

A photograph of a person from behind, wearing a blue corduroy jacket, looking towards a colorful stained glass window. The window features abstract, multi-colored patterns in shades of red, yellow, green, and blue. The background is dark, making the colors of the window stand out.

# Native American Ministries Sunday

A D U L T   D I S C U S S I O N



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

# Native American Ministries Sunday

ADULT DISCUSSION

## 1. GATHERING MUSIC—AMAZING GRACE

 <https://youtu.be/c8q7ZobEtKY?t=50>

## 2. OPENING PRAYER

Invite people to share the joys and struggles of the week.

*We gather here in the presence of the  
Great Creator.*

*We come together as one in Christ from all over  
this great planet that was loaned to us.*

*May the Great Creator come into our hearts  
and make us one.*

*Amen.*

Josephine Deere, Muscogee Creek, retired  
Director of Connectional Ministries,  
Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

## 3. NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Introduce the special Sunday saying: One of our denomination's six special offerings, the Native American Ministries Sunday offering equips and empowers Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to do what only they are called to do: authentically worship and serve Jesus. Half of our gifts stay with local ministries in this conference and half support the work of Native American United Methodist ministries nationally.

With more than 20,000 Native Americans within the denomination, this Special Sunday helps to ensure that Native American United Methodist leaders are supported in their ministries. This Special Sunday was officially recognized in 1988 and has been celebrated on the Third Sunday of Easter since 1989.

The group leader might want to share some of the work being done in your conference:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/committee-on-native-american-ministries-conam-contacts>



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## ADULT DISCUSSION

### 4. NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES VIDEO

Watch one or two of these videos and ask participants to write down where they see good news of God's love.

▶ <https://youtu.be/rm9Yi0s3pOU>

▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmTAg7j2eM>

▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zR8Qt9wgR-I>

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

▶ <https://youtu.be/cnXN84Gp-zk>

▶ We Shall Remain by PBS.  
<https://www.pbs.org/video/kued-local-productions-we-shall-remain-navajo/>

### 5. SCRIPTURE READING

Ask someone to read Luke 24:36b-48 and invite participants to write down words and phrases that resonate with them.

Go around and allow each person to say a word or phrase until all have had an opportunity to speak.

### 6. SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

A. "Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'"—LUKE 24:36

Taking into account the history of the relationship the United States government has had with the first Americans, where do you see opportunities to share Christ's peace?

B. "Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence." —LUKE 24: 39-42

Jesus shows the disciples signs that he is resurrected. This is good news to the disciples' frightened hearts. Where did you see good news of the resurrection in the videos we watched? Refer to the notes you took as we watched.

C. "You are witnesses of these things."—LUKE 24:48



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In our membership vows, we promise to support the ministries of the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. What is our witness in our relationship with our Native American siblings

in Christ? What are ways, in addition to our Special Sunday offering, we can strengthen our relationship and witness to the ministries that are happening here in our conference?

## 7. CLOSING PRAYER

*You have come from afar and waited long and are wearied.  
Let us sit side by side, sharing the same bread drawn from the same source;  
to quiet the same hunger that makes us weak  
Then standing together let us share the same spirit, the same thoughts  
That once again draws us together in spirit and unity and peace.  
AMEN.*

*Prieres D'Ozawamick, Canadian Indian, 20th Century,  
United Methodist Book of Worship*



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