



THE WAY

A LEADERS' GUIDE FOR
NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY
BASED ON ACTS 9:1-19, NRSV



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NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

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Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." 11 The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come

in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; 14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an

instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name

ACTS 9:1-20, NRSV

before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; 16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." 17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, 20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."





NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

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Dear Church Leader,

Native American Ministries Sunday celebrates and supports the 157 Native American United Methodist churches that are part of the denomination. On May 5, our special offering directly supports Native American congregations that minister authentically with their communities and provides scholarships for Native American seminary students.

Did you know that more than 20,000 Native American people are part of The United Methodist Church? Through gifts shared on this Special Sunday, United Methodist Native American seminary students and congregations are empowered to develop new ministries that honor creative expression of their culture. They are equipped to form new ministry partnerships and coalitions, encouraging community reconciliation and restoration.

Please use and adapt the resources in this kit to promote the Special Sunday and to develop a worship experience that emphasizes the importance of Native American Ministries Sunday and encourages generous giving on May 5.

Thank you for being part of this Special Sunday that strengthens the United Methodist connection.



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Worship Resource: Liturgy

Strengthen the Native American Ministries Sunday message throughout your worship service. This liturgy is designed to connect with the Scripture readings while reflecting themes of persecution, grace and redemption. You can print the prayers in the bulletin or project them on screens, depending on your church's culture.



For thousands of years, the space where we prayerfully gather today was under the care of the SPECIFY THE NATIVE PEOPLE WHO ORIGINALLY LIVED WHERE YOUR CHURCH IS (for example: the Wappinger people, specifically the Kitchewan tribe). Their presence in this region is remembered and woven into the history of our community. On this Native American Ministries Sunday and every day, we are encouraged to be mindful of healing past harms while moving forward with awareness and respect, celebrating and embracing the contributions of First Americans.

INVOCATION

Divine Creator,
Thank you for turning our mourning into dancing,
Our weeping into joy.
Open us to your Spirit
As we worship you.
Open our eyes to experience the risen Christ
in new ways that nourish us and make us instruments
to share your love and grace with everyone.
In the name of the One whose way we follow,
Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ the Lord is risen today!
Alleluia!
We gather in the name of the resurrected Lord Jesus.
We sing praises to God and give thanks.
We gather in celebration of Native American United Methodists recognizing that weeping may linger for the night,
But joy comes with the morning.
Through our connections through Christ, God is turning our mourning into dancing
nd clothing us with joy.
God of joy, we give thanks to you forever!
Christ the Lord is risen today!
Alleluia!

HYMN: "AMAZING GRACE"

UMH 378 verse 1, Cherokee, verse 2, Creek, verse 3

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS



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PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS





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Worship Resource: Sermon Starter

What can we learn from the lives of the first Christians as we seek to follow “The Way” today? The first Christians preached, taught and shared, and invited others to “The Way” of repentance, healing, forgiveness and love.

How do people who are not Native American reconcile the harm done to the First Americans, while honoring the Native American ministries of The United Methodist Church?

This sermon starter offers direction to weave a message of repentance and celebration.



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NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

THE WAY

Worship Resource: Offering Talk

Adapt this script to share encouraging stories of how Native American Ministries Sunday offerings have strengthened congregations and equipped leaders. If possible, invite someone from the Native American community to share a testimony.





NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

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Visual Worship Resources

Incorporate the voices of Native American Christians with poetry, music and prayers. Visual slides provide a multimedia experience during the offering or a mission moment. They can be projected the week before Native American Ministries Sunday to prepare the congregation to give generously.

Posters and bulletin inserts introduce the theme and raise awareness about why we celebrate the ministries of United Methodist Native Americans.





NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

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Children's Resource: Children's Message

Invite the children to participate in an embodied Native American United Methodist prayer that celebrates a cultural tradition while being careful to avoid appropriation.



NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

THE WAY: CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Invite the children to come forward. Ask one or two children to hold a large cross, preferably one that is wooden or that was created by indigenous people. It should be lifted up so everyone can see it. Invite the other children to form a circle around the students who are holding the cross.

Ask congregants to stand symbolically in each direction of the church

EAST: holding a large photo of the sun rising

SOUTH: an older person carrying a baby

WEST: the baptismal font

NORTH: flags or other fabric gently waving as if being moved by the wind (perhaps place a fan behind them)

Explain:

Today we are celebrating Native American United Methodists and the ministries in their communities. We remember that, as followers of Jesus, we are more alike than we are different. And, sometimes, we might sing different songs or pray differently.

I want to share a prayer that Native Americans who are part of the Lakota Tribe might say in their church on a Sunday morning.

As we say this prayer, we will move toward the direction that is suggested in the prayer. We remember that Jesus Christ is the center of creation, of our lives and of the world. We ask each direction to share a form of wisdom. Then, from each direction, we will return to the center, reminded that Christ brings healing and wholeness to every place on earth.

Point out which direction is north, south, east and west.

The litany is printed in the bulletin, and the rest of the congregation is invited to respond by saying what is in bold.

Let us be silent as we face our center point.

LITANY:

TRADITIONAL LAKOTA TRIBE PRAYER, ALT.
United Methodist Book of Worship, 470

Let us face East.

(All people face East.)

From the East, the direction of the rising sun, we glean wisdom and knowledge through desert silences and humble service.

Enable us, O God, to be wise in our actions and in our use of the resources of the earth, sharing them in justice, partaking of them in gratitude.

(All people return facing center.)



NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

THE WAY: CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Let us face South.

(All people face South.)

From the South come guidance and the beginning and end of life.

May we walk good paths, O God, living on the earth as sisters and brothers should, rejoicing in one another's blessing and sympathizing in one another's sorrows and, together, look to you, seeking the new heaven and earth.

(All people return facing center.)

Let us face West.

(All people face West.)

From the West come purifying waters.

We pray that water might be pure and available to all, and that we, too, may be purified so that life may be sustained and nurtured over the entire face of the earth.

(All people return facing center.)

Let us face North.

(All people face North.)

From the North come strong winds and gentle breezes.

May the air we breathe be purified and may our lives feel that breath of the Spirit, strengthening and encouraging us.

(All people return facing center.)

If we walked a path in each direction, the sacred paths would form a cross.

Returning to the center, we discover Christ, who calls us and challenges us. Amen.



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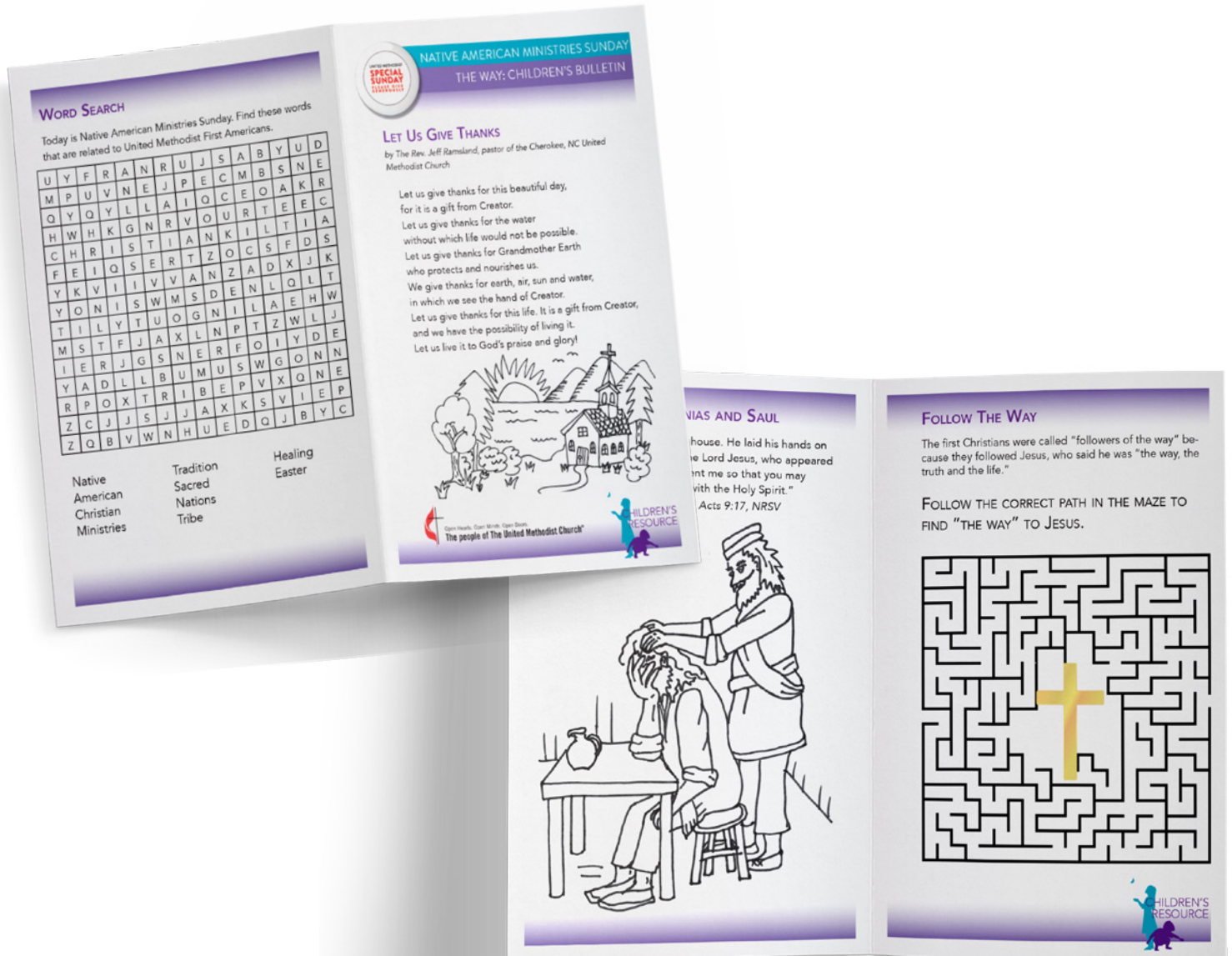


NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

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Children's Resource: Children's Bulletin

Help the children in your congregation engage with the worship service through a coordinated coloring page, maze, word puzzles, prayer and Scriptural passage.



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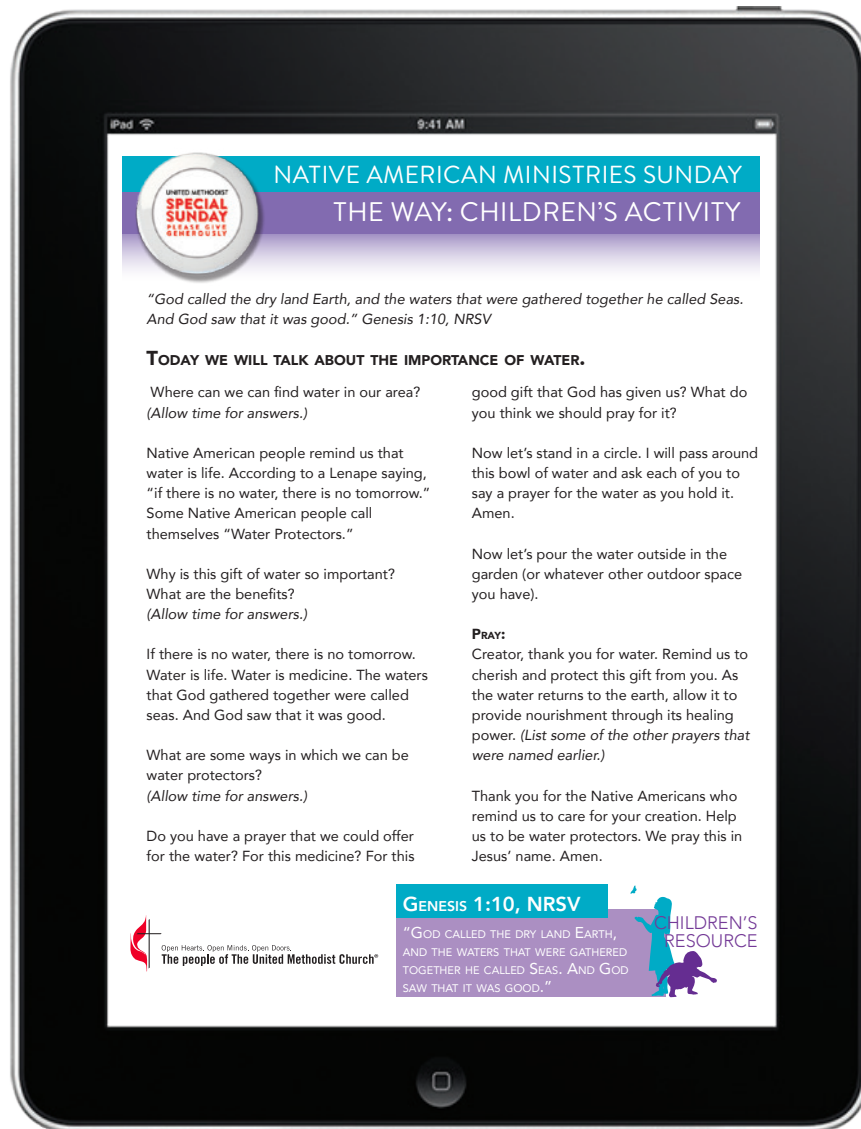


NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

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Children's Resource: Activity

Explore the First Americans' commitment to protecting water sources. Brainstorm ways in which we can be water protectors.



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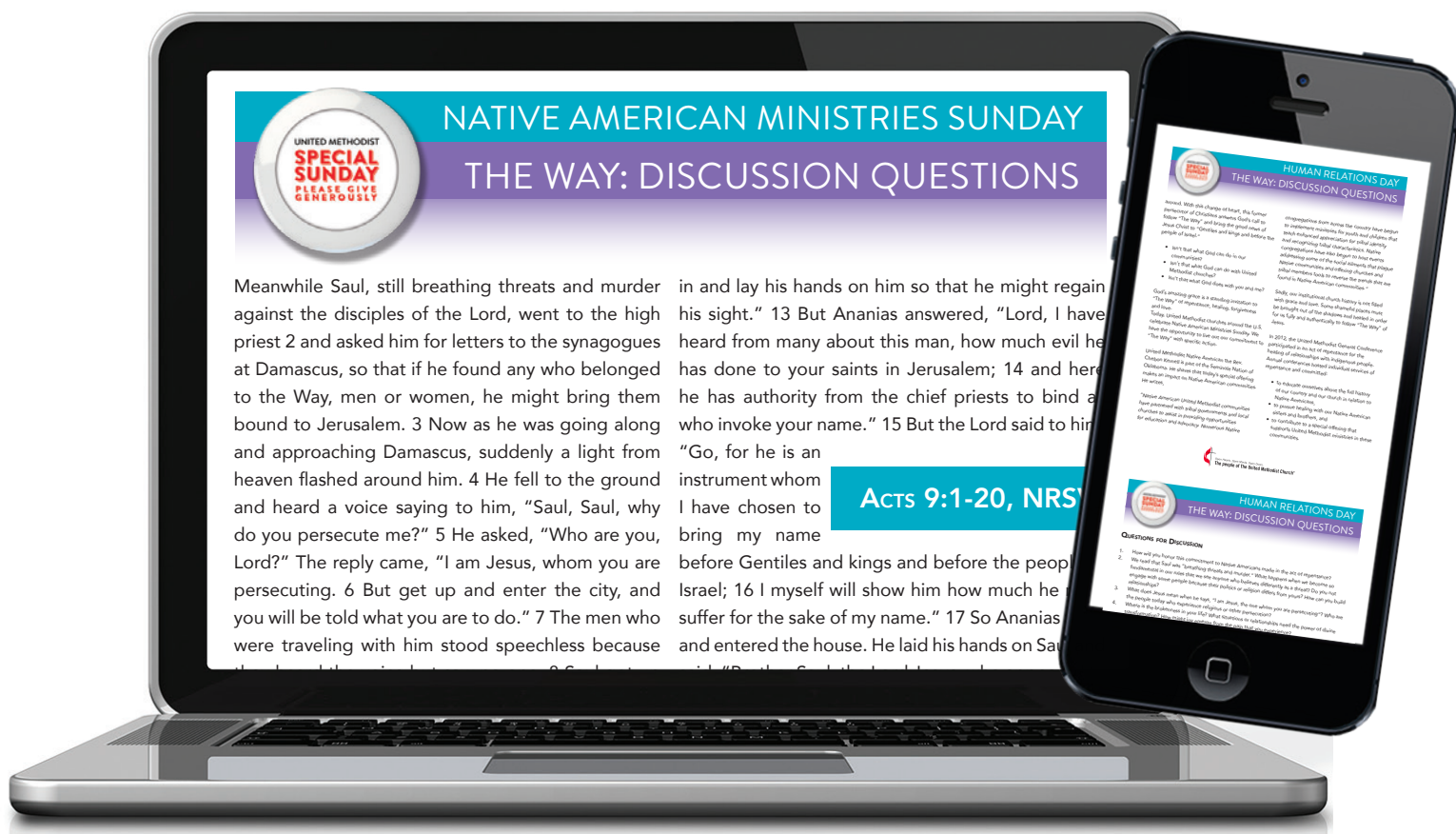


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Small Group Resource: Discussion Questions

Using these conversation prompts, guide your small group through the lesson from Acts 9:1-20 and make connections with Native American Ministries Sunday and the world.



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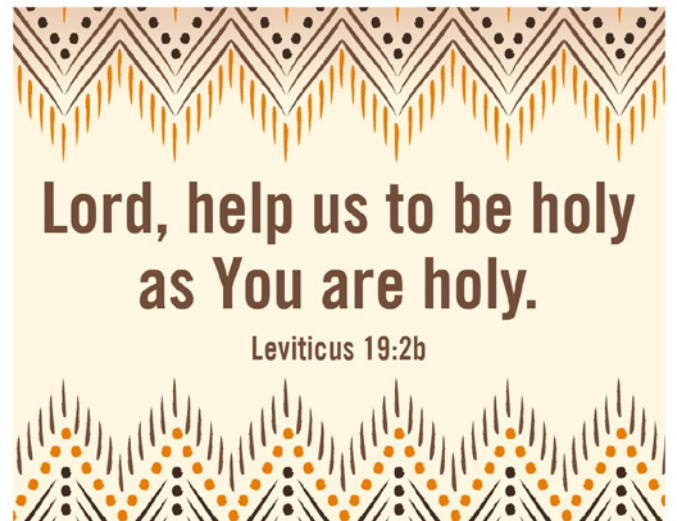
Social Media Resources

Prayer cards, testimonials and reminders have been formatted for you to post through your social media networks. For maximum impact, consider posting two to three messages a week in the month leading up to Native American Ministries Sunday.

To personalize, add your own message and hashtag and include information about your congregation's relationship with Native American ministries.



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www.umcsgiving.org/NAMS



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NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

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Devotional Podcasts

These audio devotionals, prepared by Terry Wildman, a United Methodist Native American pastor, will deepen your congregation's appreciation of Scripture. Listen to accounts from the creation to Jesus' Resurrection through the lens of First Americans.





NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

THE WAY

Resource Guides

Gather your leadership team and use these resources in small groups, including youth, to prepare for Native American Ministries Sunday. With presentations, book ideas and other resources, incorporate this celebration beyond worship and into the full life of the church.

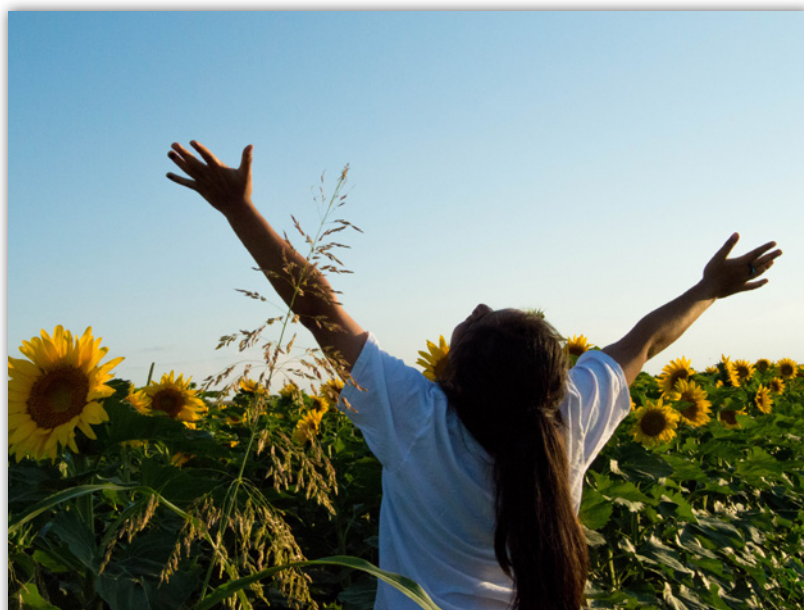


PHOTO CREDIT: GANNY UNDERWOOD

Native American Ministries Sunday

Youth Resources for This Special Sunday



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Native American Ministries Sunday

Resource Guide



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NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

THE WAY

Videos

Hear from Native American United Methodists about their experiences and ministries. Provide a visual countdown in worship in the weeks leading up to the Special Sunday. Post informational videos on social media and your website.

Screen a video during a small-group discussion or host a larger conversation and strategically show multiple videos to tell the story. With dozens of videos from which to choose, we are confident you will find what you need to enhance your congregation's Native American Ministries Sunday celebration.



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NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

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Blog Copy

We developed copy, sourced images and provided a description, pull quotes and tweetable text. Promote Native American Ministries Sunday on the pastor's or mission blog or on the church website. Add your own copy to customize for your context or just copy and paste the provided text.

Blog Title	What's Your Response To Dr. Richard Twiss' Questions?
Author	Kenny Jahng
Meta Description	(112 characters): Native American Ministries Sunday in the United Methodist Church supports and preserves scholars and traditions.
Focus Keywords	NAMS, native american ministries, united methodist church, special sundays, first nations,
Suggested Feature Photo	https://unsplash.com/photos/1QA8GRqgcZY
Tweetable	Join me in supporting Native American Ministries Sunday. Learn more here (insert link)
Pulled Quote for Social Media	The United Methodist Church, Native and non-Native, are working together to create a new history.

History can be a tricky thing.



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NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

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Infographics

Some people learn best visually. Others just want the numbers. We've combined them both into attractive and informative infographics to share specific details about the impact of Native American Ministries Sunday.

FIVE

Reasons We Celebrate

Native American Ministries Sunday

Native American Ministries Sunday is a very special day that United Methodist churches across the country celebrate every year. With a special offering on a designated Sunday in April, we honor and empower the Native Americans in our church community.

Native Americans — with many unique languages and cultures — honor Jesus and live as Christians led by a rotation of primarily Native American pastors. It is a joy to celebrate and embolden their congregations on this day!

Here are five reasons we believe in the importance of this Special Sunday:

- 1. We celebrate in commitment to racial reconciliation.**

The struggles of First Americans are often invisible. As a result of historic and ongoing institutional racism, our Native communities experience high rates of poverty and suicide. As United Methodists, we have vowed to seek reconciliation with Native Americans and are committed to represent their community in a way that befits their proud heritage. This offering specifically supports Native American seminarians, strengthens, develops and equips Native American rural, urban, and reservation congregations, ministries and communities and annual conference Native American Ministries.
- 2. We believe in funding justice efforts for Native Americans.**

"Social justice" is more than a buzzword for United Methodist congregations. With this offering, we are saying YES to creating programs that enrich, empower and educate. So many people want to support our First Americans, but don't know where to start. Giving generously on this Sunday is an easy way to show our support.
- 3. When we give together, we do more than any individual can.**

Connectionalism is a high priority for our denomination. We believe in joining together, as congregations all over the world, to celebrate together on six Special Sundays throughout the year. This particular Special Sunday provides the biggest impact we make together for Native American communities.
- 4. We believe in taking care of our own family.**

As United Methodists, we are committed to serving and giving all over the world, but we are committed to shepherd and caring for our own community first. 1 Timothy 5:8 challenges us to take care of our own family. On Native American Ministries Sunday, we do just that.
- 5. We want to model generosity for our communities and future generations.**

Generosity leaves a legacy. When we give as a community, we tell our local mission field that we care. When we give as a community to diverse causes, we are making sure people know that our churches are externally focused. We believe in diversity, and we believe in supporting all people. On this day, we make sure to support our First Americans.

JOIN US TO GIVE GENEROUSLY ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY.

TOGETHER, WE DO MORE.

For more information, visit umcsgiving.org/NAMS.

FAQs

Native American Ministries Sunday

Every year, we set aside one Sunday to give generously to Native American ministries and scholarship. It's one way we recognize the unique value and contributions of this community. There are 143 Native American congregations within the United Methodist denomination and over 21,000 Native American individuals. Read on to find out how and why we celebrate every April.

How long have we been celebrating Native American Ministries Sunday?
We've been honoring the rich history and presence of United Methodist Native Americans since 1988.

When do we celebrate?
We typically celebrate on the fourth Sunday after Easter.

How does a Native American United Methodist service differ from my own?
Like every United Methodist congregation around the world, worship services are unique to the local community. It is not uncommon to see a United Methodist service on National Indigenous Day, a big part of Sunday worship, but each church in our denomination worships as they feel called.

Why do we believe that ministry to Native American communities is important?
There are social justice issues that plague rural communities, violence against women, substance abuse and self-harm are four issues on which the Native American community is struggling. We collaborate with tribal governments and local churches to assist in providing advocacy and education.

How does my generosity help minister?
When you give generously to Native American Ministries Sunday, you are helping to fund specifically for Native American congregations and ministers that will provide relief and help to connect people to Native American ministry.

How does my generosity help provide education?
Twenty-five percent of every donation to Native American Ministries Sunday is used to provide scholarships for qualified seminarians who might not have a chance to go to college otherwise.

Will my offering really make a difference?
YES! Many Native American churches operate with minimal funds. Your generosity on the Special Sunday is the lifeline of many Native American churches.

Why is this kind of advocacy important?
We believe we are called to protect the integrity of the Native American presence in The United Methodist Church.

How can I give?
You can give online or at church during the offering on the annual Special Sunday.

Learn more at umcsgiving.org/NAMS.

With each sunrise, may we never forget that hope is always present. With each sunset, may we never forget that this new day presents new opportunities. With each sunrise, may we never forget that this day is a gift from God. With each sunset, may we never forget to reach and pursue good news to all of Creation.

Amos

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NATIVE AMERICANS and The United Methodist Church

149 Number of Native American United Methodist churches

21,365 Number of Native American members of The United Methodist Church

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 2015

*If the annual conference has no Native American members, this conference transfers funds to the General Council on Finance and Administration.

United States Census Bureau, Release Number: C2010-FT-36.F

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

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NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

THE WAY

Mobile Wallpapers

Do your congregants spend a lot of time looking at their smartphone screens? Give them something meaningful to see whenever they pick up the phone. These inspiring messages are designed to fit most smartphone screens and include a Scripture verse along with a reminder about Native American Ministries Sunday.

Invite technologically savvy members to help others to install the image.



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