

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR SPECIAL SUNDAYS



Why We Celebrate

United Methodists do God's work together through a connectional covenant. By combining our gifts, we make a greater impact. This guide helps you use the digital resources to promote and teach the importance of giving to the six Churchwide Special Sundays.

Printed vs Digital Resources

Why aren't there printed envelopes or pew cards anymore?

Because digital worship is now a core part of ministry, we've replaced printed materials with downloadable versions you can print or share online.

Special Sunday Envelope Labels

Each Special Sunday has a downloadable envelope label you can print on 2" x 6" labels (examples: Online Labels OL2097WX, Uline S-9658, Avery 22838).

Stick the label on any envelope smaller than 6" wide. Use them during worship, Sunday School, or small group gatherings.

Templates are available in both color and black and white. For crisis giving, use the UMCOR disaster relief label to collect donations.

Pew Cards

Digital pew cards explain each Special Sunday—why we give, how to give, and the impact of our gifts. Each includes a QR code for easy online giving.

Print and place them a few weeks before each celebration, or display all six year-round.

Ways to Use the Special Sunday Resources

Promote Special Sundays through worship, small groups, and communications:

- Announce the celebration at least two weeks in advance.
- Use videos, social graphics, or infographics in worship slides or newsletters.
- Place pew cards in pew racks or high-traffic areas.
- Share graphics and announcements on social media, email, or your website.
- Incorporate resources into worship or classes.
- Add envelopes and pew cards to bulletins, mailings, or visitor packets.

How Offerings Are Collected

Local churches collect Special Sunday offerings and send them to the annual conference treasurer, who forwards them to GCFA.

Encourage online giving by sharing your church's donation information. If your church doesn't have an online option, you can use donate.gcfa.org. The QR codes on the pew cards also direct donors to this page.

Engaging Your Church

Special Sundays help your congregation connect with mission and ministry.

- Involve children in coin drives and youth in mission-focused activities.
- Encourage prayer and reflection across your congregation.
- Use leader kits for sermons, devotions, and planning.
- Incorporate graphics, stories, and videos in worship and online.
- Thank your church for giving and share how their generosity makes a difference.

Available Resources

- **Pastor and Leader Kits**—Downloadable guides and materials for every Special Sunday.
- **Social Media Graphics**—Shareable visuals and ads in multiple languages.
- **Age-Level Resources**—Discussion guides, and activities for adults, youth, and children.
- **Mission Moments and More**—Weekly devotions, prayers, and newsletter content.
- **Stories of Impact**—Real stories of transformation and hope from local churches and communities.
- **Promotional and Planning Tools**—Prewritten content, posters, graphics, and annual planning calendars.

Churchwide Special Sundays with Offerings

United Methodists set aside [six Sundays](#) each year to support worldwide ministries through connectional giving.

1. **Human Relations Day (January)**—Strengthens community and youth outreach ministries.
2. **UMCOR Sunday (March)**—Supports UMCOR's administrative costs so 100% of disaster gifts go directly to relief.
3. **Native American Ministries Sunday (April/May)**—Funds local ministries, scholarships, and leadership development.
4. **Peace with Justice Sunday (May/June)**—Supports peace and social justice ministries locally and worldwide.
5. **World Communion Sunday (October)**—Promotes unity through scholarships and leadership training.
6. **United Methodist Student Day (November)**—Funds scholarships for United Methodist students.

Conference Special Sundays

Annual Conferences may also designate their own offering Sundays to support local ministries such as: Christian Education, Disability Awareness, Golden Cross, Rural Life, and Volunteers in Mission.

Churchwide Awareness Sundays

These observances celebrate discipleship and service within the local church (no offering taken): Heritage Sunday, Laity Sunday, Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday, Men's Ministry Sunday, and Women's Ministry Sunday.

Apportioned Funds

Connectional giving also supports seven Churchwide [apportionment funds](#) that sustain worldwide ministries:

1. **World Service Fund**—Supports the work of general agencies..
2. **Africa University Fund**—Funds operations and scholarships.
3. **Black College Fund**—Supports 11 United Methodist-related HBCUs.
4. **Episcopal Fund**—Provides for bishops' leadership and care.
5. **General Administration Fund**—Supports essential church governance.
6. **Promotes Christian unity.**
7. **Ministerial Education Fund**—Equips and educates church leaders.

United in Impact

When we give together, we live out our shared mission—to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. [United](#), we make a greater impact.

