

Native American Ministries Sunday

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

ORIGINAL PHOTO BY GINNY UNDERWOOD



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If there is time and the appropriate environment, take a walk with the students to find sticks, stones, leaves and other natural artifacts. Otherwise have the supplies ready including twine or yarn when the children gather. If you are gathering online, ask the children to prepare the nature items ahead of time.

INTRODUCTION

Download and print out enough prayer cards so that each student has one:



Explain that today we are celebrating Native American Ministries Sunday. Today we celebrate the contributions of Native Americans in the church and the world. Our church will be sending a financial gift to support the important work of Native American churches, including helping people attend school to become pastors.

Some United Methodist Churches experience Jesus through rituals, language and music that might be different than how we normally express God's love through Jesus. For example, one of the special rituals that some Native Americans practice is making a prayer stick.

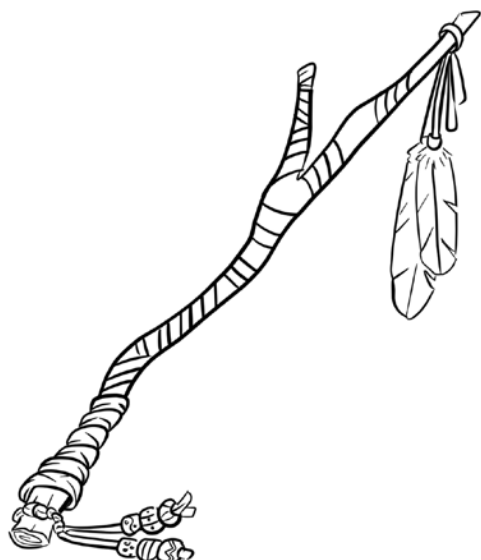


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Assemble prayer sticks

Prayer sticks are used by Native Americans in prayer and healing, thinking about the natural gifts of Mother Earth. As we bind together the elements that we have chosen, think about how God created and connects us to the earth. (The image of “the cross and the feather” is an example of how the children might tie their material together www.dayspringnaumc.com).

While the children are putting the prayer sticks together, ask them what they are praying for.

Time to pray

Invite the children to share their prayer sticks and to read the scripture prayer on their prayer card.

If your children's ministry has a practice of receiving and offering from the children or if you have made arrangements for a special offering, receive it at this time.

Please pray with me:

Thank you God for this day, for fun with our friends and for learning more about different ways people worship you.

Continue to bless the Native American ministries.

Make all of your churches strong and filled with your love.

We pray in Jesus name. Amen

- Suggested reading – Frybread: A Native American Family Story, Author-Kevin Noble Maillard



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