

2021 envelopes and pew cards FAQ's

Why is there only one offering envelope for 2021?

With all of the challenges 2020 brought, one of the biggest was the shifts we made in how we worship. This required us to revise the format for Special Sunday envelopes to meet the current needs that many members are unable to attend worship in person. Some are unable to attend due to health risk while others have become virtual members living too far to attend weekly. We needed to provide flexibility for our church leadership. The revised envelope is USPS-approved, meaning it can be mailed, allowing members the choice to either mail in their donations or give in person during worship. This also provides a marketing tool for churches to promote the Special Sunday in an effort to raise awareness and giving. One additional benefit of including all the Special Sunday's on one envelope is to serve as a reminder there are **six** Special Sundays to allow persons the opportunity to contribute offerings to all six special programs approved and supported by The Church.

How will churches promote individual Special Sundays without the individual offering envelopes?

To promote the individual Sundays, a new resource called pew cards has been created to offer details on why we give, how to give and the impact of our gifts. There are six different pew cards each highlighting a Special Sunday and are designed to fit in the pew racks for members or visitors to take and share. Included on each pew card is a QR code offering easy access for members as well as visitors who prefer online giving. Pew cards provide churches another way to extend the promotion of the Special Sunday by placing them in the pew racks for members to view weeks in advance instead of only the day of the Special Sunday – or they can place all 6 in the pew rack and promote them year round. They can also be a promotional tool that can be mailed, given away during events or included in their visitor welcome packets. Another benefit is they are available in digital format as well as printed – so the flexibility on sharing is doubled.

Are older versions of the offering envelopes still available?

There are limited quantities of the 2020 offering envelopes that churches are welcome to order by calling our customer service line at 1-800-991-6011 from 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time. We are unable to guarantee how long inventory will be available. Please note we will not be reprinting the 2020 offering envelopes once inventory is depleted.

What size are the new 2021 envelopes?

Pew cards are 3.875" wide x 8.875" high. This envelope is technically called a #9 envelope, which are commonly used in reply mail, most often used to remit payment or send in donations. This size envelope is designed to fit inside a standard #10 envelope that most use in mailing letters. The purpose of this is to not only meet the US postal service requirements, but provide options for churches to use a marketing tool to promote the Special Sunday in an effort to raise awareness and giving.

Can you mail the new 2021 envelope through the U.S. postal service?

The revised envelope is USPS-approved, meaning it can be mailed, allowing members the choice to either mail in their donations or give in person during worship.

What are pew cards?

With envelopes being branded for all six Special Sundays we knew churches needed a way to promote the individual Special Sundays. We created a new resource called pew cards that are individually branded to represent each Special Sunday. These pew cards provide details on why we give, how to give and the impact of our gifts. To make things simple, we included a QR code on each offering easy access for members as well as visitors who prefer online giving, but for those who prefer to give to their local church, that option is provided as well. Pew cards are designed to fit in the pew racks, which provides churches another way to extend the promotion of the Special Sunday by placing them in the pew racks for members to view weeks in advance instead of only the day of the Special Sunday – or they can place all 6 in the pew rack and promote them year round. They can also be a promotional tool that can be mailed, given away during

events or included in their visitor welcome packets. Another benefit is they are available in digital format as well as printed – so the flexibility on sharing is doubled.

Is the pew cards in digital and print format?

With churches using digital format on a daily basis, we knew we had to provide this tool in both digital as well as printed format. Digital format allows churches to email, post on websites and it is mobile friendly so members and visitors can easily view the resource. The QR code works digitally as well as in print and links to the official Special Sunday donation site. *Test it – it works!*

What size are the pew cards?

Pew cards are 2.875" wide x 6" high. This card size will fit in the standard pew rack holder found in most churches. Pew cards are designed to fit in the pew racks to hopefully extend the promotion of the Special Sunday by placing them in the pew racks for members to view weeks in advance instead of only the day of the Special Sunday – or they can place all 6 in the pew rack and promote them year round. Hopefully members will walk away with it and share it, use it as a bookmark, or post it on their refrigerator as a reminder!

Why do we celebrate 6 individual Special Sundays?

The intention of the special Sundays in The United Methodist Church are to illustrate the nature and calling of the Church and put into practice our mission to give money beyond our local church and community needs to transform the world. The special Sundays scheduled annually to make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God, and to give persons the opportunity to contribute offerings to special programs approved and supported by the Church. The approved six special Sundays are expected to have churchwide emphasis and provide a churchwide offering to express our commitment. These special days include Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, and Native American Ministries Sunday, World Communion Sunday and United Methodist Student Day.

Are there pew cards that represent every Special Sunday?

Yes, these are six different pew cards highlighting each Special Sunday. These special days include Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, and Native American Ministries Sunday, World Communion Sunday and United Methodist Student Day.

Why did I receive an older version of the envelope instead of the new 2021 version?

This means we have run out of the new envelope are we are trying to provide you with something to help you get through the Special Sunday celebration. You should have received a letter with your envelope explaining why you received this envelope instead of the new version. We also make note of items being out of stock online. Check back often to see if we have restocked.

Why is the United Methodist Handbook still out of stock?

We realize this one-stop destination for all things United Methodist is helpful and some of you are seeking the printed version, but unfortunately we are not reprinting this resource until after General Conference 2020 session occurs in August 2021. Our apologies for the inconvenience this may cause.

We invite you to download a digital version of the handbook [here](#) that contains the same information available in the print version. For those new to the church, we offer a condensed version of the handbook that incorporates simplified language. This version is available in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).