

10 WAYS

TO PROMOTE WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



A UMMS photo by Andrew Jensen



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

DEAR CHURCH LEADER,

World Communion Sunday began in 1936 as a way to recognize our ecumenical oneness in Christ and to bring Christians together in a spirit of unity and peace.

In The United Methodist Church, congregations throughout the denomination will also join together to receive a Special Sunday offering that helps scholars from around the world reach their full potential through scholarships, training and mentoring.

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES 10 STRATEGIES FOR PREPARING YOUR CONGREGATION TO CELEBRATE WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY.

We pray these ideas will help connect people more deeply with the global church and spark a generous spirit in support of scholars.

By incorporating as many individuals in leading promotional initiatives, you can deepen the involvement and excitement of the congregation's participation.

As we prepare for World Communion Sunday this year, invite the Holy Spirit to open your congregation's heart to the global nature of the church.



Please be in prayer with the scholars who are recipients of the education made possible through this special offering. Encourage your congregation to celebrate wholeheartedly in this day of unity.



1

International Potluck

What better way to bring people together than around food? Plan a potluck meal the weekend of World Communion Sunday.

Encourage people to bring food that represents their family's country of origin or that is inspired by an ethnic food they appreciate.

DOWNLOAD AND PRINT FLAGS AS PLACEMATS.

<http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/countries-cultures/flags-of-the-world>. Place a box or cup of crayons in the center of the table so that people can color the flag at their place setting.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY: INVESTING IN SOLUTIONS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bzTWbMvuDg&feature=youtu.be>

INCLUDE ENVELOPES ON EACH TABLE WITH A BASKET FOR THE WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OFFERING.

Ask someone (perhaps the oldest or youngest person) at each table to offer the prayer of grace from their family tradition. Emphasize that the practice of gathering around tables in Christian fellowship and sharing food is reminiscent of the earliest Christian traditions.

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER YOUR WCS ENVELOPES.](#)

ASK GUESTS AT THE DINNER TO SHARE STORIES OF THEIR FAMILY'S CULTURAL ROOTS AND FAITH HERITAGE WITH TABLEMATES.

During dinner, right before dessert, show a two-minute video about World Communion Scholar, Dinkin Kalbeth, who earned a master's degree in environmental management. Learn about his work to resolve environmental issues in Jalingo, Nigeria. At the end of the dinner, ask each table to pray for the people in the countries represented by the "placemat" flags.

2

“Students for Students” Fundraiser

Organize a teen-led fundraiser to benefit World Communion Sunday scholarship recipients. Ask the youth group to brainstorm ideas for raising money and awareness about the World Communion Sunday special offering. Some ideas include:

CREATE A COOKBOOK OF FAVORITE FAMILY RECIPES AND SELL THE BOOKS.

Include a summary in the introduction of each recipe. This is a great opportunity for students to interview family members about their heritage. An alternative idea is for students to source the recipes and stories from non-family members in the congregation as a cross-generational project.

HOST A MOVIE NIGHT.

After securing the appropriate licenses, invite the community to watch a movie together. Films that feature another country offer accessible bridges to global connections. Movies like “Coco,” “Slumdog Millionaire,” “Queen of Katwe,” “Cool Runnings,” “Lion” and even “Black Panther” provide opportunities for positive and meaningful conversation. Include a basket for freewill donations to support the World Communion Sunday special offering.

CREATE AND AUCTION GIFT BASKETS.

Ask local merchants and artists for items to create themed baskets around World Communion Sunday. Themes could include school supplies, religious items or global/travel. Students assemble the baskets and auction them to raise money for the World Communion Sunday offering.



Photo courtesy of Africa University

3

Heritage Clothing

Build excitement in the weeks leading up to the Special Sunday.

ASK PARISHIONERS TO WEAR CLOTHES REFLECTING THEIR HERITAGE ON WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY.

This could include head coverings and jewelry. If parishioners aren't sure about what to wear, they could wear a T-shirt with an image of a flag or the name of their country of origin on it.

4

Speak with a United Methodist missionary

INVITE A MISSIONARY TO SPEAK VIA VIDEO CHAT TO A SMALL GROUP AND SHARE ABOUT EXPRESSIONS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE COUNTRY WHERE HE OR SHE SERVES.



Photo courtesy of Bishop Minerva Carcaño

Contact the missionary well in advance to coordinate the meeting. It helps to have a trial conversation before the scheduled meeting time to make sure everything is hooked up correctly. If your congregation already supports the missionary, you will have a natural connection. If you do not have an existing relationship with a missionary, explore possibilities through the General Board of Global Ministries.

CONSIDER A SHORT PRAYER SERVICE VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH A SMALL GROUP WHERE THE MISSIONARY IS SERVING.

Invite clergy to attend in each setting to officiate and share in Holy Communion together over video chat.



5

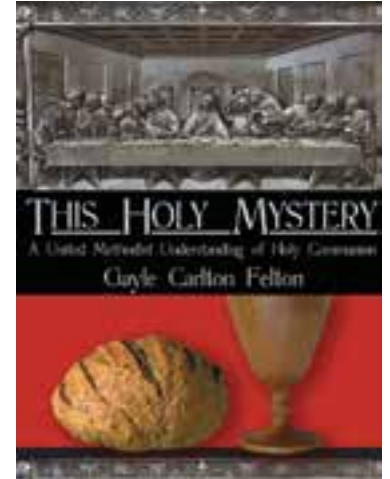
Altar Preparation

Enlist a team of creative designers to prepare the altar with a global palate. Drape fabric from various countries, display different styles of crosses, and place chalices and patens from other countries on the altar.

On World Communion Sunday, allow the altar to be a reminder of the vibrancy of worship that happens globally and the beauty that is possible when traditions come together.

6

DON'T TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT PARISHIONERS ARE AWARE OF THE UNITED METHODIST THEOLOGY OF HOLY COMMUNION.



In the month leading up to World Communion Sunday, lead a small group study on “This Holy Mystery.” Explore the significance of Holy Communion in the United Methodist tradition. If a clergy person is present, receive the sacrament at the end of each session. Receive a freewill offering to support the World Communion Sunday special offering.

Book Study





7

Bake Bread

Invite different people in the congregation to bake (or purchase) a loaf of bread that reflects their heritage. On World Communion Sunday, include a procession of bread from different parts of the world. This is a meaningful way to involve children in worship. Young students can carry the bread forward and place it on the Communion table or altar.



8

Display Photos

WHO FROM YOUR CONGREGATION HAS TRAVELED TO CHURCHES IN OTHER COUNTRIES?

Ask them to submit photos. Print the photos and hang them around the church with a reminder that World Communion Sunday is coming the first Sunday in October. Familiar faces will help strengthen the impact of the messages, creating a stronger association with what it means to be a global church.

9

Prayer That Jesus Taught

As part of your worship on World Communion Sunday, invite the congregation to say the Lord's Prayer in the language they first learned it.



In the weeks leading up to World Communion Sunday, incorporate hymns from different countries into worship. Remind people that you will be celebrating World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday in October.

10

Sing New Songs



Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNNS

For more information and resources
on World Communion Sunday, visit

umcgiving.org/WCS



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