

Twenty fun ways to achieve the \$1-per-member-per-offering goal

Encourage individuals and families in your congregation to try the following ways to change the world, one life at a time, through churchwide Special Sundays with offerings.

1. **Avoid the snack-vending machine.** Skip 10 candy bars or soft drinks – and the extra calories – and give the \$6 or more you save to Special Sunday offerings.
2. **Become a barista.** After church – or between worship services – open a mini-coffee shop that prepares and sells fair-trade coffee <http://www.equalexchange.coop/umcor> at \$6 per cup.
3. **Contribute an hour's wages or \$6**, whichever is higher.
4. **Dramatize the parable of the talents (Matthew 25).** Six weeks before a Special Sunday observance, put \$1 in envelopes to distribute to the congregation. Ask recipients to use this seed money as an initial investment, and challenge them to find ways to multiply it at least sixfold to \$6. Donate the resulting gifts to Special Sunday offerings.
5. **Drive past the drive-thru restaurant.** Give the cost of a meal – averaging \$6 – to a Special Sunday offering.
6. **Encourage everyone to give.** Invite children and teens to contribute one week's allowance per year to Special Sundays. See how quickly those "small" donations – say \$6 – add up to big dollars.
7. **Forgo unnecessary expenditures and live frugally.** Set a Special Sunday contribution goal, perhaps \$6 per member or \$25 per household. Fast for 24 hours and secure pledges for each hour. Give a penny for each calorie you consume. Refrain from grocery shopping for a week, eat the surplus stored in your kitchen and contribute your average weekly food budget.
8. **Get creative.** Make posters to show how various amounts of Special Sunday offerings may be spent in the United States and around the world. Focus especially on what can be purchased for \$6. Use magazine pictures to illustrate the posters. Possibilities include a bag of fruit; a bucket and a bottle of household cleaner; a container of vitamins; a simple first-aid kit; a children's book; a yard or two of fabric; an inexpensive blanket; basic toiletries such as toothbrushes, soap and shampoo; a case of water; tools such as hammers, pliers or screwdrivers; and vegetable seeds.
9. **Give alternative gifts.** Instead of giving traditional gifts for birthdays, graduations or other occasions, honor someone by donating \$6 or more to a Special Sunday offering or ministry. Tie your contribution to the honoree's interests: a Human Relations Day gift for a social worker, a United Methodist Student Day gift for a teacher and so forth. Be sure to share the recipient ministry's name and other information with the honoree. Ask others to do the same when you celebrate a special occasion.
10. **Love that love feast?** Then use it to make money for mission and ministry. Invite people to bring their favorite main dish for a church potluck and ask adults – as they are able – to donate \$6 for their meal. Children's meals could also "sell" at two for \$6. Add the receipts to the Special Sunday offering. Use this as an opportunity to draw attention to the millions of people who face hunger every day.



11. **Need dough? Knead dough!** Arrange for a church school class or another group to bake several kinds of bread the night before the worship service and sell the fresh loaves for \$6 each to the congregation. Contribute proceeds to the Special Sunday offering.
12. **Recycle, recycle, recycle.** Commonly recycled materials include aluminum cans, foil, glass, paper, plastic and steel. Recycle 10 pounds of aluminum cans and you will earn about \$6 to make a difference.
13. **Recruit your administrative council or board and your finance committee to lead the \$1-per-member-per-offering goal.** Once you reach that \$6-per-member annual mark, increase your congregation's goal each year.
14. **Save a tree.** Rather than sending individual holiday cards to church friends, distribute greetings collectively and support Special Sundays as well. Hang a large sheet of poster board decorated with a seasonal design and a greeting. Invite members to sign the "card" and to donate \$6 or the amount usually spent on cards and stamps. Include a reduced print of the card in your church newsletter.
15. **Sell to the highest bidder.** Ask people to contribute new or gently used items worth at least \$6 each. Auction the items to the highest bidders. Use proceeds to benefit Special Sunday offerings.
16. **Set aside a daily donation** during the month preceding a Special Sunday. Just 20 cents per day equals \$6 for a month of saving. In a 100-member congregation, that would produce \$600 in a month.
17. **Sing out loud, sing out strong.** Have a karaoke night or a talent show. Have participants raise pledges for their commitment to perform and sell \$6 adult tickets (two for \$6 for children) for the evening of fun.
18. **Spell S-P-E-C-I-A-L.** Sponsor a spelling bee with each contestant collecting donations for the number of words he or she spells correctly. Ten words spelled correctly times 60 cents per word equals \$6.
19. **Sponsor an art contest for children and youth.** Ask participants to illustrate through drawings, paintings, collages and other media how the church serves at home and around the world through Special Sunday-related ministries. Have a category for each of the six Special Sundays. Display the entries and give a \$6 contribution in honor of the winner for each Special Sunday.
20. **Work, work, work!** Have a workday on which members convert time and energy into money for a Special Sunday offering. Charge \$6 for each hour worked or job completed. Advertise in advance that members will be available for a day's labor. Participants can care for children, clean houses and garages, do yard work, run errands, walk dogs or do a multitude of other tasks.