

GIVE TOGETHER

SPECIAL SUNDAY RESOURCES FOR GETTING YOUR FRIENDS, SMALL GROUPS, AND FAMILIES INVOLVED.



LET'S DO THIS

Special Sundays are days when churchwide offerings help support ministries serving lives all around the globe.

This is a great opportunity not only to give, but to mobilize our own social and professional networks to **create a community that gives together.**

We are called to invite our friends and neighbors who don't know Jesus Christ into our community. Most Christians know the importance of The Great Commission, but are not able, on a daily basis live it out. Inviting a neighbor, a stranger, a friend to church is hard.

But it doesn't have to be. One approach is to invite your friends and family to learn and participate in some of the missions that the church holds up as important in today's world.

LEARN TO DO GOOD; SEEK JUSTICE, RESCUE THE OPPRESSED, DEFEND THE ORPHAN, PLEAD FOR THE WIDOW. (ISAIAH 1:17)

Much of our culture and communities can agree upon the ways that we as United Methodists show our radical love to our neighbors and those in need.

We've organized a few resources and awesome ideas for you to engage your community in and out of church for the Special Sunday of your choice.

So grab your friends and family, pick an idea or create your own, have fun, and **know that you are working together to be the hands and feet of Christ.**



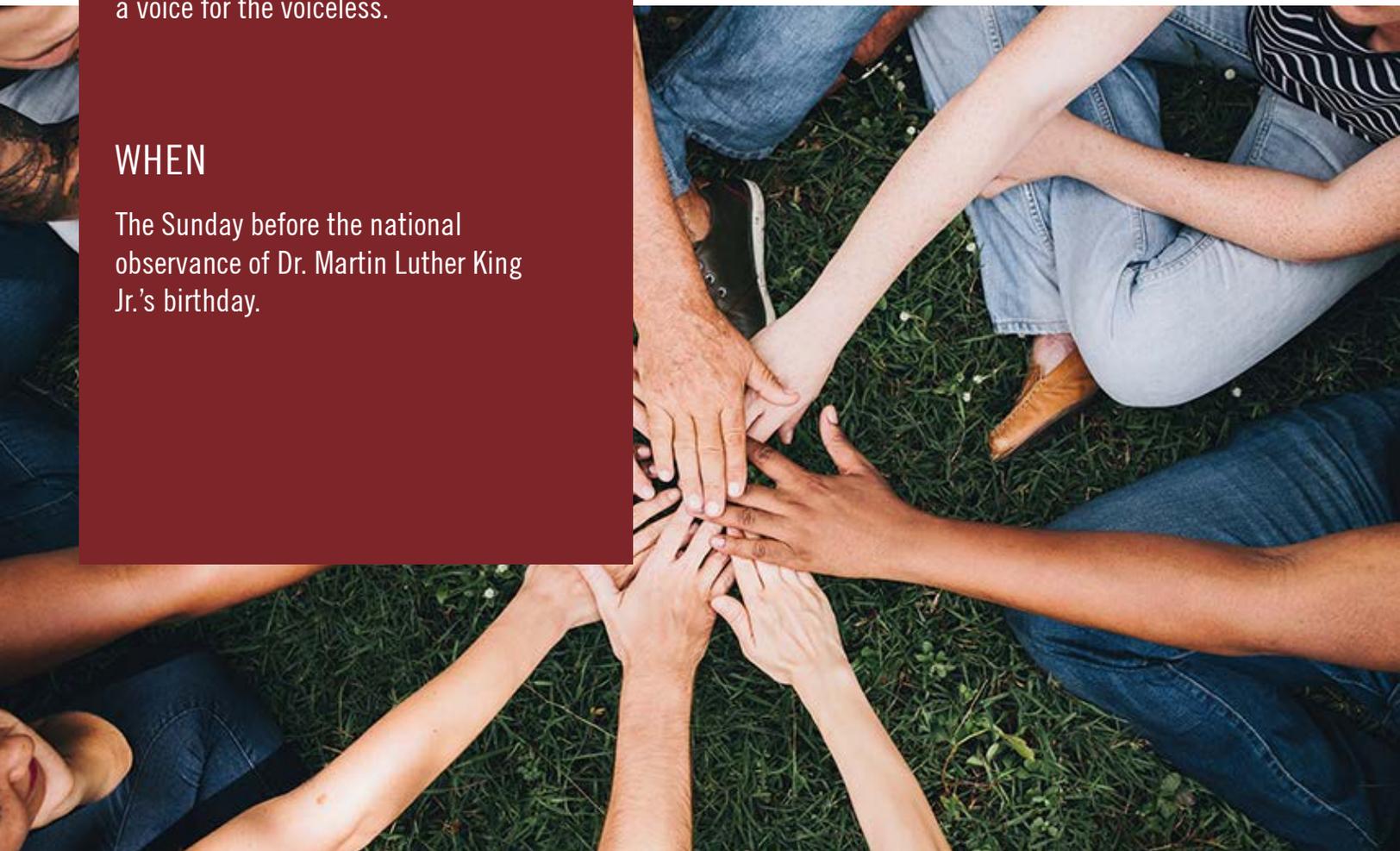
HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY

WHAT

Human Relations Sunday is rooted in the belief that everyone has the right to reach their full potential. Our church cares about acknowledging the overlooked and ignored, and being a voice for the voiceless.

WHEN

The Sunday before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.



1 MOBILIZE TOGETHER ON HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

SHARE DURING THE OFFERING TIME AT YOUR CHURCH.

Although you will hopefully be selecting an additional way to help, sharing stories of hope during the offering time as a church body is still an important aspect of service. Don't skip this. Give what you can.



2

CREATE A CARE PACKAGE FOR A CHILD OR TEEN IN NEED.

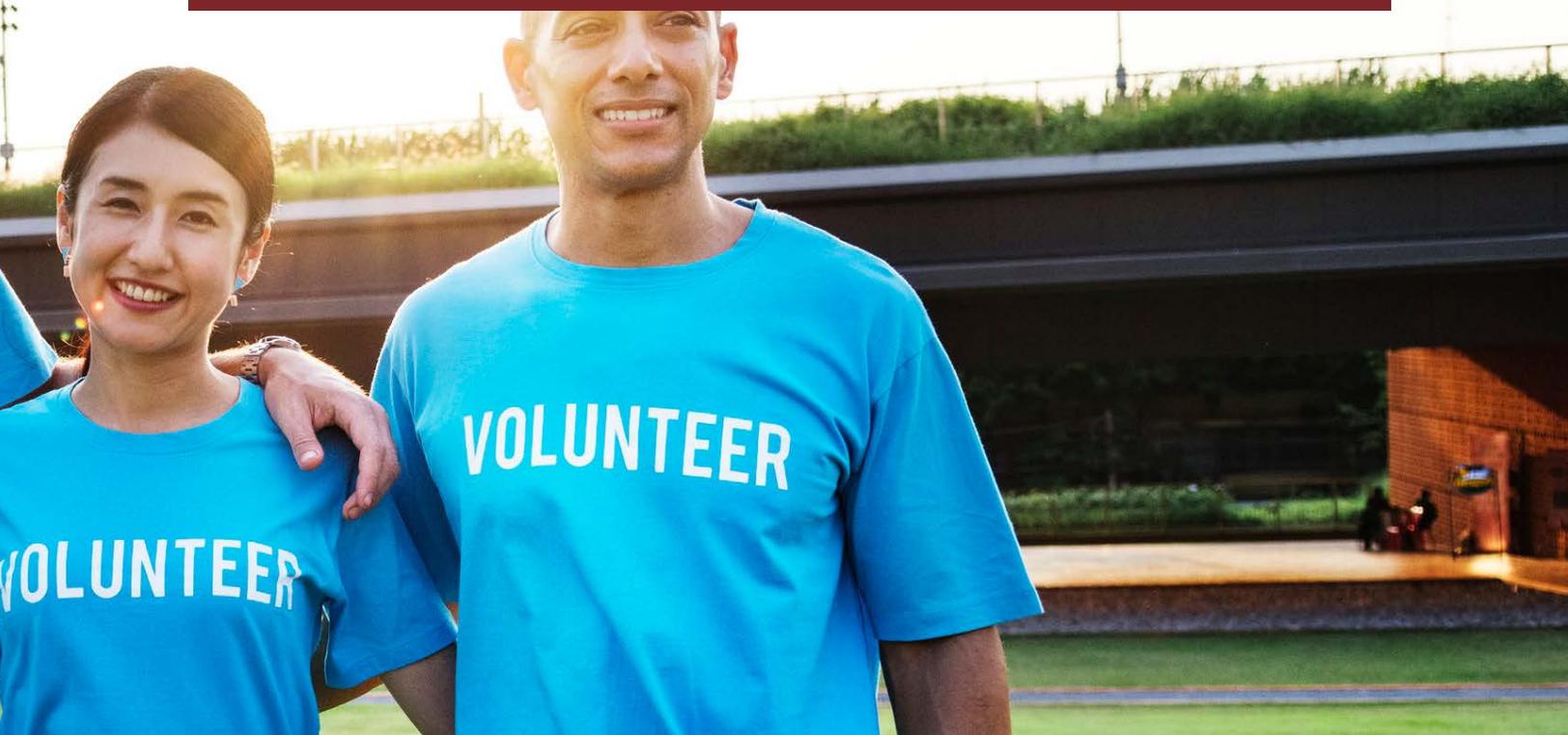
Sometimes a little extra support can go a long way.

Gather a group of friends or family and create one or several care packages for young people in your community who are in need.

Some ideas to consider:

- School supplies
- Coupons and gift certificates
- Homemade treats

You name it! This is a great opportunity to be creative.



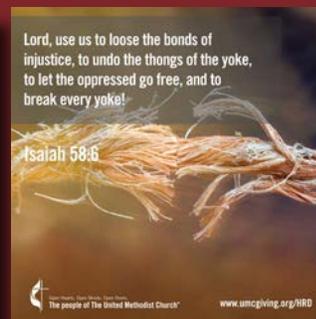
3

ORGANIZE A GROUP FOR PRAYER ABOUT THE NEEDS OF OUR WORLD TODAY.

One of the most important things we can do together is pray. Find a time around this Special Sunday and choose one or more of the following topics to pray about together with scripture:

- Social Justice
- Economic Wholeness
- Communities in Need

Invite friends to join your group that is dedicated to praying about these topics. You might also include time to simply reading Scripture passages that are related and talk about other ways your group can continue to help with these issues locally throughout the year.



Print these prayer cards or write them on an index card and pass them out during your prayer time. Individuals can start with the prayer on their card, and continue in their own words if they feel comfortable.

It's a great idea to let people know ahead of time about the focus of your prayer and scripture meeting so that they can prepare materials if they desire, and spend some time preparing their hearts and minds as well.

4

MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE BUCKET LIST CHALLENGE.

For the week before or week after Human Relations Sunday, select a couple of Bible verses to memorize as a family, bible study group, or friend group. Check in with each other throughout the week to talk about the scripture and hold each other accountable.

It can also be fun and easy way to invite friends outside the church around memorizing several top life verses from the Bible. Perhaps set a prize for those that successfully complete the challenge like an outing to the local ice cream parlor or other fun group activity.

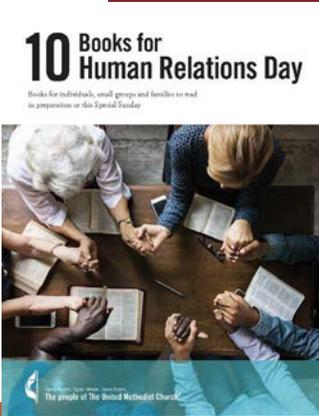


Here are some fun ways to memorize scripture:

- Turn it into a song!
- Write it down on a small card and keep it in your pocket. Make sure to read it either every time you sit down, or every time you stand up.
- Download a phone screensaver and read it every time you pick up your phone until you don't need to look at your phone to say the whole verse.
- small card and keep it in your pocket. Make sure to read it either every time you sit down, or every time you stand up.
- If you are doing this with kids, put hand motions to different words in the scripture.
- Play toss! Toss a ball around with your family or group and whoever catches the ball has to say the next word in the verse.

Check out other fun activities for scripture memorization with kids [here](#).

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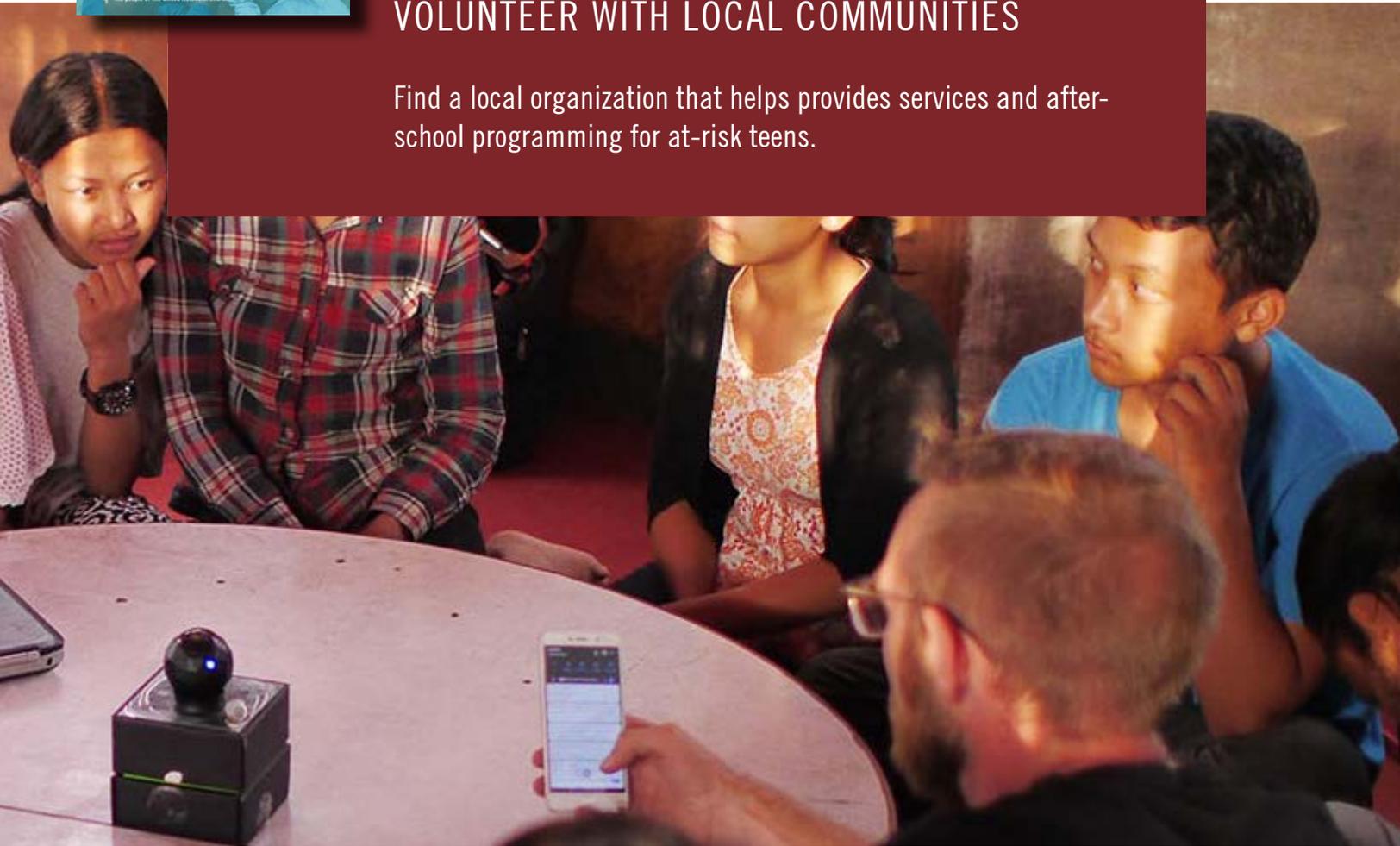


FORM A BOOK CLUB

Great discussions and friendships are birthed in the traditional book club. Grab your small group, friend group, coworkers or family members and find some books to read together from this Human Relations Day reading list.

VOLUNTEER WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Find a local organization that helps provides services and after-school programming for at-risk teens.



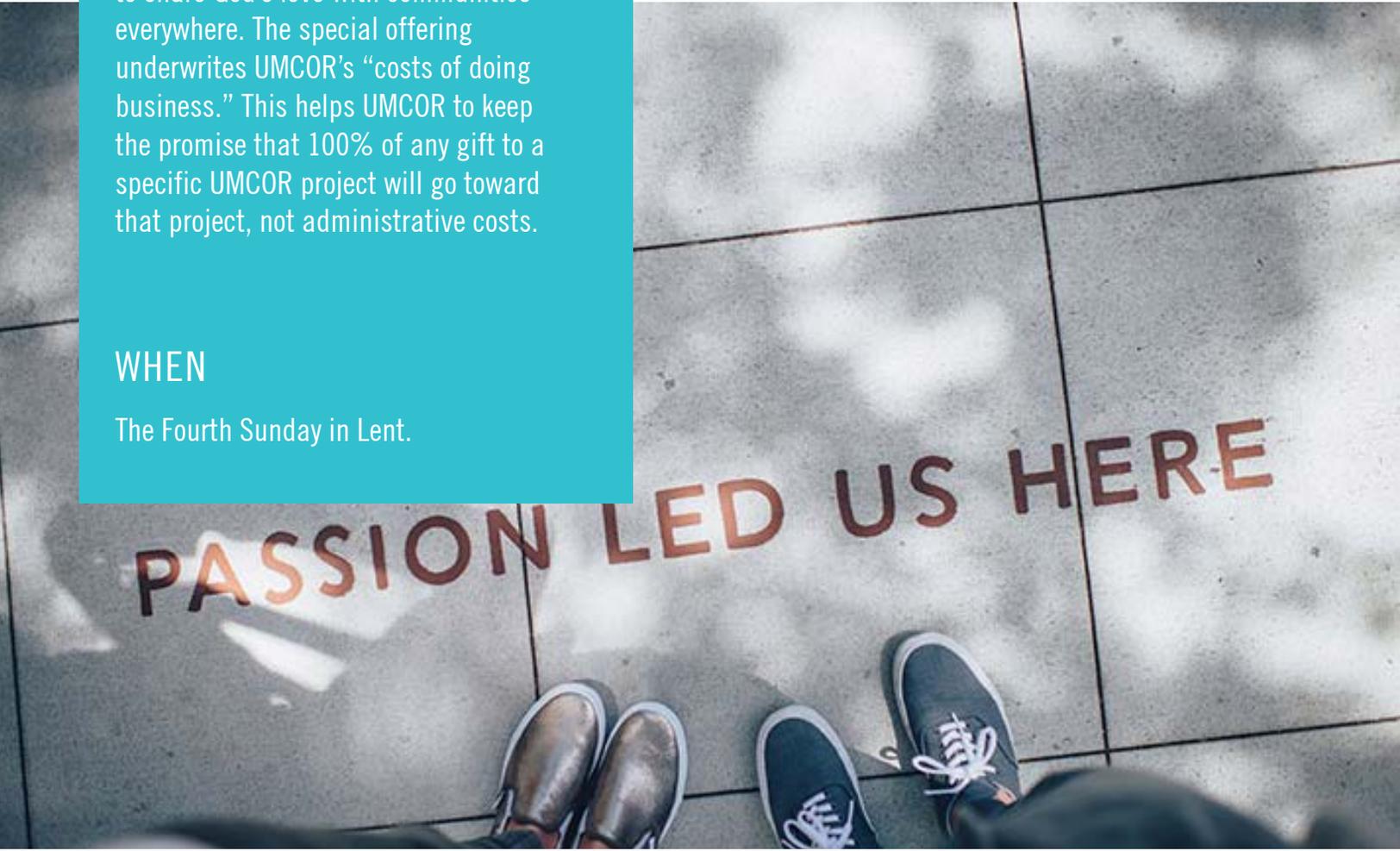
UMCOR SUNDAY

WHAT

UMCOR is the humanitarian arm of The United Methodist Church. UMCOR provides humanitarian relief when war, conflict or natural disaster for people in more than 80 countries including the United States. Your gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation to share God's love with communities everywhere. The special offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This helps UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs.

WHEN

The Fourth Sunday in Lent.



PASSION LED US HERE

1 MOBILIZE TOGETHER ON UMCOR SUNDAY

SHARE DURING THE OFFERING TIME AT YOUR CHURCH.

Although you will hopefully be selecting an additional way to help, sharing stories of hope during the offering time as a church body is still an important aspect of service. Don't skip this. Give what you can.

ORGANIZE A CLOTHING OR HYGIENE PRODUCTS DRIVE.

You can do either or both depending on the size of your group. Depending on what is happening in the world, the first thing to do is to find a partner and collect their instructions. Your selected partner may have a need for winter coats, feminine hygiene products, or diapers. Make their biggest need the focus of your drive.

Next, identify a date/time/location (or multiple depending on the size of your team) for item drop-off.

Spread the word! Put up signs, have everyone in the group post on social media, and make a few phone calls to help motivate people to clean out their closets and give.

Gather a group to sort items as they come in during the drop off day(s).

Send your collected items to your partner. Share your success story!

Make sure to document the day with photos and pictures so you can let people know afterwards the result of the drive and how the community came together to help. ([Source](#))

2

ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE.

Have you ever heard of the 127 yard sale? It's the world's longest yard sale on Route 127 with over 2,200 vendors! It's quite impressive. Now, we aren't suggesting that you try to organize something that big, but what if you could organize a street-wide or neighborhood wide yard sale?

Encourage your neighbors to put a few things out for the sake of all the proceeds going to disaster relief through UMCOR around the globe. Wouldn't that be great? It would also be a fun thing to do as a family to raise money to give together on UMCOR Sunday.

3

UTILIZE SOCIAL MEDIA

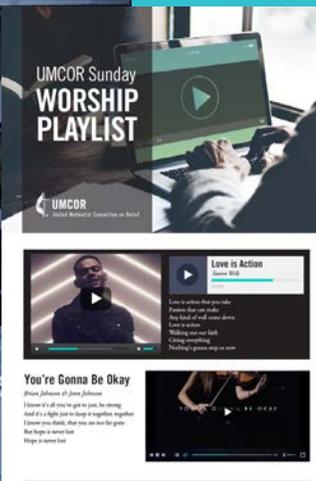
Social media is a great place to inspire your network to act. You can utilize your own personal or professional connections online to inform them about the needs in your own community, and talk about how you are joining with your church to make a difference.

- Change your Facebook cover with some of our suggested UMCOR Sunday Designs
- Share podcast episodes from the UMCOR Sunday podcast from UMC Giving (available on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher Radio, and more!)

- Share this infographic of songs or share the UMCOR Sunday YouTube Playlist!

- Share these free mobile wallpapers and download your own as a reminder to pray for this Special Sunday and give generously together

- Share the Mission Moment Videos on Instagram or Facebook



4

12 Books for UMCOR Sunday

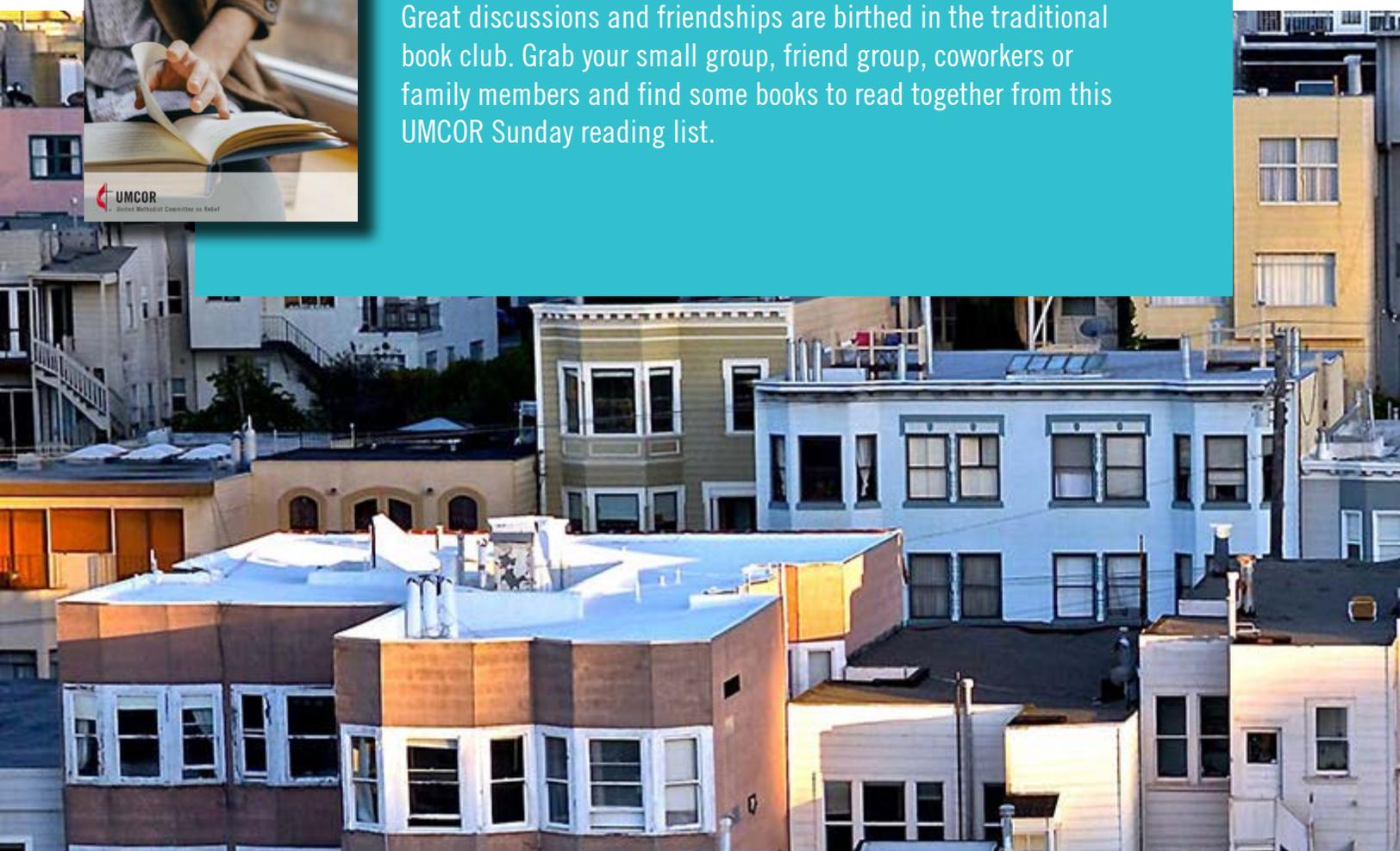
Books for individuals, small groups and families to read in preparation of the Special Sunday



UMCOR
United Methodist Committee on Relief

FORM A BOOK CLUB

Great discussions and friendships are birthed in the traditional book club. Grab your small group, friend group, coworkers or family members and find some books to read together from this UMCOR Sunday reading list.



5

SPREAD THE WORD

To help people who may not be familiar with The Methodist Church or UMCOR, here are a few resources you could share with them:

Download our “Did You Know” videos to your phone so you can show them what UMCOR is and how they help.

Download a few of the “Did You Know” social media graphics so you can text or post online more information about UMCOR.

The resources are here: <http://www.umcgiving.org/resource-articles/umcor-sunday-pastor-and-leaders-kit>

If you prefer to do this activity with your family, we’d encourage you to include a lesson, scripture, and prayer with your kids so they understand and want to be involved with the goal of the yard sale.

Here are a few things to help with that: <http://www.umcgiving.org/resource-articles/umcor-sunday-pastor-and-leaders-kit>

Try choosing a disaster response video so they experience the need, the response, and see God’s grace and love in action.

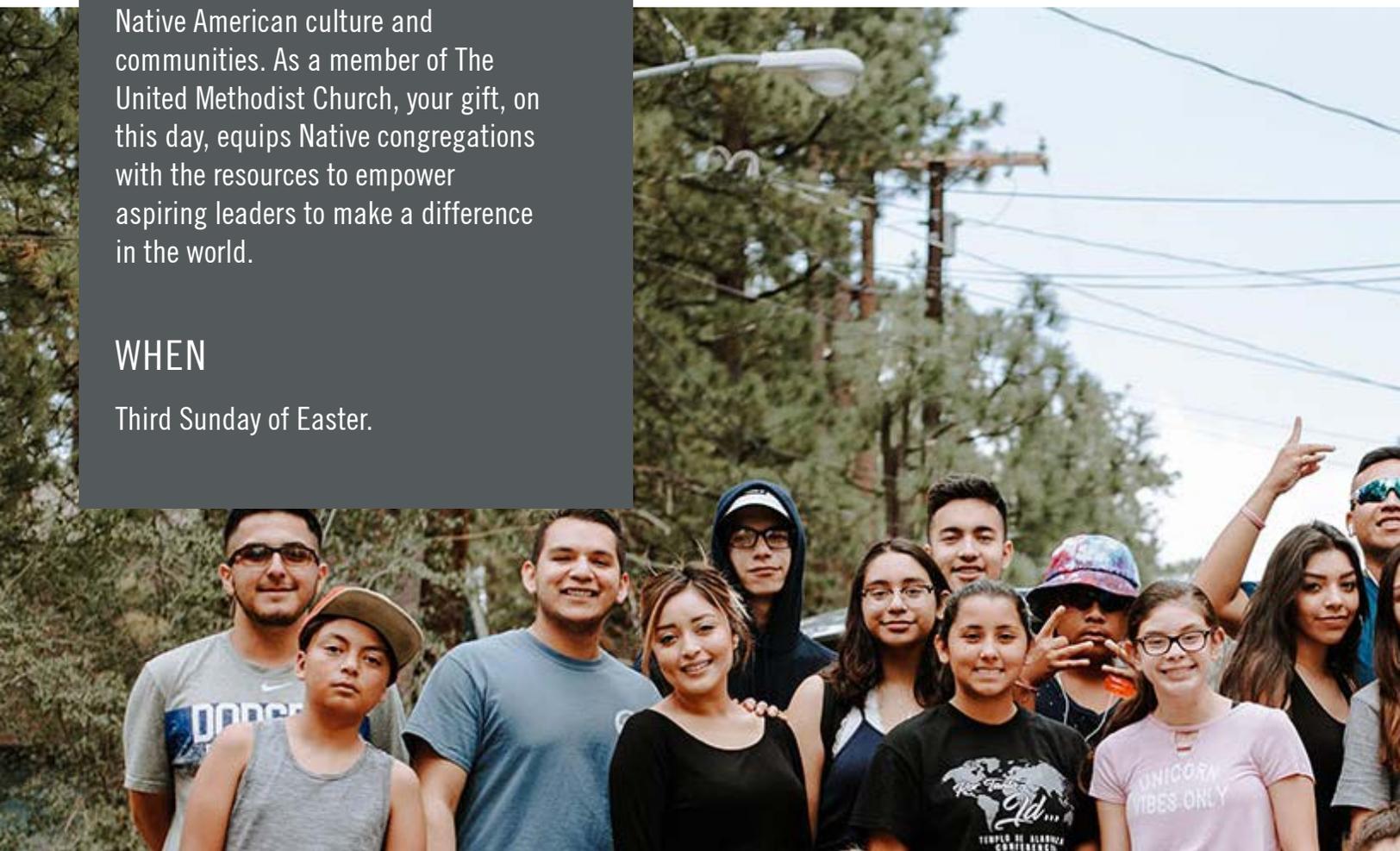
NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

WHAT

Through Native American Ministries Sunday, your support equips Native American seminary students and outreach that honor and celebrate Native American culture and communities. As a member of The United Methodist Church, your gift, on this day, equips Native congregations with the resources to empower aspiring leaders to make a difference in the world.

WHEN

Third Sunday of Easter.



1 MOBILIZE TOGETHER ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

SHARE DURING THE OFFERING TIME AT YOUR CHURCH.

Although you will hopefully be selecting an additional way to help, sharing stories of hope during the offering time as a church body is still an important aspect of service. Don't skip this. Give what you can.

EDUCATE YOURSELVES AND PRAY.

Let's face it, the average American is only passively informed through a chapter in a history book, TV show, or movie about the Native American culture. And a lot of that doesn't cover the whole truth. For Native American Ministries Sunday the best things we can do are to educate ourselves and pray.

There are 556 federally recognized tribes and almost half of them are in Alaska. Organize a group of people and have everyone pick out a tribe to research. Try to learn about the following things:

- What is the tribe name and meaning of the name?
- Where was the tribe originally located?
- What makes them unique as a community?
- What is their history?
- What are their greatest needs today?

After each person shares about the tribe they chose, have a time of prayer to lift up the needs of these people. Pray also for the seminary students and Native American Pastors.

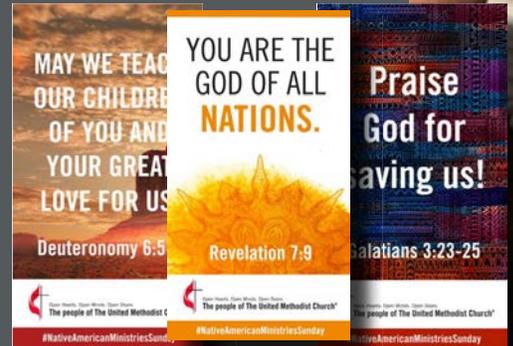
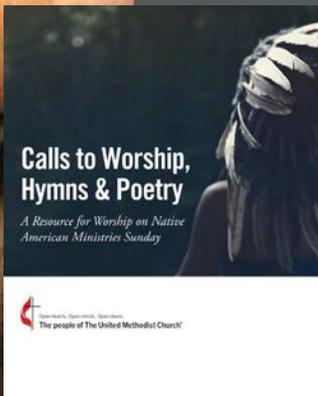
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UTILIZE SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a great place to inspire your network to act. You can utilize your own personal or professional connections online to inform them about the needs in your own community, and talk about how you are joining with your church to make a difference.

- Change your Facebook cover with some of our suggested Native American Ministries Sunday Designs
- Share podcast episodes from the Native American Ministries Sunday podcast from UMC Giving (available on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher Radio, and more!)

- Share this guide of worship songs, hymns, and poetry!
- Share these free mobile wallpapers and download your own as a reminder to pray for this Special Sunday and give generously together



- Share the Mission Moment Videos on Instagram or Facebook

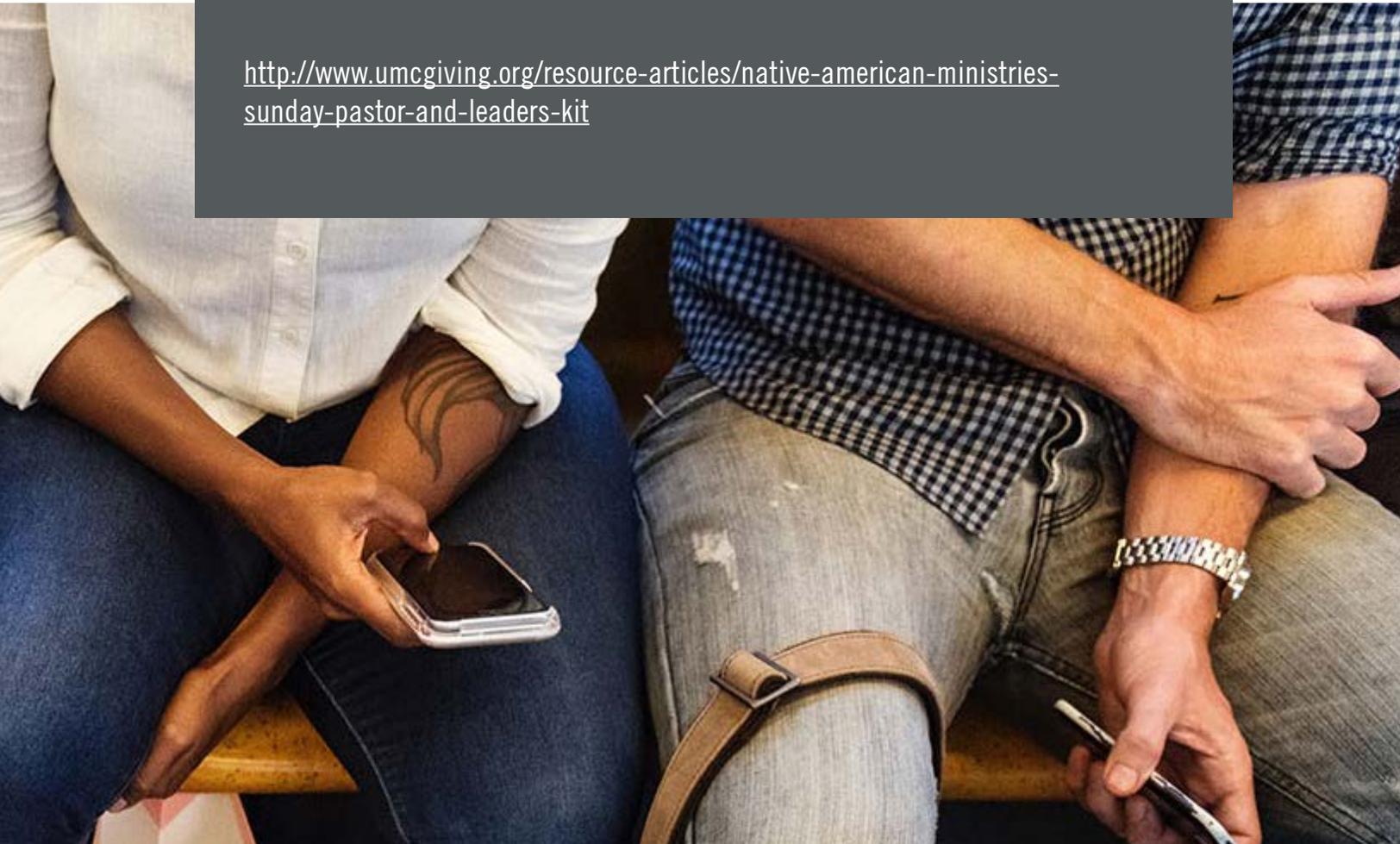
3

FORM A BOOK CLUB

Great discussions and friendships are birthed in the traditional book club. Grab your small group, friend group, coworkers or family members and find some books to read together from this Native American Ministries Sunday Reading List.

If you want, share what you learned on social media. Here are a few resources that will make it easier to post:

<http://www.umcgiving.org/resource-articles/native-american-ministries-sunday-pastor-and-leaders-kit>



PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

WHAT

In today's world, communities face social challenges, nations are divided, human rights are violated, and slavery of all kinds still perpetuates our existence. As the United Methodist Church, we are moved by Christ's love to pursue reconciliation and peace, honoring the dignity of every individual made in God's image. We will not turn a blind eye to injustice.

Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit!—of peace.

WHEN

The First Sunday after Pentecost.



1 MOBILIZE TOGETHER ON PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

SHARE DURING THE OFFERING TIME AT YOUR CHURCH.

Although you will hopefully be selecting an additional way to help, sharing stories of hope during the offering time as a church body is still an important aspect of service. Don't skip this. Give what you can.

WRITE A PRAYER FOR JUSTICE TOGETHER

Use the Small Group Discussion questions to learn what the scripture says about justice.

The resource can be found here: <http://www.umcgiving.org/resource-articles/peace-with-justice-sunday-pastors-leaders-kit>

Feel free to add other verses or stories from scripture about justice.

Talk about what scripture says about justice and then use what you've learned about scripture and about injustice in the world today to write a prayer together as a group.

Commit to praying the prayer for a month/week/year individually and together as a group.

2

UTILIZE SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a great place to inspire your network to act. You can utilize your own personal or professional connections online to inform them about the needs in your own community, and talk about how you are joining with your church to make a difference.

- Change your Facebook cover with some of our suggested Peace with Justice Sunday Designs
- Share podcast episodes from the Peace with Justice Sunday podcast from UMC Giving (available on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher Radio, and more!)
- Share these free mobile wallpapers and download your own as a reminder to pray for this Special Sunday and give generously together
- Share the Mission Moment Videos on Instagram or Facebook

3



FORM A BOOK CLUB

Great discussions and friendships are birthed in the traditional book club. Grab your small group, friend group, coworkers or family members and find some books to read together from the Peace with Justice Sunday Reading List.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

WHAT

There are many youth and young adults today who are gifted and qualified but face financial and unnecessary social obstacles that challenge their success. For example, students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, and students of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, experience roadblocks that many of us never had to face.

What would it look like if the church today imitated Jesus' love and affirmation of all people—especially those who've historically been assigned to the world's margins? On World Communion Sunday your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.

WHEN

First Sunday in October.



1 MOBILIZE TOGETHER ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

SHARE DURING THE OFFERING TIME AT YOUR CHURCH.

Although you will hopefully be selecting an additional way to help, sharing stories of hope during the offering time as a church body is still an important aspect of service. Don't skip this. Give what you can.

CREATE A CARE PACKAGE FOR A STUDENT IN NEED.

Sometimes a little extra support can go a long way. Gather a group of friends or family and create one or several care packages for students in your community or at a local community college who are in need.

Some ideas to consider:

- School supplies
- Coupons and gift certificates
- Homemade treats
- Babysitting coupon (give money or offer to pay for babysitting if this need applies)

You name it! This is a great opportunity to be creative.

2

RAISE MONEY TO CREATE A “SCHOLARSHIP FUND” FOR A LOCAL STUDENT.

This is something that may require a little more organization and involvement of church leadership, but don't let that dissuade you! It is true that there are endless scholarships available for students to apply to but often it can be a difficult and time consuming process with specific standards and qualifications that need to be met.

Gather a group together to make a few decisions. Select a local or nearby community college, college, or technical skills school. Decide who you would like to help. A good idea would be to call the school, let them know of your idea, and see what advice they might have.

You might also know of a college student who attends your church that may need help.

Together decide if the gift will be financial aid, materials aid (school supplies, laptop, books), or if they simply need money to buy a plane or bus ticket home for Christmas. Once you've figured that out, decide how to raise money for the fund. Here are a few popular fundraising ideas:

- Car Wash
- Bake Sale
- Fundraiser Potluck (ask everyone to donate instead of bringing food, and then you and a few friends provide food for the party)
- Drive Uber or Lyft for a few weeks to raise extra money
- People can also give directly to the scholarship fund

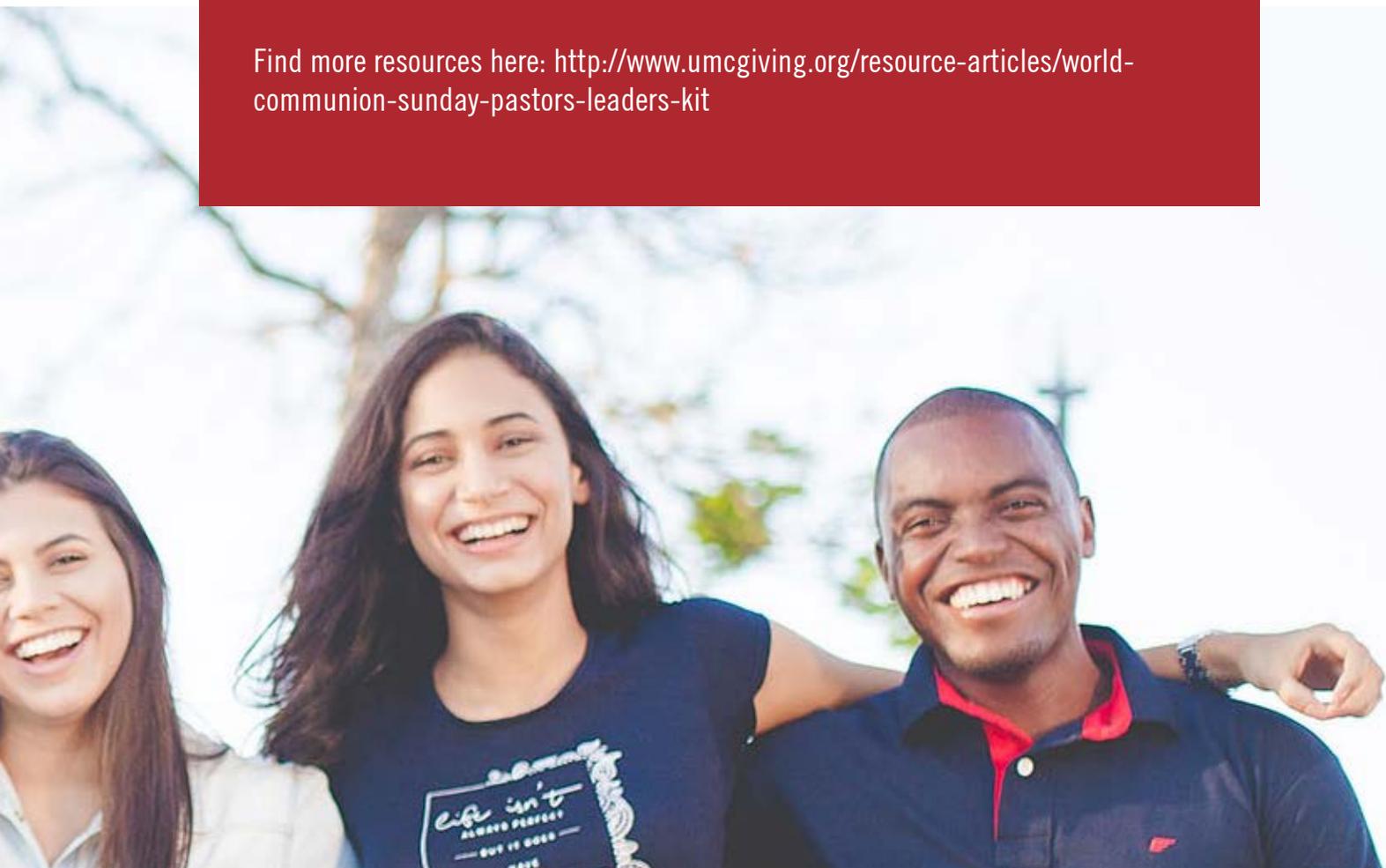
The ideas are endless!

3

FORM A BOOK CLUB

Great discussions and friendships are birthed in the traditional book club. Grab your small group, friend group, coworkers or family members and find some books to read together from this World Communion Sunday Reading List.

Find more resources here: <http://www.umcgiving.org/resource-articles/world-communion-sunday-pastors-leaders-kit>



4

BECOME A TUTOR OR MENTOR AT A LOCAL SCHOOL.

Many of us have valuable skills and experience, all we need to do is share and it could have a valuable impact. If this interests you, consider donating your time to local or university organizations that are looking for tutors and mentors.

If you're feeling very passionate, why not start a mentorship program at your church?

 UTILIZE SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a great place to inspire your network to act. You can utilize your own personal or professional connections online to inform them about the needs in your own community, and talk about how you are joining with your church to make a difference.



- Share a video about World Communion Sunday with your network on Facebook!
- Post testimonials, quotes, and fact graphics about World Communion Sunday to help show why it's important and who it impacts.
- Start a countdown! Use social media images and videos to generate excitement and anticipation around giving as a community on World Communion Sunday.

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

WHAT

Right now there are UMC young people—who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all—who've been sent by you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day. When you give generously you are supporting these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

What no one person or congregation can do alone, we're doing together.

WHEN

The Last Sunday in November



1 MOBILIZE TOGETHER ON UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

SHARE DURING OFFERING AT YOUR CHURCH.

Although you will hopefully be selecting an additional way to help, sharing stories of hope during the offering time as a church body is still an important aspect of service. Don't skip this. Give what you can.

THROW A PARTY OR BANQUET FOR HARD-WORKING STUDENT LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY!

Students these days are working hard in their academic, social, family, and faith lives. Many more are working even harder to maintain their grades so they can keep scholarships or be awarded more.

Why not reward them with a little fun? Here are a few ideas that you and your community can split the cost of together:

- Host a bowling party at a local bowling alley.
- Treat a group of local hard-working kids to a movie night in your yard. (Borrow or rent a projector to achieve the full outdoor theater effect!)
- Have a group over for a home cooked meal.
- Throw a seasonal party (Christmas, fall/Thanksgiving, etc)
- Treat everyone to a local sporting event, festival, fair, or concert.

Invite past scholarship recipients and current recipients from your church to speak at the banquet or attend the party as guests of honor.

2

UTILIZE SOCIAL MEDIA

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- Share a video about United Methodist Student Day with your network on Facebook!
- Post testimonials, quotes, and scripture graphics about United Methodist Student Day to help show why it's important and who it impacts.
- Start a countdown! Use social media images and videos to generate excitement and anticipation around giving as a community on United Methodist Student Sunday.



TOGETHER, WE DO MORE



Are you inspired to gather your friends and family to help change lives in your community and around the world?

Special Sundays are where it starts, take ideas home and involving your friends and family is where it continues.

When you participate in giving on a Special Sunday or create your own avenues of generosity, remember that every little bit we do together helps. We have the capacity to help through donations, prayer, and creative ideas like the ones in this packet.

We are the hands and feet of Christ, and we are better when we work together.

Together, we do more!