

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Your generous gift today enriches Christianity around the world



"All that I am doing now is to prepare me to make a difference."

— The Rev. Cangfu Wang, World Communion International Scholar



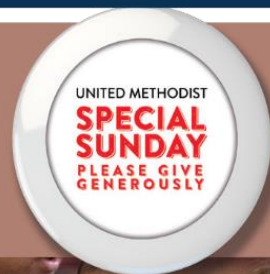
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Photo by kathleen Barry, UMINS

"Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

— Philippians 3:13b-14, NRSV



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YOUR GIFT ENRICHES CHRISTIANITY AROUND THE WORLD

Growing up in a Christian family in 1980s China made Cangfu Wang an outsider. As a child, he struggled to be accepted. “I gradually realized,” he said, “that school education merely provided me with a lens but not the lens. I was at peace with my faith.”

Years later, Cangfu—now a United Methodist pastor—received a World Communion International Scholarship, supported by generous gifts on World Communion Sunday.

“The United Methodist Church has supported my studies for many years,” he said. Cangfu, who is pursuing a doctoral degree in religion, ethics and society at Claremont (California) School of Theology, added, “The scholarship released my burden. I could focus on my studies for my preparation to be a scholar in the future.”

Cangfu’s goal is to become a seminary professor in his homeland. “Chinese Christianity,” he said, “has undergone a revitalization. The number of Christians has increased more than 20 million in three decades. Thousands of churches—forced to shut down during the Cultural Revolution in the 1970s—have been reopened and established.”

One of United Methodism’s six churchwide special Sundays with offerings, World Communion Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday of October. Half of the offering benefits World Communion Scholarships; the remainder assists Ethnic Scholarships and Ethnic In-Service Training. “Without such support,” Cangfu said, “my studies at Claremont would be impossible.”

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THANK YOU!**

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