, you may recognize this as footwashing, like we do at Love Feast.)

After Officer Clemens left the screen, Mister Rogers shared that “**It’s good to live in a neighborhood with special people like Officer Clemmons.**”

By choosing to see Officer Clemmons as his neighbor, Mister Rogers showed the kids who watched his show how small acts of kindness can make great neighbors.





# Being A Neighbor Today

BY MARIE

**T**oday, our neighbors who are here from other countries – immigrants, refugees, and visitors – are feeling unsafe. **They are afraid that people will think of them as bad guys, will take them away from their families, or send them to unsafe situations in other countries.**

Many have made the United States their home and have families and communities here. Armando is one of these people.

Armando lives in Ohio with his family. He is a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation – a Beloved Community who is ready to offer him and his family support and love.

Just before Easter, Armando was sent to jail because the government changed the rules about who can be in our country - not because Armando did anything wrong.

He knew this was a possibility and on Palm Sunday (the Sunday before Easter), Armando asked his pastors, “how do I help my son, when he’s crying with worry for what might happen to me?”

After Armando was taken to jail, his church family gathered to support him and his family. Some went to be with his wife and children.

Many others went to a protest asking to get him home. They said, “Armando, and many more people like him, are some of the kindest, most genuine neighbors we could have.”

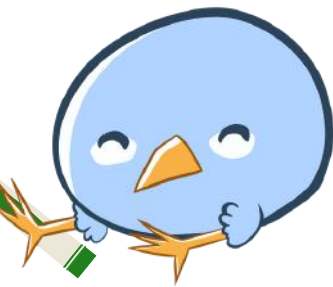
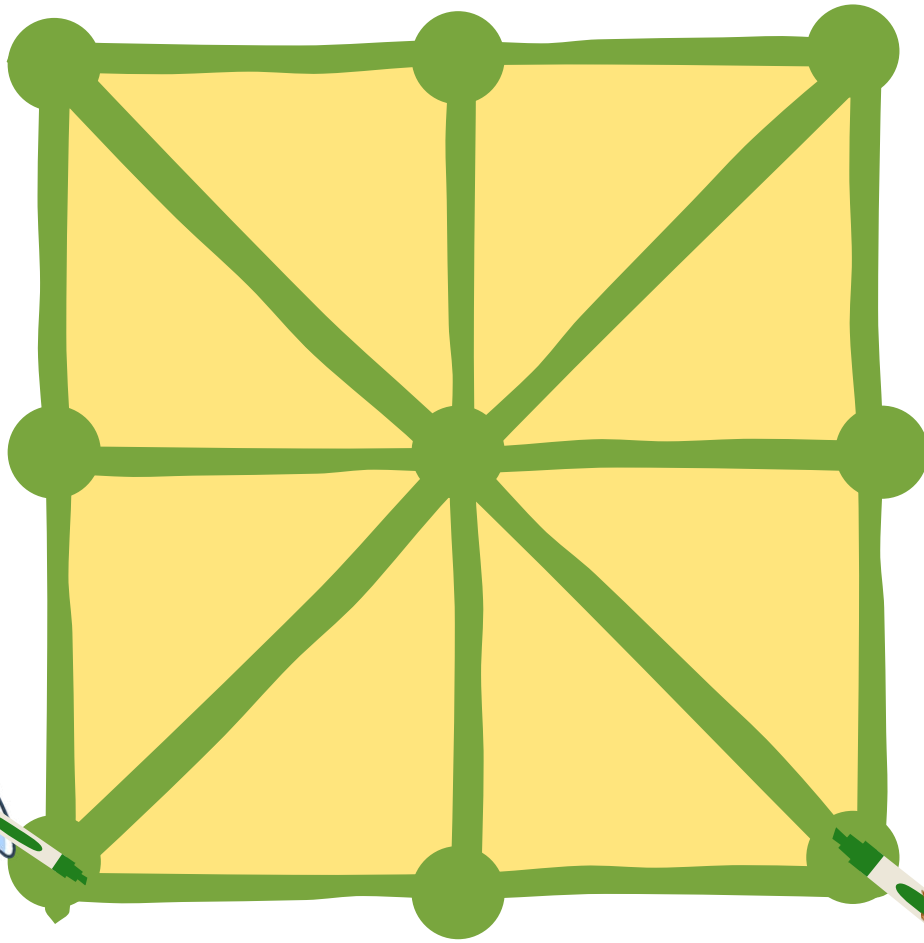
We don’t know what will happen for Armando, but we do know how to be neighbors. **We know how to care for the people near us - we do it everyday!** Just like Armando’s church family, we can show care and stand up for our neighbors.

***How can you care for someone who is afraid?  
How can you offer support to a neighbor?  
How can you be an upstander when you know  
that someone is being mistreated?***





# ACHI



## INTRODUCTION:

This game was one of my sister and I's favorites to play growing up. It is traditionally from Ghana, and can be played with whatever you have lying around! Our favorite way to play was on a napkin with sugar packets while waiting for our food at restaurants. I hope you enjoy playing this with your friends and neighbors as much as I do! - Miriam

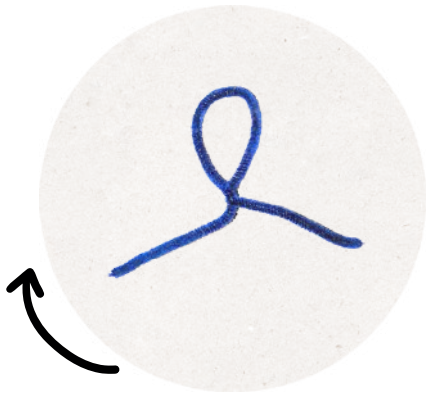
## SUPPLIES:

- A partner to play with and a set of three game pieces for each player!
- A game board of 9 dots in a 3 by 3 grid
- The pieces can be coins, buttons, or whatever you have on hand.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Take turns placing your pieces on the dots.
2. Once the pieces are on the board, take turns sliding your pieces along a line to an empty dot.
3. The first person to get three in a row wins!

# PIPE CLEANER PEOPLE

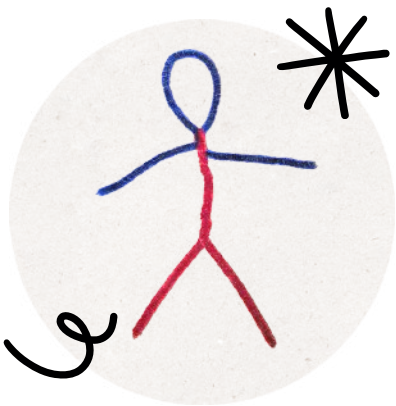
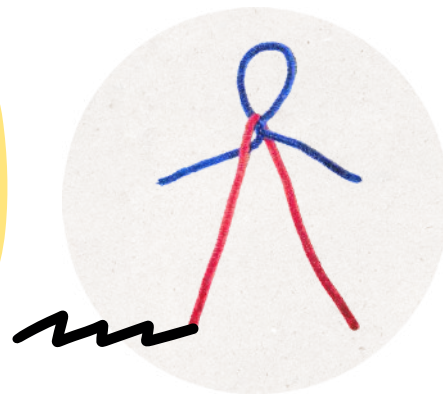


1

Take the first pipe cleaner and fold it in half. A finger length down from the fold, twist the pipe cleaner around itself. Expand the loop you've just created to be a circle. This will be your head!

2

Thread the second pipe cleaner through the head and fold it in half. Your pipe cleaners might look a little like an octopus with four legs!



3

Take the second pipe cleaner and twist it around itself at least 10 times. This will be your body. From there, make the body as long or short as you would like.

4

**TADA! YOU'VE  
MADE A PIPE  
CLEANER PERSON!**

NOTE: These fun friends are best in the community! I encourage you to get creative, and make many! | Supplies: Two pipe cleaners



# BOOK NOOK



***In the Neighborhood***  
**by Rocio Bonilla**

**Read Aloud**  
**Reading Age 3-7**

***The Wolf Suit***  
**by Sid Sharp**  
**Reading Age 6-11**



***The Vanderbeekers***  
***of 141st Street***  
**by Karina Yan Glaser**  
**Reading Age 8-11**



# Meet our Team



## MIRIAM

Miriam Erbaugh is the Children and Youth Peace Formation Organizer for On Earth Peace and the Editor-in-Chief of Agape Magazine. Outside of her internship, Miriam is a student at Manchester University. She loves to cook, hike, read, and spend time with her friends and family!



## MARIE

Marie Benner-Rhoades is one of the co-Directors at On Earth Peace and focuses on youth and young adult peace formation. She loves the ways neighbors care for one another on a daily basis - by sitting on front steps to chat or helping with garden chores - and in big moments by opening their hearts to one another.



## ANESU

Anesu is the Organizing Support for OEP. A certified level 1 Kingian Nonviolence trainer, he has been growing with OEP for the past 3 years. He is a spoken word poet, a father, a husband, and fantasy novel enthusiasts.



## SYDNEY

Sydney is Communications Support for OEP. For many years, she has worked as an educator for children in various disciplines. In her free time, she enjoys cafe-hopping, traveling and hanging with her friends and family.



## WREN + ARIE

Wren (11) and Arie (8) are the Kid Editors of this issue! Wren loves to read, draw birds, and play her trumpet. Arie loves to bake, play outside, and practice piano. Together they enjoy spending time with friends and family and playing games.



## PAM SMITH

Pam Smith is a certified Kingian Nonviolence Trainer and co-founder of the Addie Wyatt Center for Nonviolence Training. She is a substitute teacher at Portland Public Schools and producer of the upcoming documentary.

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# AGAPE

**Hello, we are NOT  
Sib and Orby! We are  
agents with a top  
secret mission!**

**Our mission is to tell you  
what our next edition is...  
AGAPE LOVE IN ACTION!**

