



UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

Children's Message



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



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While your congregation may observe it at any time, **United Methodist Student Day** is traditionally celebrated on the last Sunday of November. In 2020, the date coincides with the First Sunday in Advent. This children's message uses an Advent wreath as a visual for the message but could be adapted using just a single candle if your congregation celebrates at a different time or if an Advent wreath isn't part of your tradition.

The sermon starter, offering talk and liturgy are designed to work together or stand alone to celebrate **United Methodist Student Day** in your congregation. Find these resources in the [UMSD pastor and leader's kit](#).

Gift of Hope

Invite the children to stand or sit around the Advent wreath with candles (or just a single candle) on a table or a stand.

Offer a special invitation to high school and college students if they are part of the congregation. You may want to speak with them ahead of time to prepare them.

Say:

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of preparing for the arrival of Jesus. Each Sunday,

we will light a candle to help us count the weeks until Christmas.

One tradition that some churches observe is to name each candle. The candle of hope, love, joy and peace. This week, we light the candle of hope. Can you say, "hope"? (allow the children to respond).

We are also celebrating students today. Please raise your hand if you are a student.

About 2,000 years ago, a man named Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth. This letter is part



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of the Bible. He suggested that we are all students when we follow Jesus because we are learning how to live and love like Jesus.

He wrote in his letter,

“You were made rich through him in everything: in all your communication and every kind of knowledge, in the same way that the testimony about Christ was confirmed with you. The result is that you aren't missing any spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:5B-7, CEB

Paul wanted us to know how important church is as a way to learn and grow. Because of Jesus' love for us, we have everything we need to bring hope into the world. When you are in school and you see someone who is worried or sad or lonely, you can remember how much Jesus loves that person and be kind to them. That is a gift of hope that you can offer to others.

Today our church, along with other churches around the world, will receive an offering that will be used to help college students pay for some of their expenses. We will be offering them a gift of hope, knowing that they are loved and prayed for by so many churches. The same way that you are loved and prayed for by the people in this church.

As I light the candle of hope today, please repeat after me:

Thank you, God,
for the gift of hope,
for students everywhere.

Please show us how
to bring hope
into your world.

Amen.



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