

Special Sunday

Resource Guide



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



Hello!

One of the things that sets United Methodist congregations apart is our approach to generosity. **We believe in connectional giving.**

Connectional giving is what happens when thousands of congregations, across the world, give together beyond their local churches. Some of the many opportunities for connectional giving happen six times a year on designated giving days we call Special Sundays.

The momentum of generosity is unstoppable when tens of thousands of us come together to donate toward sustainable life change for people around the world.

This e-book will help you understand each Special Sunday and will provide a list of resources available to you for each celebratory event. Our goal is to **equip pastors and leadership teams with everything they need to engage, educate and empower their congregations to give.**

We want you to leverage these resources in ways that will help you cultivate generosity.

Together, we are doing more!

God Bless,

Connectional Giving Team

What Are Special Sundays?

It takes more than one person's generosity to change our world — it takes all of us!

Our team at UMC Giving wants to help you strengthen your congregation's generosity efforts through Special Sundays.

Special Sundays are designated Sundays throughout the year that provide opportunities for giving. These special offerings are earmarked and support designated ministries.

On these Sundays, we empower our congregations to give toward causes and organizations that promote sustainable life change. These offerings help offer refuge in times of disaster, promote peace and justice, provide scholarships, reach out to the community, teach skills to encourage self-sufficiency and share the love of Jesus Christ with God's people everywhere.

These Special Sundays are part of our denomination-wide effort we call **connectional giving**. It is one of the most powerful vehicles for generosity we have. Together, our churches are making an impact all over the world.

What is in the resource kit?

We've put together resource kits to help you communicate to your leadership team and your congregation about each Special Sunday.

These resource kits provide teaching, worship and social media resources. Each Special Sunday has print resources and downloads available for you to use.

You can download all or some of these resources as often as needed. You can also distribute and share the links with your team so that they can share with their small groups, staff members and even on their own social channels.

Best of all? These resource kits are FREE!



Human Relations Day

United Methodists celebrate Human Relations Day (HRD) on the Sunday before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. HRD encourages us to recognize the rights of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another.

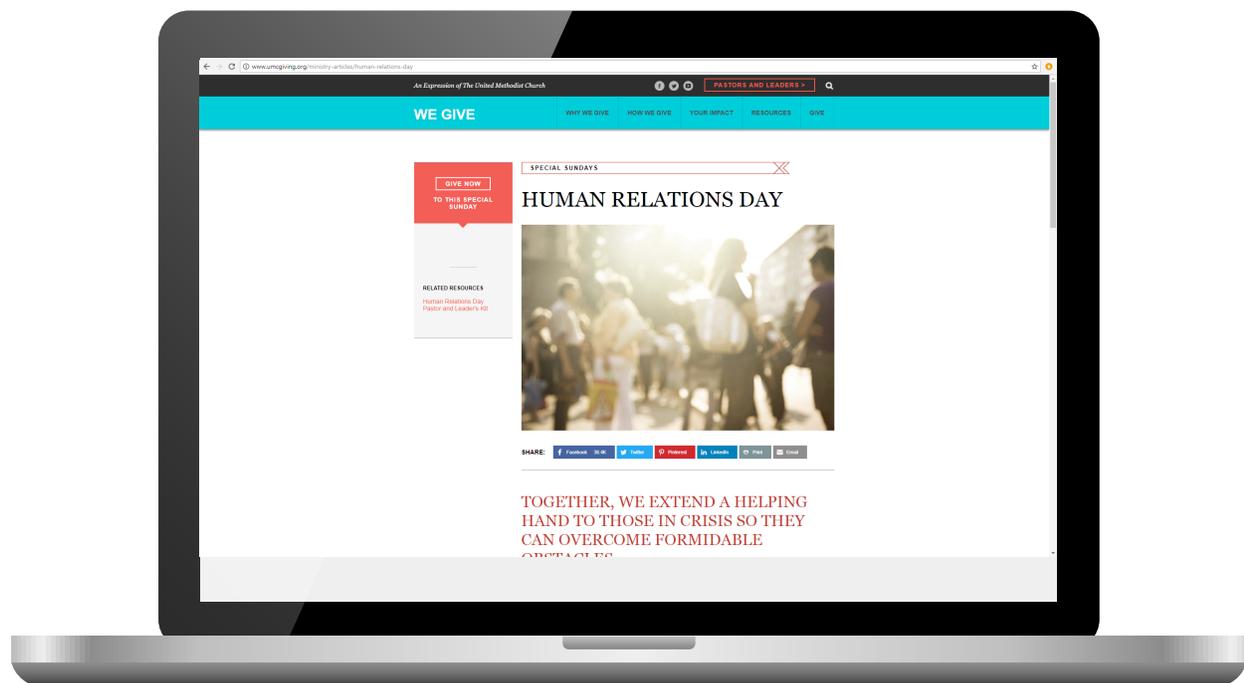
This special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

www.umcsgiving.org/giveHRD

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

General Info

<http://bit.ly/HRD-GenInfo>



Human Relations Day Bulletin Inserts

<http://bit.ly/HRD-ResourceKit>

8½-by-11 poster

2-sided bulletin insert



Offering Talk Illustrations (PDF Format)



Human Relations Day Infographics

<http://bit.ly/HRD-ResourceKit>

3 Reasons We Celebrate Human Relations Day

16 Amazing Ways Your Help Makes a Difference on Human Relations Day

3 REASONS WE CELEBRATE HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Soon, we will be celebrating Human Relations Day. This Special Sunday reminds us to recognize the rights of all God's children to realize their potential.

When we give on Human Relations Day, we are supporting community outreach, social justice and work with at-risk youth. Thousands of United Methodist churches join together on this day to love and care for the children of God.

We are strengthening our communities together.



WHY DO WE CELEBRATE HUMAN RELATIONS DAY?

- 1 WE ARE CALLED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE OVERLOOKED AND IGNORED.**
To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. Proverbs 21:3 (NRSV)
- 2 WE ARE MEANT TO BE A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS.**
Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Proverbs 31:8 (NRSV)
- 3 WE ARE ALL GOD'S CHILDREN.**
For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. Psalm 139:13-16 (NRSV)

HOW IS THE FUND DISPERSED?

One hundred percent of every donation goes straight to the marginalized, the disenfranchised and the ones at risk. Here is the breakdown:

- 57%** is allocated to the Community Developers Program, which supports racial-ethnic congregations and communities engaged in social justice ministries.
- 33%** is allocated to the United Methodist Voluntary Services Program, which helps promote and provide relationships with local community organizations.
- 10%** is allocated to the United Methodist Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program, which works with at-risk youth to prevent problems and helps convicted youth redirect their lives.

Your donation on Human Relations Day is your opportunity to contribute to systemic changes that allow our communities to thrive.

Read more about Human Relations Day at umcgiving.org/hrd

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

16 Amazing Ways YOUR HELP MAKES A DIFFERENCE ON HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Over the years, The United Methodist Church has come together to extend a helping hand to those in crisis so they can overcome formidable obstacles. When you give on Human Relations Day, you stand with the people of The United Methodist Church in our efforts to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ helping all God's children to realize their potential.

Your support of Human Relations Day allows these programs to help communities flourish in tangible ways:

2010

- Juvenile Mediation Program**, Jackson, Miss., works with the courts and human services to utilize peer mediation practices for juvenile offenders.
- Children Empowered for Sustainability Program**, Monrovia, Liberia, mentors poor children, including orphans, refugees and ex-combatant child soldiers.
- Exodus House: Hope and Community for the Lost and Vulnerable**, provides reentry assistance to ex-offenders and their families in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla.
- Lighthouse Promise's Boys 2 Men** nurtures at-risk children in a Louisville, Ky., neighborhood who struggle with poverty, lack of education and high crime.
- Restorative Justice Seminars** in three Africa central conferences focus on conflict transformation and resolving violence and inter-ethnic and interreligious conflict.

2011

- Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries**, Jamestown, N.C., offers Bible studies in state prison and juvenile training schools in its southern U.S. states.
- Amachi**, in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters, mentors low-income children and youth in 11 annual conferences to lead them from poverty to productive citizenship.
- Amachi - Mentoring Children of Promise** expands the program for children of incarcerated parents into five more states, providing self-assurance and tangible tools.
- Freedom School**, nonsecular Elementary School, Chesapeake, Va., provides summer reading enrichment programs for at-risk children.
- Exodus House**, Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla., assists newly discharged inmates with transitional living and services, focusing on financial reeducation and recovery.

2012

- Exodus House**, Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla., helps discharged inmates fulfill recovery, counseling, Redemptive Church attendance, employment and legal obligations.
- Restoring the Border: Hope for Children at Risk** provides transitional justice partnerships between First LINC, Eagle Pass, Texas and the juvenile probation office.
- Children's Ministries**, Liberia, advocates for the rights and self-determination of children, especially in refugee camps, orphanages and on the street.

2013

- Exodus House**, Oklahoma Annual Conference, supports drug treatment, reunification with family members, legal assistance and counseling for former prisoners.
- Human Trafficking & Domestic Violence Committee**, Barnaby LINC, seeks help to assess the situation of youth caught in the cycle of trafficking.
- United Methodist Seminar Program Scholarships for Racial/Ethnic Groups** enables youth to attend U.M. seminars on national and international sites in Washington.

Human Relations Day is a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to strengthen United Methodists out-reach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth. Would you consider joining thousands of other United Methodists making a difference this year?

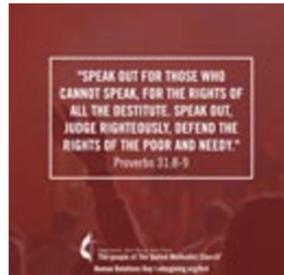
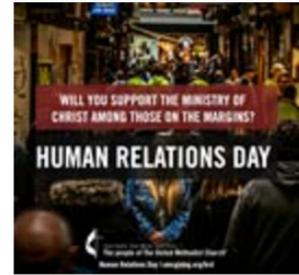
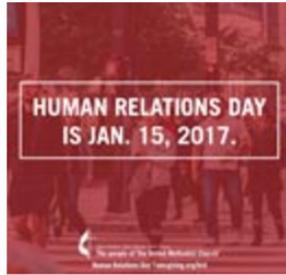
Support Human Relations Day through your local church or give online at www.umcgiving.org/hrd

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church*

Human Relations Day

Social Media Images

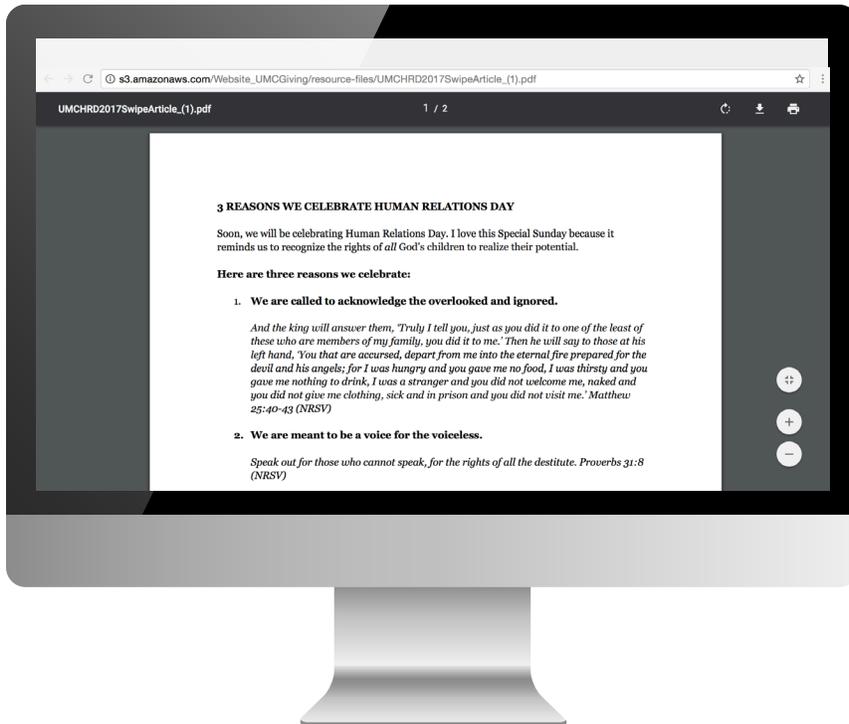
<http://bit.ly/HRD-ResourceKit>



Human Relations Day Worship Resources

<http://bit.ly/HRD-ResourceKit>

3 Reasons We Celebrate Human Relations Day Swipe Resource
Human Relations Day Videos



Human Relations Day Videos

<http://bit.ly/HRD-ResourceKit>

Everyone loves a hero because...

Journey of Faith

Social Media Images

Human Relations Day Mission Moments and More

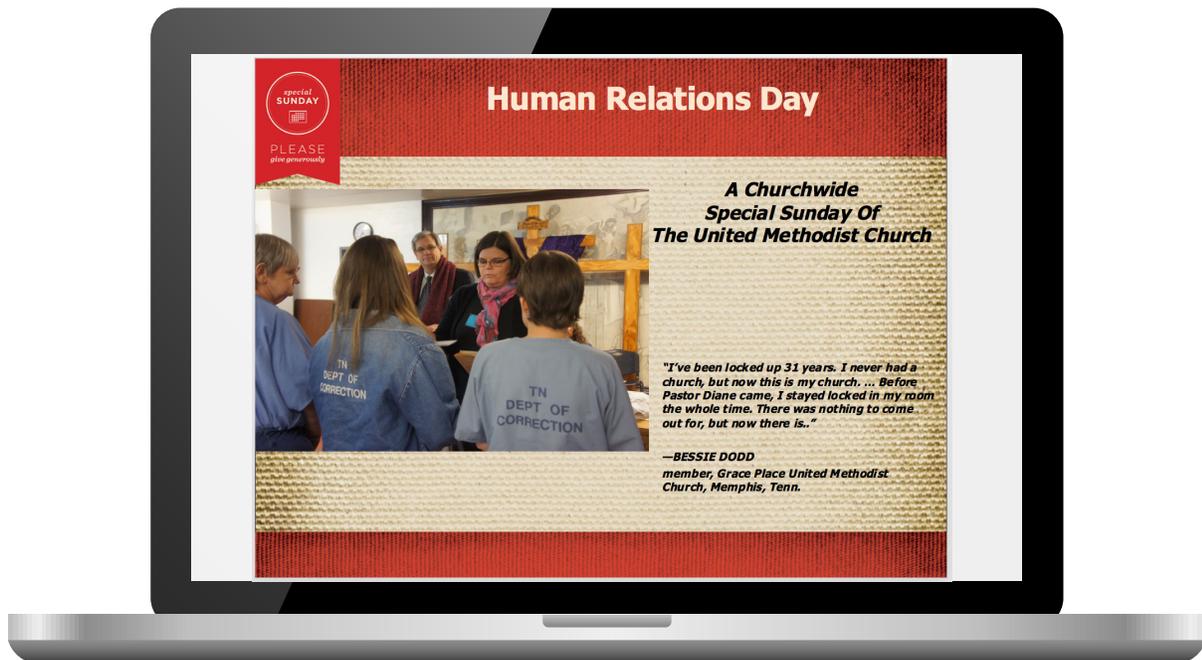
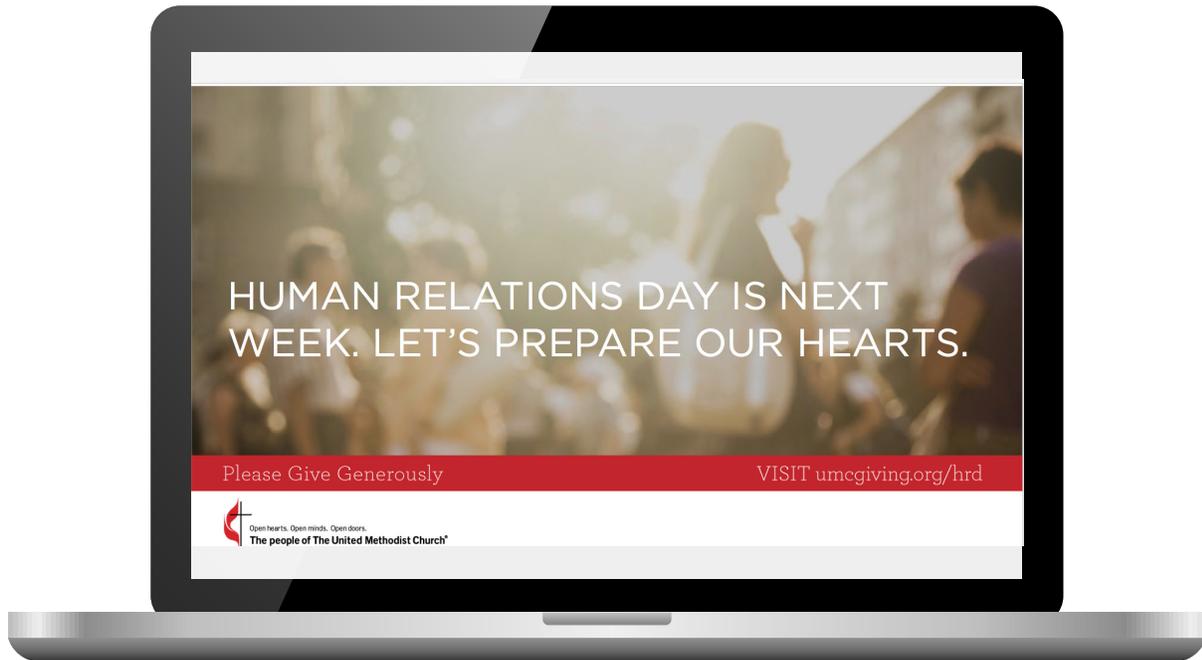


Human Relations Day PowerPoints

<http://bit.ly/HRD-ResourceKit>

Offering slides

About Human Relations Day

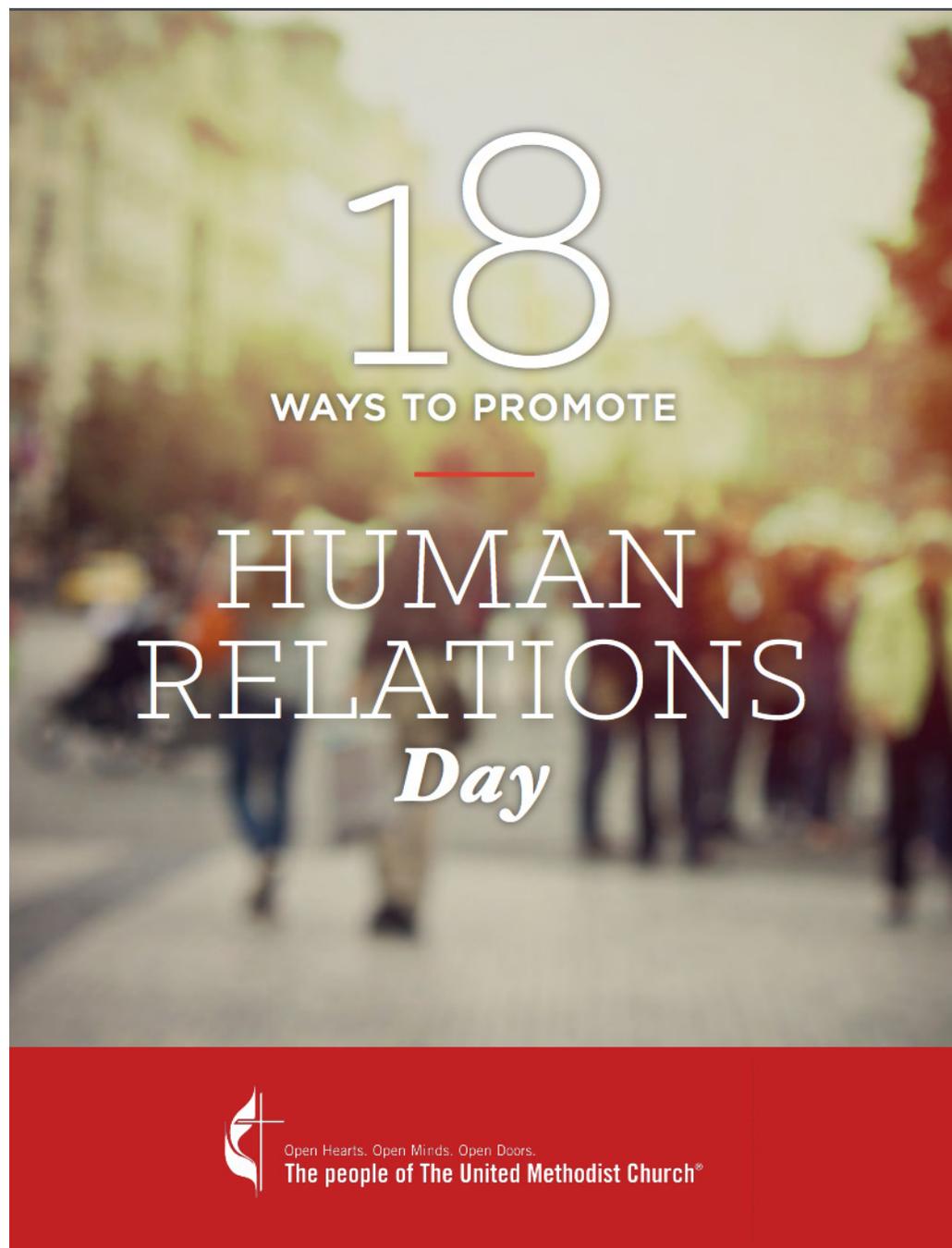


Human Relations Day

E-book

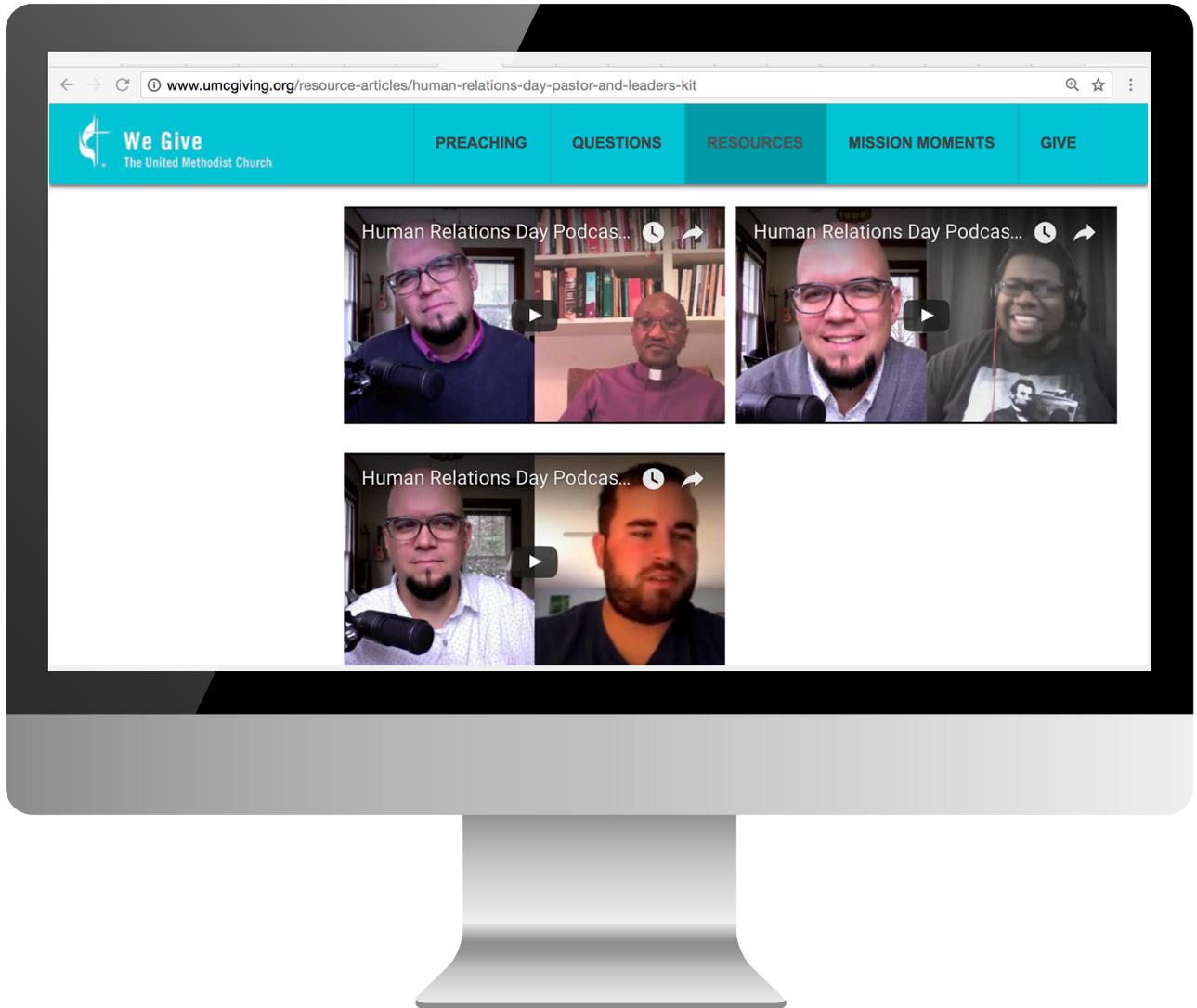
<http://bit.ly/HRD-ResourceKit>

18 Ways to Promote Human Relations Day



Human Relations Day Podcasts

<http://bit.ly/HRD-ResourceKit>



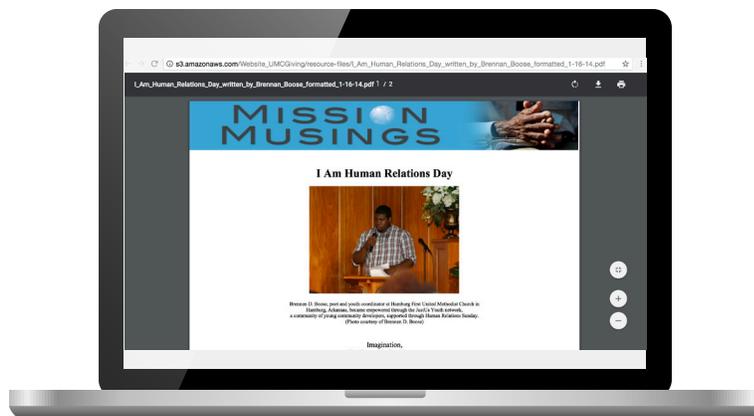
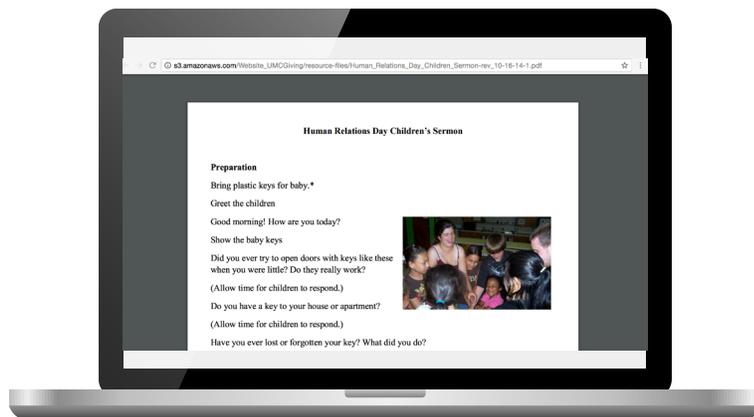
Human Relations Day Children's Resources

<http://bit.ly/HRD-ResourceKit>

Children's Sermon #1

Children's Sermon #2

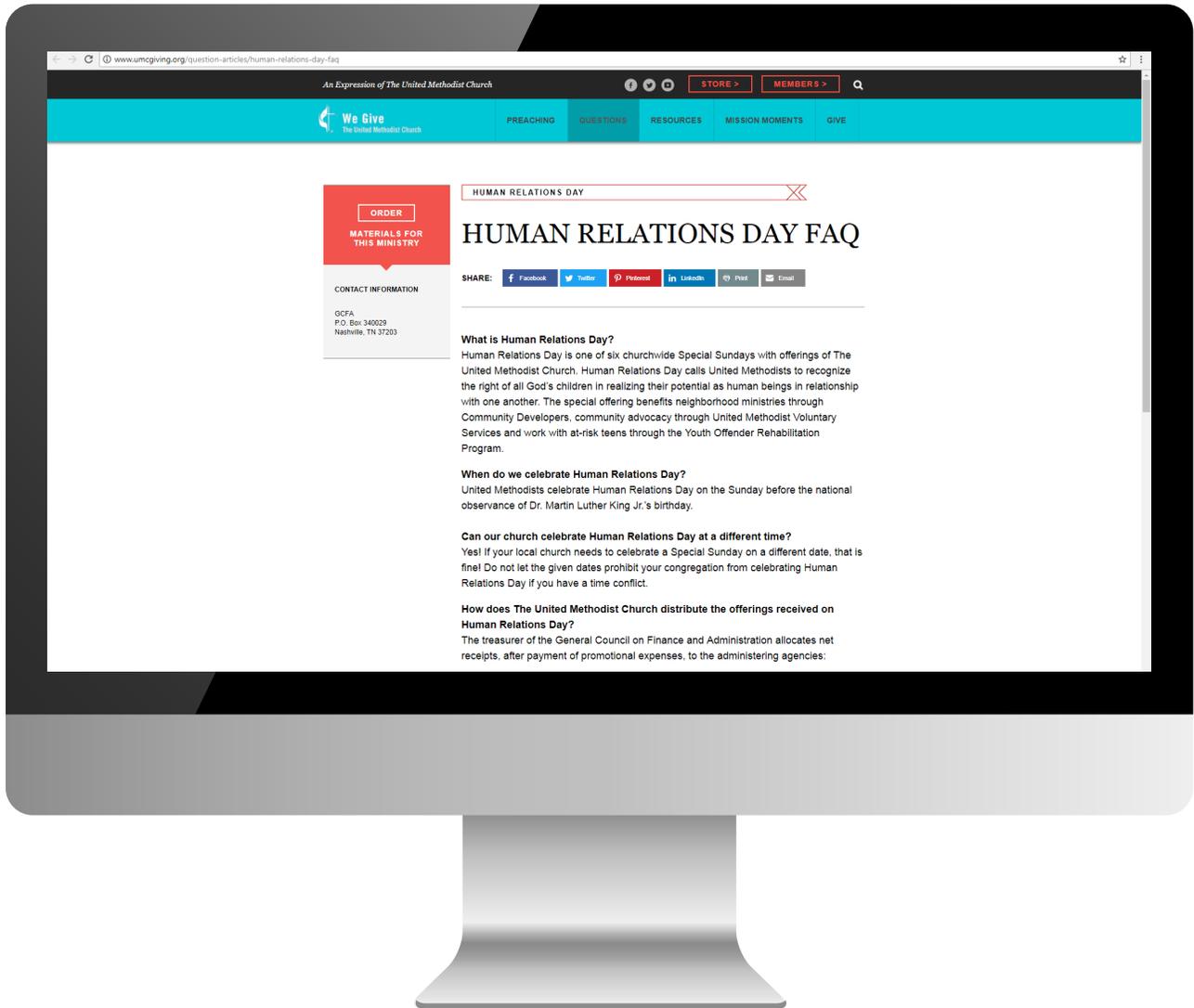
Human Relations Day Poem by Brennan Boose, JustUs Youth Network



Human Relations Day

FAQ

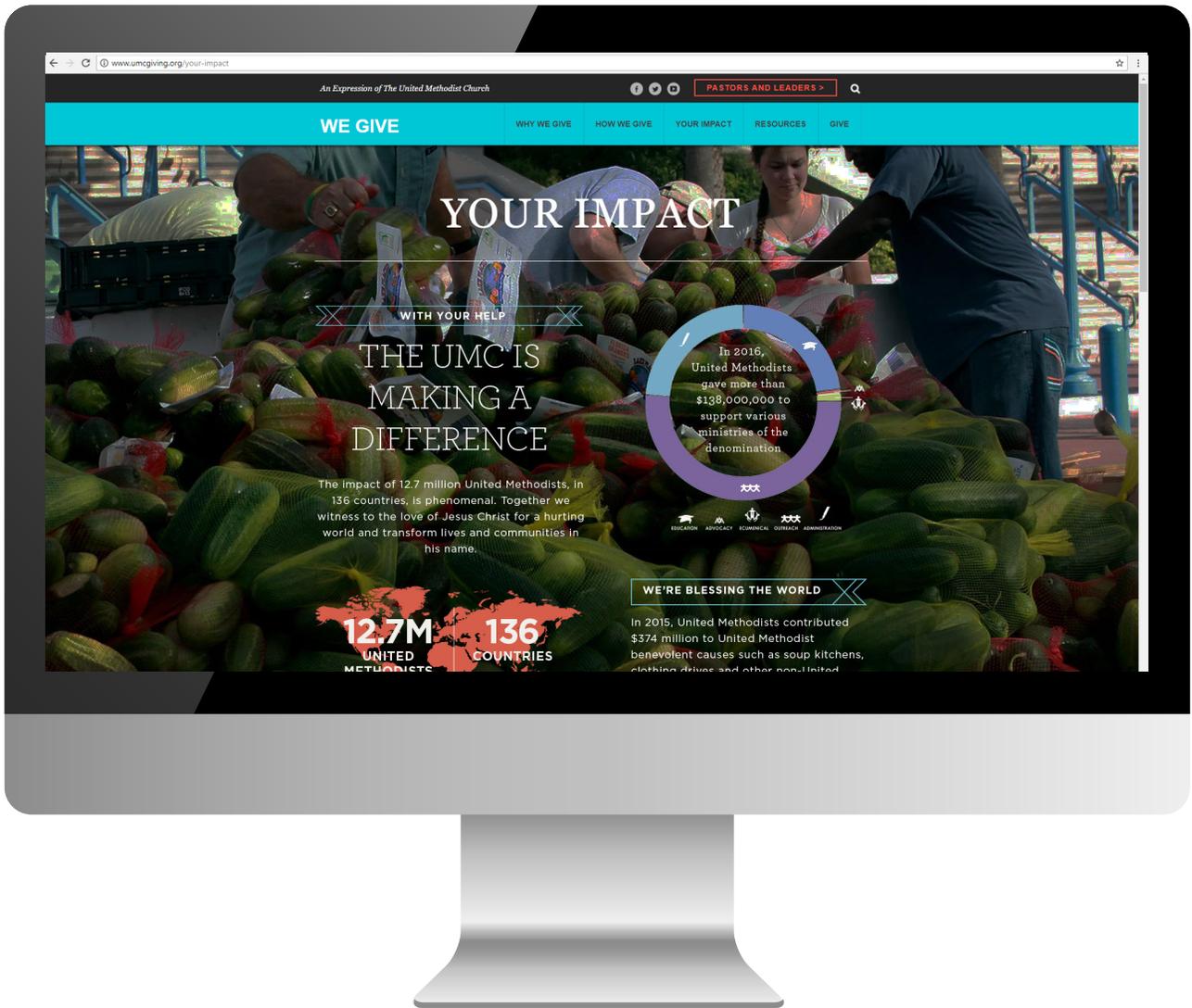
<http://bit.ly/HRD-FAQ>



Human Relations Day

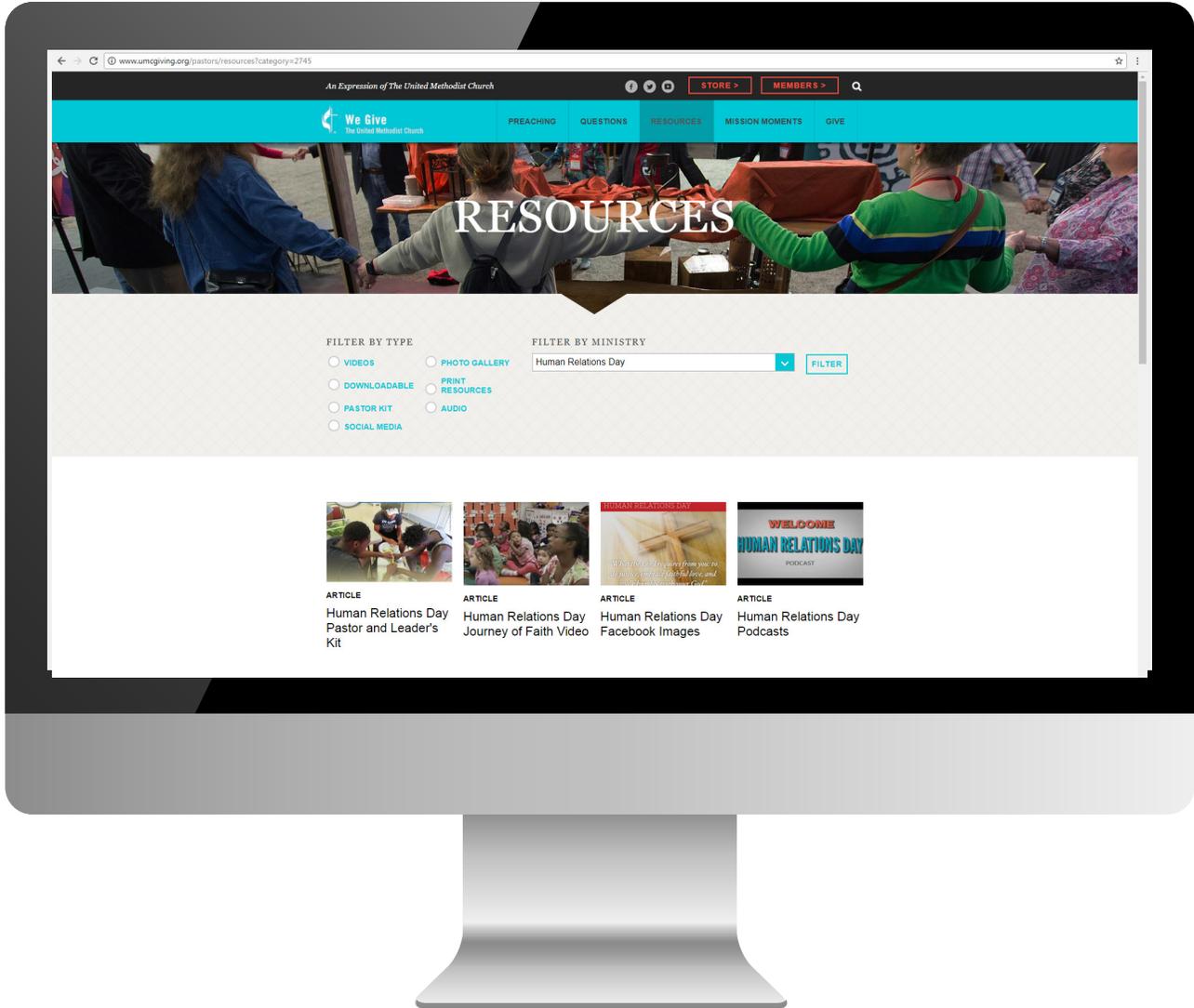
Giving Stories

<http://bit.ly/HRD-Giving-Stories>



Human Relations Day Free Resources

<http://bit.ly/HRD-Resources>



UMCOR Sunday

UMCOR Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. This Sunday calls United Methodists to share the goodness of life with those who hurt.

When we give on UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing), we empower the United Methodist Committee on Relief to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church. Our giving helps the most vulnerable in their darkest days.

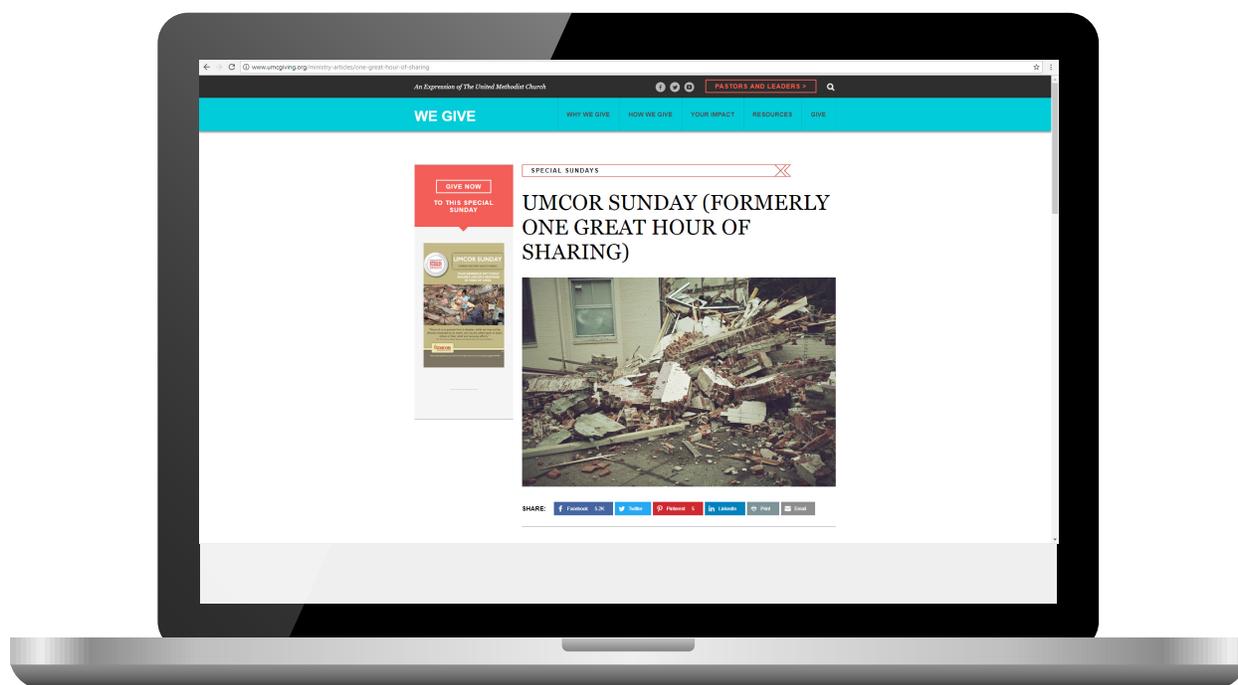
We believe that all people have God-given worth and dignity — without regard to race, religion or gender. On UMCOR Sunday, we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

www.umcsgiving.org/giveUMCOR

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR UMCOR Sunday

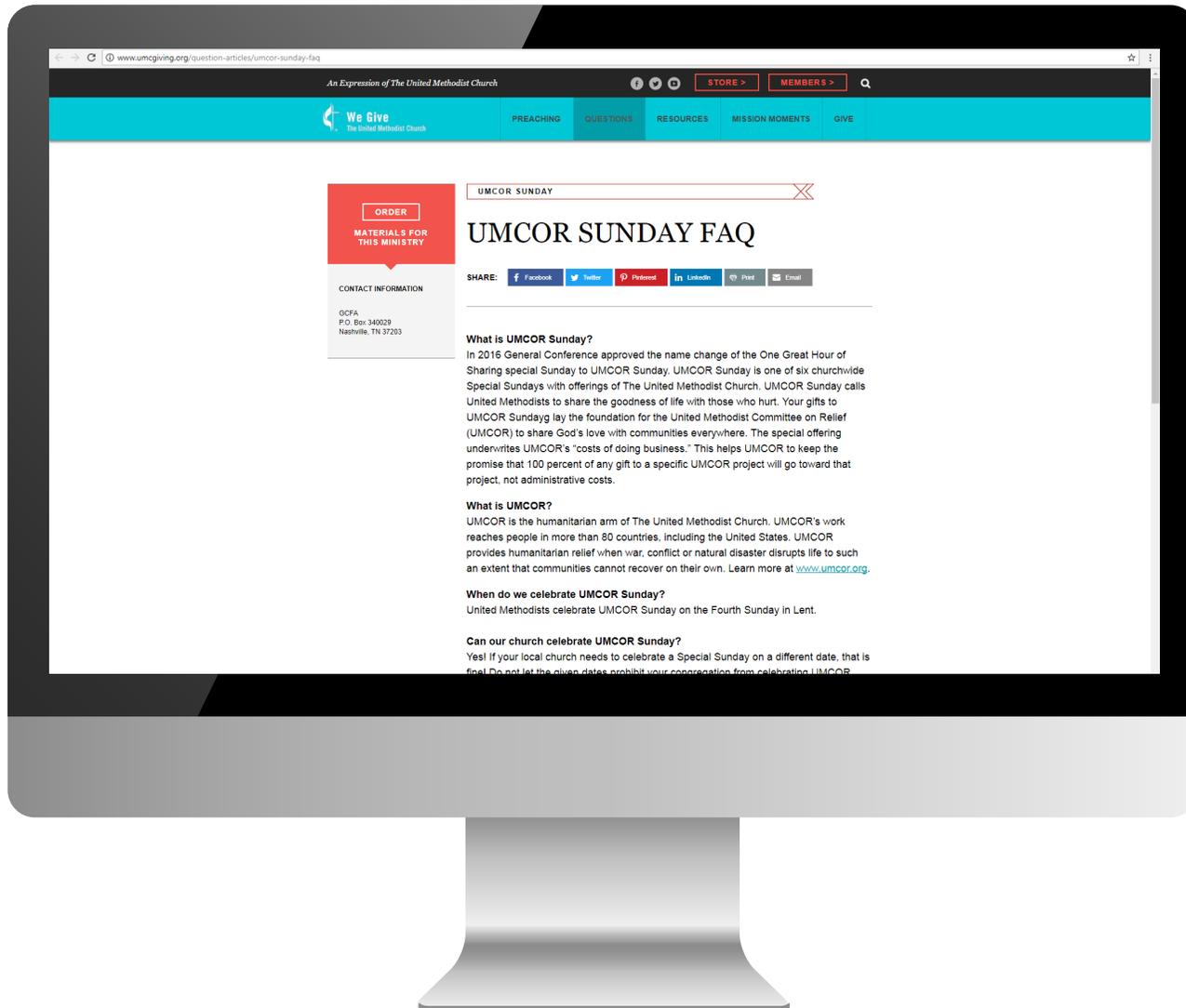
General Info

http://bit.ly/UMCOR-Gen_Info



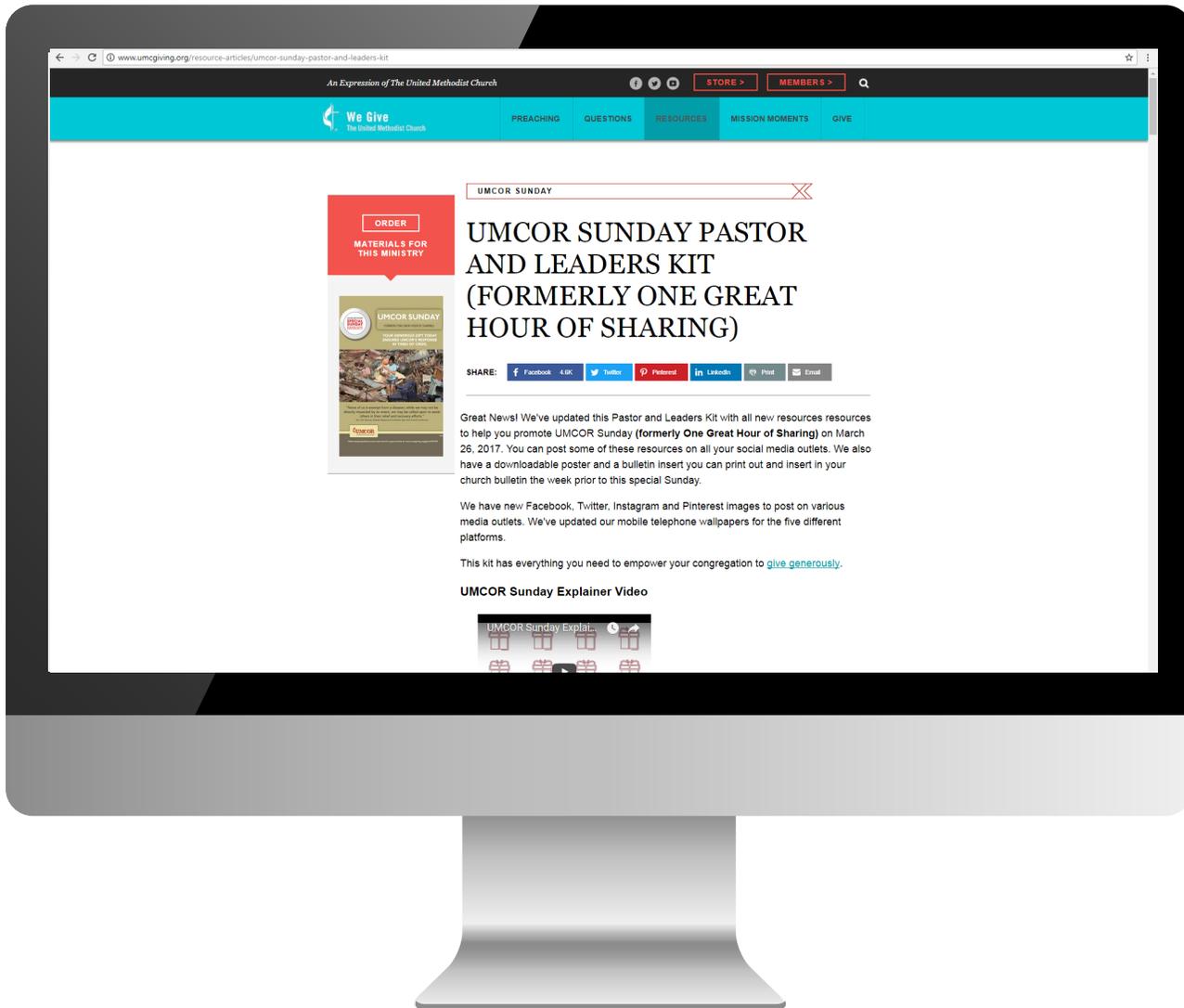
UMCOR Sunday FAQ

<http://bit.ly/UMCOR-FAQ>



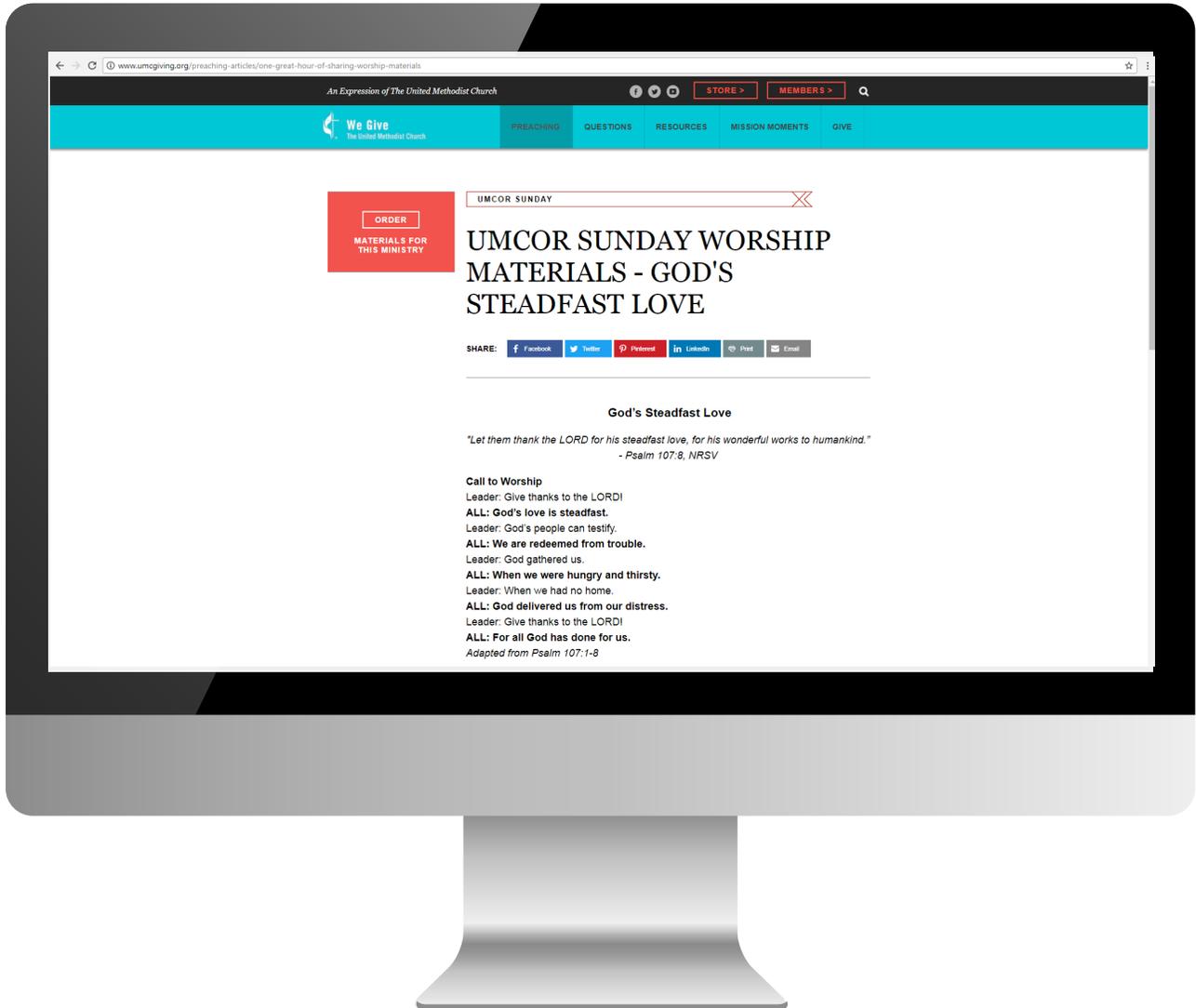
UMCOR Sunday Pastor and Leader's Kit

http://bit.ly/UMCOR_Resources



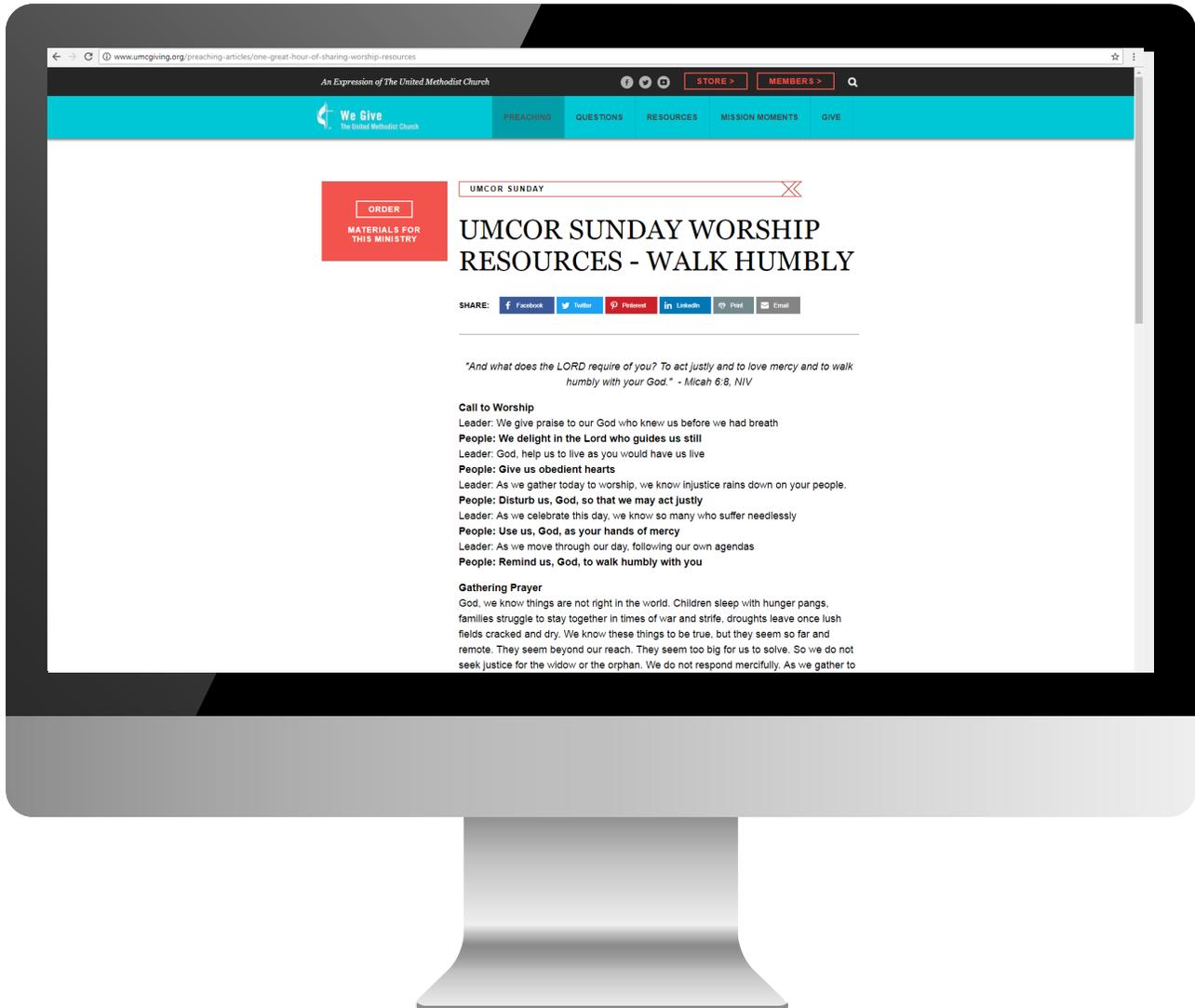
UMCOR Sunday Worship Materials

<http://bit.ly/UMCOR-Worship-Materials>



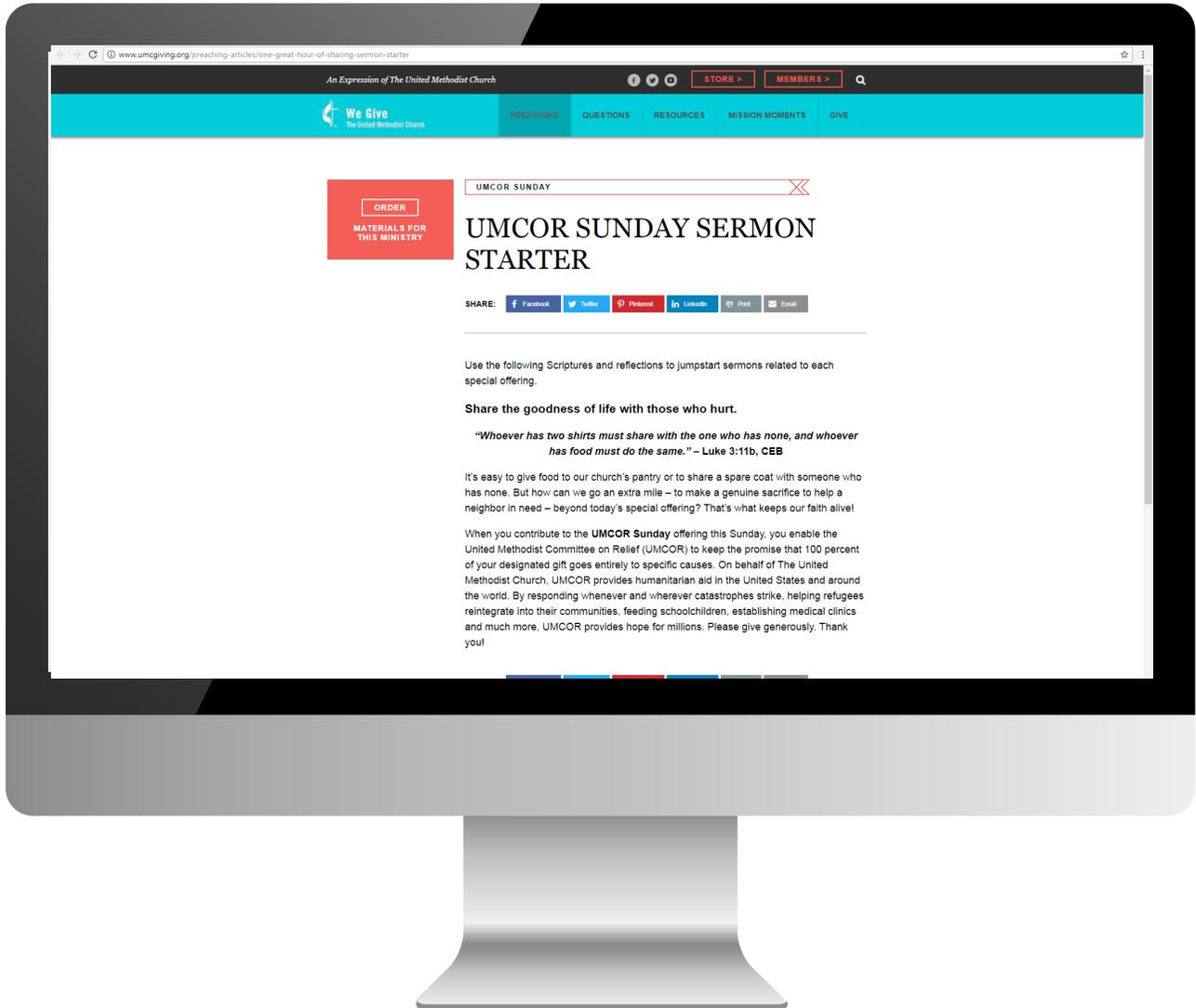
UMCOR Sunday Worship Resources

<http://bit.ly/UMCOR-Worship-Resources>



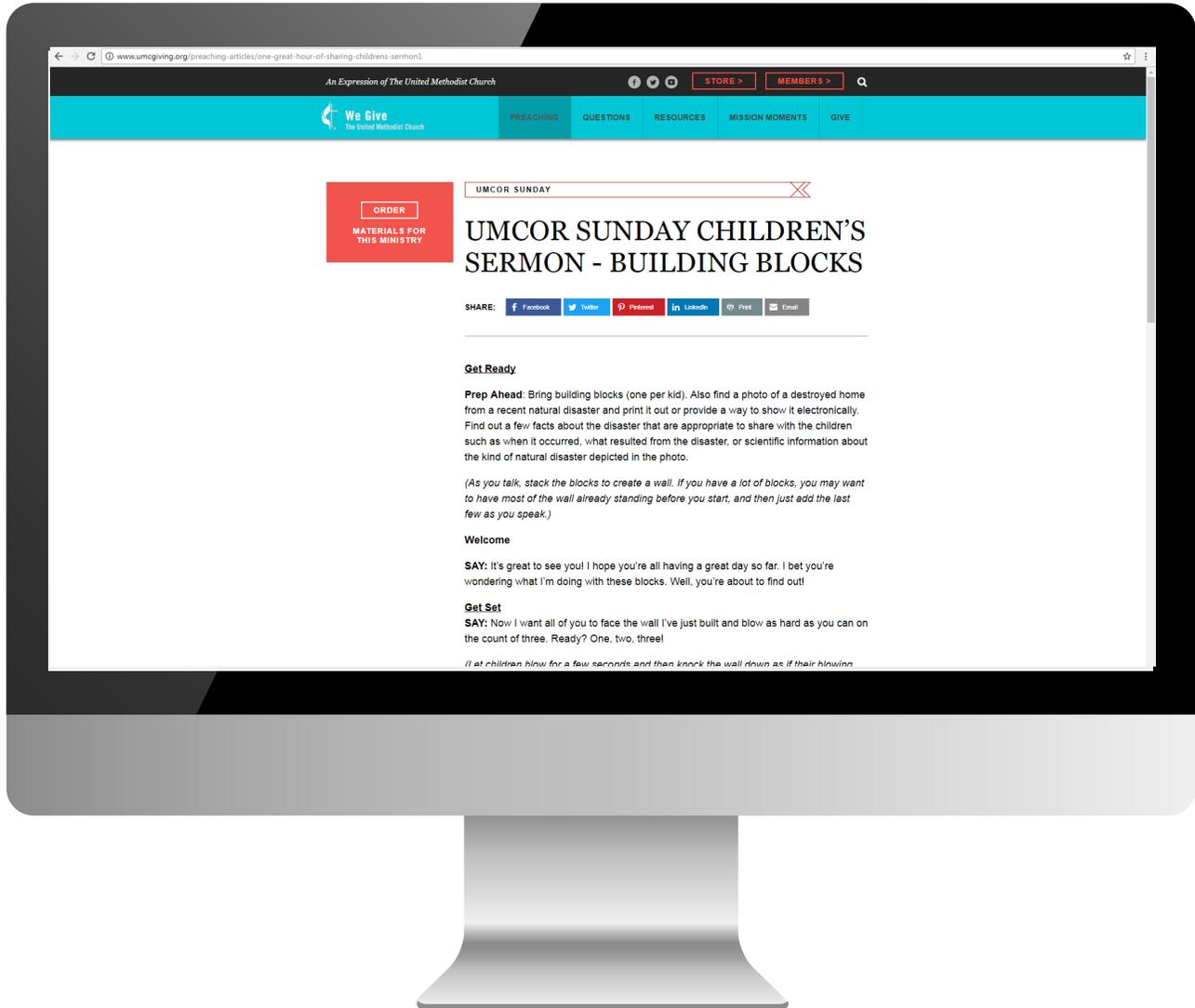
UMCOR Sunday Sharing Sermon Starter

<http://bit.ly/UMCOR-SermonStarter>



UMCOR Sunday Children's Sermon

<http://bit.ly/UMCOR-ChildrenSermon>



Native American Ministries Sunday

Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. Through our giving on Native American Ministries Sunday, we're able to equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students.

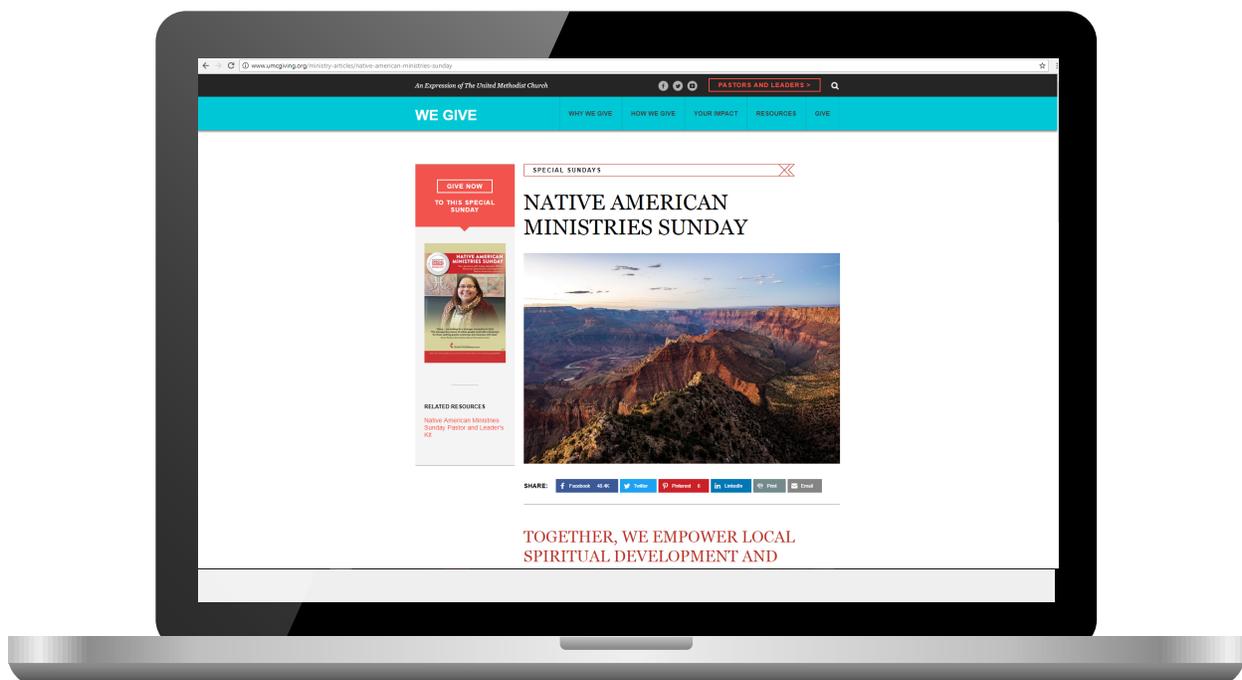
When you support Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who will honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. And you empower congregations and ministries that are finding fresh new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ.

www.umcsgiving.org/giveNAMS

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

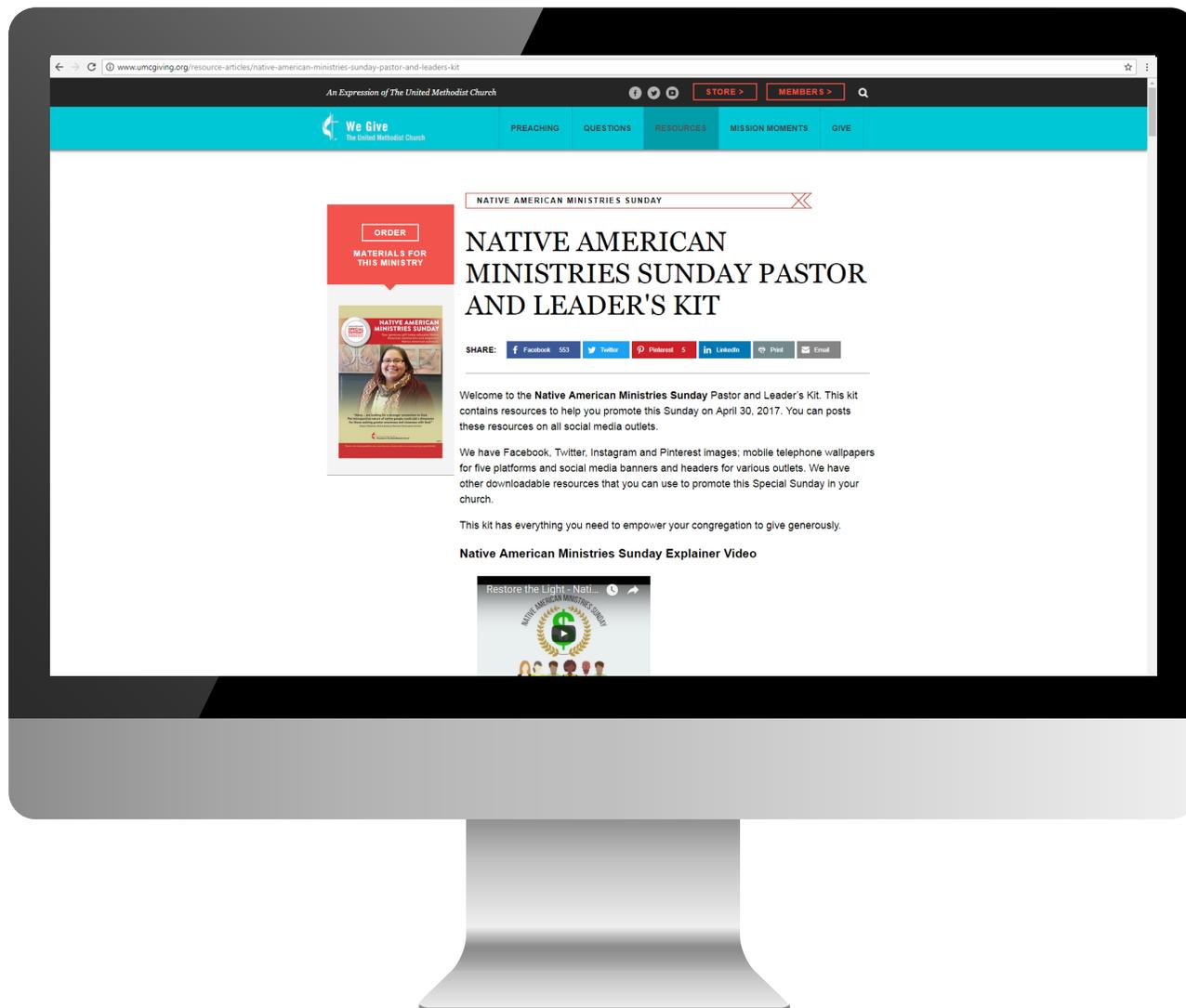
General Info

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-GenInfo>



Native American Ministries Sunday Pastor and Leader's Kit

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>



Native American Ministries Sunday

Social Media Images

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

Share and Care images

Facebook banners (Size: 851 pixels wide x 314 pixels tall)

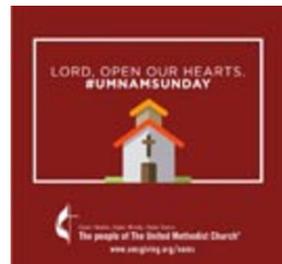
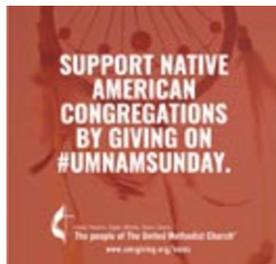
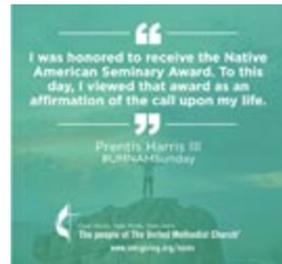
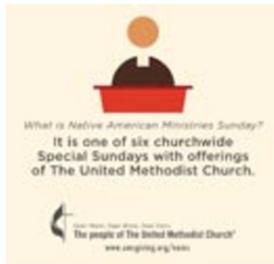
Twitter banners (Size: 1,500 pixels wide x 500 pixels tall)

Instagram images (Size: 510x510)

Pinterest images (Size: 600x800)

Twitter images (Size: 1024x512)

Facebook images (Size: 1200x1200)



Native American Ministries Sunday

Social Media Images

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

Facebook banners (Size: 851 pixels wide x 314 pixels tall)



Twitter banners (Size: 1,500 pixels wide x 500 pixels tall)



Native American Ministries Sunday

Social Media Images

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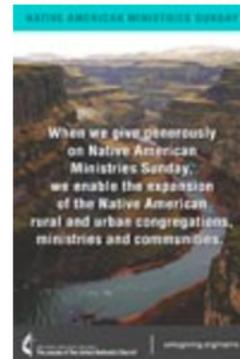
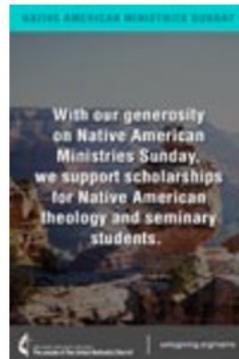
Instagram images (Size: 510x510)



Native American Ministries Sunday Social Media Images

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

Pinterest images (Size: 600x800)

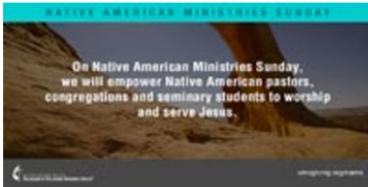


Native American Ministries Sunday

Social Media Images

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

Twitter images (Size: 1024x512)



Native American Ministries Sunday

Social Media Images

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

Facebook images (Size: 1200x1200)



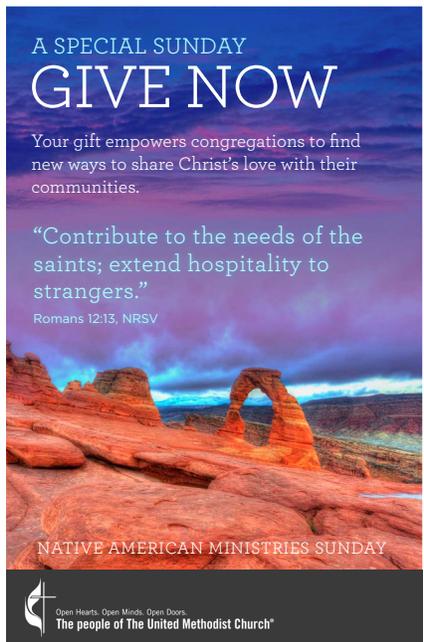
Native American Ministries Sunday

Bulletin Inserts

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

8½-by-11 poster

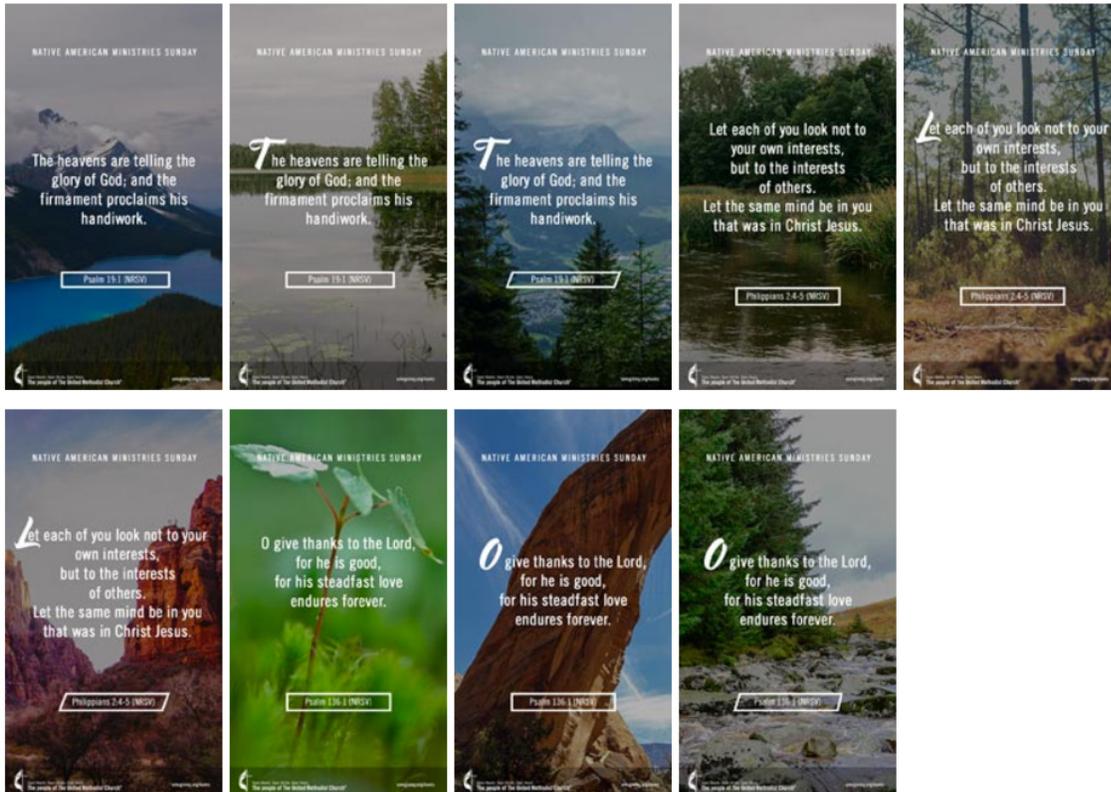
2-sided bulletin insert



Native American Ministries Sunday Smartphone Wallpaper

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

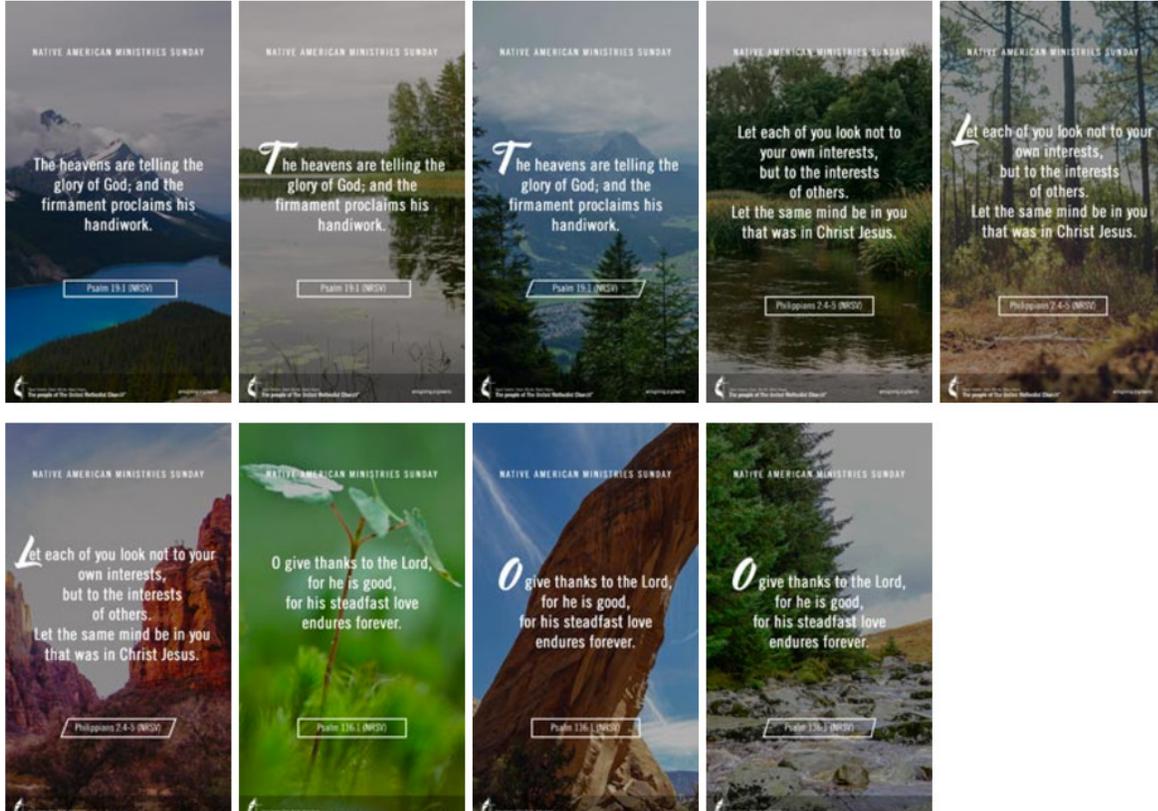
For Apple iPhone 5S (Size: 640x1136)



Native American Ministries Sunday Smartphone Wallpaper

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

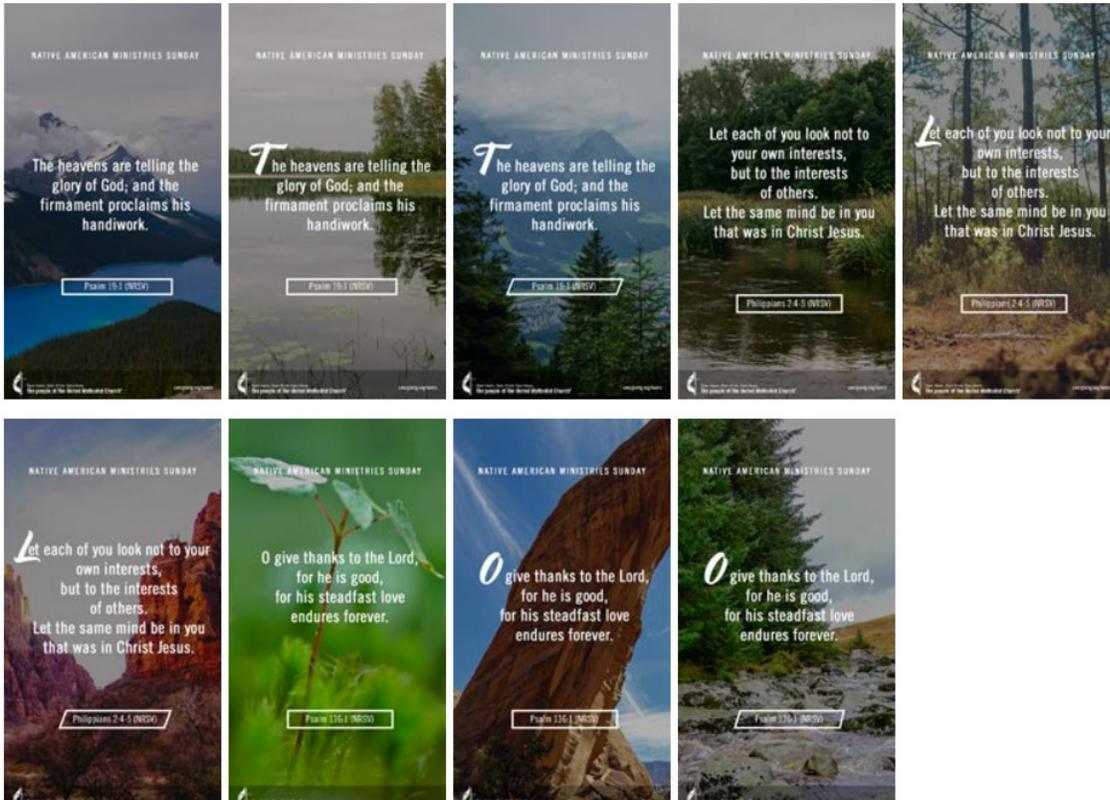
For Apple iPhone 6/6S Plus (Size: 1080x1920)



Native American Ministries Sunday Smartphone Wallpaper

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

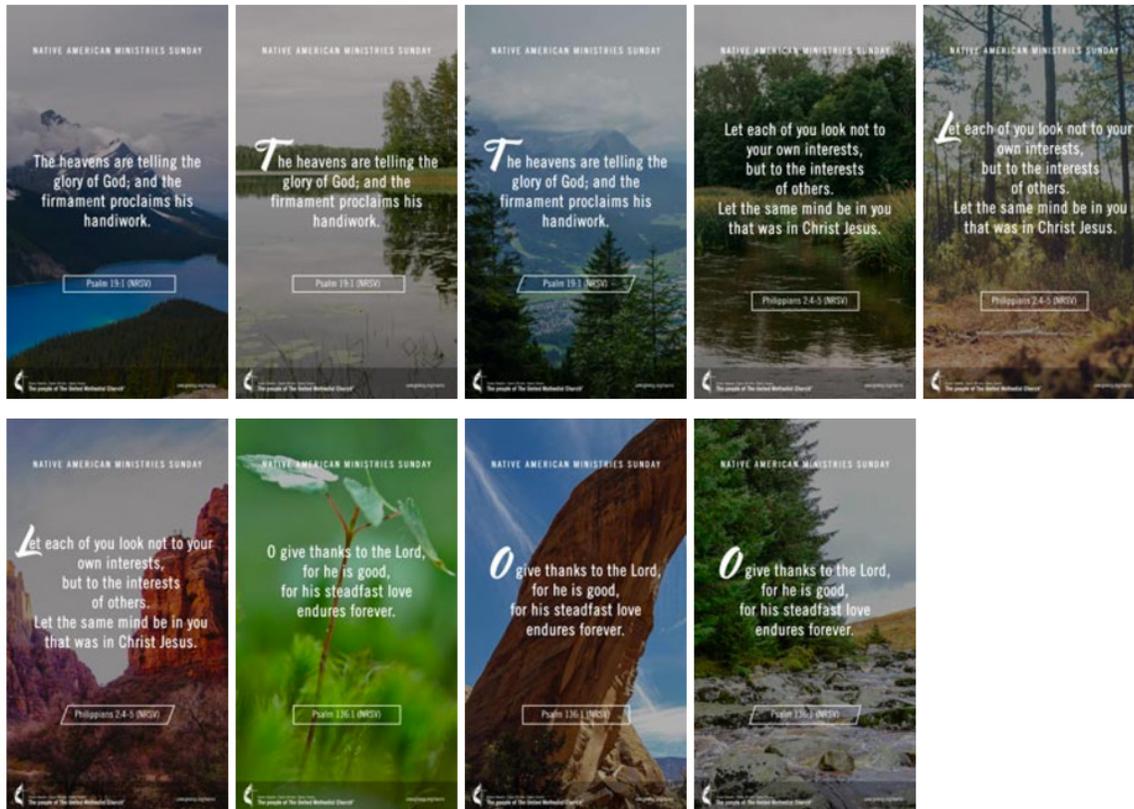
For Apple iPhone 6/6S (Size: 750x1334)



Native American Ministries Sunday Smartphone Wallpaper

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

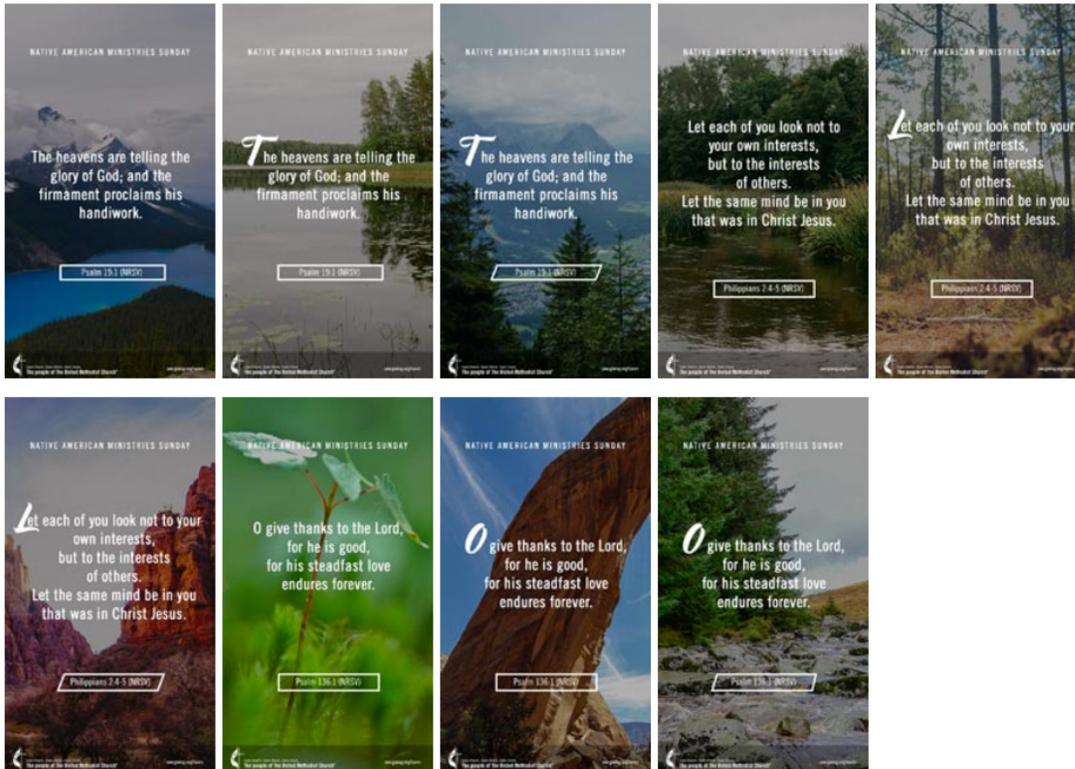
Samsung S6/Edge/Note4 (Size: 1440x2560)



Native American Ministries Sunday Smartphone Wallpaper

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

Xiaomi Redmi 2 (Size: 720x1280)

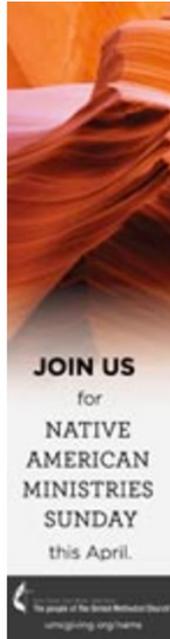


Native American Ministries Sunday Website Banners

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>



(Size: 120x600)



(Size: 160x600)



(Size: 300x600)



(Size: 300x250)



(Size: 468x80)



(Size: 728x90)

Native American Ministries Sunday

10-second videos

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>



Native American Ministries Sunday

10-second videos

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Native American Ministries Sunday

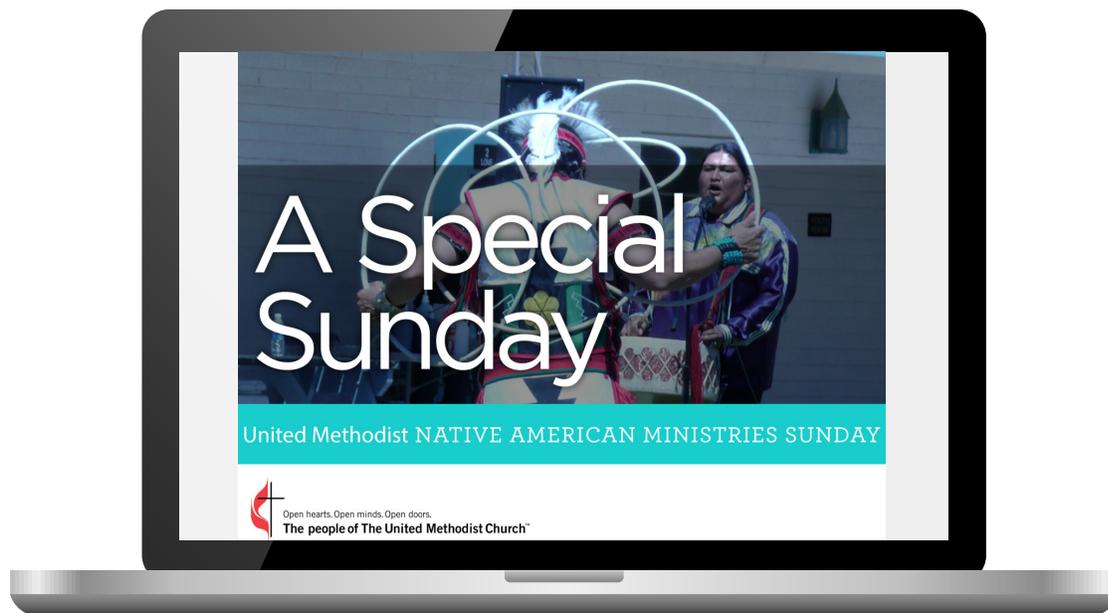
PowerPoints

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

NAMS Offering Slides

About Native American Ministries Sunday

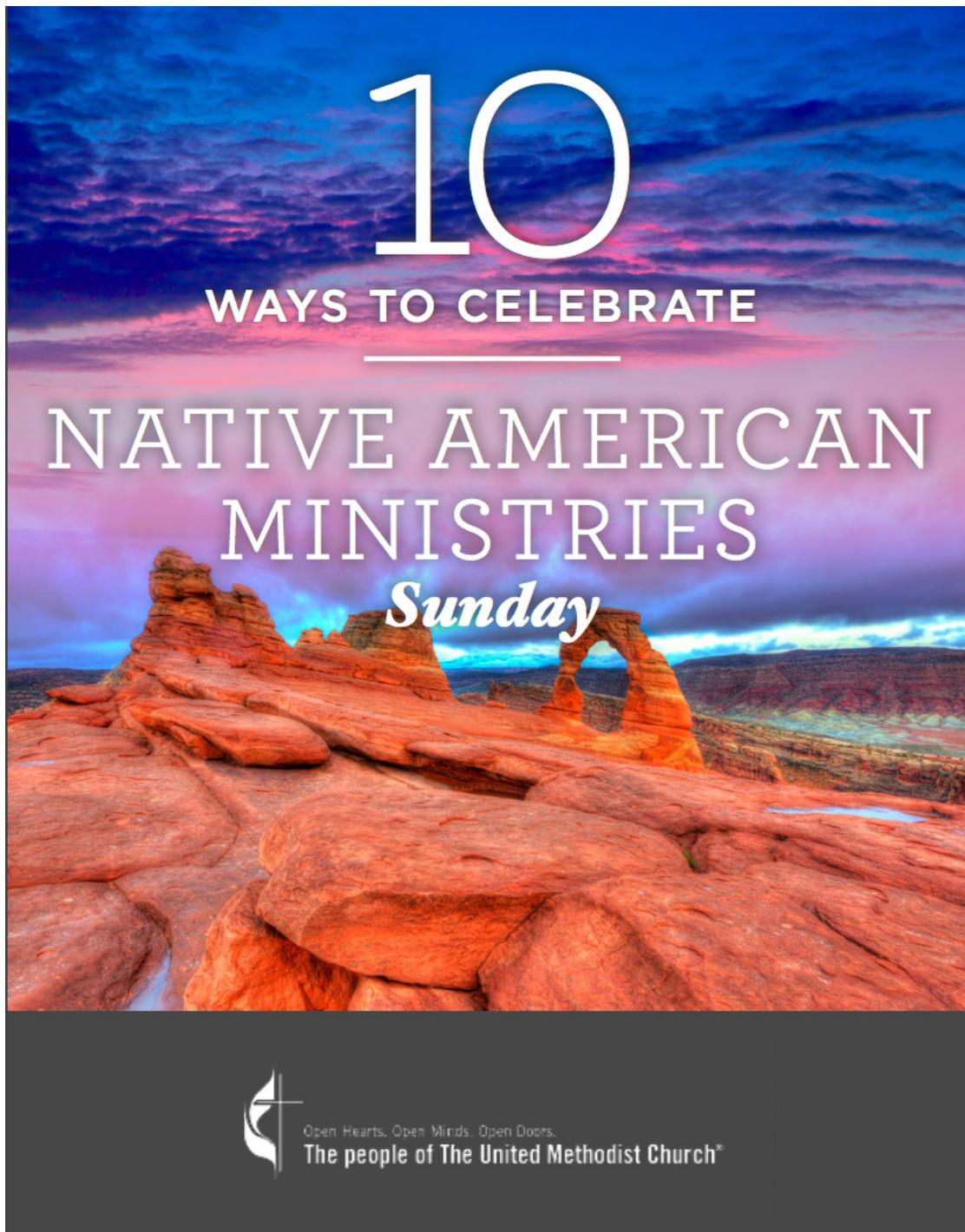
Additional Offering Slides



Native American Ministries Sunday E-book

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

10 Ways to Celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday



Native American Ministries Sunday Infographic

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

Native Americans and The United Methodist Church

NATIVE AMERICANS and The United Methodist Church



149 Number of Native American United Methodist churches

Number of Native American members of The United Methodist Church



21,365



32

Number of annual conferences with more than 100 Native American members

When you give on Native American Ministries Sunday...

50%



stays in the annual conference to develop and strengthen local Native American ministries.*

25%



goes toward scholarships for Native Americans to attend United Methodist schools and other approved schools of theology.

25%



goes toward expansion of the number of target cities in the Native American Urban Initiative.

General NATIVE AMERICAN STATISTICS



5.2M

Population of Native Americans and Alaska Natives



1,698,815

Number of American Indian and Alaska Native family households in 2013

566



Number of federally recognized Indian tribes

29.2%

Percentage of single-race American Indians and Alaska Natives that were in poverty in 2013

*If the annual conference has no Native American ministries, the conference treasurer reports this 50 percent to the General Council on Finance and Administration.
United States Census Bureau, Release Number: CB14-FF-26.F

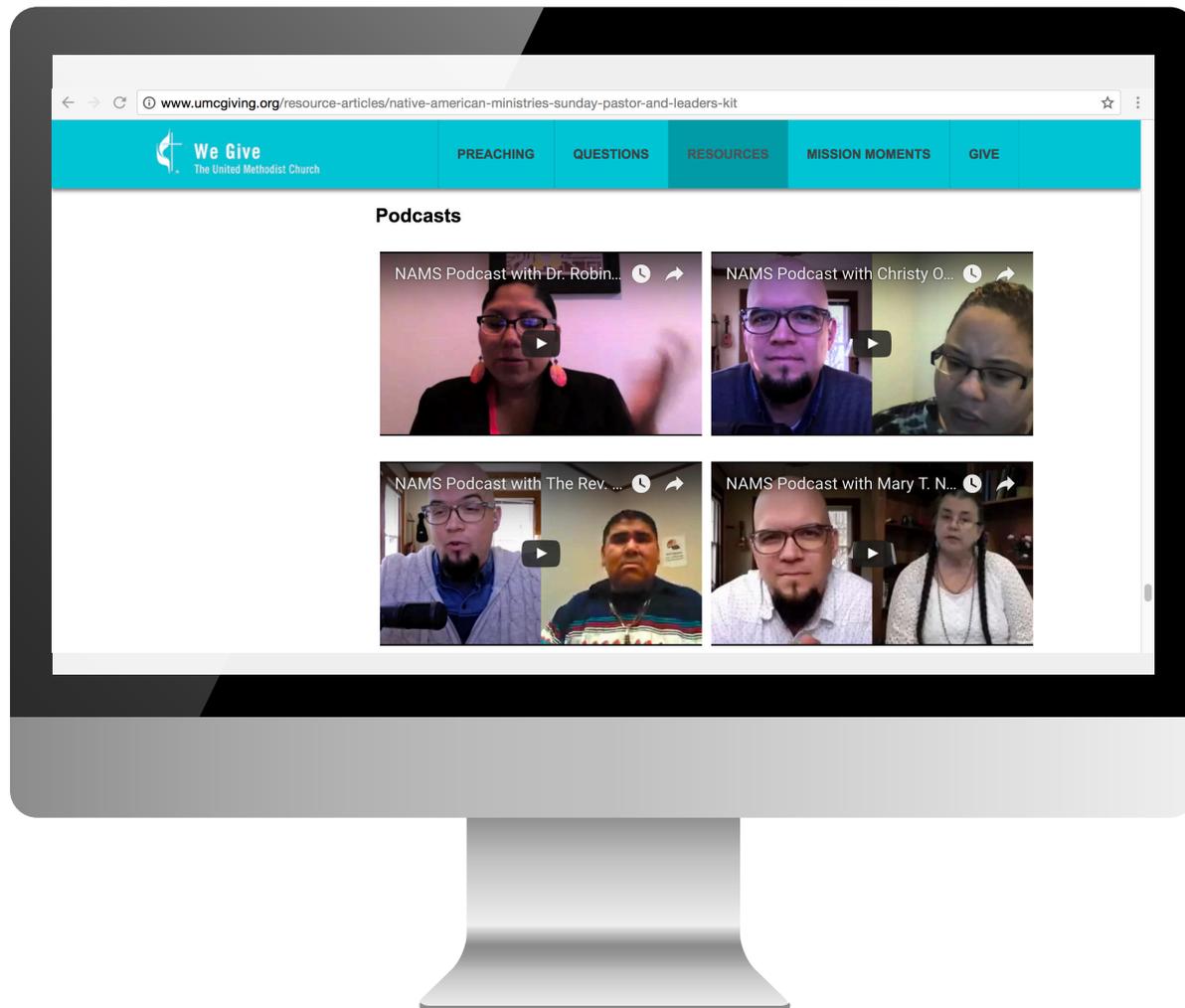
Support Native American Ministries Sunday through your local church or give online at www.umcsgiving.org/nams



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The people of The United Methodist Church™

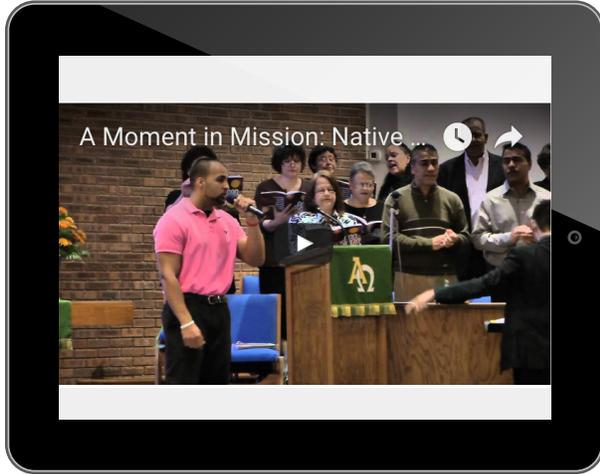
Native American Ministries Sunday Podcasts

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>



Native American Ministries Sunday Videos

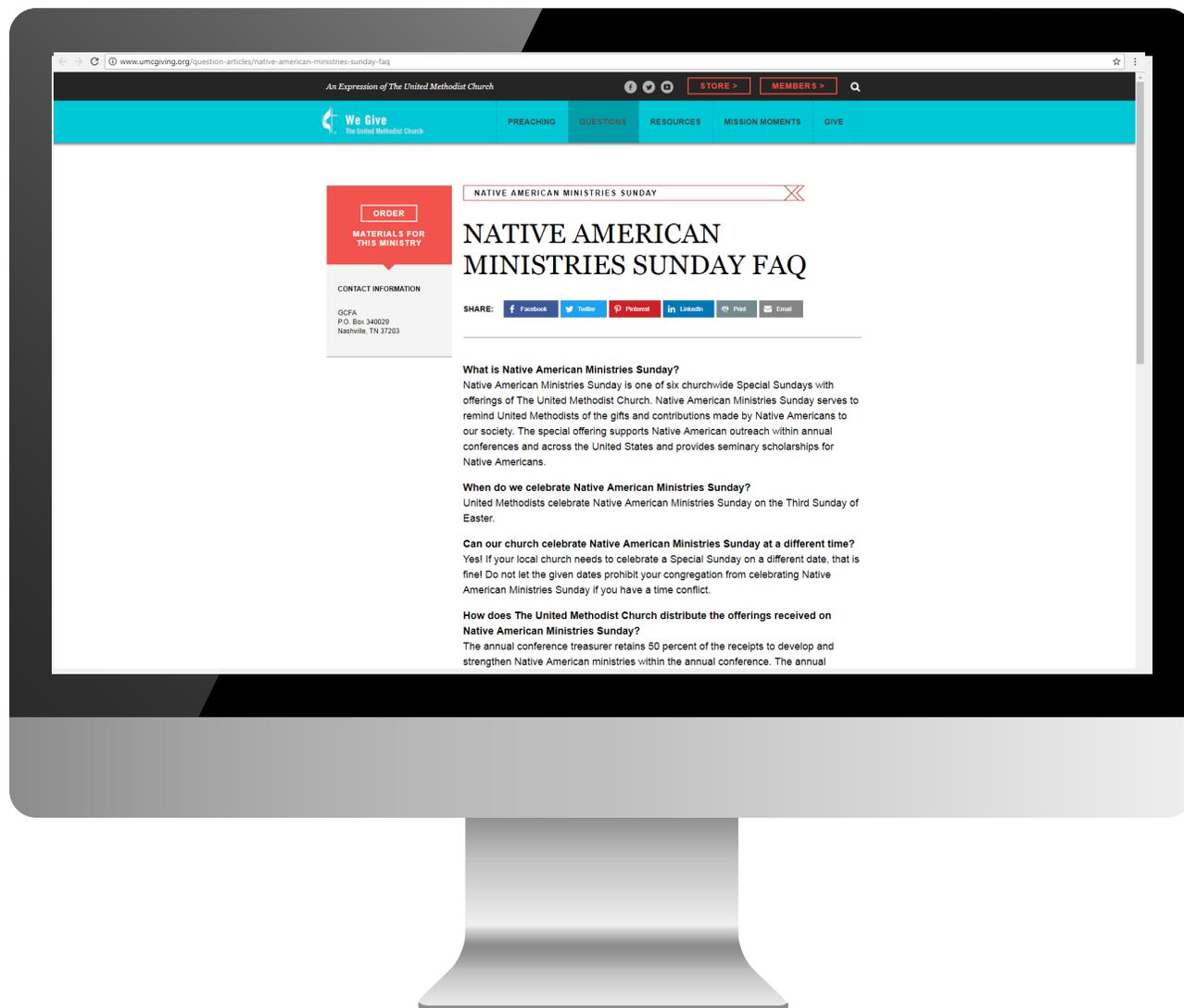
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Native American Ministries Sunday

FAQ

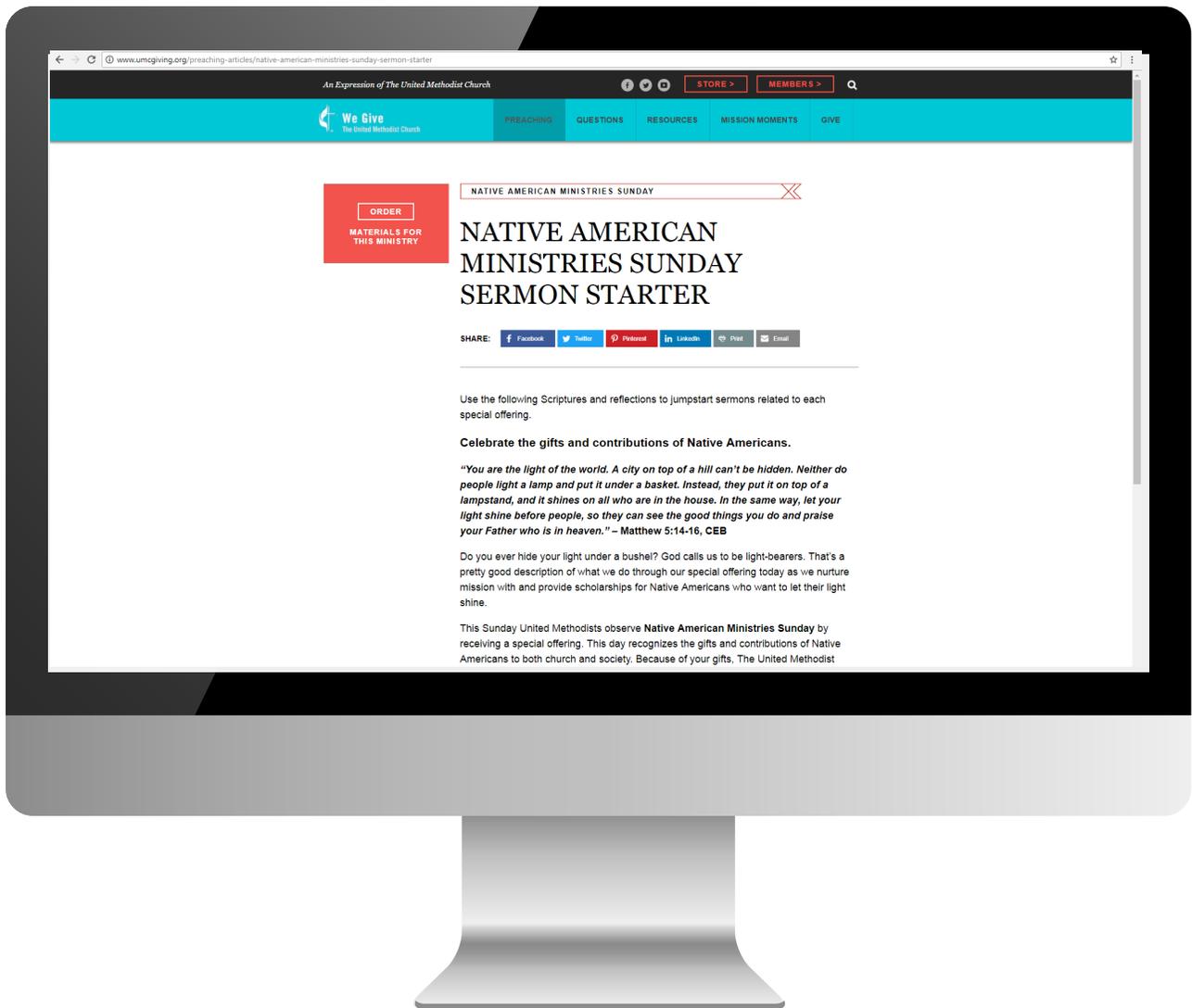
<http://bit.ly/NAMS-FAQ>



Native American Ministries Sunday

Sunday Sermon Starter

<http://bit.ly/NAMS-SermonStarter>



Peace with Justice Sunday

Peace with Justice Sunday enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs.

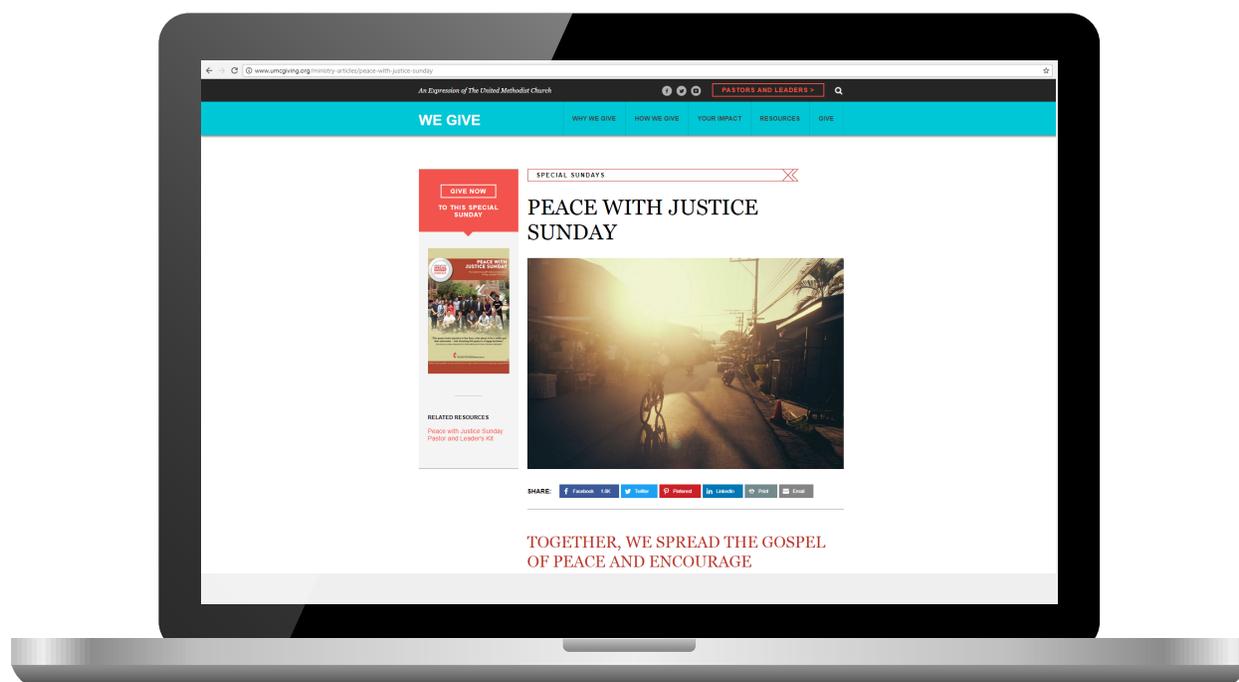
The special offering benefits peace with justice ministries in the annual conference and through the General Board of Church and Society.

www.umcsgiving.org/givePWJS

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

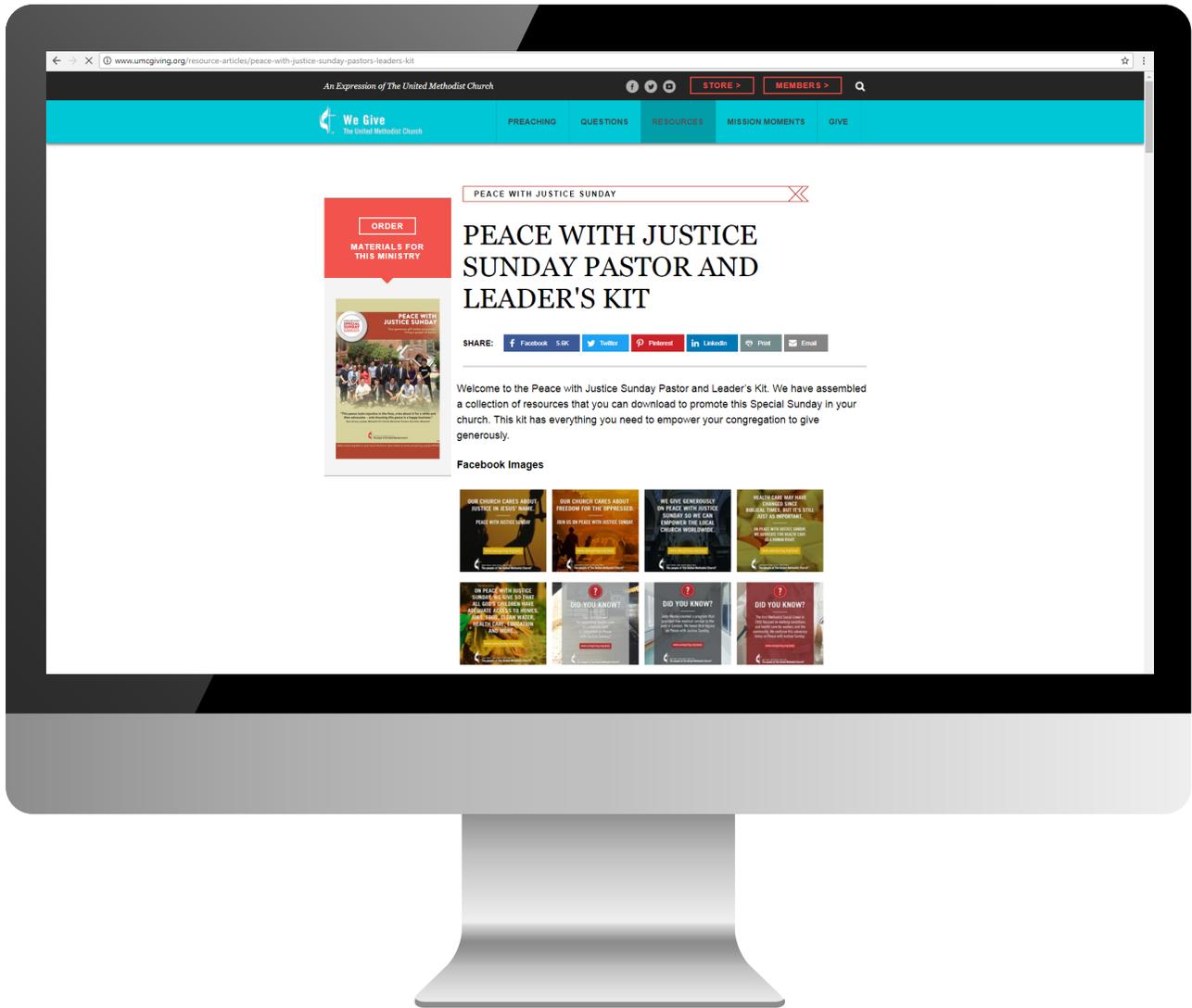
General Info

<http://bit.ly/PWJS-GenInfo>



Peace with Justice Sunday Pastor and Leader's Kit

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Peace with Justice Sunday

Infographic Video

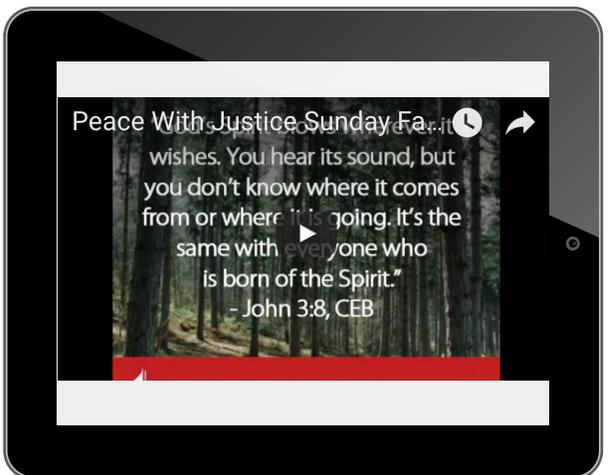
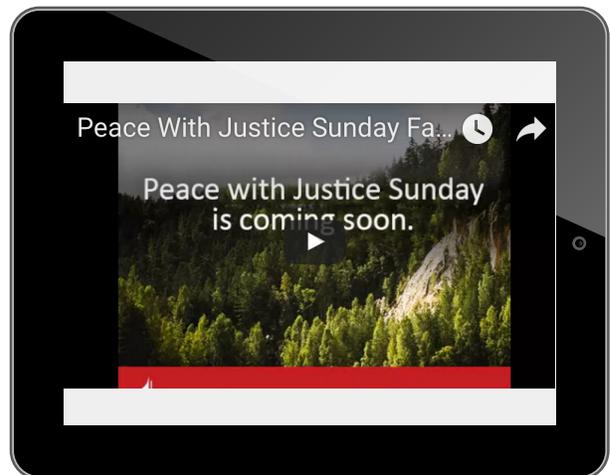
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Peace with Justice Sunday

Social Media Videos

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Peace with Justice Sunday

Social Media Videos

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Peace with Justice Sunday

Children's Sermons

<http://bit.ly/PWJS-PastorKit>

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Preparation:
Find instructions for folding a paper crane (www.sadako.com is a good source). Print enough copies for the number of children you expect to be in your group. Following the instructions, fold a paper crane in advance and bring it with you.

Greet the children:
Good morning! How are you today?

[Show a paper crane.]
Do you know what this is?
[Allow the children to respond.]

It's a crane. Have you ever seen a crane? Well, a crane is a large bird with long legs and a long neck. Of course, you can see this is not a real crane but a model made out of paper.

For many years, people in Japan have learned how to make cranes and almost any other thing you can think of by taking a plain sheet of paper and folding it into all kinds of shapes. Have any of you ever done this? The Japanese people call it origami. And people from Japan taught origami to so many other people that you can go all over the world and find people who like to make things like this from paper.

But of all the things you can make, there's a special story behind this crane. The story starts with a little girl who was about the age of some of you.

Her name was Sadako, and she lived in a city in Japan called Hiroshima. About 60 years ago, the United States was in a terrible war with Japan. Near the end of the war, the United States developed a bomb so powerful it could destroy an entire city — with just one bomb. Hiroshima, where Sadako lived, became the first city ever attacked with this bomb.

Well, the atomic bomb brought the awful war to an end. But it also destroyed the city of Hiroshima. It killed thousands and thousands of people, and it made many others very sick. Sadako was one of the people who got sick because of the bomb.

Sadako had heard an old story that if you were sick, you would get well if you could make a thousand paper cranes. So while she was in the hospital, she began making them, one after another. People learned about her illness and what she was doing, and before long people from all over the world were making cranes and sending them to Hiroshima, hoping Sadako would get well.

Sadako lived for 10 years after the bombing. Then, unfortunately, she died. But people around the world kept making cranes and sending them to Hiroshima, by the hundreds of thousands. The cranes became a symbol of peace. When people make paper cranes, it's a way of saying they hope the time will come when there are no more terrible wars, and no one dies or becomes ill because of bombs.

[Optional: If you feel comfortable in your ability, demonstrate to the children how to fold a paper crane as you conclude your children's time.]

The Bible reminds us that all of us — even our enemies — are God's children and made in God's image. How many of you have brothers or sisters?
[Ask for a show of hands. Include the adults in the congregation, too.]

How many of you have ever fought with your brother or sister?
[Again, ask for a show of hands.]

Did it make your mom or dad happy to see you arguing? I think it makes God sad when God's children fight. That's why God calls us to be peacemakers, to work for peace in our world. That's part of our job as Christians.

Today is a special Sunday in The United Methodist Church. All across the United States, we're receiving a special offering today.
[Hold up the special offering envelope if your church is using one.]

Whatever you give today, the church will use the money from this offering in special ways to work for peace in our world.

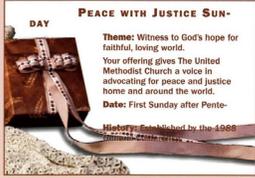
I also want you to take home this paper. *[Hand out sheet with instructions for making cranes.]*

It tells how you can make your own paper crane. It even has an address if you'd like to send a crane to Hiroshima. Or you can keep your crane so you'll have a reminder every day that God wants you to be a peacemaker.

Let's pray:
God of peace, we remember Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." Help us to work for peace in our home, in our neighborhood, in our school, in our town and in our world. We love you. Amen.

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Theme: Witness to God's hope for faithful, loving world.
Your offering gives The United Methodist Church a voice in advocating for peace and justice home and around the world.
Date: First Sunday after Pentecost
History: Established by the 1998 General Conference



PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY CHILDREN'S SERMON



Scripture: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8b, NRSV

Materials:

- A picture of the scales of justice
- The Scripture written on a large piece of paper or projected so the children and the congregation can read it together (if appropriate).

Lesson:

Today we're celebrating Peace with Justice Sunday. It's a time to remember how God wants us to treat other people — especially those others treat unfairly. Let's read what we're supposed to do. (Read Scripture.) The word "require" means "ask."

Ask the children questions about what is required of them:

What are some things your parents ask of you? (Children respond)

What are some things your teachers ask of you? (Children respond)

Why do they ask you to do these things? (Children respond)

We just heard what God requires of us: to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Let's talk a bit more about God's requirements:

What does justice mean? (Children respond)

Justice means being fair in all we do. If we see something happening that's unfair, like a classmate being blamed for something he or she didn't do, we should speak up and tell the truth.

The word "justice" is often represented by a set of scales like the ones in this picture (show picture). If one side is heavier than the other is, the scale gets off balance. Justice means everything is in balance. To help you remember justice, I want you to hold both of your arms out as if you're the scale.

God also requires us to "love kindness." What does it mean to be kind? (Children respond)

Peace with Justice Sunday Children's Sermon

Let Us Live in Peace

Leader: In one of our Bible readings today (2 Corinthians 13:11b, NRSV), the apostle Paul tells us to "agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you." What does that mean to you?

Children respond.

What does it mean when I say, "Agree with one another, and live in peace"? Does it mean you should agree with everyone?

Children respond.

No, it does not mean that. But it means you should not argue with your friends, family or anyone else. You can disagree peacefully, while still being kind to others and treating people like brothers and sisters in Christ.

So what does it mean to live in peace?

Children respond.

It means not arguing or getting upset or angry. It means not fighting or picking on anyone or threatening to hurt someone. It means you should not be a bully.

What is a bully?

Children respond.

Has anyone ever bullied, threatened or picked on you?

Children respond.

Has anyone here ever been a bully to someone else or threatened to hurt another person? Be honest now. Do you know what the word "intimidate" means?

Children respond.

It means to cause fear or to make someone afraid. Bullies do that, don't they? And that's not good. That's not living in peace with others. Instead, it hurts. It hurts the person who is bullied, and it hurts the bully, too. Why?

Children respond.

Because it's a sin that separates the bully from God.

The God of love and peace and justice is with people who live in peace. And the bully is away from God, all alone. Where would you rather be?

Peace with Justice Sunday

Preparation: Bring small prizes. Possibilities include a bouncy ball, sticker, pencil, etc. Bring enough for each child to have a prize at the end, but only have one prize visible.

Greet the children as they come forward, and then wait until all the children are seated and attention is focused on you.

I just want some peace and quiet! *(pause)* Have any of you heard a grownup say that? Why do grownups say that?

Allow children to respond.

What do you think peace really is?

Allow children to respond. Children will likely say things like "quiet" or "not fighting."

That's right. Peace might be quiet, and peace is not fighting. Peace is everyone getting along. Do you always get along with people around you?

Allow children to respond.

Peace is hard sometimes, isn't it? It's especially hard when we don't get our way. Would it be easy to keep the peace if I were to give (name of child) a prize and I didn't give (name another child) anything? What might you say?

Direct question to the second child who did not get a prize, but allow others to respond as well. Children should respond with something like "that's not fair." If they don't, help them get there by saying, "If I didn't get a prize, I might say, 'that's not...'" and let the children finish.

That's right. It's not fair. When something isn't fair, people might fight about it and then there wouldn't be peace anymore. If everything were fair, would it be easier to have peace?

Allow children to respond.



Peace with Justice Sunday

Sermon Starters

<http://bit.ly/PWJS-PastorKit>

Peace With Justice: Band-Aids Aren't Enough!

Rev. Roger Wolsey, Heritage UMC,
Amos 2:6-7a; 4:1-2; 5:7,10-12; 6:1, 3-7, 12b & 5:24

It's been said that a Christian pastors job is to "comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable" - and well - as our friends from Texas might put it - I'm fixin' to do a little bit of *both* of those things this mornin' ! ;)

It seems like my 3 year old boy, Andrew, needs Band-Aids all the time! I'm tellin' ya, the kid has *lots* of boo-boos and owies! - Nearly one a day! And its almost always due to him wiping-out in the driveway on the green plastic scooter that a *certain* set of grandparents bought him! ;)

I could just keep putting those Band-aids on him day after day, or I could do something to prevent those injuries from taking place in the first place! I could try to find him some little toddler-sized knee pads;

I could buy him some private green plastic scooter lessons; I could try to make a new rule not allowing him to ride it anymore, - *Yeah, right!* ;) Or, I could "accidentally" forget where that green plastic scooter is one night and then "accidentally" back-over it with our minivan the next morning! ...- *Pretty tempting!* ;)

The point is, there's all kinds of options, and I don't really have to keep on putting those Band-aids on him if I can prevent him from having all of those accidents to begin with!

It reminds me of a parable I know. One day a man from a village was standing by a river and he saw a baby floating in the water. He let out a yell, dove into the water, swam out, grabbed the child, and swam back to shore. The next day another villager also retrieved a baby from the river. By the end of the week the villagers had pulled dozens of babies from out of the water. It was hard work. It was exhausting work. And it never seemed to end. Well one day, the man who found that first baby started to run up a path — *not* to the river. The people yelled, "Where are you going? We need everyone available to help out!" He said, "I'm going upstream to see who keeps throwing these babies into the river and try to stop him!"

Powerful story. It's about the difference between charity and justice. Charity is like committing those "random acts of kindness" - its those isolated acts of mercy that attend to certain specific needs, things like giving a warm blanket to a homeless person on the street; or serving a meal to a person

Peace with Justice Sunday

Litanies

<http://bit.ly/PWJS-PastorKit>

Band-Aids Aren't Enough...

Show Us, God...

Peace With Justice: Band-Aids Aren't Enough!

Amos 2:6-7a; 4:1-2; 5:7,10-12; 6:1,3-7,12b; 5:24

Prayer of Invocation:

God of Justice, You saw the Pharaoh mistreating the Israelites, and You responded by calling Your servant Moses to lead them out of bondage.

Later, You sent prophets like Jeremiah, Amos, and Isaiah to stand up for Your children who had been pushed to the margins of society.

Finally, Your son Jesus proclaimed He had come to bring freedom to captives and liberty to the oppressed.

Be with us in this hour of worship as we embrace our mission to carry on in the struggle against the injustices that burden Your people! Amen!

Call to Worship/Invocation:

One: Our world is overwhelmed with suffering and despair;

Many: Loving God, focus our minds and hearts on Your Spirit of Compassion.

One: Our world is filled with violence and hatred:

Many: Loving God, focus our hearts and minds on Your Spirit of Peace!

One: Our world is one of rife with greed and exploitation:

Many: Loving God, focus our hearts and minds on Your Spirit of Justice!

One: Lord, as we gather together this day, we proclaim Your power and love as the center of our being.

Many: And in worship and praise, we embrace Your vision of Peace-Shalom, for us and for all Creation!

Offering Prayer

Generous God, we thank you for the wonderful bounty you've bestowed upon humanity.

Your gifts nourish our tired bodies, give comfort to our troubled minds and replenish our weary souls.

Accept this offering not only as a token of our appreciation for all that we have,

but also as a commitment to the ministries of the Church which work to bring economic justice to all Your children! Amen!

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY LITANY

Leader: Show us, God, to see as you see and love as you love.

ALL: Perfect love casts out fear.

Leader: Remind us, God, of our power as your people.

ALL: We can do all things.

Leader: Where children are soldiers,

ALL: Let us bring peace.

Leader: Where mothers are abandoned,

ALL: Let us bring love.

Leader: Where fathers are separated from their families,

ALL: Let us bring unity.

Leader: Where people of conscience are imprisoned,

ALL: Let us bring truth.

Leader: Where people of faith are persecuted,

ALL: Let us bring mercy.

Leader: Where indigenous people are marginalized,

ALL: Let us bring justice.

Leader: Give us voices that speak your words of justice and peace.

ALL: Let us act boldly in faith.



Peace with Justice Sunday

Prayer

<http://bit.ly/PWJS-PastorKit>

PRAYER

Compassionate God

We speak of love and are accomplices in violence
We cry for justice and are entangled in injustice
We claim the truth and accept a lie
We hope for peace and fail to live it

Prince of Peace

You have taken upon you the sin of the world
You have suffered the violence of
humankind
You have confronted the injustice of
the powers
And faced the force of death



Creator Spirit

Give us the courage and strength
To speak the truth in love
To do justice with peace
To be merciful as you are

Amen

From **"Telling the Truth About Ourselves and Our World"**
World Council of Churches

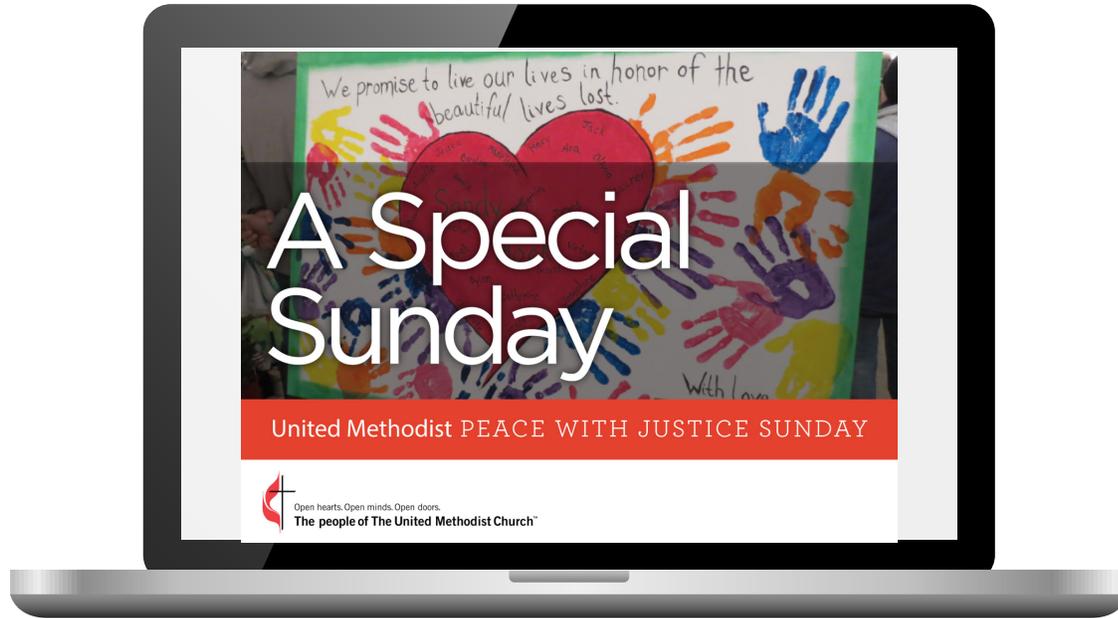
Submitted by Peace with Justice Coordinator, Adrienne Fong

Peace with Justice Sunday

PowerPoints

<http://bit.ly/PWJS-PastorKit>

Offering Slides
About PWJS

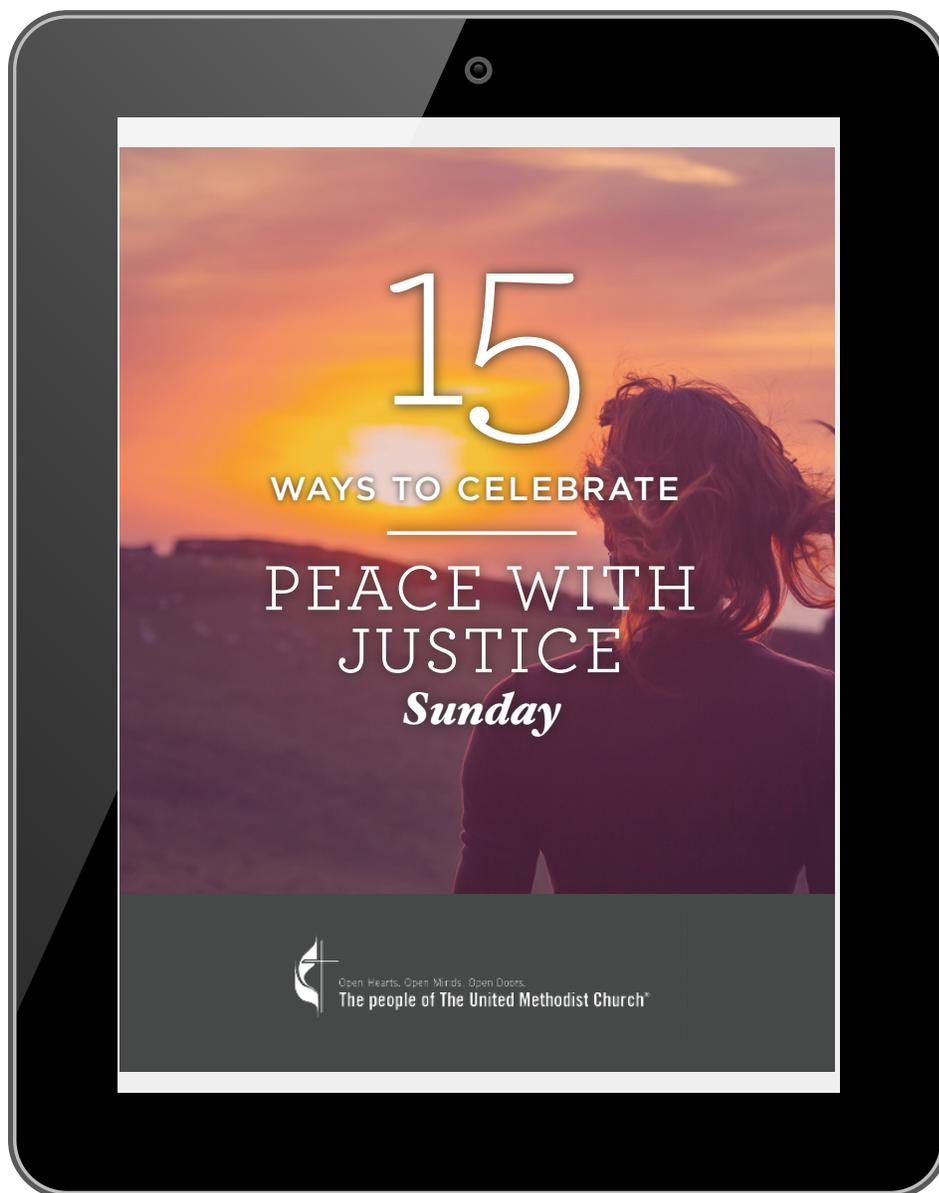


Peace with Justice Sunday

E-book

<http://bit.ly/PWJS-PastorKit>

15 Ways to Celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday



Peace with Justice Sunday Poster

<http://bit.ly/PWJS-PastorKit>

8½-by-11 poster

The poster features a group of approximately 15 diverse church members posing in front of a brick church building. The text is arranged as follows:

- Top Left:** A circular logo with the text "UNITED METHODIST SPECIAL SUNDAY PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY".
- Top Right:** The title "PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY" in large white letters, followed by the tagline "Your generous gift today encourages living a gospel of peace." in smaller white text.
- Center:** A group photograph of church members of various ages and ethnicities.
- Bottom Center:** A quote in white text: "This peace looks injustice in the face, cries about it for a while and then advocates – and choosing this peace is a happy business." attributed to "SARA ALTMAN, MEMBER, MISSISSIPPI CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI".
- Bottom Left:** The United Methodist Church logo and the text "Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors. The people of The United Methodist Church®".
- Bottom Right:** The number "760717".
- Bottom Red Bar:** The text "Make check payable to your local church or give online at www.umcgiving.org/givePWJS".

Peace with Justice Sunday Infographic

<http://bit.ly/PWJS-PastorKit>

15 Amazing Ways You Can Make a Difference on Peace with Justice Sunday

15 Amazing Ways YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Over the years, The United Methodist Church has advocated for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of national and international ministries.

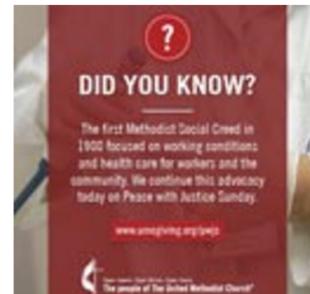
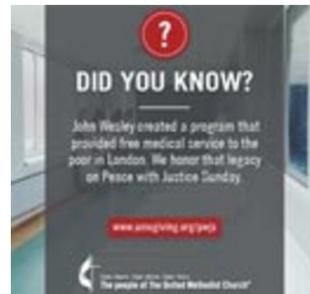
Your support of Peace with Justice Sunday allows ministries like these to flourish in tangible ways:

- 2015**
 - Abuja (Nigeria) United Methodist Church English School.** The English School is an outreach program of Abuja United Methodist Church with classes offered at the church and in Nasarawa state. Abuja UMC is partnering with the U.S. Embassy and American International School of Abuja which provide co-teachers and volunteer teachers to complement church members.
 - Displaced Young Mother's Ministries Fight for Justice.** Epworth United Methodist Ministries, Christians, Philippines. This project enables young mothers of displaced indigenous families to free themselves and their families from the bondage of poverty, exploitation, hunger and homelessness. Through education and skills training in small-business management, young mothers are empowered against exploitative schemes of traders, landlords and money lenders. The women also are spiritually and financially assisted in establishing their own livelihood through a cottage industry.
 - Daybreak in Alabama: How People of Faith Can Change Public Policy, Huntsville.** "Daybreak in Alabama" is a series of study guides and videos that provide groups of 10-20 people an opportunity to discuss how people of faith can help alleviate suffering, promote social and religious harmony, and become advocates for peace with justice. The guides are a project of the Interfaith Mission Service, a cooperative founded in 1969 and owned and operated by 24 member congregations including most mainline Christian congregations, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Unitarian Universalist and Unit. Trinity United Methodist Church is a coordinating congregation for Daybreak in Alabama.
- 2014**
 - The Reconciliation Committee of Korean United Methodist Churches, Baltimore, Md.,** aims to establish a lasting peace and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula.
 - The Lion and Lamb Festival, Fort Wayne, Ind.,** engages attendees in issues of spirituality and justice through creative outlets, such as music and art.
 - The Kelowna Peace Center** educates and empowers West Michigan University students by providing tools, knowledge and space necessary for mobilizing around issues of justice and peace to create positive change.
- 2013**
 - Safe Communities Project, Zimbabwe East Conference,** creates communities with zero tolerance for violence by training 500 church leaders and 100 other community leaders from five villages in basic tools of conflict transformation.
 - The Task Force Against Racial Violence of the Moscow Protestant Chancery** provides care for ethnic victims of racially motivated attacks.
 - Transforming Communities through the Social Principles,** a program of the Human Rights Network of the Liberia Conference, educates 200 United Methodists and other community leaders to use the denomination's Social Principles as an international human rights instrument to address and remedy justice issues.
- 2012**
 - The Child Action Initiative** of Newburg's Lubumbashi United Methodist Church in Democratic Republic of the Congo promotes peace through educating young people in collaboration with church leaders about the culture of violence.
 - Lighthouse,** in the Newburg/Norfolk neighborhood of Louisville, Ky., teaches at-risk children how to make wise choices by handling problems in a non-violent manner.
 - Thrive,** a refugee-support program in Wyoming, Mich., provides Grand Rapids-area refugees services and opportunities needed to thrive as neighbors physically, economically and emotionally in their new community.
- 2011**
 - South Sudan Voices of Hope,** based in Chicago, empowers the people of Blue Nile and Nuba Mountain region in South Sudan to live healthy, self-sufficient, productive lives.
 - King Avenue United Methodist Church, Columbus, Ohio,** develops a Web-based program for churches, Christian schools and camps to educate children in grades four to six about bullying.
 - Harbor House Crisis Shelters,** a ministry of Faith United Methodist Church, Superior, Wis., provides hospitable shelter, emotional support and services to homeless women and families.
- 2010**
 - The Just Peace League,** a program of the Board of Church and Society of the Southern Tagalog Protestant Philippines Conference East, organizes forums to address social conditions in the region.
 - Andrew's Answer,** a ministry of United Methodist Church of Eugene Park, Chicago, provides counseling and free after-school and summer camps to neighborhood children.
 - The Women's Storybook Project,** a ministry of Westlake United Methodist Church, Austin, Texas, connects incarcerated women to their children through literature.

Support Peace with Justice Sunday through your local church or give online at www.umciving.org/pwjs

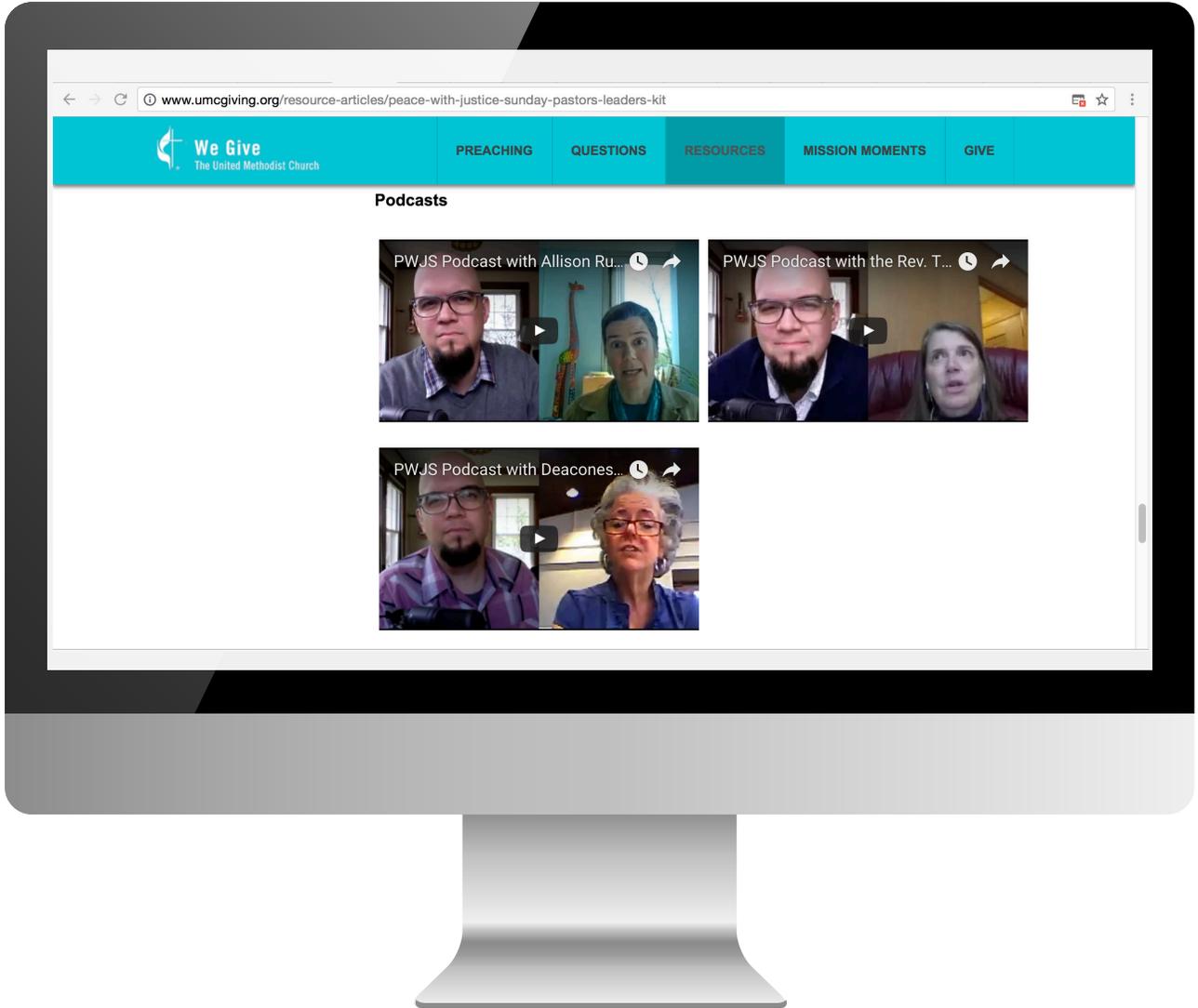
Peace with Justice Sunday Facebook Images

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Peace with Justice Sunday Podcasts

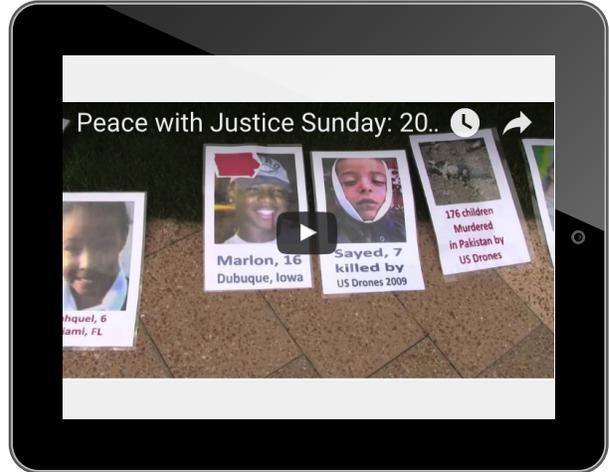
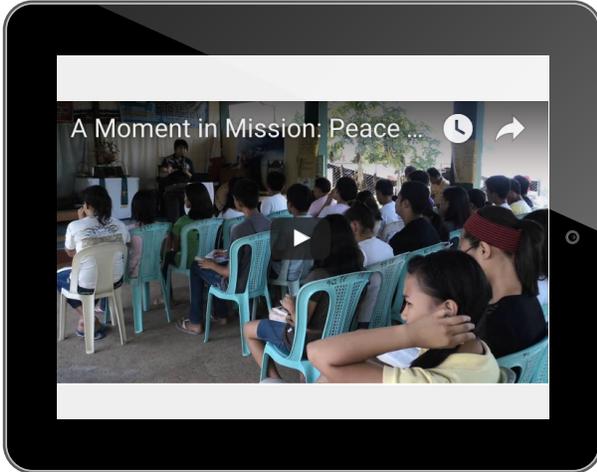
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Peace with Justice Sunday

Social Media Videos

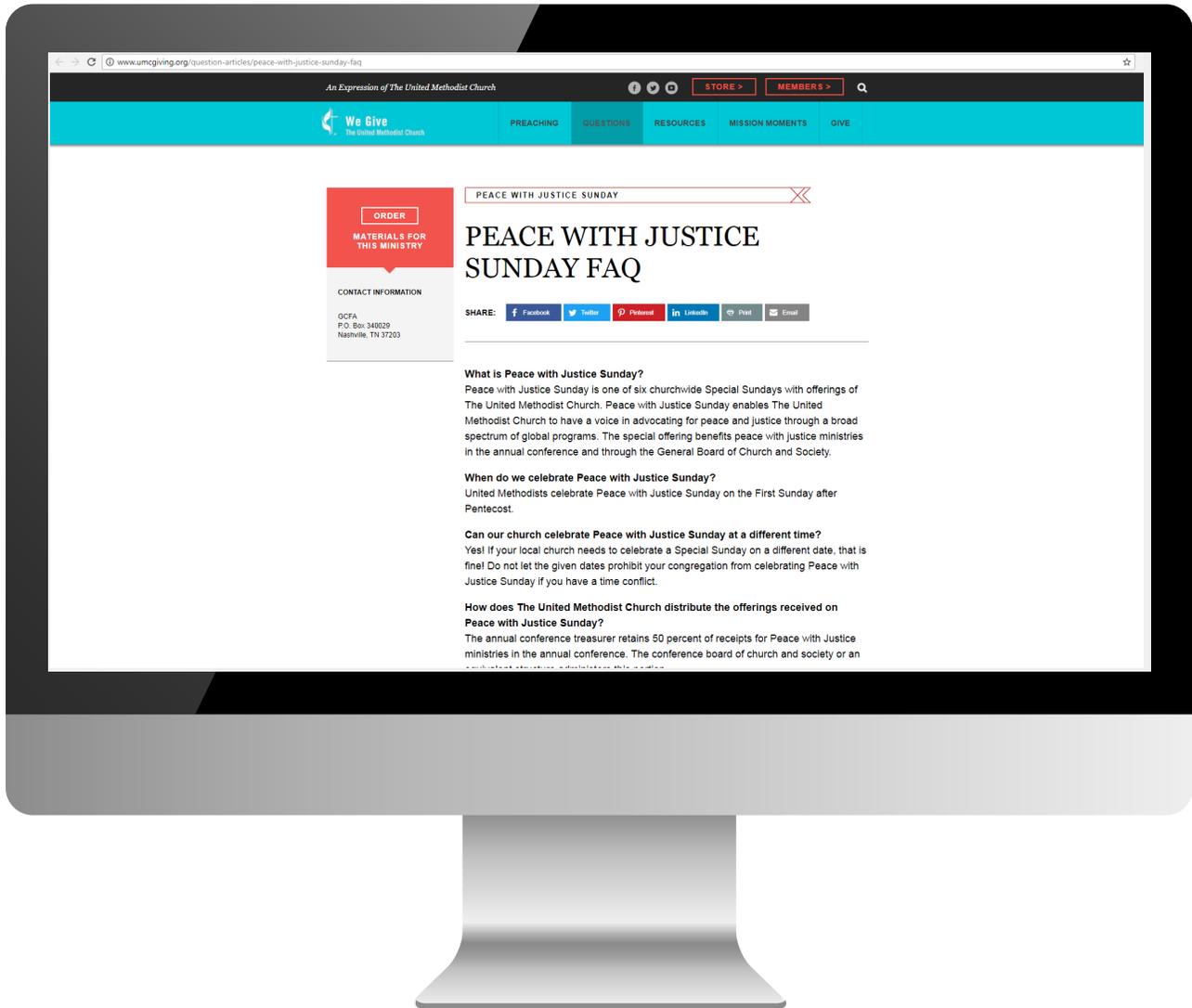
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Peace with Justice Sunday

FAQ

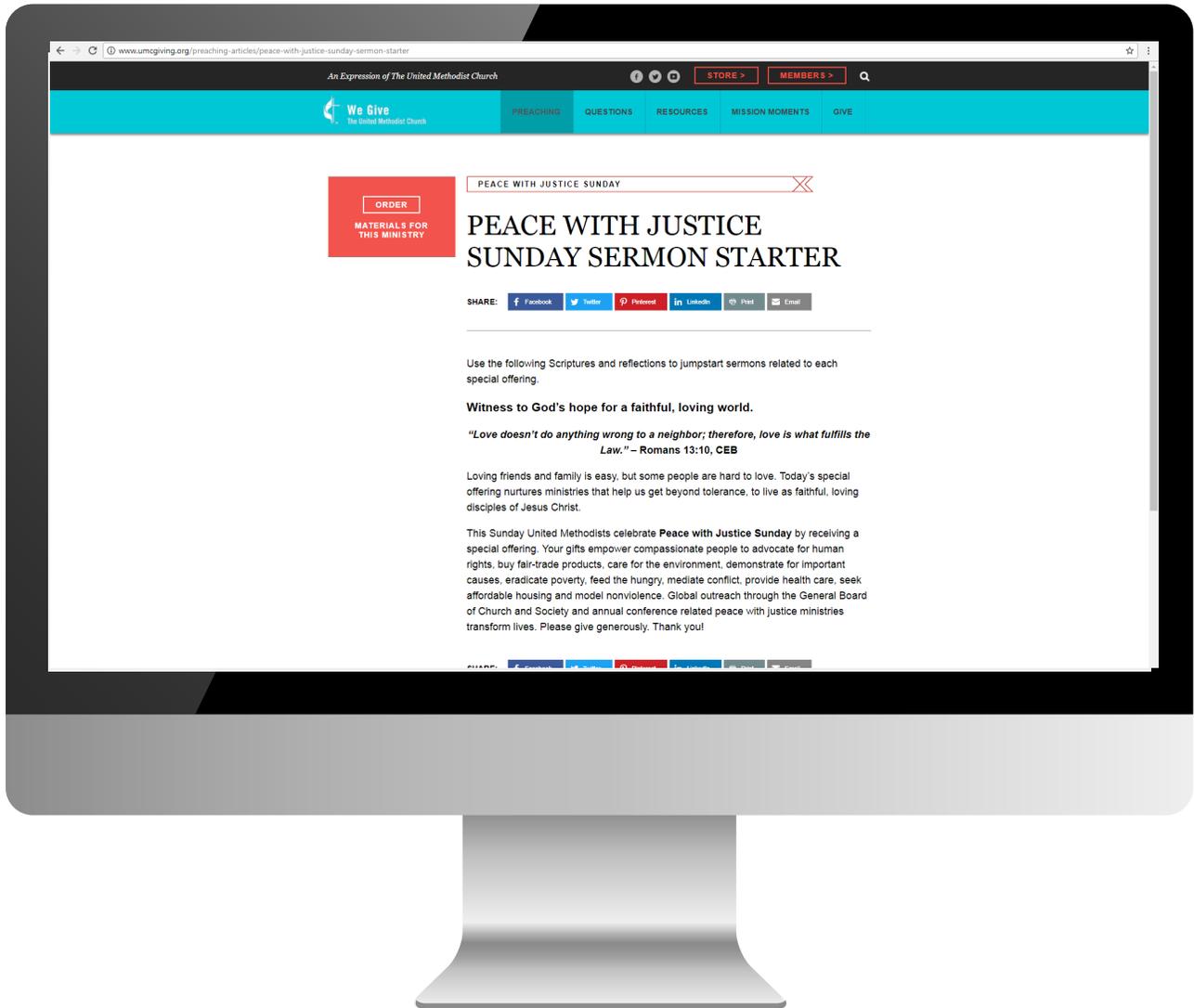
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Peace with Justice Sunday

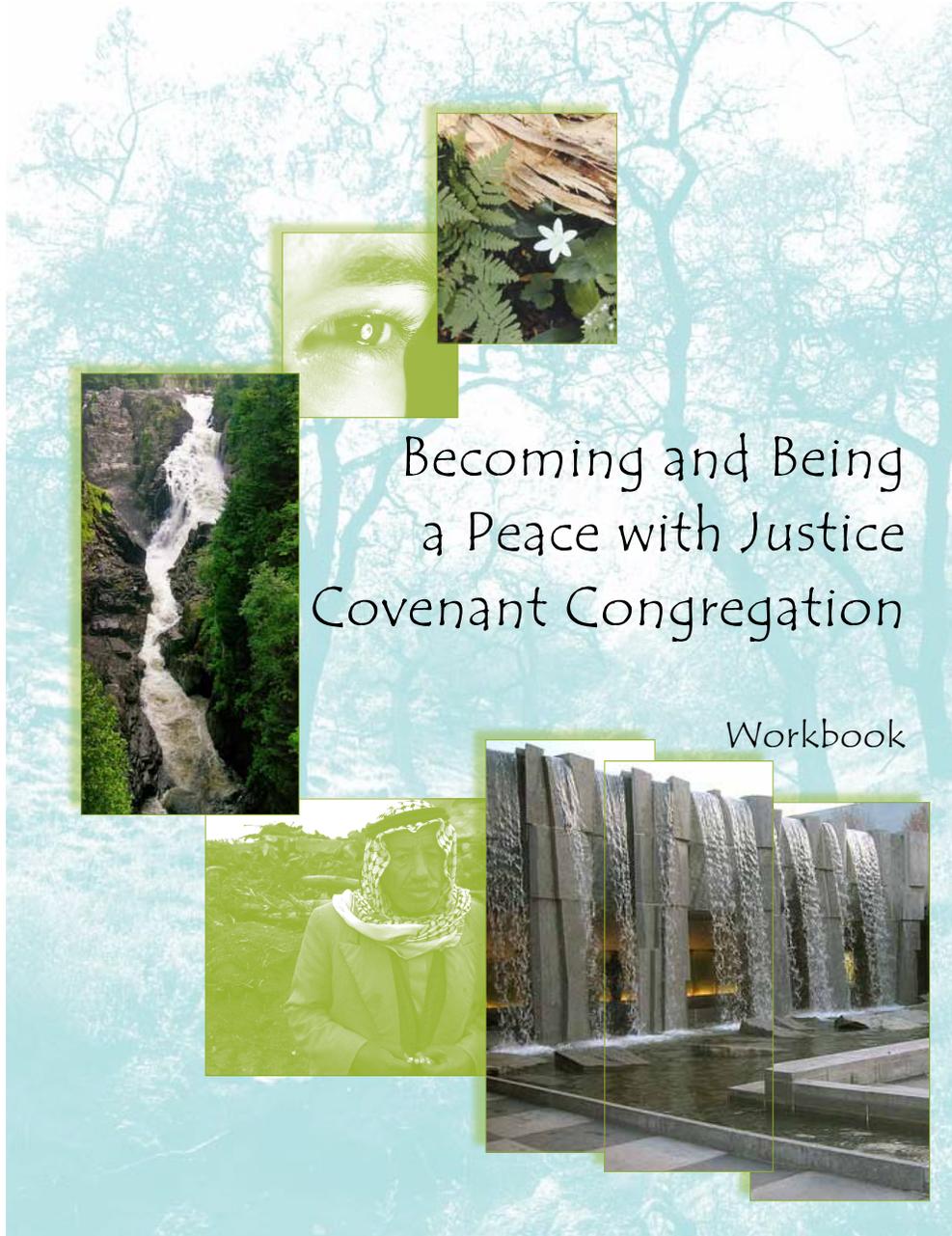
Sunday Sermon Starters

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Peace with Justice Sunday Covenant Congregation Workbook

<http://bit.ly/PWJS-Workbook>

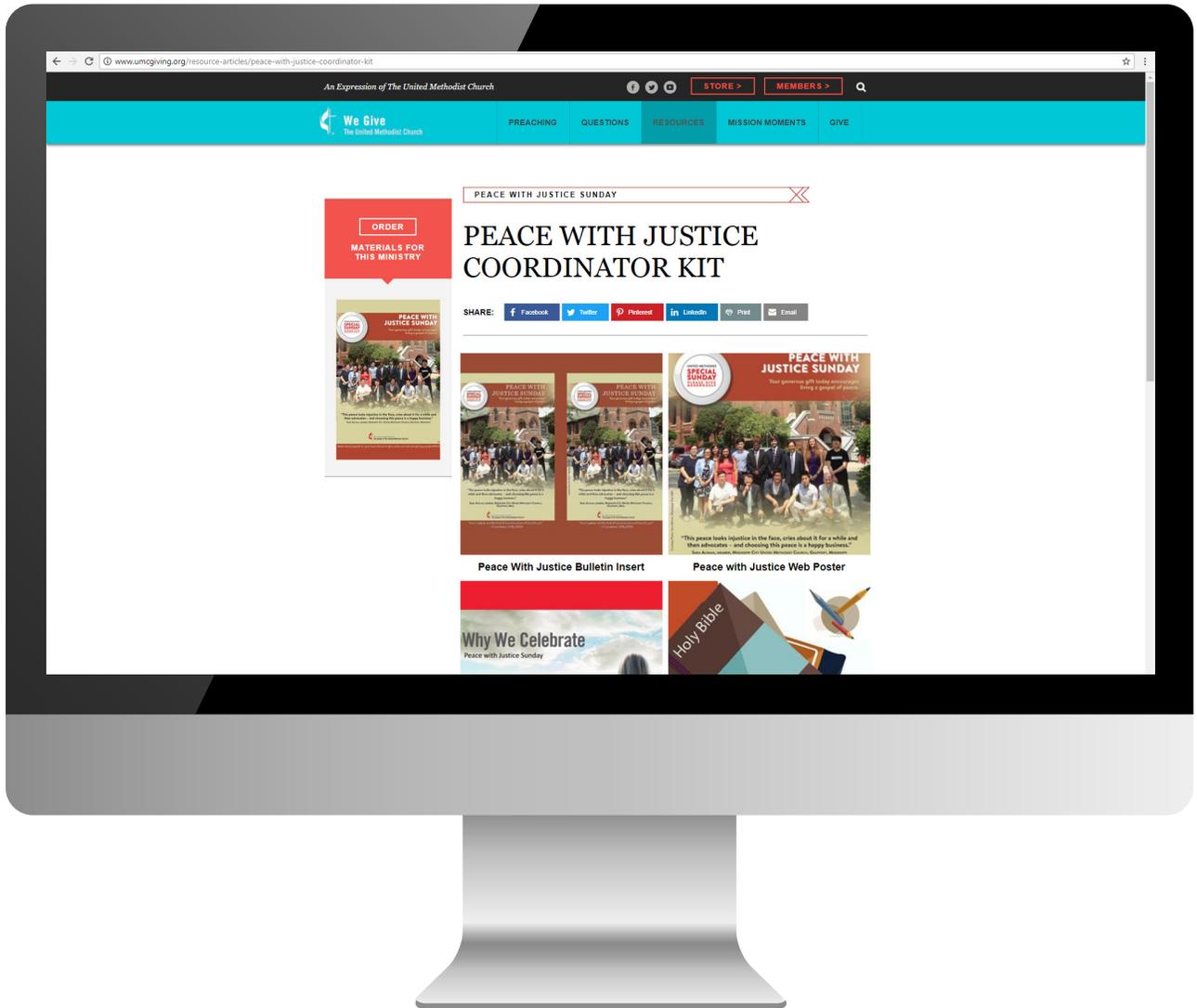


Becoming and Being
a Peace with Justice
Covenant Congregation

Workbook

Peace with Justice Sunday Coordinator Kit

<http://bit.ly/PWJS-CoordinatorKit>



World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday calls the church to reach out to all people and model diversity among God's children. The special offering supports World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

We give on the first Sunday in October. The offering provides scholarships for gifted and qualified people around the globe. Our gifts are a blessing to individuals who face financial obstacles while preparing for the vocation God has given them.

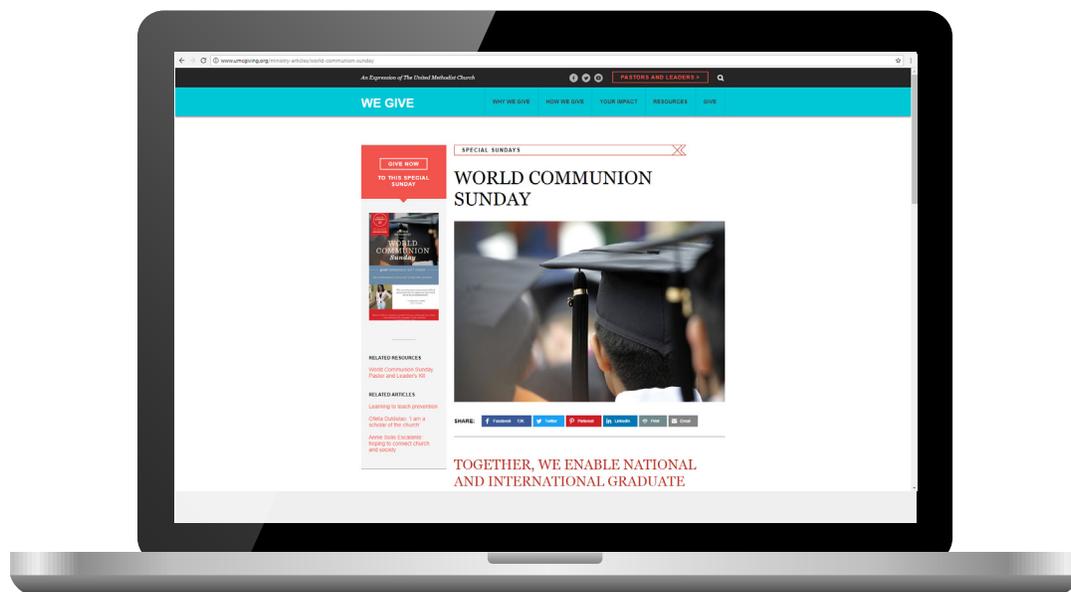
World Communion Sunday can be especially impactful for ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible.

www.umcsgiving.org/giveWCS

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

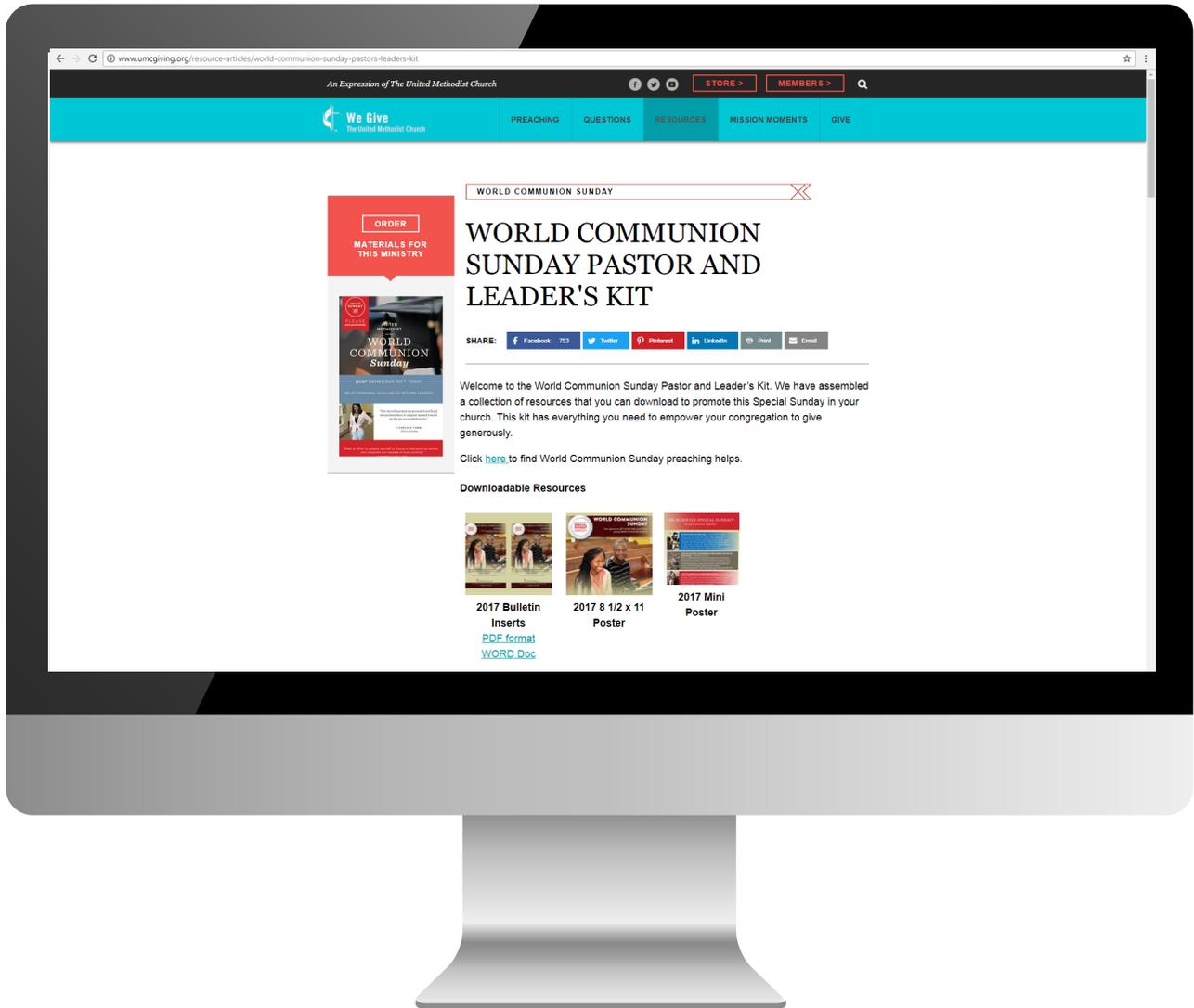
General Info

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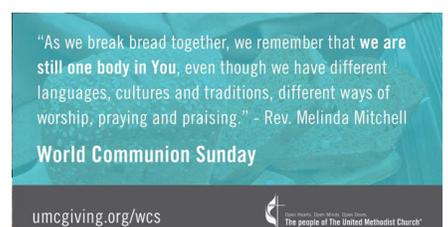
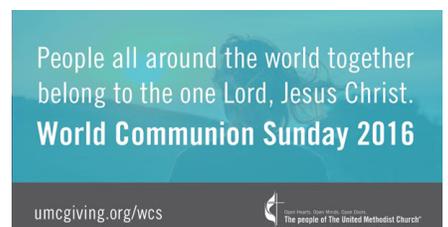
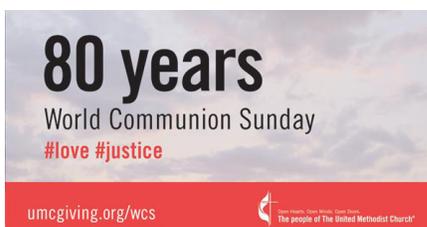
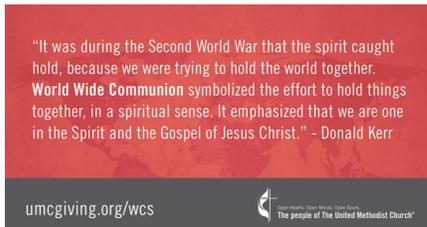
World Communion Sunday Pastor and Leader's Kit

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World Communion Sunday Social Media Images

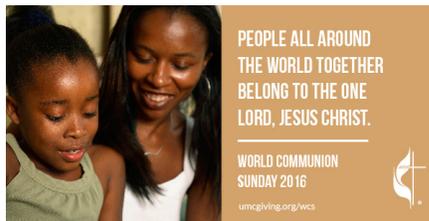
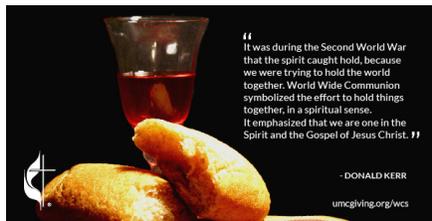
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World Communion Sunday

Social Media Images

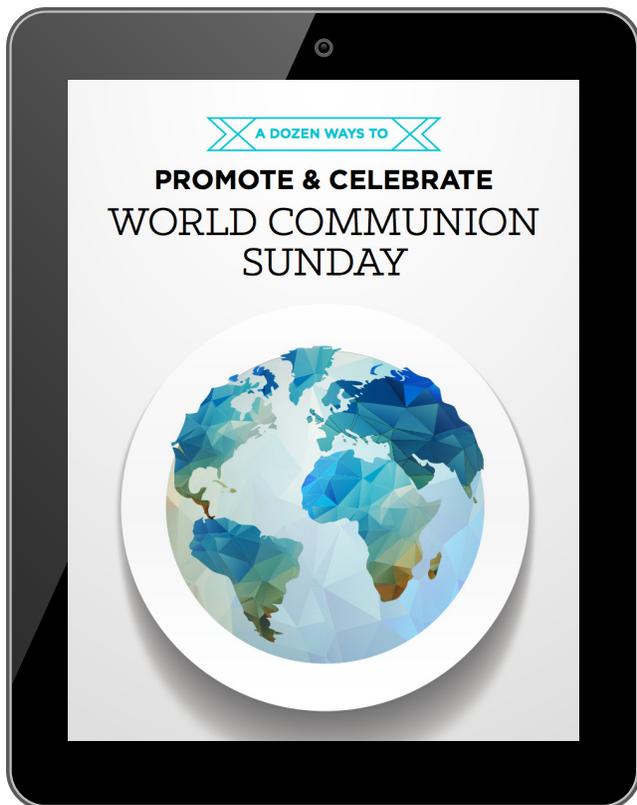
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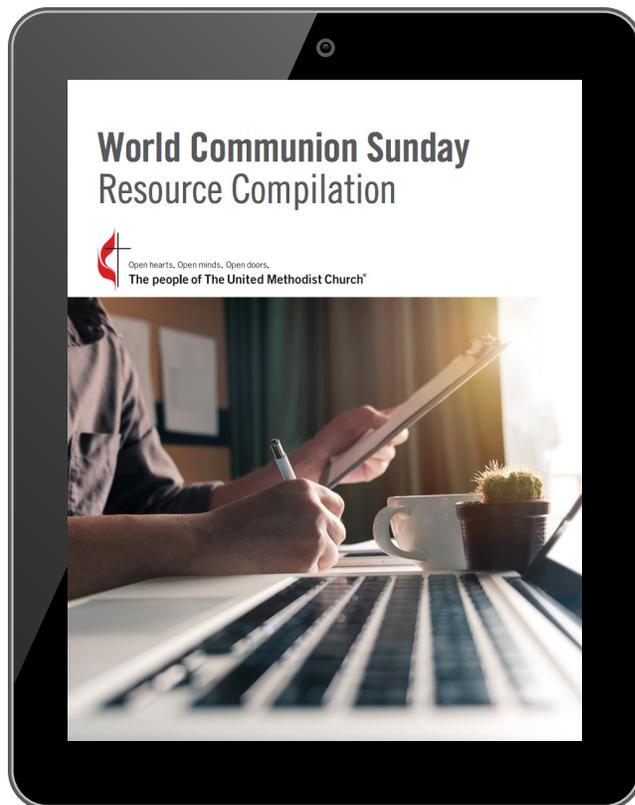
World Communion Sunday

E-books

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A Dozen Ways to Promote & Celebrate



World Communion Sunday Resource
Compilation

World Communion Sunday Infographics

<http://bit.ly/WCS-PastorKit>

JUST THE FACTS
World Communion Sunday

What is it? In the United States, World Communion Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday in October.

Why do we do it? World Communion Sunday is a time when people of many different faiths and backgrounds come together to worship and pray for the world.

Who can celebrate it? Anyone who is a member of a United Methodist church or who is invited to a church service can celebrate it.

How does it work? World Communion Sunday is a time when people of many different faiths and backgrounds come together to worship and pray for the world.

9 Facts About World Communion Sunday

1. World Communion Sunday was celebrated in the United States and around the world for the first time on **Nov. 1, 1936.**
2. In 1943, which is one year to the National Council of Churches Society for World Communion Sunday to be a regular observance worldwide.
3. **50%** of the offering collected on World Communion Sunday is transferred for the benefit of the United States.
4. **37 countries have been represented by 160 scholarship recipients from 2011 to 2016.**

Botswana	Brazil	Durand
Chile	Colombia	Congo (Democratic Republic)
Costa Rica	Cote d'Ivoire	Ecuador
Ghana	Haiti	Indonesia
Japan	Kenya	Liberia
Malawi	Malaysia	Mozambique
Myanmar (Burma)	Nicaragua	Nigeria
Pakistan	Panama	Peru
Philippines	Russia	Sierra Leone
South Korea	Sri Lanka	Togo
Uganda	United Kingdom	United States
Uruguay	Uzbekistan	Zambia
Zimbabwe		

5. World Communion Sunday was originally called "Worldwide Communion Sunday."

6. An early Christian document, dated to the first or second century, contains the directions on giving thanks for the presence of God and for the bread that commemorates the Last Supper.

7. **1,384** scholarships have been awarded in the past five years.

8. As world conflicts arise and divisions appear between people and nations, the World Communion observance has an important meaning as a unifying force.

9. World Communion Sunday offerings are directed toward Communion Scholars and Ethnic In-Service Grants and to service learning programs.

UMC Giving total for past 5 years:
\$4,133,612
from UMC churches and individuals

General Board of Global Ministries scholarship total: 2011 through 2016*
World Communion Sunday Scholarships
\$2,832,425

General Board of Higher Education scholarship total: 2011 through 2015*
Ethnic Minority Scholarships and Journey Toward Ordained Ministry Scholarships (U.S. scholarships only)
\$1,391,100

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
The people of The United Methodist Church

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY EMPOWERS
Future Leaders to Transform OUR WORLD

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."
- Nelson Mandela

21 # of countries represented by scholarship recipients

50%+
At least one-half of the annual funding is dedicated for ministries beyond the United States.

320+ Scholarships awarded in 2013 alone

\$1.3MM
total financial support disbursed in 2013 and 2014 to support scholarships and programs of World Communion Scholars around the world

7 Ethnic In-service Training grants represent

- Local Churches
- District Offices
- Annual Conferences
- United Methodist-Related Higher Education Institutions
- Wesley Foundations (U.S.)

GLOBAL MINISTRIES & **HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY**

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Empower world-changers around the globe. Let's provide a scholarship to additional qualified students who apply.

GIVE online or through your local United Methodist church on World Communion Sunday.

www.umcsgiving.org/wcs

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
The people of The United Methodist Church

- Just the Facts
- Empowering Future Leaders

World Communion Sunday

PowerPoint

<http://bit.ly/WCS-PastorKit>

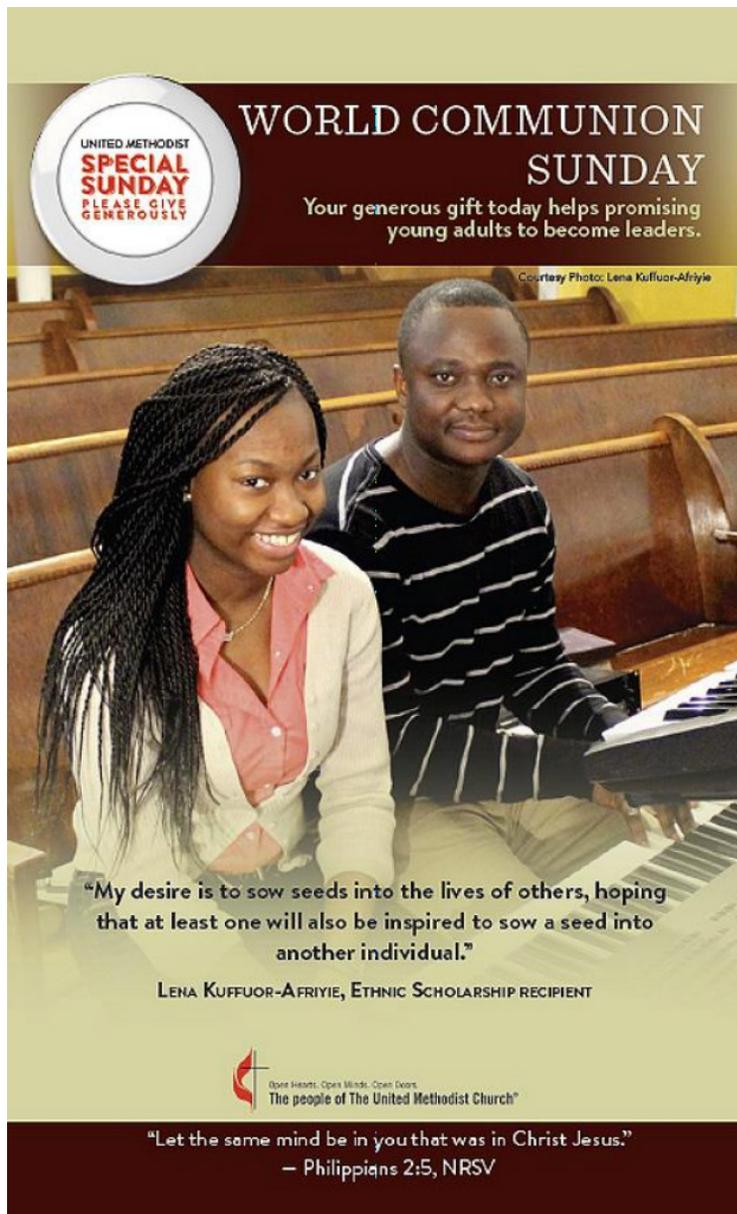
About World Communion Sunday



World Communion Sunday Poster

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8½-by-11 poster



World Communion Sunday Videos

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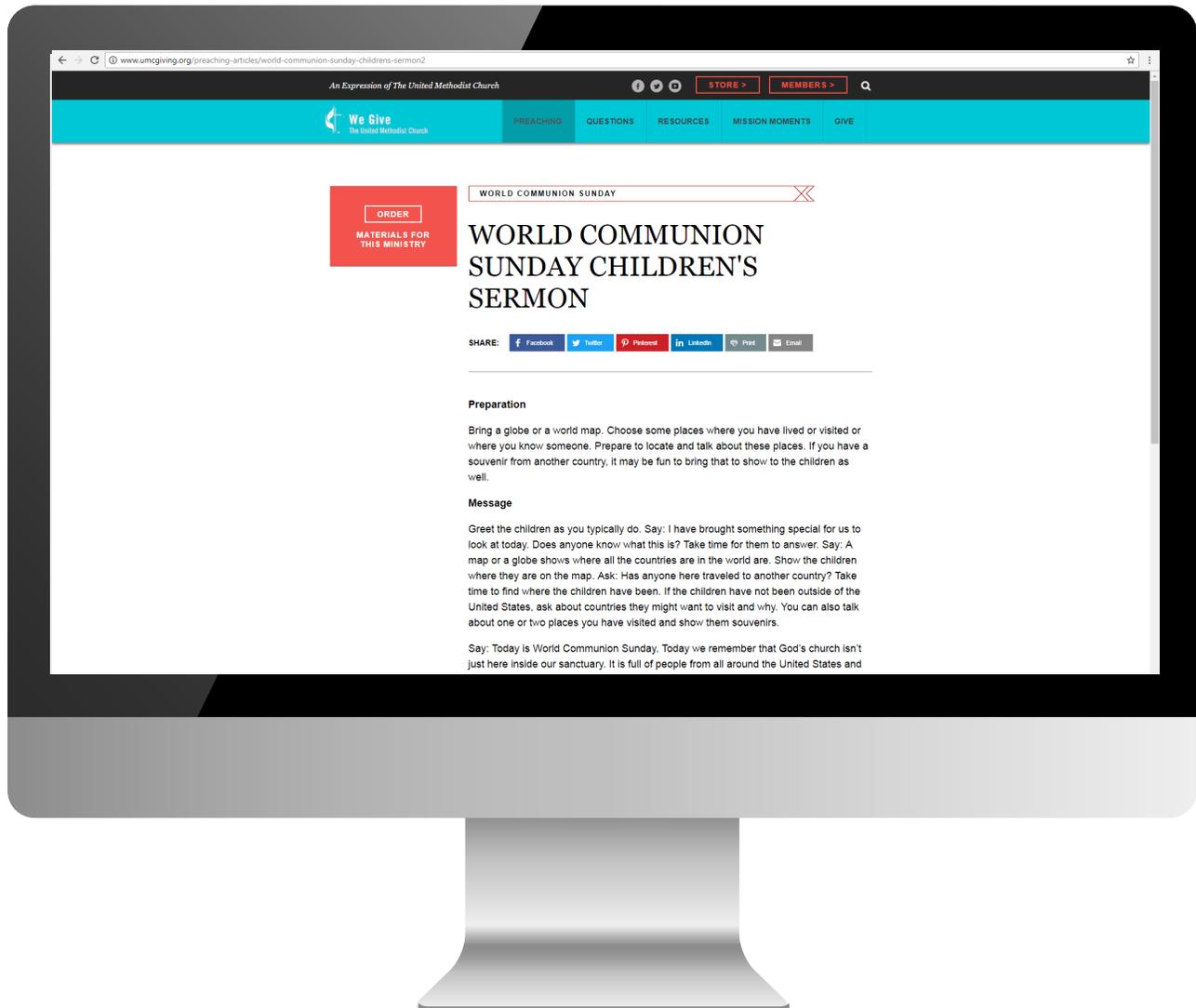


World Communion Sunday

Children's Sermons

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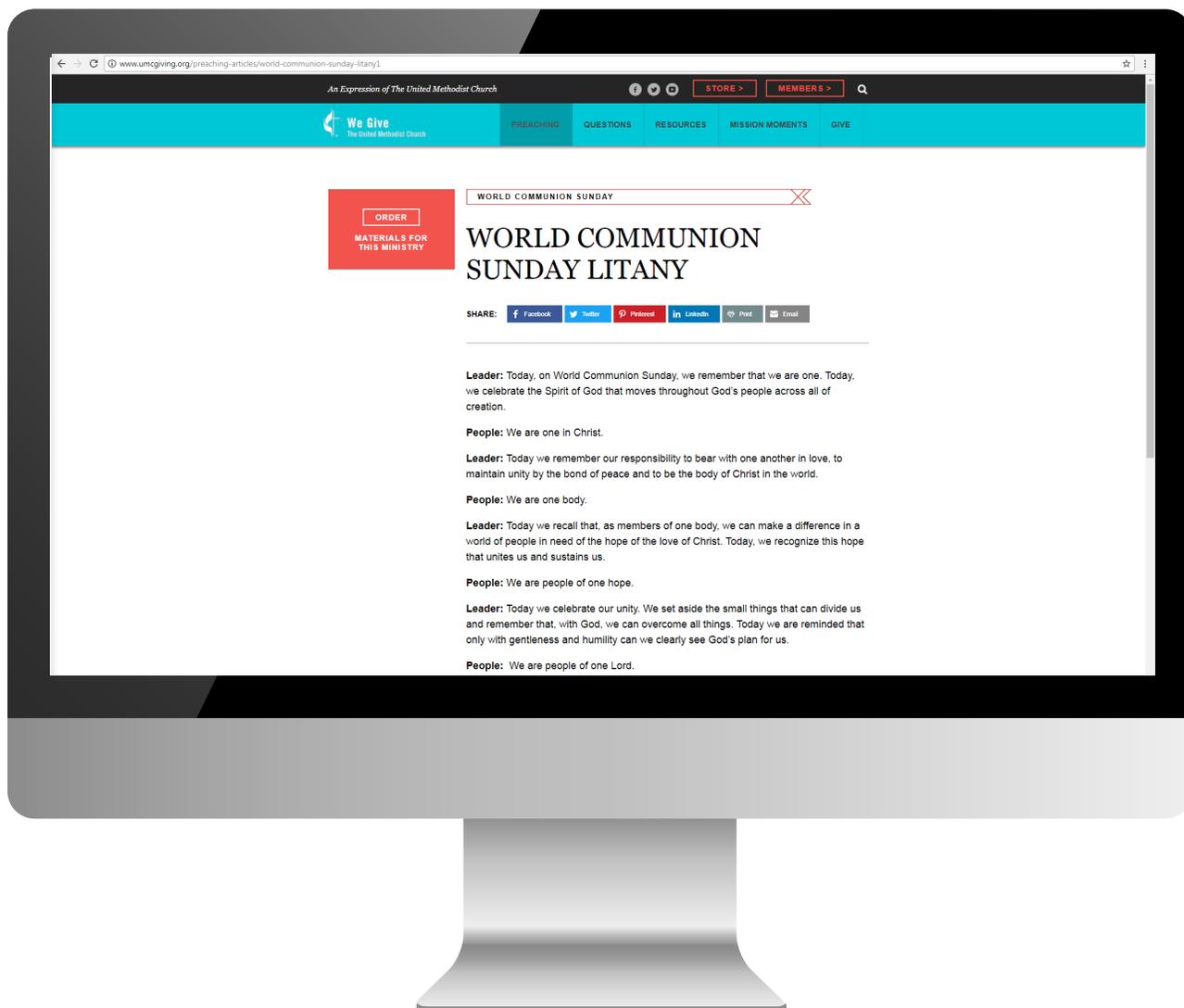
- World Communion Sunday
- Take Two Tablets
- God Is With Us



World Communion Sunday Litanies

<http://bit.ly/WCS-SundayLitany>

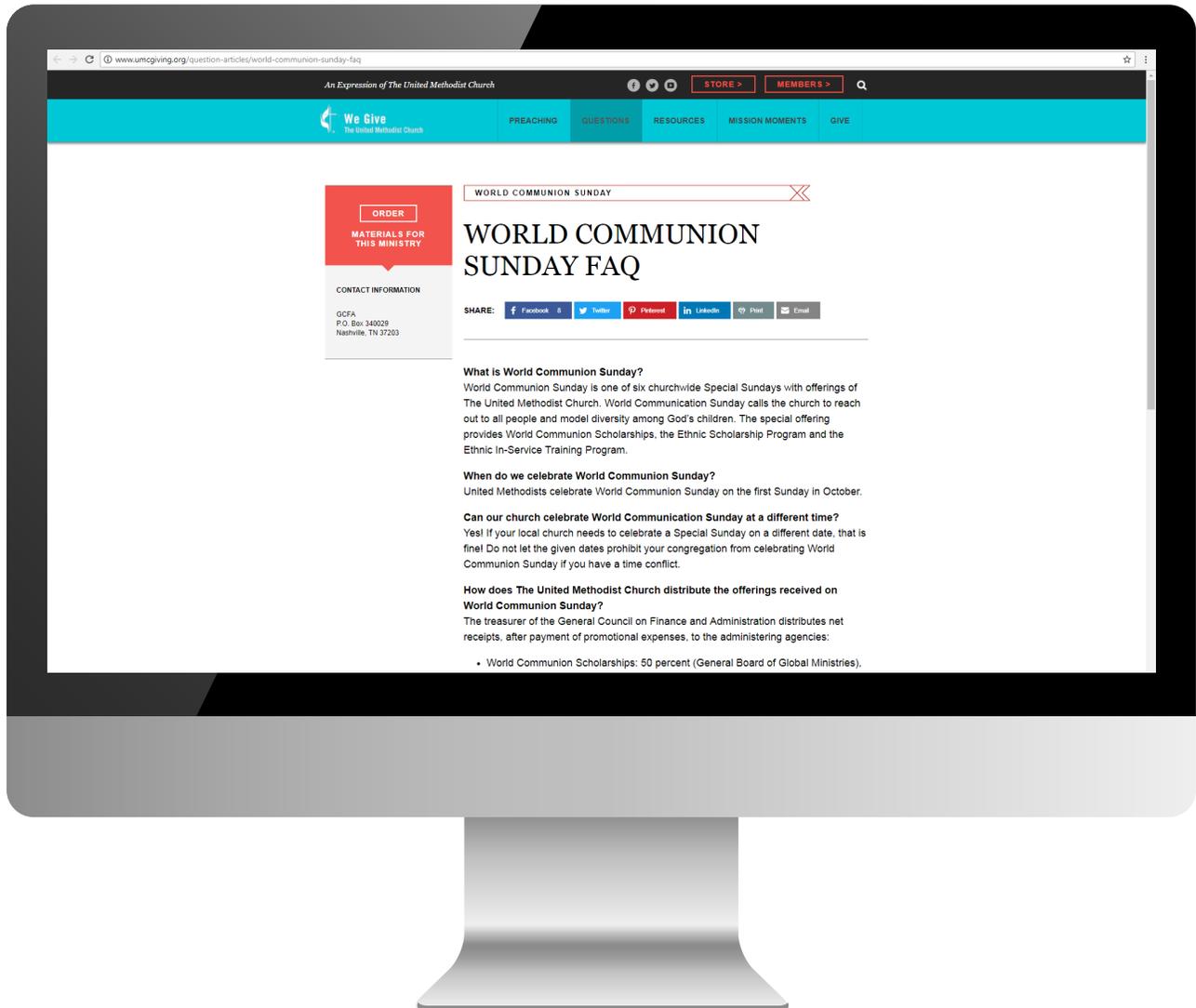
- Litany for World Communion Sunday
- Global Greetings



World Communion Sunday

FAQ

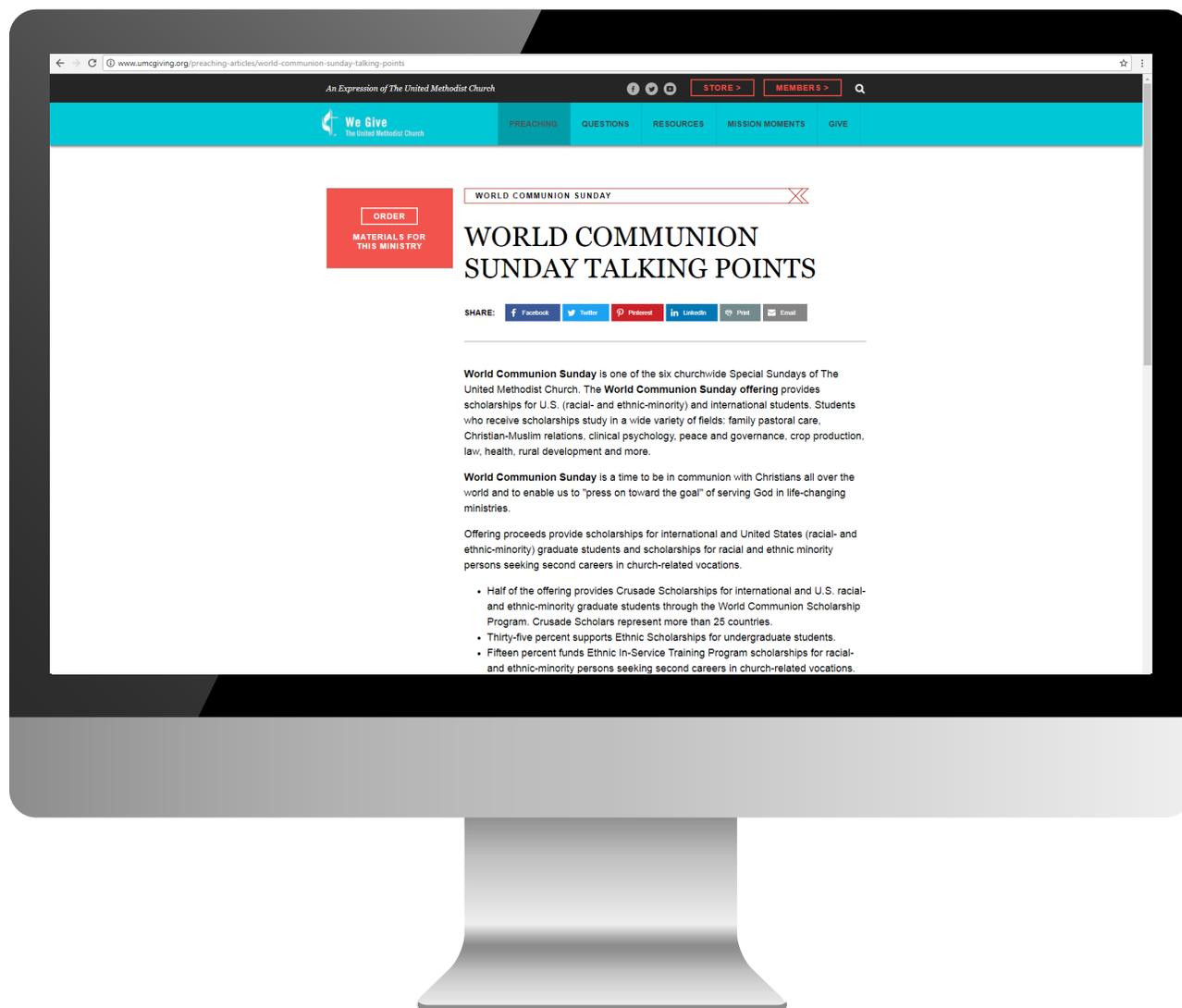
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World Communion Sunday

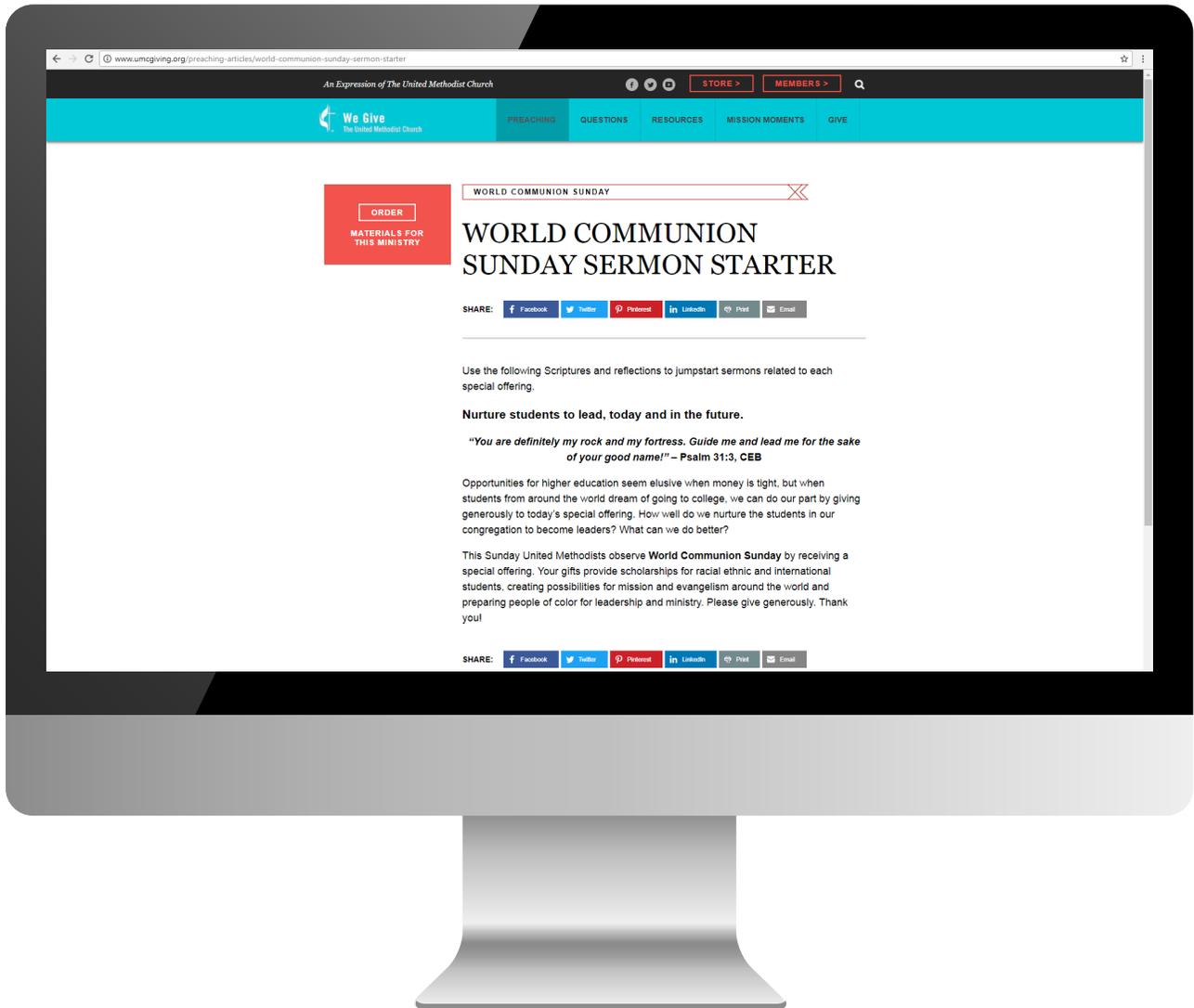
Talking Points

<http://bit.ly/WCS-TalkingPoints>



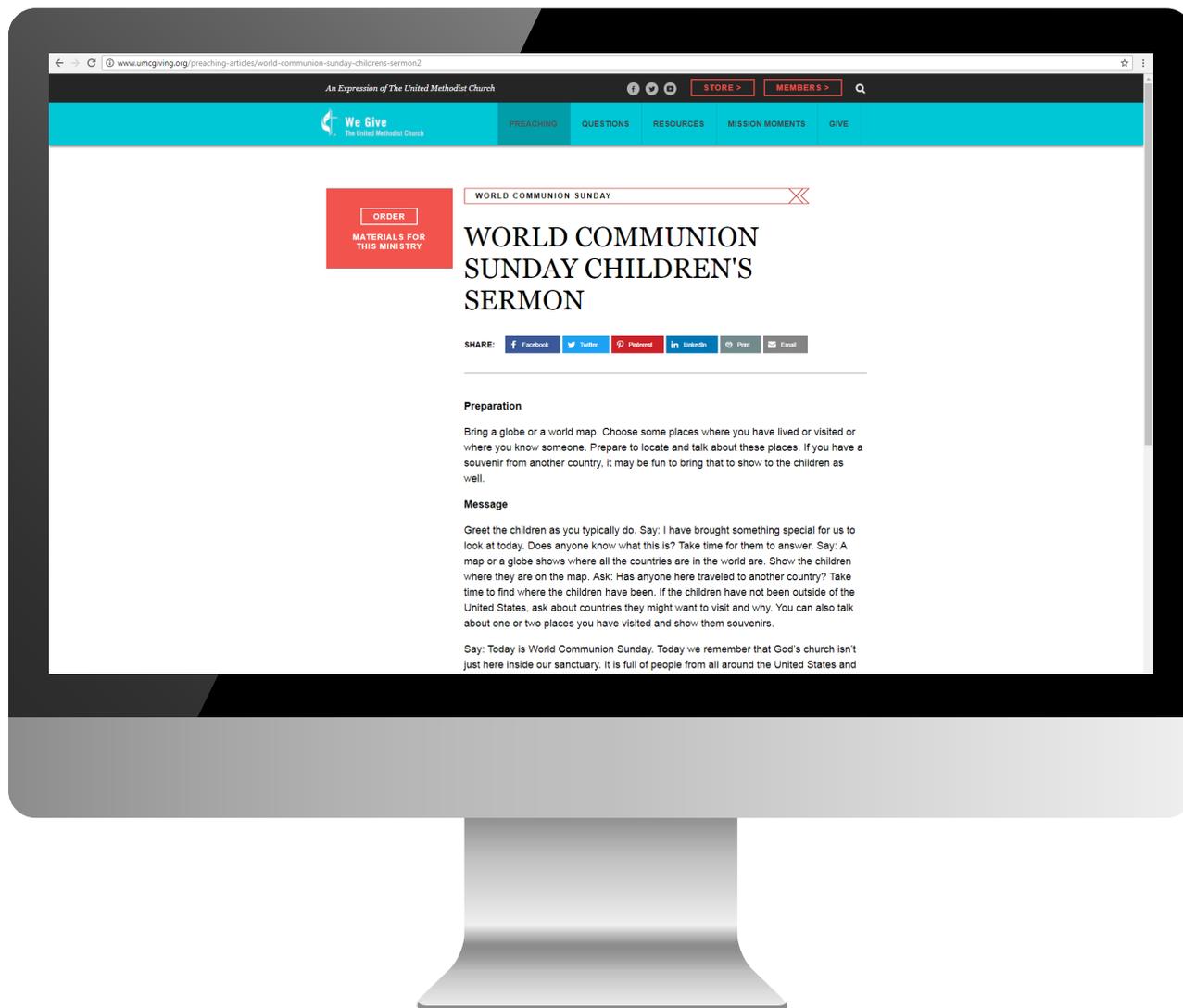
World Communion Sunday Sunday Sermon Starter

<http://bit.ly/WCS-SermonStarter>



World Communion Sunday Children's Sermon

<http://bit.ly/WCS-ChildrenSermon>



United Methodist Student Day

United Methodist Student Day is dedicated to supporting students. There are many United Methodists without the resources to attend the school of their choice, or for some, any school at all. These are bright and dedicated students who need scholarships.

The United Methodist Student Day offering supports United Methodist scholarships administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

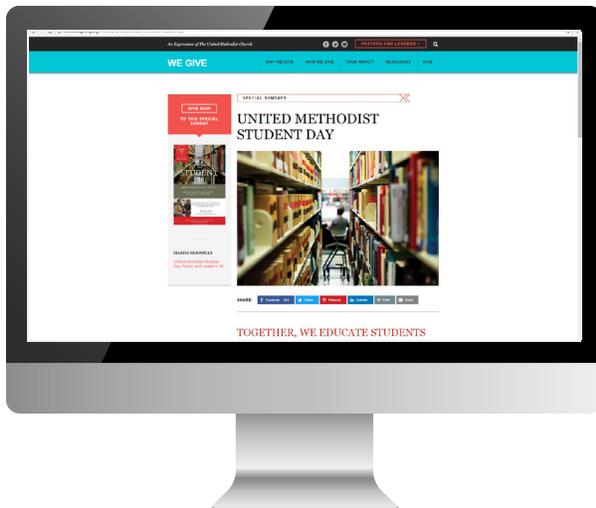
This Special Sunday helps prepare our students for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

www.umcsgiving.org/giveUMSD

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

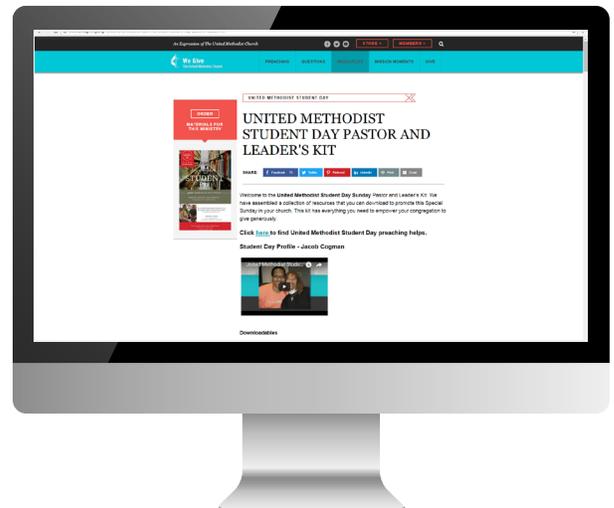
General Info

<http://bit.ly/UMSD-GenInfo>



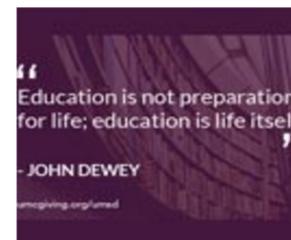
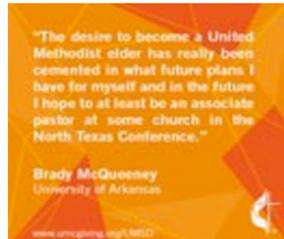
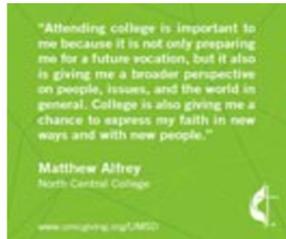
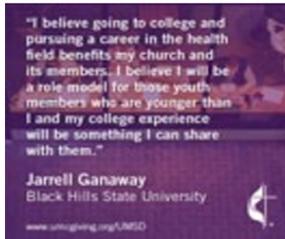
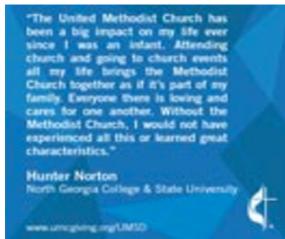
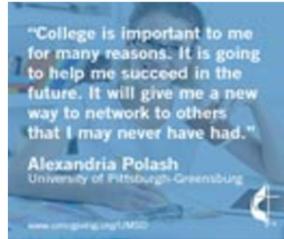
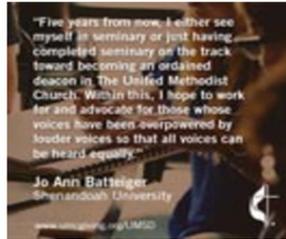
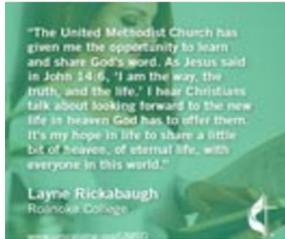
Pastor and Leader's Kit

<http://bit.ly/UMSD-PastorKit>



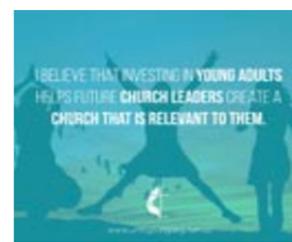
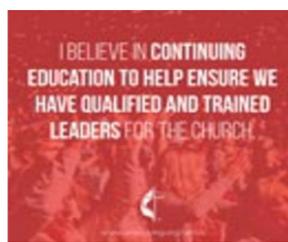
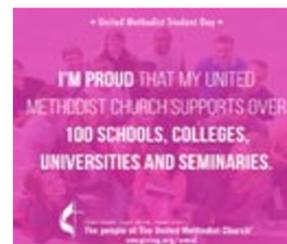
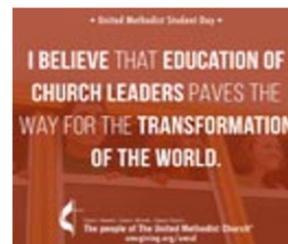
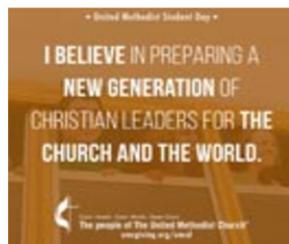
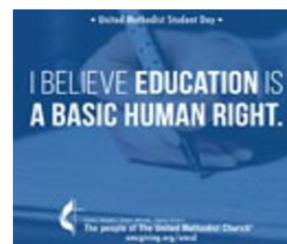
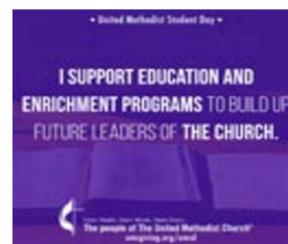
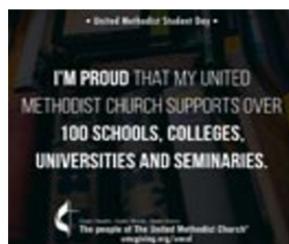
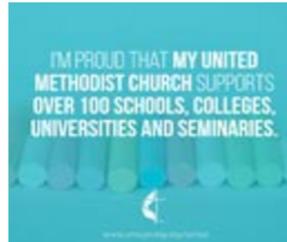
United Methodist Student Day Facebook Images

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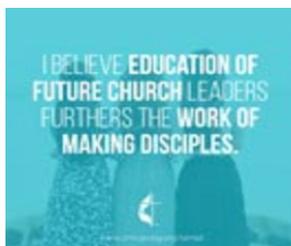
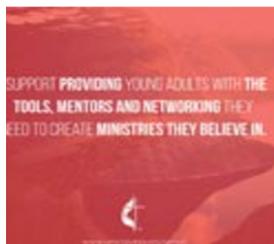
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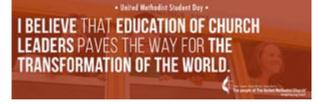
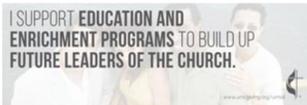
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United Methodist Student Day Twitter Banners

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United Methodist Student Day Video Profiles

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United Methodist Student Day PowerPoints

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- About UMSD
- Offering slides

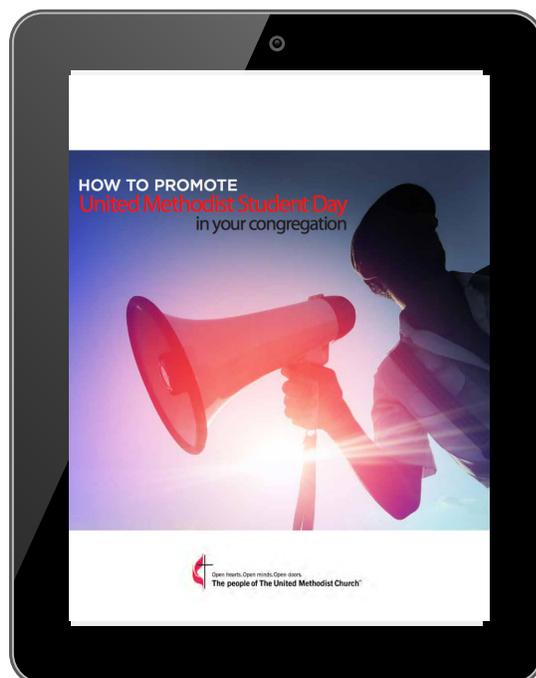
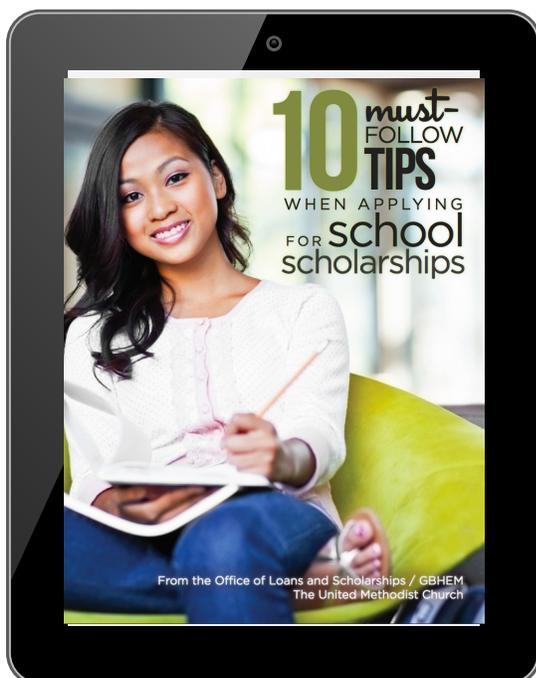


United Methodist Student Day

E-books

<http://bit.ly/UMSD-PastorKit>

- 10 Must-Follow Tips
- How to Promote United Methodist Student Day
- 15 Ways to Welcome College Students



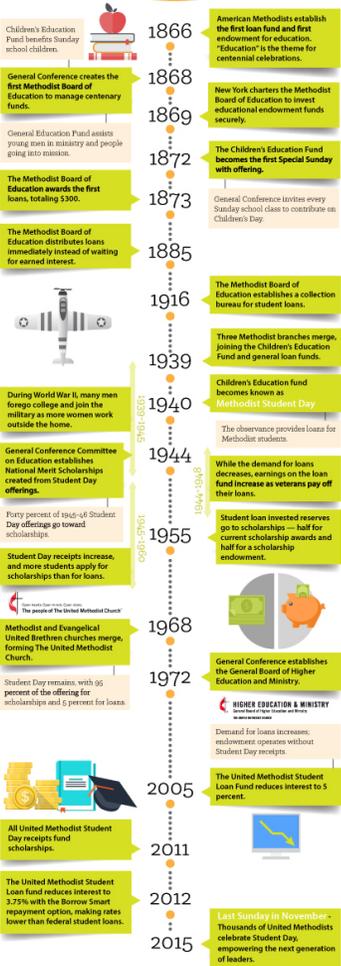
United Methodist Student Day Infographics

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- Why We Celebrate
- 15 Ways to Welcome College Students
- College Debt Search 1
- College Debt Search 2
- When You Give on Student Day...

students & The United Methodist Church

throughout the years



Be a part of the United Methodist Student Day story.
www.umcgiving.org/UMSD

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

15 ways to welcome COLLEGE STUDENTS

- 1 Connect with the U.M. campus ministry closest to your church to ask how the congregation may offer hospitality to the students.
- 2 Make a point to meet and speak to college students when they come to church.
- 3 Invite students to sit with you during worship on their first here to sit alone.
- 4 Treat a student to lunch after worship.
- 5 Make a personal phone call to a student who attends your church on Sunday morning.
- 6 Take a student for coffee during the week following their visit at church.
- 7 Send birthday cards or words of encouragement throughout the year.
- 8 Include college students on your church's newsletter or e-newsletter mailing list.
- 9 Invite students to create their own Sunday school class (or small group) OR ask them for class advice and ideas.
- 10 Help students organize fellowship events and forums designed specifically for college students.
- 11 Invite students to become leaders in your congregation.
- 12 Create "care packages" for students before finals week.
- 13 Adopt a student for a year, inviting them to meals and calling to be sure they are all right.
- 14 Include students in your family and church holiday activities.
- 15 Be especially aware of international students visiting your congregation.

College DEBT and the SEARCH for Hope & Financial Freedom

The Crushing Burden of Debt on Today's College Student

"The borrower is the slave of the lender."
Proverbs 22:7 (NRSV)

\$35,200 average debt for 70% of the Class of 2013

\$1 trillion outstanding student loan debt as of 2012

GREATER THAN 50% student loan accounts in deferred status

38 million current number of student borrowers

The Freedom Found through Your Generous Giving

"For freedom Christ has set us free."
Galatians 5:1a, (NRSV)

2,300 AVERAGE NUMBER of UMC scholarship recipients each year

\$2.2 million average amount of low-interest loans awarded each year

500 number of seminary students awarded scholarships each year

\$13.1 MILLION amount of scholarships awarded in 2009-12

60% of scholarship recipients are female

Help Students Find Financial Freedom and a Future Worth Sharing

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS Give now to UMC Scholarships and Loans to help build a brighter future together.

www.umcgiving.org/giveUMSD

When you give on United Methodist Student Day... you water a dream GOD has planted...

1873 Year of first UMC scholarship and offering

2,300 AVERAGE NUMBER of UMC Scholarship recipients each year

...it keeps growing...

\$2.2 million average amount of low-interest loans awarded each year

50 number of U.S. states with scholarship recipients

500 number of seminary students awarded scholarships each year

...and GROWING...

60% of scholarship recipients are female

54% MINORITY students awarded scholarships

\$13.1 million amount of scholarships awarded between 2009 and 12

...and GROWING
Nothing outlasts a generous heart.

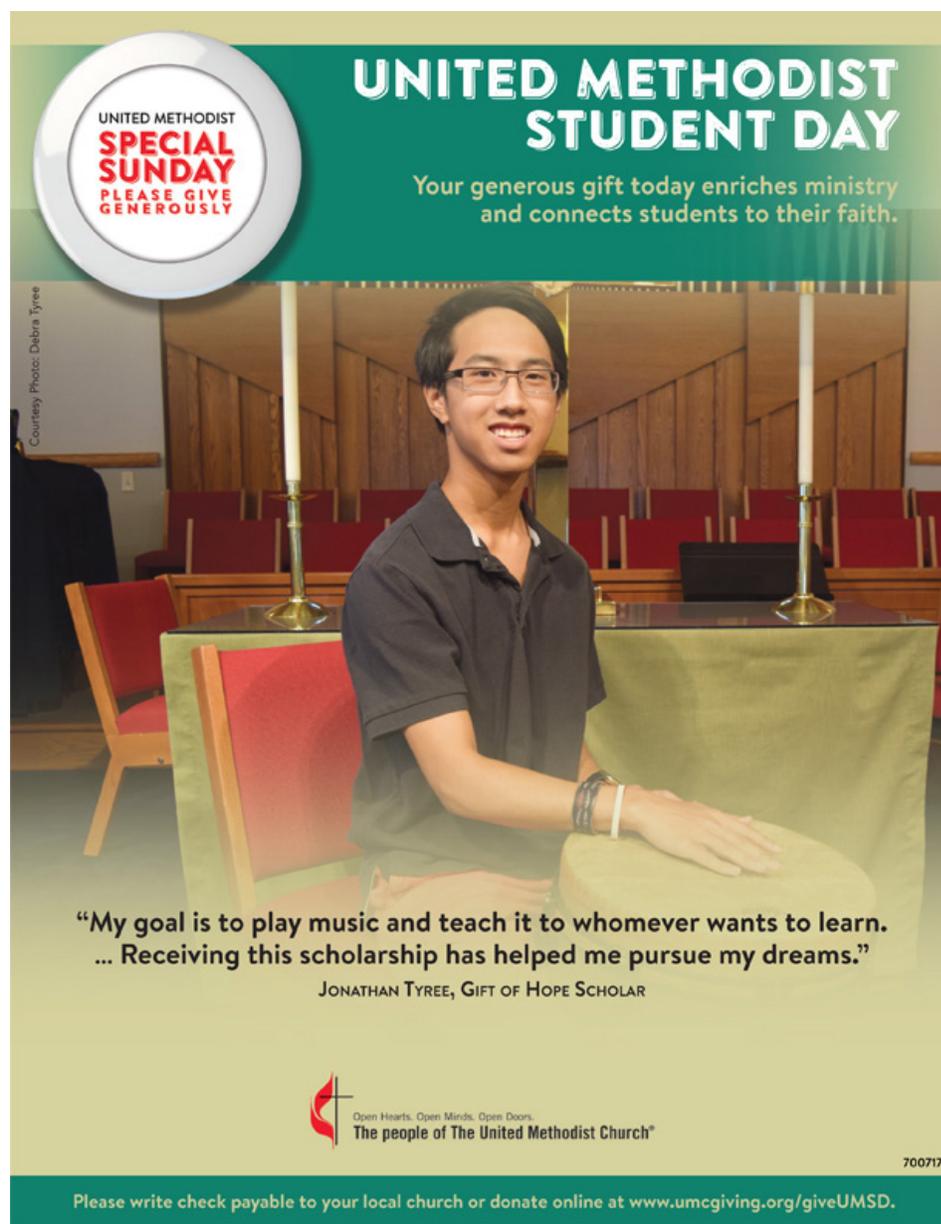
Water what God has planted with a generous gift today.

Give today to UM Student Day and grow a deserving student's future:
www.umcgiving.org/giveUMSD

United Methodist Student Day Poster

<http://bit.ly/UMSD-PastorKit>

8½-by-11 poster



**UNITED METHODIST
SPECIAL
SUNDAY
PLEASE GIVE
GENEROUSLY**

**UNITED METHODIST
STUDENT DAY**

Your generous gift today enriches ministry
and connects students to their faith.

Courtesy Photo: Debra Tyree

**“My goal is to play music and teach it to whomever wants to learn.
... Receiving this scholarship has helped me pursue my dreams.”**

JONATHAN TYREE, GIFT OF HOPE SCHOLAR

 Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

700717

Please write check payable to your local church or donate online at www.umciving.org/giveUMSD.

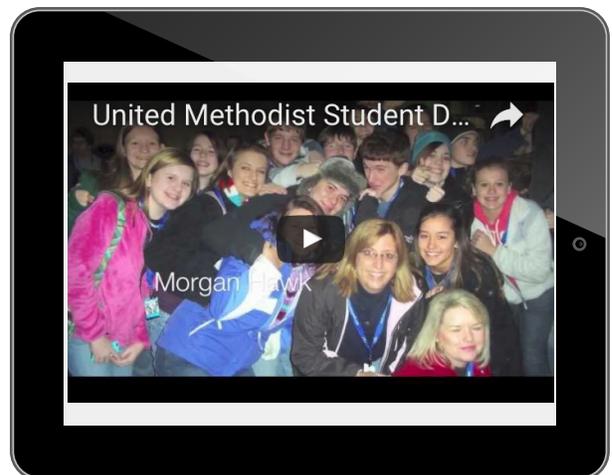
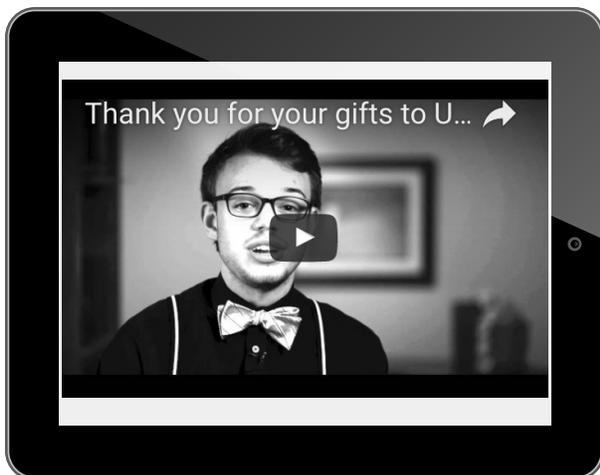
United Methodist Student Day Podcasts

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United Methodist Student Day Videos

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United Methodist Student Day Videos

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United Methodist Student Day Worship Resource

<http://bit.ly/UMSD-PastorKit>

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

**"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
John 8:12b, NRSV**

Call to Worship

Leader: We must study to show ourselves approved so that we will not be embarrassed and will know the truth.

People: We come today, asking God to empower us to embrace learning and appreciate the truth.

Leader: God's word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our paths.

People: Let us open our minds to receive God's word, prepare our hearts to embrace God's Spirit and ready ourselves to practice God's ways.

Litany

Leader: From the darkness, God called forth light and saw that the light was good.

People: The world needs an eternal light that no one can extinguish.

Leader: That light is Christ; may we receive him now.

People: The darkness of sin, the obscurity of ignorance and the horror of crime and terrorism sometimes seem to overtake the light.

Leader: We must educate so we can teach others. Our knowledge and faith work together to guide us to the saving truth. That truth offers a peace that surpasses understanding.

Together: Holy Spirit, help us to practice what we teach so that our lights will keep burning in this dark world. Then we can educate, encourage and draw others to the light of life. Amen.

Prayer

Gracious God, help us to be better students of your word. Teach us your ways. Your son Jesus is the light of the world. Darkness will never overcome that light. May we courageously shine our lights for Christ in contrast to the darkness of this world. Help us to show others the way to truth and illuminate their hearts by sharing our knowledge and our faith. Amen.

United Methodist Student Day Children's Sermons

<http://bit.ly/UMSD-PastorKit>

United Methodist Student Day

Preparation: Bring enough pencils, erasers or another small school supply to give one to each child.

Good morning, boys and girls! How are you this morning?
Allow children to answer.

How many of you go to school?
Have children raise hands.

If young children are present, ask them: The rest of you will go to school when you are a little older, right?
Allow youngest children to answer.

Can anyone tell me why we go to school?
Allow children to answer. Children will likely say things like "to learn" and "we have to." Affirm their answers.

Do you think you might go to college when you are older?
Allow children to answer.

How many of you have thought about becoming a doctor? (Show of hands.) A teacher? (Show of hands.) An astronaut? (Show of hands.) What else might you want to be?
Allow children to answer.

To do many of those jobs, you have to go to college. For some jobs, you have to go to even more school after college. Did you know that you have to pay to go to college?
Allow children to answer.

Sometimes college is very expensive and people can only go because others help pay for it. It's a good thing too, right? What would we do if there were no doctors or teachers?
Allow children to answer.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

United Methodist Student Day Children's Sermon

Preparation

Bring a potted plant, seeds and a watering can. You could also have gardening gloves and a spade if you would like to pass around more objects as you talk with the children.

Message

Greet the children as you typically do. Hold the plant for them to look at it or point to where you placed it. Say: **I brought something to help us this morning! What is it?** Allow the children to answer before moving to the next question. Say: **Can anyone tell me how a plant grows?** Take some answers. Then say: **A plant grows from a tiny seed planted under the earth. With the right amount of water and light, the seed becomes a fully grown plant.** Pass around the items as you talk so the children and touch and feel the objects as you speak.

Say: **Now that this plant is fully grown, do we have to do anything with it? Are we finished watering it? Does it still need light?** Take some answers and then say: **This plant still needs water and sunlight, even if it is fully grown. We, like this plant, will grow up. At some point, we will stop growing tall on the outside, but we still need to keep growing on the inside. Our hearts and our minds can keep growing throughout our whole lives.**

In the spring, we celebrated with the older youth who graduated from high school. Now we call them "adults." Do you think they are done growing? They are not. We started helping some of them to learn about following Jesus when they were your age – and even younger.

Today is United Methodist Student Day. Today we ask people to pray and to make gifts that help students keep growing – on the inside. Together, our church and other United Methodist churches around the world work together to give money so students will have the opportunity to go to college and to take classes that will help them grow in their hearts and their minds. Then they will be ready to tell other people about following Jesus.

Closing Prayer

God of wisdom, we pray for those who want to share the good news about God's love. Give them wisdom and opportunities to learn and grow. Amen.

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

Greet the children:
Good morning! How are you today?

Let me ask you a question. What would you like to be when you grow up?
[Allow time for responses and interact with the children.]

[Pick one of the responses as an example, such as: "a doctor."]

What do you need to be a doctor?

[Allow time for responses and acknowledge them. Examples might include: a stethoscope, a white coat, a thermometer.]

Just through middle school? [No.]

Just through high school? [No.]

For so many things you might want to be, you have to go to college. [And if you want to be a doctor, you have to keep going to school, even after college.]

Now let me ask you: If you want to go to college, what do you need to do? Just show up at college?

[React to responses. If someone mentions that you have to make good grades, acknowledge this as one correct answer.]

You also have to pay money. But what if you don't have enough money to go to college? What can you do?
[Allow for responses.]

Well, one thing we do in The United Methodist Church is to help our students who may need some help paying for college. Today is United Methodist Student Day.

[Hold up the special offering envelope if your church is using one.]

Today, United Methodist churches across the United States will receive a special offering. The money

you give today will help students go to United Methodist and other colleges and universities, so they can be what they want to be when they grow up. It's one way we help each other when we need it, the way God wants us to do.

Let's pray:
Dear God, you have a plan for each of us—now and when we grow up. Thank you for giving us the ability to make good choices. Help us to help others to be everything you want them to be. We love you. Amen.

What else would you need?

What will you need to know? [Allow time for responses.]

How will you learn all the things you need to know? [Prompt children as necessary until someone mentions "going to school."]

Right. You have to go to school. But how much school? Just kindergarten and first grade? [No.]



United Methodist Student Day

Theme: Prepare students to unite faith with knowledge.

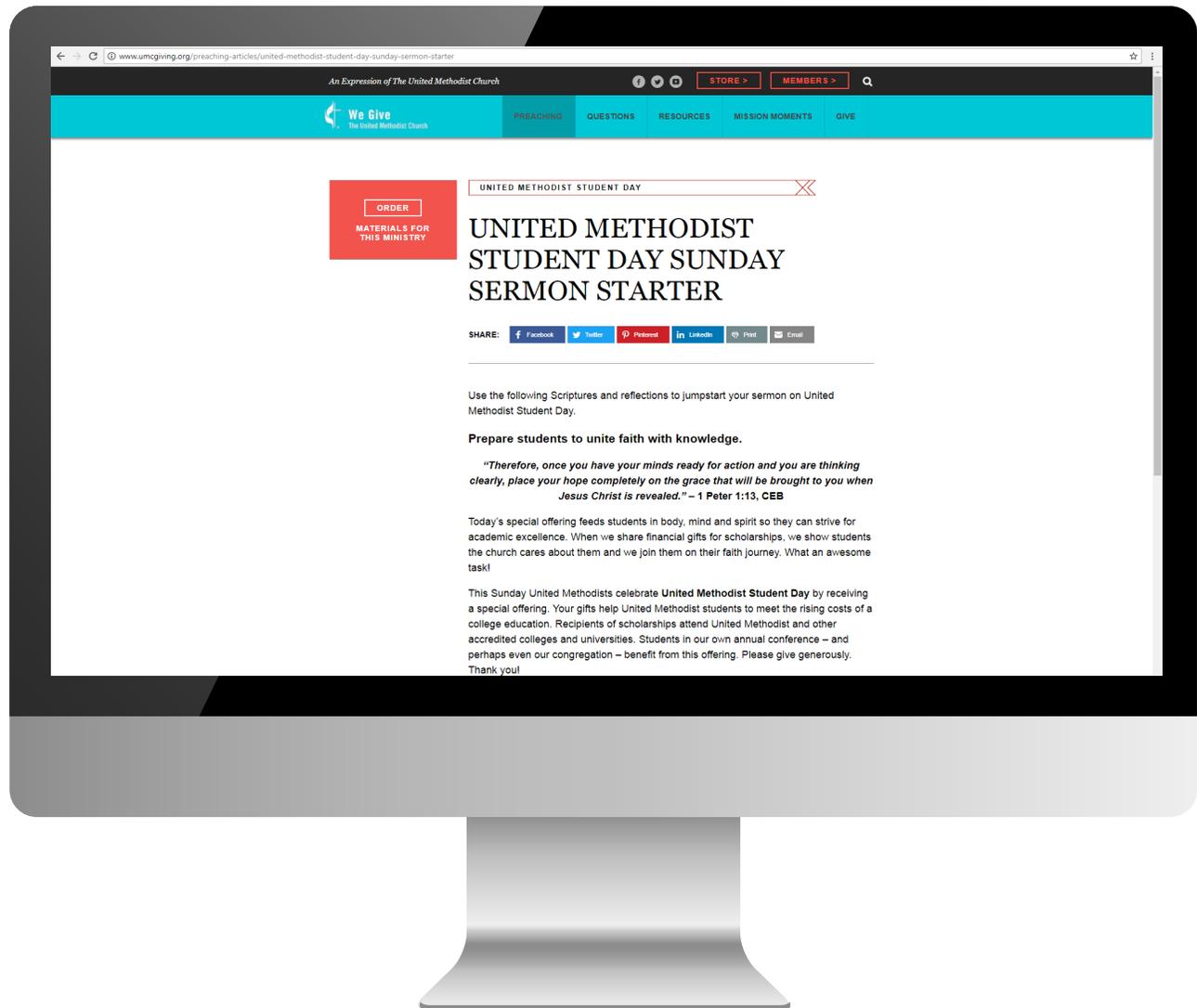
Your offering awards scholarships and loans to students attending United Methodist and other accredited colleges and universities.

Dates: Last Sunday in November.

History: Established by the 1968 General Conference.

United Methodist Student Day Sermon Starter

<http://bit.ly/UMSD-PastorKit>



United Methodist Student Day Litany

<http://bit.ly/UMSD-PastorKit>

United Methodist Student Day: Litany

Leader: Today, on this United Methodist Student Day, we honor the dreams planted in the hearts of those who feel called to pursue further education and live out their faith by continuing to grow deeper in knowledge that will help them use the gifts God created within them to change the world.

People: Grant them confidence to pursue these dreams.

Leader: Today, we remember those students who are away from home, some for the first time. We lift up those living away from home, from family, and from the community of faith. We pray they find new places to be loved, new places to be nurtured, and new places to challenge them to press further on the path of following Jesus.

People: Grant them the courage to press on.

Leader: Today, we lift up the ministry that happens on college campuses. We pray for these ministries that offer faith at a time in life it can sometimes be set aside, that offer hope in times that can feel very alone and that offer love in moments that home seems far away.

People: We pray, O God that they may be a beacon of Your love and hope.

Leader: Today we consider those who have a dream of furthering their education and not a way. We recognize these closed doors that exist for some of our brothers and sisters. We rejoice that together our gifts can open some of those doors.

People: We pray, O God that we may be generous in our gifts and prayers.

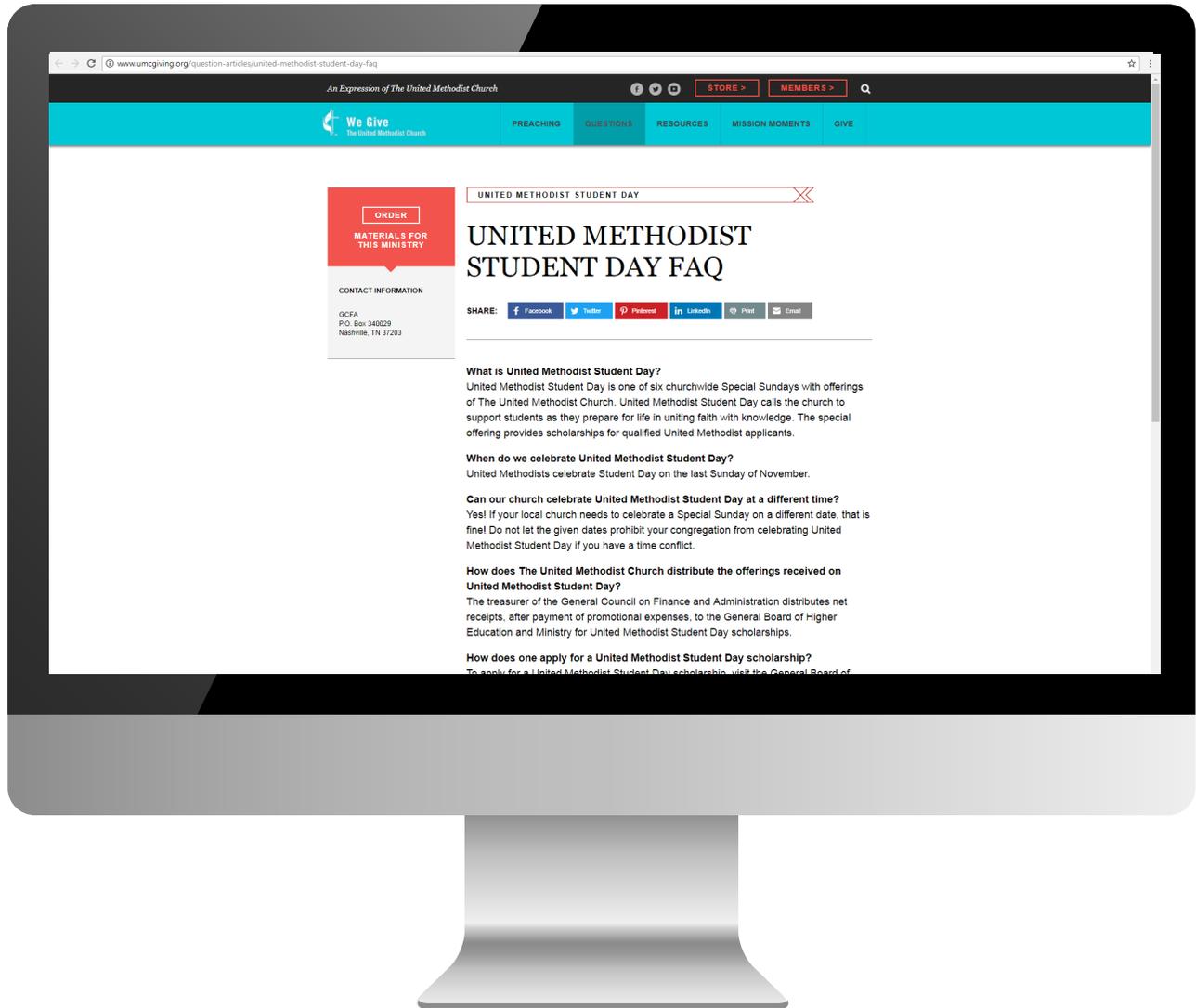
Leader: Today, on this United Methodist Student Day, we offer prayers for our students. We pray for perseverance in their studies, for confidence in their gifts and vocation, and for the experience of joy in learning. Bless their efforts as they unify faith and knowledge to make our world a better one.

People: We pray, O God for our students. Amen

United Methodist Student Day

FAQ

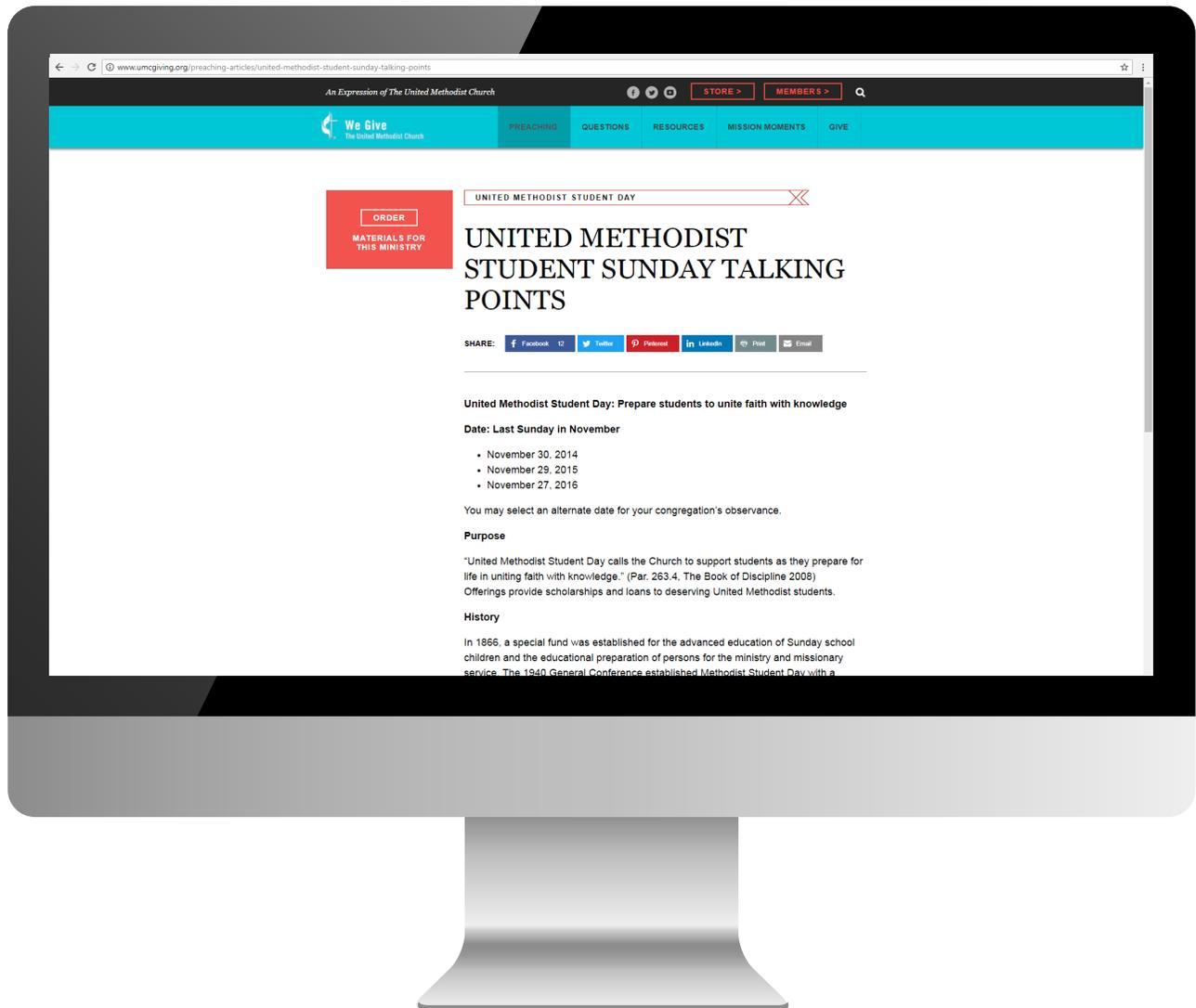
<http://bit.ly/UMSD-FAQ>



United Methodist Student Day

Sunday Talking Points

<http://bit.ly/UMSD-TalkingPoints>



WHEN TO USE THESE RESOURCES

These resources are designed to help you, your team and your congregation really understand and embrace these Special Sunday giving opportunities. Here is a suggested timeline of making use of all of these products.

Three Months Before Each Special Sunday

- Send out an email or internal memo to your leadership team. Make sure to include a link to the podcasts and videos. If you want to make it a little more personal, grab a few team members and call your members personally, making sure to take time to answer any questions they might have.
- Encourage your team to learn about this Special Sunday so they can help promote and guide the special event.
- Alternatively, consider watching one video a week together at staff meetings and answering questions that might arise after the viewing.

Two Months Before Each Special Sunday

- Send out an email, letter or make a call to members of your congregation to announce the upcoming Special Sunday.
- Encourage small group leaders to watch the videos and plan to view some as a small group leading up to the Sunday. Consider hosting an event for small-group leaders to inform them further about this Special Sunday and make sure they have everything they need to help promote this Sunday with their small group.

One Month Before Each Special Sunday

- Send out another email or letter to your congregation. This time, be sure to include some testimonials about the life-change that has happened as a result of UMC generosity. If you'd rather call your congregation, ask for volunteers who have been personally changed by that Special Sunday to help make the calls.
 - Begin posting some social media images on all social feeds two or three times per week. If you don't have social media accounts, select a few of your favorites and share them in your newsletter or weekly worship bulletins. Print some of your favorites and post them around the church in highly trafficked areas.
 - Make sure the teaching pastor has access to all available sermon starters, litanies and other resources.
-

WHEN TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Two Weeks Before Each Special Sunday

- Make an announcement live at church and begin using offering slides during walk-in.
- Distribute the Children's Sermon Starters to your children's teaching team.
- Change your Facebook/Twitter cover images to advertise the Special Sunday.
- Begin posting a social image one to two times per day to make sure everyone knows the celebration is coming (if you don't have social media accounts, include in your weekly bulletin or print them out and place them around your church in highly trafficked areas).

One Week Before Each Special Sunday

- Write an email or letter, or make team calls to your congregation to remind them about this Special Sunday!
- Announce it again at church.
- Use the offering slides for walk-in.
- Keep posting one to two times per day on social channels.

1 Day Before Each Special Sunday Offering

- Post several times on social media.
- Send one more email to your congregation. Include a link of where to give if they won't be able to attend a service.

One Month After Each Special Sunday Offering

- CELEBRATE! Set aside time to announce how much was given on the previous Special Sunday and show people where it's headed. **This is a time to concentrate on how generosity leads to life change and sustained impact.**

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Here are some suggestions to help you use the resources from your kit:

- Set up an automated email sequence or a manual letter campaign for your leadership team that celebrates each Special Sunday. Share e-books, videos or infographics with each message.
- Host a Vision Night where people can come in small groups, watch videos together, ask questions and volunteer to help promote the Special Sunday.
- Set up an automated email sequence for your congregation, or set up a letter-writing campaign. It's important to talk about generosity throughout the year. Use all the resources we've included for these — informative PowerPoint slides, infographics, videos, podcast episodes, e-books, etc.
- Print the posters (or any of the materials) and hang them in highly trafficked areas of the church and church office.
- Encourage leadership and small group leaders to take their teams/groups through the Special Sunday resources before each of their meetings. The videos are short, but setting aside time to watch them and discuss them can help your leaders and congregation members really understand the impact of giving. Doing this through the year, with each Special Sunday, can really keep these opportunities in front of your congregation, making it easier for them to embrace these generosity opportunities.
- Pre-schedule social media posts on your church Facebook page using the quote and Scripture cards we've created for you.
- Distribute the sermon illustrations and children's sermons to your teaching team and decide which ones are the most helpful. Plan when and how you'll use them.
- Use the offering slides during walk-in and walk-out times.
- Hold team "book clubs" with the e-books and set aside time to discuss them and strategize how to use them as a team.
- Distribute the mobile wallpapers, Facebook and Twitter banners and statement cards to your team for use on their own personal social channels.
- Encourage your team to share the infographics, e-books and other e-resources on their own social channels and blogs.

GAIN ACCESS TODAY

All of these resources — and more — can be found online.

HRD - <http://bit.ly/HRD-PastorKit>

UMCOR - <http://bit.ly/UMCOR-PastorKit>

NAMS - <http://bit.ly/NAMS-PastorKit>

PWJS - <http://bit.ly/PWJS-PastorKit>

WCS - <http://bit.ly/WCS-PastorKit>

UMSD - <http://bit.ly/UMSD-PastorKit>

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TOGETHER, WE DO MORE.

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO WHAT NO ONE CONGREGATION OR INDIVIDUAL CAN.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®