

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 shepherding 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 umcgiving.org/NAMS.