



ROOTED IN FAITH

A LEADERS' GUIDE FOR
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



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Dear Church Leader,

United Methodists join Christians of different traditions to celebrate World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday in October. 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. The World Communion Sunday offering is one of six special offerings received throughout the year.

Use this guide to plan a comprehensive approach to World Communion Sunday. As you lead your congregation, children's ministry and small-group discussions, please use and adapt the resources found in this guide to fit your context.

By incorporating as many individuals in leading different aspects of celebration, 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 receive the education made possible through this special offering. We pray that your congregation will celebrate wholeheartedly in this day of unity.



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WORSHIP RESOURCE: LITURGICAL PRAYERS

This liturgy is designed to connect with the Scripture message while reinforcing the message of Christian unity through the celebration of World Communion. You can print the prayers in the bulletin or project them on screens, depending on your church's culture.





Who are the mentors who guide us on our faith journey? How can we be mentors to others? Examining the roots of our family tree as children of God, this message reminds the congregation that Holy Communion extends the table into worship spaces throughout the world.



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WORSHIP RESOURCE: OFFERING TALK

The offering talk shares an example of a pastor who received World Communion Sunday funds for his education. He now serves and mentors others. The talk connects with the Scripture reading and builds on the sermon.





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SMALL-GROUP RESOURCES: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Build on the study of 2 Timothy 1:1-14 in your small group. Using conversation prompts and video, learn more about World Communion Sunday while guiding participants through the “roots of our faith.”





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CHILDREN'S RESOURCE: CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

With a variety of bread that represents different parts of the world, children can taste and see how Christians around the world are united through Holy Communion.





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CHILDREN'S RESOURCE: CHILDREN'S BULLETIN

Give children their own bulletin that highlights the World Communion Sunday theme. Prayer, Scripture, a coloring page and games help children engage with the Scripture reading and special offering.





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CHILDREN'S RESOURCE: ACTIVITY

Using a children's atlas or online resources, discuss the languages, climate, food, type of schools and other areas of cultural significance found in different countries or regions including your own. Compare and contrast the diversity of Jesus' family.



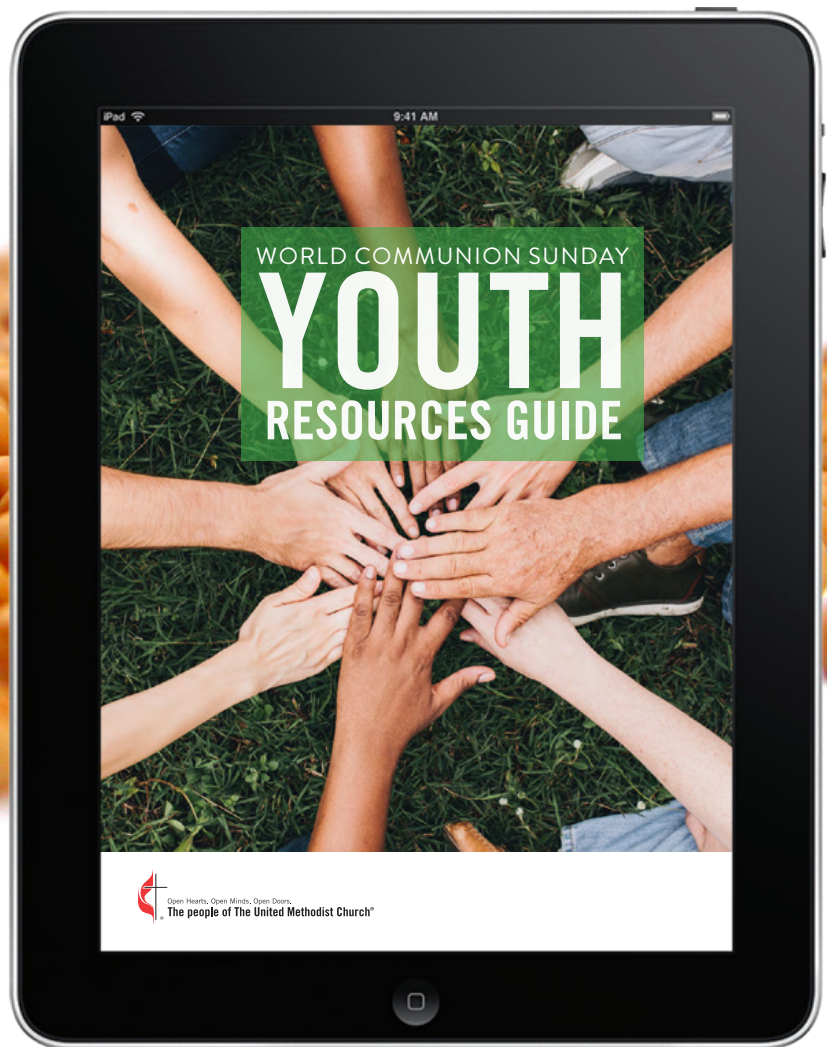


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YOUTH RESOURCE GUIDE – PLANTING SEEDS: MATTHEW 13:31-32

Build a World Communion Sunday youth experience to fit your context. This guide includes promotional teaser videos, fundraiser ideas, music suggestions, a warm-up activity, a message, small-group discussion prompts, a mission moment video and a prayer.



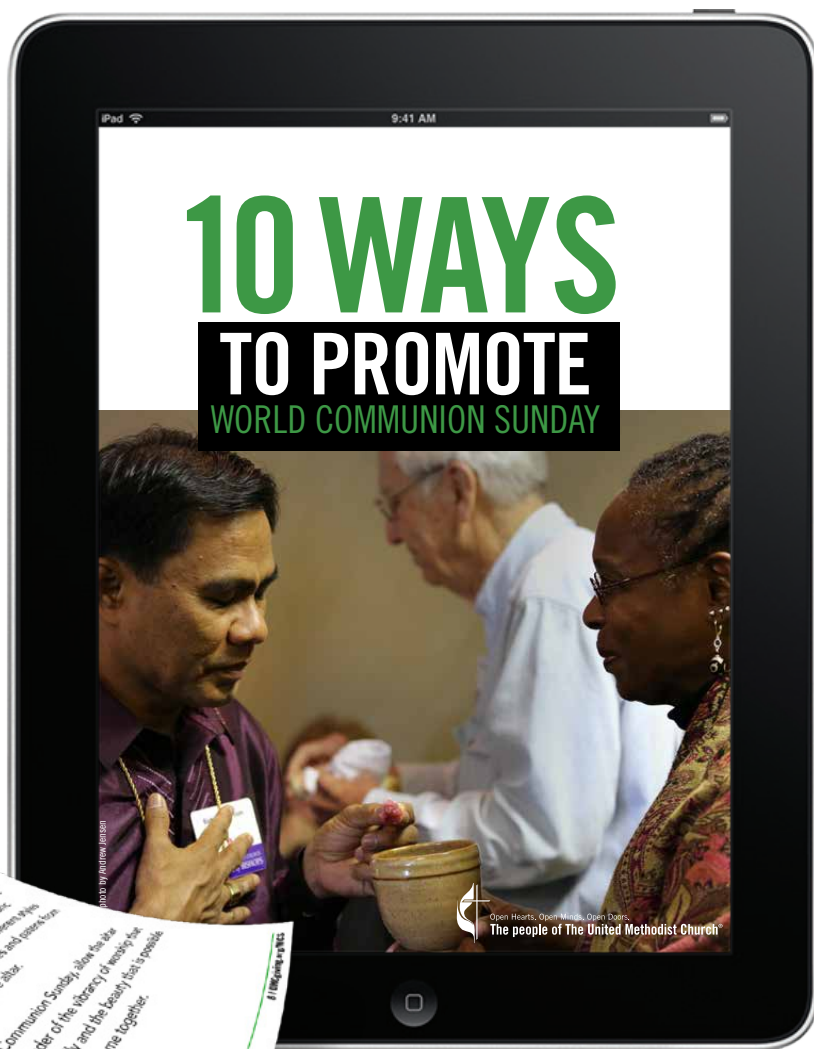


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PROMOTIONAL IDEAS

This e-book includes 10 strategies for preparing your congregation to celebrate World Communion Sunday. We pray these ideas will help connect people creatively with the global church and spark a generous spirit in support of scholars.



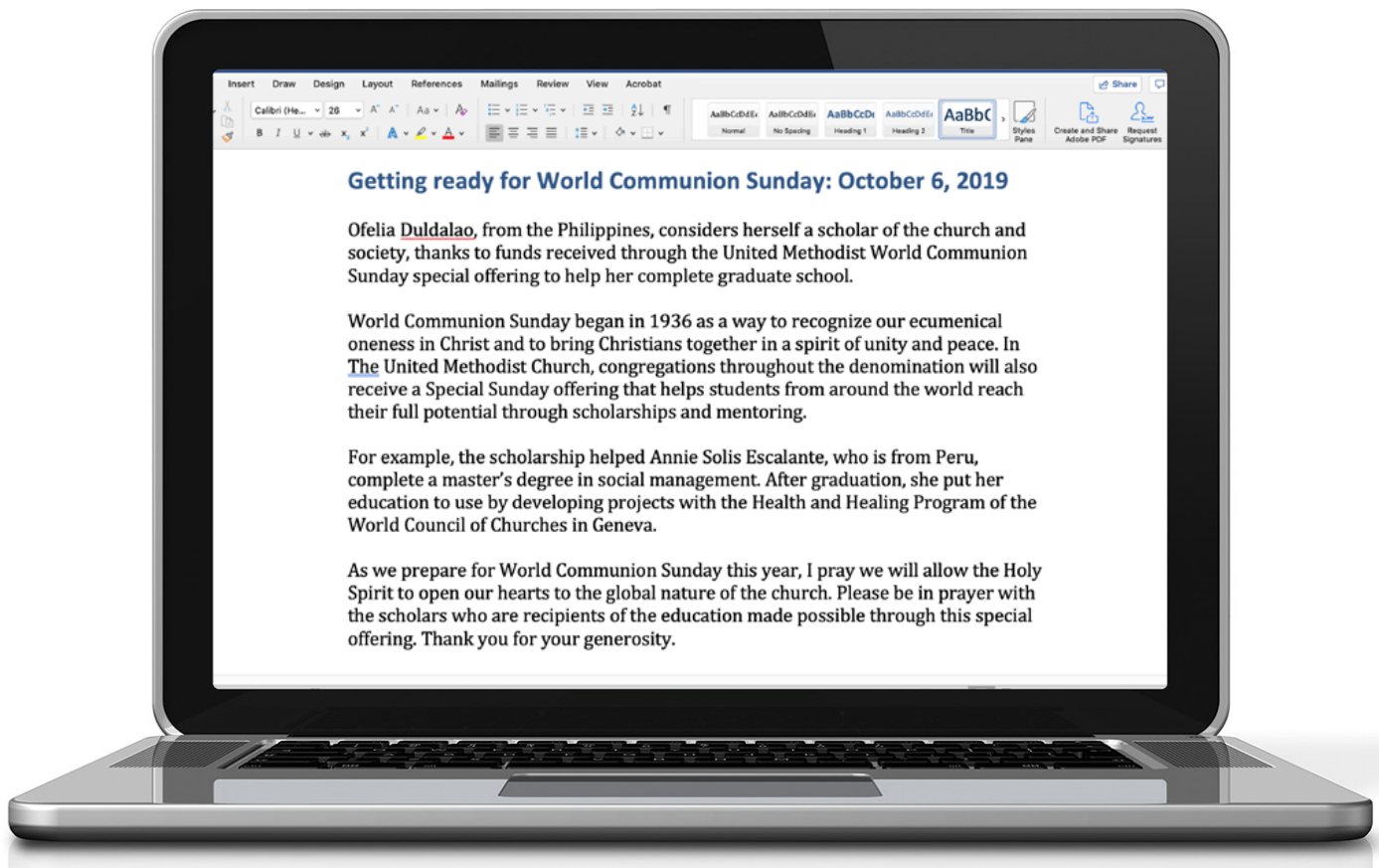


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NEWSLETTER COPY

What channels do you use to prepare and inform your congregation about upcoming events? We've developed three short messages for you to publish on the pastor's blog or your church's mission page to promote World Communion Sunday. It's also helpful to share the message with the congregation in the bulletin, as part of a newsletter and through email.





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SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

Prepare your community for World Communion Sunday by posting information on social media.

Post these graphics on Facebook, send them to your email list with a message or share on your church's website. Use them alone or post with a hashtag to personalize for your community. For maximum impact, schedule two to three images a week, beginning in late August.



Printing the images and displaying them around your church can educate your congregation about how each gift makes the difference in the life of a scholar, who then pays it forward.



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VIDEOS

Through videos, people can learn firsthand about World Communion Sunday. Share the videos in small groups, watch them in worship or post them on social media.





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PODCASTS

Encourage your congregation to listen to these devotions as part of their daily meditation. How is God preparing hearts to participate generously in the World Communion Sunday offering?



You can also listen to these devotionals on the following media channels:

[Anchor FM on iTunes Podcasts](#)

[Spotify Podcasts](#)



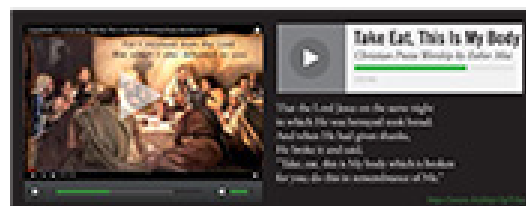


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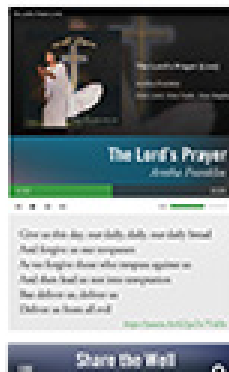
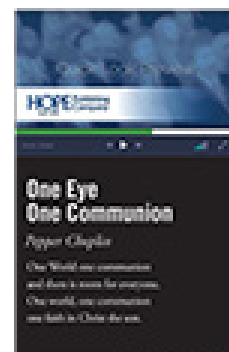
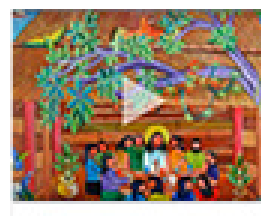
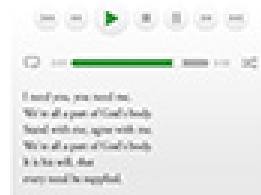
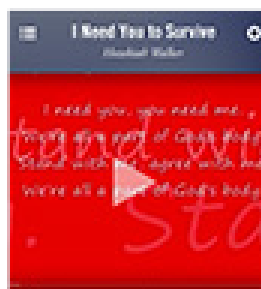
VIDEO PLAYLIST

As you prepare for World Communion Sunday, watch these music videos that reflect the global diversity of The United Methodist Church, our unity with other Christians and our connections as the Body of Christ.



Church Choir Program

Church Methodist Church
The choir of Church Methodist Church in Boston, MA performing worship songs during the 2015 Summer Church Music Harvesting.





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READING LIST

Expand your understanding about the practice of Holy Communion and our ecumenical global relationships. In preparation for World Communion Sunday, check out these books to read on your own or as part of a small group. All of these resources are available through Cokesbury.



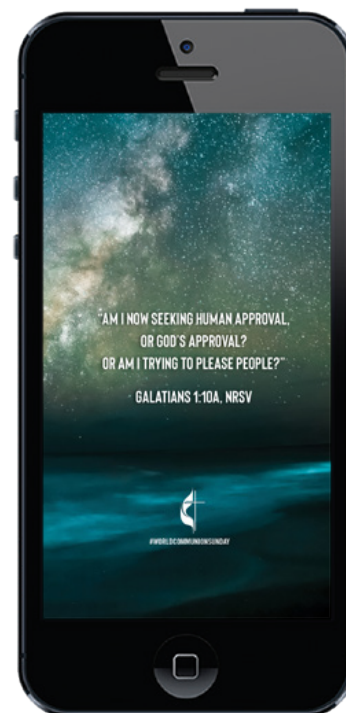
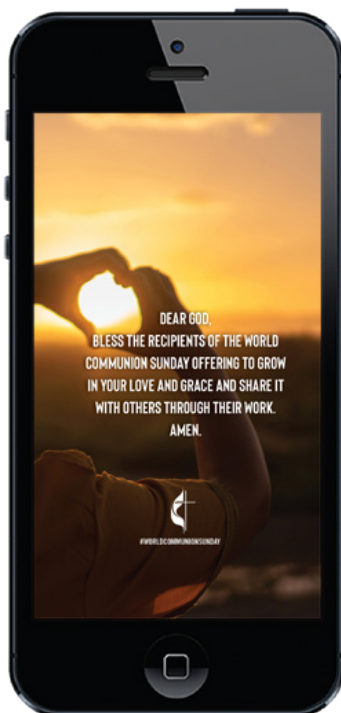
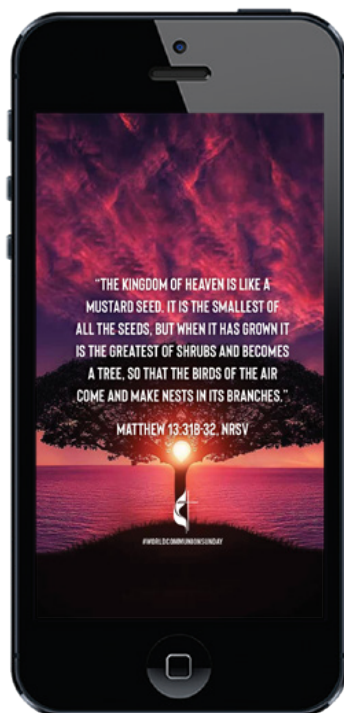


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MOBILE WALLPAPERS

In today's world, people spend a lot of time looking at their phones. Share these wallpaper designs so that whenever your parishioners look at their phones, they will see an inspiring message that reminds them of World Communion Sunday.



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