SPECIAL SUNDAY

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

OFFERING TALK

This offering talk is based on Luke 24:36b-48 and 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3. It is part of the Native American Ministries pastor and leader kit and connects with the theme "Holy Presence: Declaring Divine Love." It can be adapted for your context and integrated into your worship service with the other material in the kit.

The Rev. Larry Jent is of Cherokee heritage, the pastor of Grace Hartwood United Methodist Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and the director of Virginia UMC Native American Ministries. He says, "Native people of this land did not disappear in 1492. They have been contributing to American culture before Turtle Island (North America) was called America and will continue to do so."

On Native American Ministries Sunday, we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to worship and serve Jesus while honoring the Native American cultural traditions. Half of our gifts stay with local ministries in this conference and half support the work of Native American United Methodist ministries nationally.

The Rev. Calvin Hill is Navajo and the senior pastor of Blackfeet United Methodist Parish in Browning, Montana. The Rev. Hill mourns the loss of language and culture, yet he continues to feel called to ministry in The United Methodist Church. Part of his ministry is to educate visiting mission teams about the realities faced by Indigenous peoples. This labor of love is a generous gift from the Rev. Hill and just one of many ways that indigenous people are part of United Methodism's diverse heritage.

At a time when it may feel like we have lost so much, embracing God's love for us can shift our perspective to recognize and share abundant grace. Concentrating our resources to support important ministries equips us to work together, empowered by God's love.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, thank you for your presence with us. Receive our gifts as a symbol of our commitment to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students. Transform this offering into a declaration of your divine love that strengthens and encourages our indigenous siblings in Christ. Amen.