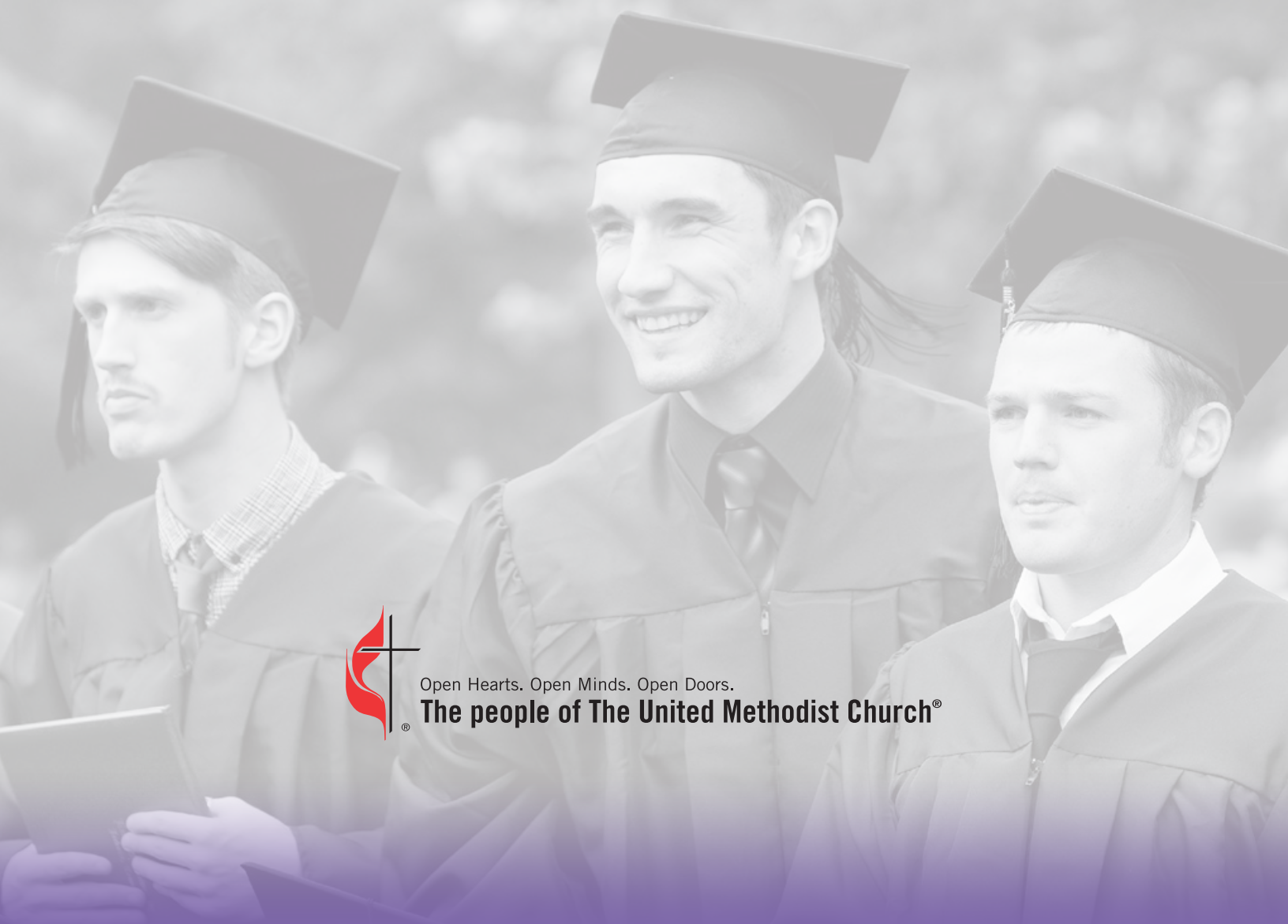




# REJOICE!

## A LEADERS' GUIDE FOR UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY INCORPORATING THEMES FROM PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

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### DEAR CHURCH LEADER,

United Methodist Student Day is one of six Special Sundays when churches receive an offering for a particular ministry through the denomination. On the last Sunday in November, gifts through this offering benefit students as they pursue opportunities in higher education. In this season of Thanksgiving, invite your congregation to rejoice with and for the young people who are being raised in a loving faith community.

Your congregation's contribution will be joined with other United Methodists to provide scholarships to deserving recipients. The offering has raised more than \$2 million over the past five years and helps more than 300 students a year.

USE THIS GUIDE TO PLAN A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY.

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 a variety of members and small groups in leading different aspects of celebration, you can deepen the involvement and excitement of the congregation's participation. United Methodist Student Day is a great time to lift up the students in your congregation.

LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU SUPPORT THEM AND THAT THEY ARE VALUED.

Student Day was first celebrated in 1940 when a college education could be attained for \$450 a year. Today, that same education costs an average of \$23,000 each year. Your congregation is invited to invest in young leaders by giving generously on United Methodist Student Day as part of the offering on the last Sunday in November. Please be in prayer with the students who are recipients of the education made possible through this special offering. Thank you.





# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

## REJOICE!

### WORSHIP RESOURCE: LITURGICAL PRAYERS

This liturgy is designed to connect with the Scripture message while reinforcing the United Methodist Student Day theme. You can print the prayers in the bulletin or project them on screens, depending on your church's culture.

INVITE STUDENTS IN THE CONGREGATION TO LEAD THE PRAYERS.





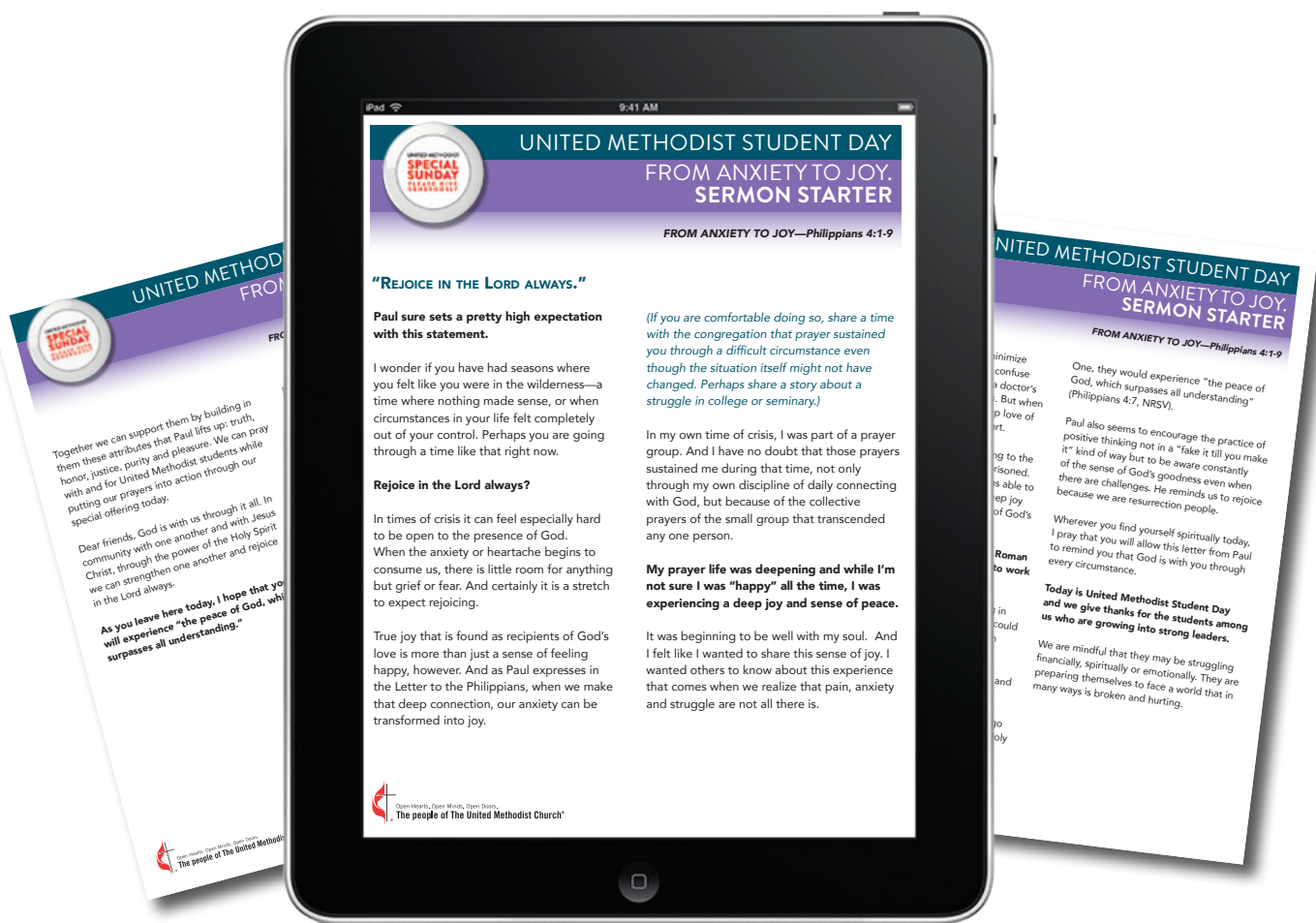
# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

## REJOICE!

### WORSHIP RESOURCE: SERMON STARTER

True joy that is found as recipients of God's love is more than just a sense of feeling happy. Paul expresses in the Letter to the Philippians that when we make deep connections with the Divine and in our community, our anxiety can be transformed into joy. By supporting young people, we instill in them the attributes that Paul lifts up: truth, honor, justice, purity and pleasure.

WE PRAY WITH AND FOR UNITED METHODIST STUDENTS WHILE PUTTING OUR PRAYERS INTO ACTION THROUGH OUR SPECIAL OFFERING.





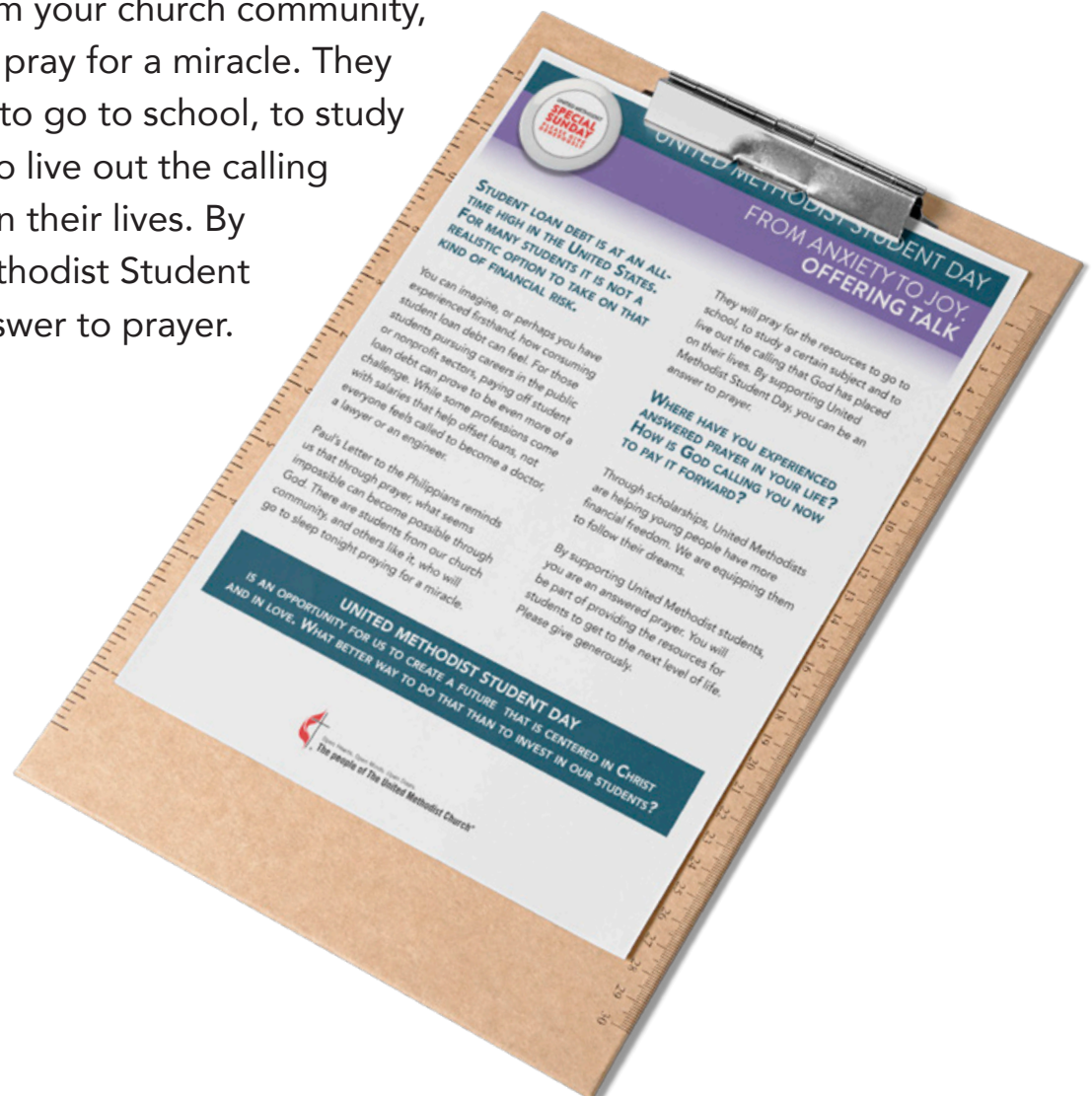


# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY REJOICE!

## WORSHIP RESOURCE: OFFERING TALK

Invite a college student or parent of a college student to present the offering talk using the script provided or adapting for your context. The offering talk ties in to the sermon, reflecting Paul's Letter to the Philippians, reminding us that through prayer, what seems impossible can become possible through God.

There are students from your church community, and others like it, who pray for a miracle. They pray for the resources to go to school, to study a certain subject and to live out the calling that God has placed on their lives. By supporting United Methodist Student Day, you can be an answer to prayer.





# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

## REJOICE!

### SMALL GROUP RESOURCE & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discuss the Wesleyan connection with education and connect it with the needs in your community. Providing conversation prompts, Scripture, prayer and video, this step-by-step guide has everything needed for a church leader to guide the conversation.



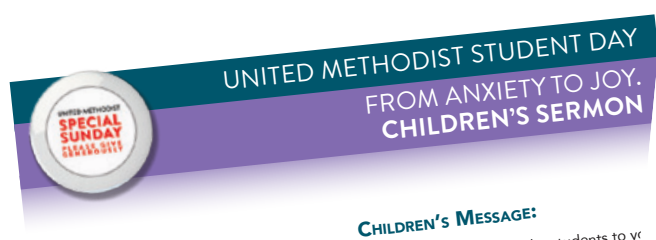


# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

## REJOICE!

### CHILDREN'S RESOURCE: CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Through symbols and testimony, children learn about how a foundation of faith and reason will help them grow into strong leaders who have integrity.



#### PREPARATION:

Ahead of time, ask some of the college or high school students to be prepared to share one thing they are thankful about in their life as a student.

PUT TOGETHER A BASKET OR BOX OF DIFFERENT SCHOOL SUBJECT SYMBOLS.



For example:

- math: measuring cups
- reading: library book
- languages: a globe
- history: image of a circuit rider
- writing: pencil
- science: microscope
- other cultures: fabric from another country
- God and Jesus: cross

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Invite the children and older students to your usual gathering place. Place the basket of symbols next to you.

#### Say:

"This week we will celebrate Thanksgiving. We rejoice and give thanks for everything that God has given to us. Today we are celebrating and giving thanks for students. Later we will receive a special offering from United Methodist college students for their dreams.

GOD REJOICES IN YOU AND WANTS TO BE STRONG IN BODY, MIND / ONE OF THE WAYS THAT YOU SHOW YOUR MIND IS THROUGH SCHOOL

You learn about math, reading, history, writing, science, and of course you also learn about God and Jesus loves you.

(As you name each subject, hold up a symbol.)



#### TESTIMONIES:

Invite three or four students to say their names and share a one-sentence testimony about their experience in school.

#### PRAYER:

Dear wise and nurturing God, Bless these students and their teachers with enthusiasm for new knowledge, new people and new experiences. Open their minds to insight and understanding, clearing away distractions and filling them with your peace. Surround them with your love and protect them in mind, body, and spirit as they stretch and grow throughout their lives. In all situations guide them to be peace builders, following the teachings of Jesus. Infuse them with his joy so that all whom they meet will know your goodness. Amen.





### CHILDREN'S RESOURCE: CHILDREN'S BULLETIN

Give children their own bulletin that highlights the United Methodist Student Day theme through the lens of Philippians 4:4-9. Prayer, Scripture, space for expression and a maze help children engage with the Scripture reading and special offering.

#### FILL IN THE BLANK

Paul wrote a letter to the Philippian people about their church. Fill in the blanks to read the message he shared with them. The answers are near the back of your Bible in Philippians 4:4-9 (NRSV).

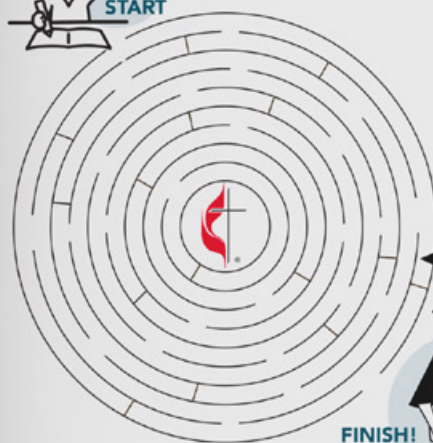
Rejoice in the Lord \_\_\_\_; again I will say, \_\_\_\_.  
Let your \_\_\_\_\_ be known to everyone.  
With \_\_\_\_\_ let your requests be made known to God. And the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is \_\_\_\_\_, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Keep on doing the things that you have \_\_\_\_\_ and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

always	learned	thanksgiving
excellence	peace	true
gentleness	Rejoice	

#### MAZE

Today our church will receive a special offering of money to help students pay for college and work toward their dreams. Trace the correct path that leads to graduation.



FINISH!



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# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

## REJOICE!

### CHILDREN'S RESOURCE: ACTIVITY

With prayer, song and a craft explain to students that God is with them in all seasons of their lives. Help them create a prayer card for their backpack as a reminder that they are surrounded by love.



### UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

#### FROM ANXIETY TO JOY. CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

**PREPARE:**

- Crayons, markers, stickers, etc.
- Name badge holders with a clip that can attach to a backpack
- Card stock cut to fit in the badge holders

**SING:**

As the children gather, invite the children to sing, repeating after you "This is the Day" (*United Methodist Hymnal*, page 657). If you don't have a strong singing voice, invite someone else to lead the song.

**Leader:** This is the day,  
**Children:** this is the day,  
**Leader:** that the Lord has made.  
**Children:** that the Lord has made.  
**Leader:** I will rejoice,  
**Children:** I will rejoice,  
**Leader:** and be glad in it.  
**Children:** and be glad in it.  
**Leader:** This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
**Leader:** This is the day,  
**Children:** this is the day  
**All together:** that the Lord has made.

**DISCUSS:**

Ask the students, "Who made today?"  
Answer: The Lord.  
Ask the students, "Are you glad for today?"  
Why or why not?"  
Listen for answers.

Ask, "Are there some days that sad things happen? Like what?"  
Listen for answers.






Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS


Say, "It's okay to be sad when hard things happen. But remember that God loves you and wants what is best for you. So that is why even when sad things happen, we can also be happy because God loves us so much and gave us this day."



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CHILDREN'S  
RESOURCE




### UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

#### FROM ANXIETY TO JOY. CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

**CRAFT:**

Today you are going to make a prayer card for your school bag. When you feel sad, you can look at it and remember all of the ways that God shows love for you.


1. Draw a cross in the middle of the paper using whatever color you want.
2. Draw a picture of your favorite school outfit.
3. Write down your favorite activity.
4. Draw a picture of a good friend.
5. Write down your teacher's name.
6. Decorate the card with stickers or other decorations.




**PRAY:**

When everyone has decorated his or her prayer card, say a prayer:

God,  
Thank you for making this day.  
Thank you for these students.  
Give them courage, wisdom and joy.  
For study, work and play, may these cards remind them  
You are always walking with them.  
Thank you, God, for teachers, classes and friends who are part of their daily lives.  
Thank you for sending Jesus. It's in his name we pray. Amen."



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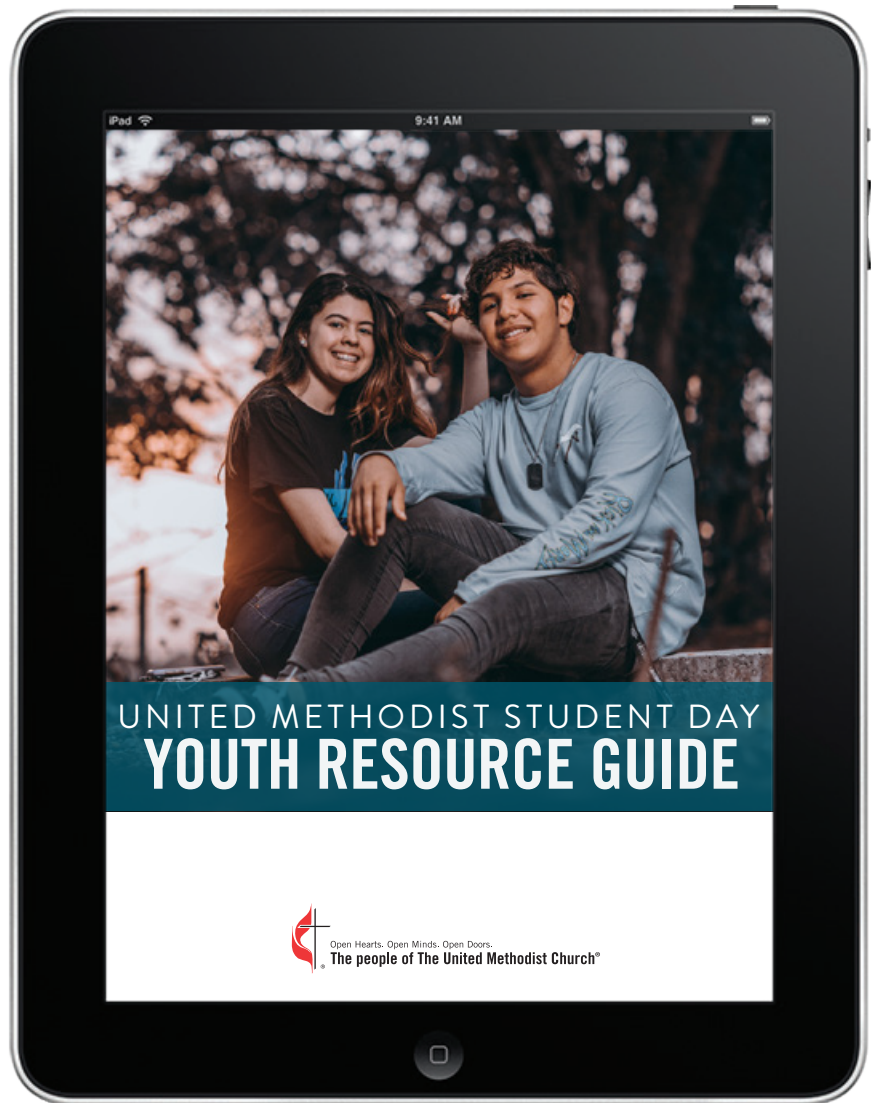
CHILDREN'S  
RESOURCE



### YOUTH RESOURCES

Youth leaders are in a unique position to teach young people biblical authority that is studied through the lens of reason, tradition and experience.

This e-book includes multimedia resources for engaging youth in celebrating United Methodist Student Day. Use these activities to help young people achieve their dreams and potential while sparking a generous spirit in support of other students. Remind students that through our relationships with Jesus and with one another, we can find peace and joy.



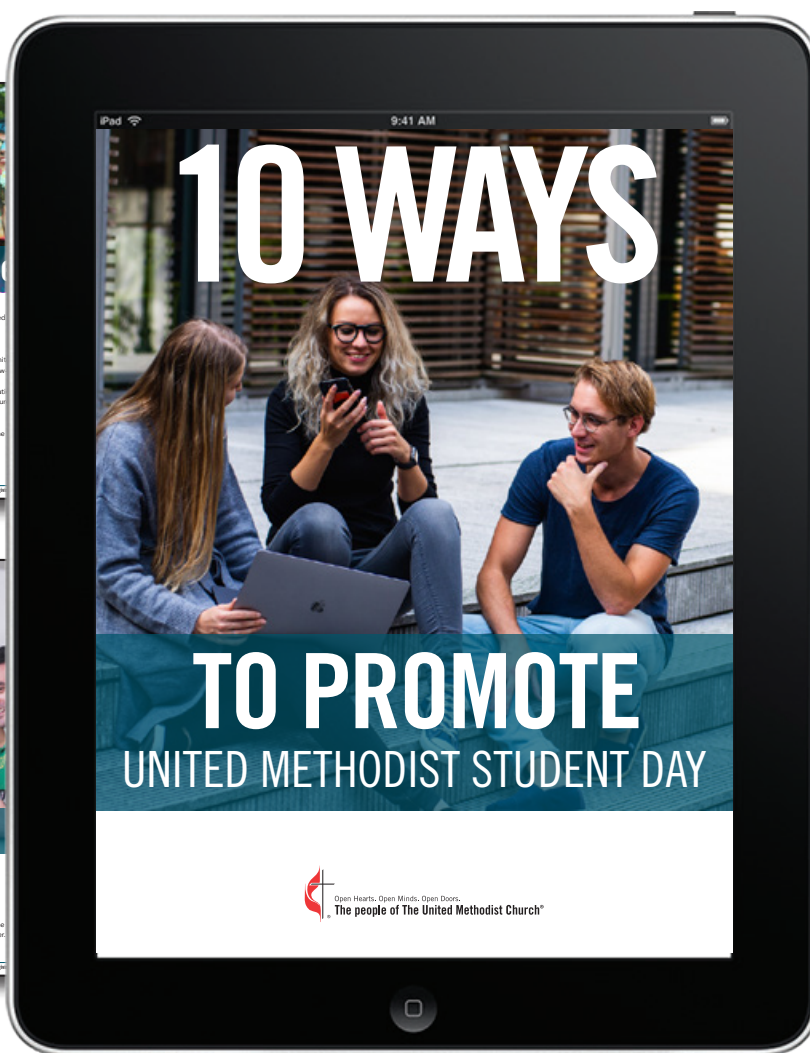
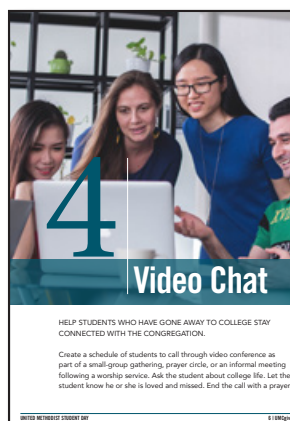
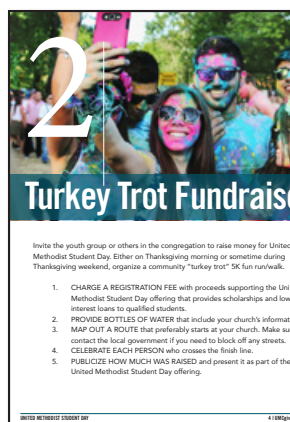


# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

## REJOICE!

### PROMOTIONAL IDEAS

Host a reunion, assemble care packages, make an intergenerational video and more. This e-book includes 10 strategies for preparing your congregation to celebrate United Methodist Student Day. We pray these ideas will help keep students connected with your church and spark a generous spirit in support of scholars.



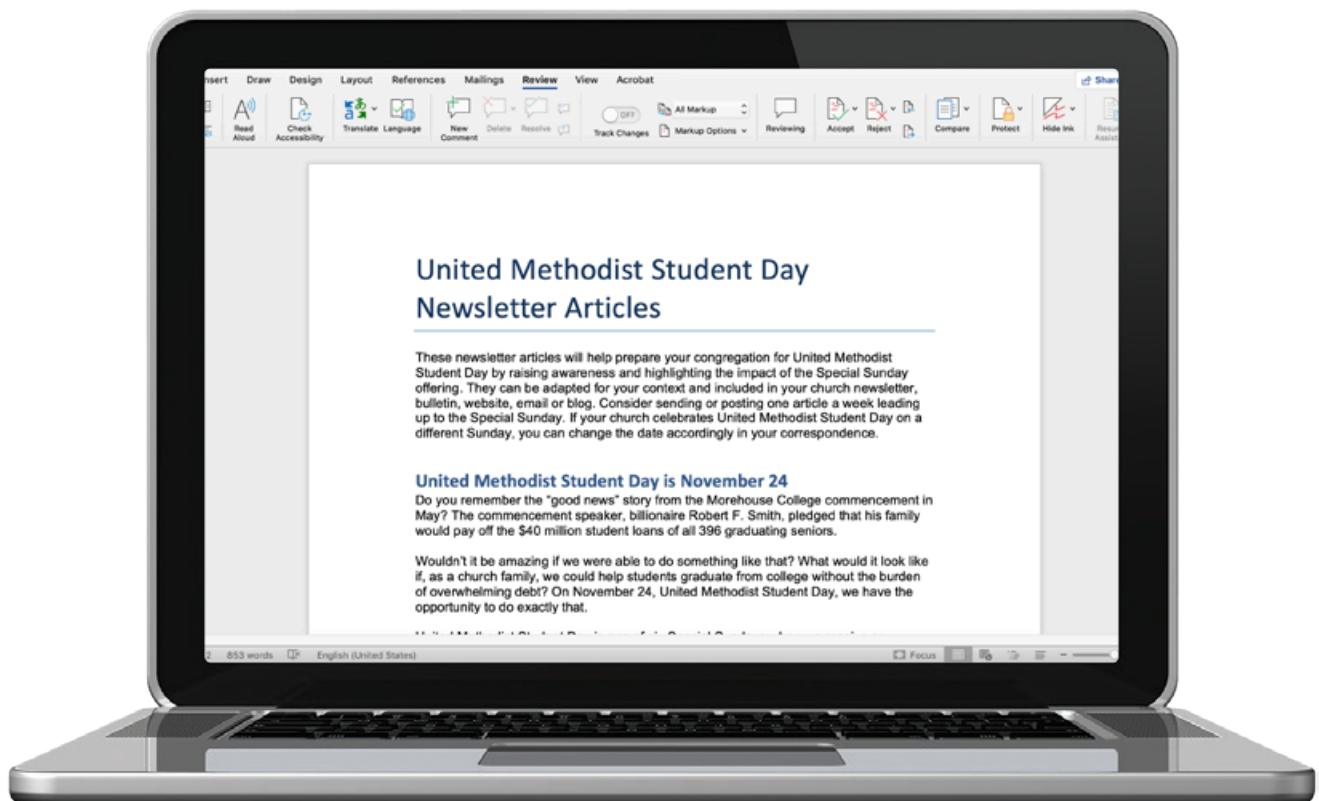




# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY REJOICE!

## 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 United Methodist Student Day. It's also helpful to share the message with the congregation in the bulletin, as part of a newsletter and through email.



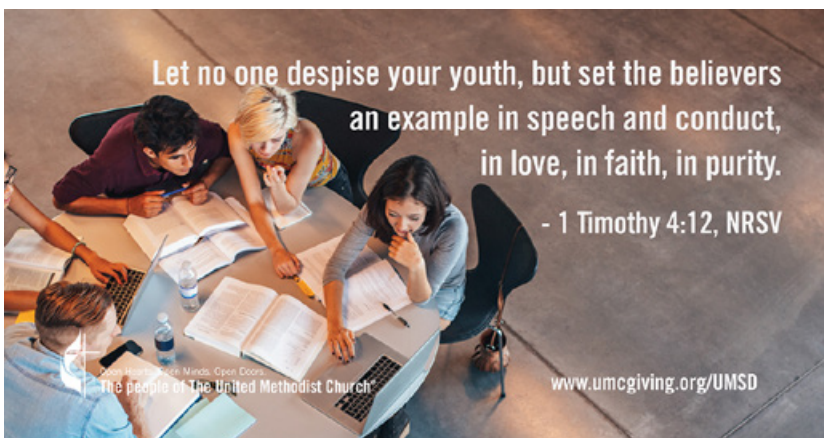


# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

## REJOICE!

### SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

Prepare your community for United Methodist Student Day 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 early November. Printing the images and displaying them around your church can educate your congregation about how each gift invests in the life of a scholar, who then pays it forward.





# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

## REJOICE!

### VIDEOS

Through videos, people can learn firsthand about United Methodist Student Day. Share the videos in small groups, watch them in worship or post them on social media.





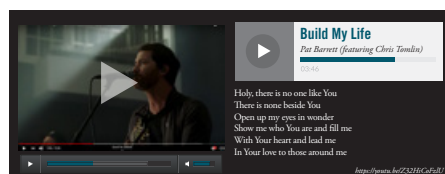


# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

## REJOICE!

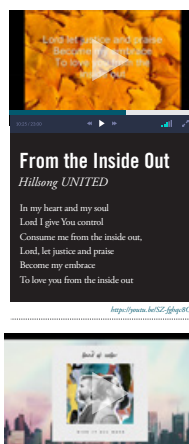
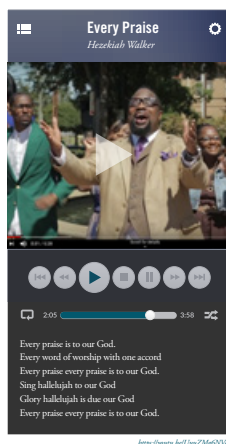
### VIDEO PLAYLIST

Set the tone for celebrating young people on the last Sunday in November with a mix of gospel, praise and hip-hop. Listen to these upbeat songs as you prepare for United Methodist Student Day. Make a joyful noise as students gather for youth group. Play this uplifting music at coffee hour or other congregational gatherings.



#### Best Is Yet to Come

*Group 1 Choir*  
Everybody looks back and wonders  
If their dreams are through  
If this is good as it gets, don't you really wish  
everybody had a redo  
This ain't the end of the story  
It's just begun  
And there ain't nothin in the world that you  
couldn't get if you just believe in the Son

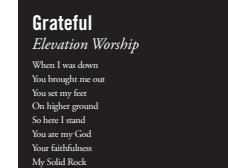


Every word of worship with one accord  
Every praise every praise is to our God.  
Sing hallelujah to our God.  
Glory hallelujah is due our God.  
Every praise every praise is to our God.

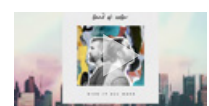
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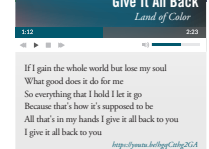
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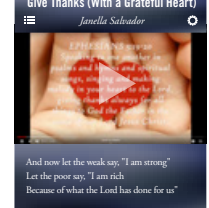
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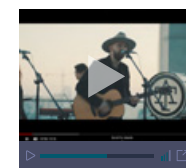
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#### This Is Not a Test

*TobyMac*

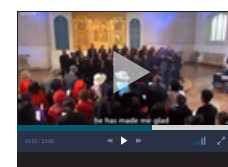
Fell out of the sky  
Hit the ground runnin'  
The future is tonight  
They'll never see us comin'  
Taken by this urgency,  
won't let this moment pass

<https://youtu.be/1uu2AG6VYt4>



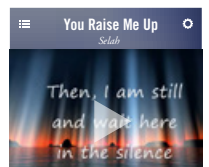
I can see the clouds roll in  
I can feel the winds, they try to shake me  
I will not be moved  
My feet are on the rock

<https://youtu.be/1uu2AG6VYt4>



*The Adventist Vocal Ensemble and the Congregation of St. John's, Hackney, North London*  
I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart  
I will enter His courts with praise  
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made  
I will rejoice for He has made me glad

<https://youtu.be/1uu2AG6VYt4>



*Selah*  
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence  
You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be  
You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be

<https://youtu.be/1uu2AG6VYt4>

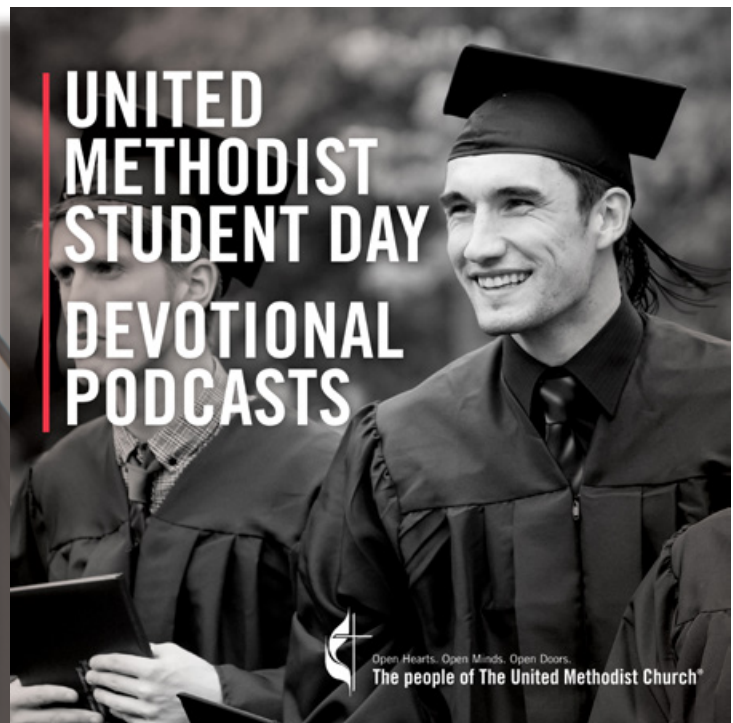


# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

## REJOICE!

### PODCASTS

Encourage your congregation to listen to these devotions as part of their daily meditation. Hear inspiring stories about people who have been transformed by the Holy Spirit through educational opportunities. How is God preparing the hearts and minds of your congregation to participate generously in United Methodist Student Day?





# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

## REJOICE!

### READING LIST

Education is a core value of The United Methodist Church that dates back to the earliest days of the Methodist movement in 18th-century England. As your church prepares for United Methodist Student Day, spend some time in small groups or individually exploring one or more of these books that reflect the importance and impact of education.







# UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

## REJOICE!

### MOBILE WALLPAPERS

Learning is a lifelong process. Download these inspiring wallpaper designs to your phone. When you look at them, pray for students, especially those who receive scholarships or low-interest loans through United Methodist Student Day. Text your favorite image to a student who may need encouragement.



For more information and resources  
on United Methodist Student Day, visit

[umcgiving.org/UMSD](https://umcgiving.org/UMSD)



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