



Peace with Justice

YOUTH RESOURCE GUIDE



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EVENT IDEAS FOR YOUTH TO CELEBRATE PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY



Host a watch party that explores peace with justice themes.

Invite each youth to develop a conversation starter or question for discussion after the film.

Some suggested titles:

Dancing in Jaffa
He Named Me Malala
Just Mercy
13th
The Hate U Give
John Q
Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution
Cesar Chavez
Moxie
Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story

Organize for peace with justice.

Encourage the youth to advocate for peace with justice about issues they identify:

- researching the process for bringing a concern to the local municipal leadership and attend a council meeting,
- developing a letter writing campaign to state and local officials,
- registering voters,
- launching an awareness campaign in the church, on social media and/or community about an issue of concern,
- planning a peace fair, online or in person, providing an opportunity to hear from representatives of local organizations who are focused on topics of peace and justice,
- attending or organizing a rally and march

Set up an interview.

Who in your annual conference is the Peace with Justice Coordinator or a member of the Conference Board of Church and Society? Invite them to speak with the youth about their experiences.



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WORSHIP PLAYLIST



▶ The Many — “Let Justice Rain”
<https://youtu.be/R0RyLr9y2Y0>



▶ Brandon Lake—“Pour Me Out”
<https://youtu.be/wTS1T3YsgJs>



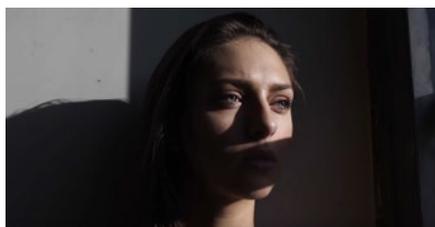
▶ Elevation Worship —“The Blessing”
<https://youtu.be/Zp6aygmvmzM4>



▶ The Porter's Gate — “The Greatest Commandment”
<https://youtu.be/pEIUWTNsYXU>



▶ Mark Miller —“Child of God”
<https://youtu.be/vDmrS3ts0B0>



▶ The Brilliance—“See The Love”
<https://youtu.be/e9dBcE4A6l8>



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BIBLE STUDY & ACTIVITIES

Note: **Free Youth Curriculum from Church and Society**

The General Board of Church and Society offers a free lectionary and justice based youth resource for weekly Bible study and activities. Visit: <https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/152>

The following outline is adapted from the May 30, 2021 session that was prepared by Pastor Eduardo Carrillo.

GROUP OPENING AND ICEBREAKER

Welcome the youth as usual. In your welcome, include an introduction to Peace with Justice Sunday:

One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together through our connection than we ever can do on our own.

On the Sunday after Pentecost (or whatever date it will be observed) our church will recognize Peace with Justice Sunday and receive a special offering. When we support Peace with Justice Sunday, our gifts join with other churches' to create new possibilities. For example, The United Methodist Board of Church and Society worked for nearly a decade in partnership with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, other faith groups, and over 135 nations to

adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). As of January 22, 2021 it is illegal for nations to develop, produce, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons or to store nuclear weapons on their lands. (For more information: <https://www.icanw.org/> and <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/nuclearprohibition>).

Together we strengthen God's family with ministries that challenge structures of inequality and build up peace while empowering people and communities through systemic change.

You each have a piece of paper. On that piece of paper, I invite you write in big letters a word or phrase about a peace or social justice concern that is important to you. (Offer some examples if you think they need a prompt: climate change, racism, gun violence, poverty).

We all come with concerns for God's family on our heart. Today we are going to explore our connections with God's people and why it is important to work together for peace with justice.



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SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 8:12-17

Say: Romans is a letter written by Paul to Jews and Gentiles alike. The letter to the Romans is written in a way that both the Jewish audience and the Gentile audience can understand. One of the main points Paul wants to get across in his letter is that in Christ, there is new life that is to be lived differently. As you listen to this passage, consider:

*Are you living by the flesh or by the Spirit?
How does it feel to be part of the family?
When have you felt enslaved by fear?
How have you experienced inheritance
as a child of God?*

MESSAGE: WE ARE FAMILY

Who can explain what this passage from Paul's letter is trying to say? (allow for some discussion)

Paul shows his persuasion skills and rhetoric. He argues that we no longer need to live in fear because we are heirs. We are made children by adoption through Jesus Christ. We are made part of the family because of Jesus. Being part of a family is amazing but not all families

are perfect. Paul brings to the table two sides of the family who are at odds. In one corner we have the family members who believe they are born into God's chosen people because of their Jewish heritage. In the other corner, we have the the Gentiles, the ones who have come to be family by adoption.

Paul does not make distinctions between the two, but he identifies them as siblings. This is huge because Jews and Gentiles are at odds, they are not seeing eye to eye, but Paul brings them to the conversation as equals, as family.

What happens in our church, in the nation, in the world, when we don't see other people as part of our family? (allow for some discussion)

GROUP CONVERSATION

(break into small groups if necessary)

Ask someone to read from the 2016 *Book of Discipline*, Social Principles ¶161.A (<https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/the-nurturing-community-161/the-nurturing-community-culture-and-identity-161-a>):

Culture and Identity

We believe that our primary identity is as children of God. With that identity comes societal and cultural



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constructions that have both positive and negative impacts on humanity and the Church. Cultural identity evolves through our history, traditions, and experiences. The Church seeks to fully embrace and nurture cultural formation and competency as a means to be fully one body, expressed in multiple ways. Each of us has multiple identities of equal value that intersect to form our complete self. We affirm that no identity or culture has more legitimacy than any other. We call the Church to challenge any hierarchy of cultures or identities. Through relationships within and among cultures we are called to and have the responsibility for learning from each other, showing mutual respect for our differences and similarities as we experience the diversity of perspectives and viewpoints.

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ASK:

In Paul's time, there was division between the Jews and the Gentiles. What are some divisions that happen today?

Have you ever had a courageous conversation that helped you understand better an experience that may not be your own? How did it feel?

GROUP ACTIVITY

Pass paper and pencil to the students.

Ask them to draw a circle and inside the circle to write down the names of their family. Draw another circle and write the names of their friends. Draw a third circle and write the names of people that they don't associate with. (These circles can be next to each other.) Lastly, draw a large circle that captures all three of the circles.

SAY:

The biggest circle is the family of God.

How does it feel to know that you are part of a bigger family and that there may be people in your family that are strangers, that may not look like you, that might speak a different language and a culture that you may not be familiar with?

ASK:

What are some ways to better understand the diversity of our family?

What are some ways that we can better be siblings?



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OFFERING

As we consider what it means to care for our siblings, to empower those who are on the margin and to address unjust systems, today we have an opportunity to be part of the United Methodist family by sharing from our own abundance.

When you give generously on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift becomes a voice for advocacy around the world. Together we strengthen God's family with ministries that challenge structures of inequality and empower people and communities through systemic change.

OFFERING PRAYER

We present our offerings
in the name of Abba, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Triune God, who mothers us all,
bless and multiply these gifts
as they join with those across the
United Methodist family
to bring peace with justice to all of your children.
Amen

TAKE IT INTO THE WORLD

SAY:

Pass the paper from our group activity to the person on your left. The names on that paper are your family as well. Each day this week, offer a prayer for each person listed.

We are now going to stand in a circle and look at one another. Imagine all of those family members who are part of the bigger circle who are not physically with us today. We are going to say what is called our "Social Creed." These are ways that United Methodists affirm who we are and whose we are and how we will live as family to build up peace with justice.

OUR SOCIAL CREED

*The Book of Discipline of The United
Methodist Church, 2016*

Slides follow



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SUNDAY

OUR SOCIAL CREED

**We believe in God, Creator of the world;
and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
through whom we acknowledge God's gifts,
and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts
to idolatrous ends.**



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SUNDAY

OUR SOCIAL CREED

**We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork
and dedicate ourselves to its preservation,
enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.**



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SUNDAY

OUR SOCIAL CREED

**We joyfully receive for ourselves and others
the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage,
and the family.**



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SUNDAY

OUR SOCIAL CREED

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.



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SUNDAY

OUR SOCIAL CREED

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.



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SUNDAY

OUR SOCIAL CREED

**We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world,
to the rule of justice and law among nations,
and to individual freedom for all people of the world.**



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SUNDAY

OUR SOCIAL CREED

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen.



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