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.umcgiving.org/giveHRD

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

General Info
Human Relations Day
Bulletin Inserts


8½-by-11 poster
2-sided bulletin insert

Offering Talk Illustrations (PDF Format)
Human Relations Day
Infographics

3 Reasons We Celebrate Human Relations Day
16 Amazing Ways Your Help Makes a Difference on Human Relations Day
Human Relations Day
Social Media Images
Human Relations Day
Worship Resources

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

Videos


Everyone loves a hero because…
Journey of Faith
Social Media Images
Human Relations Day Mission Moments and More
Human Relations Day

PowerPoints


Offering slides
About Human Relations Day
Human Relations Day

E-book


18 Ways to Promote Human Relations Day
Human Relations Day
Podcasts
Human Relations Day
Children’s Resources


Children’s Sermon #1
Children’s Sermon #2
Human Relations Day Poem by Brennan Boose, JustUs Youth Network
Human Relations Day FAQ


What is Human Relations Day?
Human Relations Day is one of all churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God’s children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another. The special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Volunteers, Services and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

How do we celebrate Human Relations Day?
United Methodists celebrate Human Relations Day on the Sunday before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday.

Can our church celebrate Human Relations Day at a different time?
Yes! If your local church desires to celebrate a Special Sunday on a different date, that is fine. Do not let the given dates prohibit your congregation from creating a Human Relations Day. If you have a time conflict.

How does The United Methodist Church distribute the offerings received on Human Relations Day?
The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration allocates net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, to the administering agencies.
Human Relations Day
Giving Stories
Human Relations Day
Free 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.umcgiving.org/giveUMCOR

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR UMCOR Sunday
General Info
UMCOR Sunday FAQ

UMCOR Sunday
Pastor and Leader’s Kit

UMCOR Sunday Worship Materials


UMCOR SUNDAY WORSHIP MATERIALS - GOD’S STEADFAST LOVE

God’s Steadfast Love

“Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humans.”
- Psalm 107:8, NRSV

Call to Worship
Leader: Give thanks to the LORD.
ALL: God’s love is steadfast.
Leader: God’s people can trust.
ALL: We are released from trouble.
Leader: God gathered us.
ALL: When we were hungry and thirsty.
Leader: When we had no home.
ALL: God delivered us from our distress.
Leader: Give thanks to the LORD.
ALL: For all God has done for us.
Adapted from Psalm 107:1-6
UMCOR Sunday Worship Resources


UMCOR Sunday Worship Resources - Walk Humbly

“And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” - Micah 6:8

Call to Worship
Leader: We give praise to our God who knew us before we had breath
People: We delight in the Lord who guides us still
Leader: God, help us to live as you would have us live
People: Give us obedient hearts
Leader: As we gather today to worship, we know injustice reigns down on your people.
People: Disturb us, God, so that we may act justly
Leader: As we remember this day, we know so many who suffer needlessly
People: Use us, God, as your hands of mercy
Leader: As we move through our day, following our own agendas
People: Remember us, God, to walk humbly with you

Gathering Prayer
God, we know things are not right in the world. Children sleep with hunger pains. Families struggle to stay together in times of war and strife. Droughts leave once lush fields cracked and dry. We know these things to be true, but they seem so far and remote. They seem beyond our reach. They seem too big for us to solve. So we do not seek justice for the widow or the orphan. We do not respond mercifully. As we gather to
UMCOR Sunday
Sharing Sermon Starter


Like the following Scriptures and reflections to jumpstart sermons related to each special offering.

Share the goodness of life with those who hurt.

“Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same.” – Luke 3:11b, CEB

It’s easy to give food to our church’s pantry or to share a spare coat with someone who has none. But how can we go an extra mile – to make a genuine sacrifice to help a neighbor in need – beyond today’s special offering? That’s what keeps our faith alive!

When you contribute to the UMCOR Sunday offering this Sunday, you enable the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to keep the promise that 100 percent of your designated gift goes entirely to specific causes. On behalf of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR provides humanitarian aid in the United States and around the world. By responding wherever and whenever catastrophes strike, helping refugees reintegrate into their communities, feeding schoolchildren, establishing medical clinics and much more, UMCOR provides hope for millions. Please give generously. Thank you!
UMCOR Sunday
Children’s Sermon

UMCOR SUNDAY CHILDREN’S SERMON - BUILDING BLOCKS

Get Ready

Prep Ahead: Bring building blocks (one per kid). Also find a photo of a destroyed home from a recent natural disaster and print it out or provide a way to show it electronically. Find out a few facts about the disaster that are appropriate to share with the children such as: when it occurred, what resulted from the disaster, or scientific information about the kinds of natural disaster depicted in the photo.

You may talk, stack the blocks to create a wall. If you have a lot of blocks, you may want to have most of the wall already standing before you start, and then just add the last few as you speak.

Welcome

SAT: It’s great to see you! I hope you’re all having a great day so far. I see you’re unpeeling what I’m doing with these blocks. Well, you’re about to find out.

Get Set

SAT: Now I want all of you to face the wall I’ve just built and blow as hard as you can on the sound of three. Ready? One, two, three!

If all children blow for a few seconds and then knock the wall down as if their enemies
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.umcgiving.org/giveNAMS

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

General Info

Native American Ministries Sunday
Pastor and Leader’s Kit

Native American Ministries Sunday
Social Media Images


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


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


Instagram images (Size: 510x510)

- Native American Ministries Sunday
- On Native American Ministries Sunday, we will empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to worship and serve Jesus.

- Through our generosity on Native American Ministries Sunday, Native American Ministries Sunday, we support the jobs and contributions of Native Americans to our society.

- On April 19, 2019, we celebrate Native Americans among the many diverse cultures that make up the Body of Christ.

- On April 19, 2019, we will share with our Native American friends and brothers as they seek to witness and impact the world.

- Native American Ministries Sunday

- With our generosity on Native American Ministries Sunday, we support scholarships for Native American students.

- When we give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, we make the differences of the Native American rural and urban congregations ministries.
Native American Ministries Sunday

Social Media Images


Pinterest images (Size: 600x800)
Native American Ministries Sunday

Social Media Images


Twitter images (Size: 1024x512)
Native American Ministries Sunday
Social Media Images


Facebook images (Size: 1200x1200)
Native American Ministries Sunday

Bulletin Inserts


8½-by-11 poster
2-sided bulletin insert

“A SPECIAL SUNDAY
GIVE NOW

Your gift empowers congregations to find new ways to share Christ’s love with their communities.

“Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”
Romans 12:13, NRSV

Native American Ministries Sunday

‘Many … are lacking for a stronger connection to God. The introspective nature of native people could add a dimension for those seeking greater awareness and closeness with God.”
Carrie Osborne, Native American Student Scholarship recipient

“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.” — Psalm 139:14, NRSV
Native American Ministries Sunday

Smartphone Wallpaper


For Apple iPhone 5S (Size: 640x1136)
Native American Ministries Sunday

Smartphone Wallpaper


For Apple iPhone 6/6S Plus (Size: 1080x1920)
Native American Ministries Sunday

Smartphone Wallpaper


For Apple iPhone 6/6S (Size: 750x1334)
Native American Ministries Sunday
Smartphone Wallpaper


Samsung S6/Edge/Note4 (Size: 1440x2560)
Native American Ministries Sunday
Smartphone Wallpaper


Xiaomi Redmi 2 (Size: 720x1280)
Native American Ministries Sunday
Website Banners


(Size: 120x600)  (Size: 160x600)  (Size: 300x600)  (Size: 300x250)  (Size: 468x80)  (Size: 728x90)
Native American Ministries Sunday

10-second videos

Native American Ministries Sunday
10-second videos
Native American Ministries Sunday
PowerPoints


NAMS Offering Slides
About Native American Ministries Sunday
Additional Offering Slides
Native American Ministries Sunday

E-book


10 Ways to Celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday
Native American Ministries Sunday
Infographic


Native Americans and The United Methodist Church
Native American Ministries Sunday Podcasts

Native American Ministries Sunday
Videos
Native American Ministries Sunday FAQ


What is Native American Ministries Sunday?
Native American Ministries Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. The special offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences and across the United States and provides university scholarships for Native Americans.

When do we celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday?
United Methodists celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday on the Third Sunday of Easter.

Can our church celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday at a different time?
Yes! If your local church needs to celebrate a Special Sunday on a different date, that is fine! Do not let the given dates prohibit your congregation from celebrating Native American Ministries Sunday if you have a time conflict.

How does The United Methodist Church distribute the offerings received on Native American Ministries Sunday?
The annual conference treasurer retains 10 percent of the receipts to develop and strengthen Native American ministries within the annual conference. The annual conference distributes 90 percent of the receipts to Native American ministries.
Native American Ministries Sunday
Sunday Sermon Starter


Use the following Scriptures and reflections to jumpstart sermons related to each special offering.

Celebrate the gifts and contributions of Native Americans.

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can’t be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.” — Matthew 5:14-16, CSB

Do you ever hide your light under a bushel? God calls us to be light Bearers. That’s a pretty good description of what we do through our special offering today. We nurture mission with and provide scholarships for Native Americans who want to let their light shine.

This Sunday United Methodists observe Native American Ministries Sunday by receiving a special offering. This day recognizes the gifts and contributions of Native Americans to both church and society. Because of your gifts, the United Methodist
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.umcgiving.org/givePWJS

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

General Info
Peace with Justice Sunday
Pastor and Leader’s Kit

Peace with Justice Sunday
Infographic Video
Peace with Justice Sunday
Social Media Videos

Peace with Justice Sunday
Social Media Videos
Peace with Justice Sunday

Children’s Sermons


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.

Peace is hard sometimes, isn’t it? 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?

Children respond.

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?

Children respond.

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

Peace with Justice Sunday

Children’s Sermon

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

Children respond.

Peace in hard times, isn’t it? It’s especially hard when we don’t get our way. Would it be easier to keep the peace if I tried 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 give a prize, I might say, ‘That’s not fair,’” 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 everyone did that, would it be easier to have peace?

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

Rev. Roger Wolsey, Heritage UMC.

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

It’s been said that a Christian pastor’s 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 owwies! - Nearly one a day! And it’s 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


Band-Aids Aren’t Enough…
Show Us, God…

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**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!

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**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


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


Offering Slides
About PWJS
Peace with Justice Sunday

E-book


15 Ways to Celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday
Peace with Justice Sunday Poster


8½-by-11 poster

“This peace looks injustice in the face, cries about it for a while and then advocates – and choosing this peace is a happy business.”

Sara Altman, member, Mississippi City United Methodist Church, Gulfport, Mississippi

Make check payable to your local church or give online at www.umcgiving.org/givePWJS
15 Amazing Ways You Can Make a Difference on Peace with Justice Sunday

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

Facebook Images

Peace with Justice Sunday
Podcasts

Peace with Justice Sunday
Social Media Videos
Peace with Justice Sunday FAQ
Peace with Justice Sunday

Sunday Sermon Starters


Use the following Scriptures and reflections to jumpstart sermons related to each special offering.

Witness to God’s hope for a faithful, loving world.

“Love does not do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the law.” — Romans 13:10, CEB

Loving friends and family is easy, but some people are hard to love. Today’s special offering nurtures ministries that help us get beyond narrowness, to live as faithful, loving disciples of Jesus Christ.

This Sunday United Methodists celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday by receiving a special offering. Your gifts empower compassionate people to advocate for human rights, buy fair-trade products, care for the environment, demonstrate to important causes, eradicate poverty, feed the hungry, mediate conflict, provide health care, seek affordable housing and model nonviolence. Global outreach through the General Board of Church and Society and annual conferences related peace with justice ministries transform lives. Please give generously. Thanks you!
Peace with Justice Sunday
Covenant Congregation Workbook


Becoming and Being a Peace with Justice Covenant Congregation Workbook
Peace with Justice Sunday Coordinator Kit

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.umcgiving.org/giveWCS

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

General Info
World Communion Sunday
Pastor and Leader’s Kit

World Communion Sunday
Social Media Images
World Communion Sunday

Social Media Images

World Communion Sunday
E-books

A Dozen Ways to Promote & Celebrate
World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday Resource Compilation
World Communion Sunday
Infographics

- Just the Facts
- Empowering Future Leaders
World Communion Sunday

PowerPoint


About World Communion Sunday
World Communion Sunday
Poster


8½-by-11 poster

"My desire is to sow seeds into the lives of others, hoping that at least one will also be inspired to sow a seed into another individual."

Lena Kuffour-Attoh, Ethnic Scholarship Recipient

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus."
— Philippians 2:5, NRSV
World Communion Sunday Videos

World Communion Sunday
Children’s Sermons


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


- Litany for World Communion Sunday
- Global Greetings
World Communion Sunday

FAQ


What is World Communion Sunday?
World Communion Sunday is one of six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. World Communication Sunday calls the church to reach out to all people and model diversity among God’s children. The special offering provides World Communion Scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program, and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program.

When do we celebrate World Communion Sunday?
United Methodists celebrate World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday in October.

Can our church celebrate World Communication Sunday at a different time?
Yes. If your local church needs to celebrate a Special Sunday on a different date, that is fine. Do not let the given dates prohibit your congregation from celebrating World Communion Sunday if you have a time conflict.

How does The United Methodist Church distribute the offerings received on World Communion Sunday?
The treasurer of the General Council on Finance and Administration distributes net receipts, after payment of promotional expenses, to the administering agencies:
- World Communion Scholarships: 50 percent (General Board of Global Ministries).
World Communion Sunday
Talking Points

World Communion Sunday
Sunday Sermon Starter

World Communion Sunday
Children’s Sermon

Preparation
Bring a globe or world map. Choose some places where you have lived or visited or where you know someone. Prepare to locate and talk about these places. If you have a souvenir from another country, it may be fun to bring that to show to the children as well.

Message
Greet the children as you typically do. Say: I have brought something special for you to look at today. Does anyone know what this is? Take time for them to answer. Say: A map or a globe shows where all the countries are in the world are. Show the children where they are on the map. Ask: Has anyone here traveled to another country? Take time to find where the children have been! If the children have not been outside of the United States, ask about countries they might want to visit and why. You can also talk about one or two places you have visited and show them souvenirs.

Say: Today is United Methodist Sunday. Today we remember that God's church isn't just here inside our sanctuary. It is full of people from all around the United States and...
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.umcgiving.org/giveUMSD

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

General Info

Pastor and Leader’s Kit
United Methodist Student Day

Facebook Images

United Methodist Student Day

Facebook Images

United Methodist Student Day

Facebook Images

United Methodist Student Day

Twitter Banners

United Methodist Student Day
Video Profiles

United Methodist Student Day
PowerPoints


- About UMSD
- Offering slides
United Methodist Student Day

E-books


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

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


8½-by-11 poster
United Methodist Student Day

Podcasts

United Methodist Student Day
Videos
United Methodist Student Day

Videos

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


ATTENTION: 98

United Methodist Student Day

Children’s Sermons

Preparation

Bring a postal stamp, made and a stamping car. You could also have gathering gloves and a sack if you would like to pass around more objects as you talk with the children.

Message

Give the children as you typically do. Hold the plant for them to see at 1 to point to where you planted it. Day: I brought something to help us on this morning! What is it? Allow the children to answer before naming the object, ginger. Say: Can anyone tell me why a plant grows? Take turns answering. This day: A plant grows from a tiny and 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 or the children and touch the objects as you speak.

Say: Now that this plant is fully grown, do we have to do anything with its? Are we finished watering it? Does it still need light? Take turns answering 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 will need to keep growing on the inside. Our hearts and our minds can keep growing throughout our whole lives.

In the spring, we celebrate with the older youth who graduated from high school. Now we call these “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, we 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

Sermon Starter


Use the following Scriptures and reflections to jumpstart your sermon on United Methodist Student Day.

Prepare students to unite faith with knowledge.

“Therefore, once you have your minds ready for action and you are thinking clearly, place your hope completely on the grace that will be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed.” – 1 Peter 1:13, CEV

Today’s special offering feeds students in body, mind and spirit so they can strive for academic excellence. When we share financial gifts for scholarships, we show students the church cares about them and we join them on their faith journey. What an awesome task!

This Sunday, United Methodists celebrate United Methodist Student Day by receiving a special offering. Your gifts help United Methodist students to meet the rising costs of a college education. Recipients of scholarships attend United Methodist and other accredited colleges and universities. Students in our own annual conference — and perhaps even our congregation — benefit from the offering. Please give generously.

Thank you!
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

United Methodist Student Day

Sunday Talking Points

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.


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