



ENVELOPE AND PEW CARD FAQ

Here are some frequent questions we receive about the envelope and pew cards. Click to view a how to guide on how to use these resources [here](#). If you have questions please email us at umcgiving@umcom.org.

Why is there only one offering envelope?

With all of the challenges 2020 presented, one of the biggest was the shifts we made in how we worship. Church leadership needed flexible options as many members were unable to attend worship in person. 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 new options for churches to use it as marketing tool providing the opportunity to contribute offerings to all six special ministries.

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

Pew cards were designed to highlight individual Special Sundays and provide details on why we give, how to give and the impact of our gifts. Six different pew cards highlight an individual 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 those who prefer online giving. Using the pew racks provides churches the ability to promote the Special Sunday's weeks in advance or all year long. They can also be mailed, given away at event or included in visitor packs. The same design will be used for a full quadrennial season and are available in [digital](#) as well as [printed](#) formats. We also have designed Annual Conference and Awareness Sunday pew cards that can be downloaded [here](#).

Are older versions of the offering envelopes still available?

There are limited quantities of the older offering envelopes and 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 and will not reprint once inventory is depleted.

What size are the new envelopes?

Pew cards are 3.875" wide x 8.875" high. This envelope is technically called a #9 envelope, which is commonly used in reply mail, most often used to remit payment or send in donations. This #9 envelope is designed to fit inside a standard #10 envelope which most use to mail letters. This not only meets the US postal service requirements, but offers churches a new marketing tool to promote awareness and giving.

Can you mail the new 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.

Is the pew cards in digital and print format?

They are available in [digital format](#) as well as [printed](#). The [6 Special Sundays](#) as well as the [Annual Conference and Awareness Special Sundays](#) are available in digital format. Digital format allows churches to email, post on websites and is mobile friendly. The QR code works on both the digital and print format and links to the official Special Sunday donation site. *Test it – it works!*

What are pew cards?

Pew cards were designed to highlight individual Special Sundays and provide details on why we give, how to give and the impact of our gifts. Included on each card is a QR code offering easy access those who prefer online giving. They are crafted to fit in the pew racks for members to view weeks in advance instead of only the day of the Special Sunday – or place all of them in the pew rack and promote them year round. They can also be mailed, given away during events or included in their visitor welcome packets. They are available in [digital format](#) as well as [printed](#) – to provide flexible options. To further understanding, we will keep the same design for a full quadrennial year. Beyond the six Special Sundays, we also have designed Annual Conference and Awareness Sunday pew cards that can be downloaded [here](#).

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. The goal is for members and visitors to take it, share it, use it as a bookmark, or post it on their refrigerator as a reminder!

Why do we celebrate specific Special Sundays?

The United Methodist Church designates a number of Sundays throughout the year as opportunities for recognizing and supporting particular ministries. The special Sundays are scheduled for a particular day 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. Special Sundays fall into three different categories:

1. **Churchwide Special Sundays** with offerings enable us to offer refuge in times of disaster, promote peace and justice, provide scholarships and student loans, reach out to the community, teach skills to encourage self-sufficiency and share the love of Jesus Christ with God’s people everywhere. 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.
2. **Special Sundays approved for Annual Conference** with offerings are observed on dates determined by the annual conference. Offerings are used for ministries within the annual conference and include Christian Education Sunday, Golden Cross Sunday, Rural Life Sunday, Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday and Disability Awareness Sunday.
3. **Awareness Special Sundays** without offerings are designated to focus attention on a specific aspect of the church’s ministry; no special offering is taken. These Sundays include: Heritage Sunday, Laity Sunday, Men’s Ministry Sunday, Women’s Ministry Sunday and Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday.

Are there pew cards that represent every Special Sunday?

Yes, these are individual pew cards to highlight each Special Sunday and include Human Relations Day, UMCOR Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, and Native American Ministries Sunday, World Communion Sunday and United Methodist Student Day. They are available in [print](#) or [digital](#) format. We also have digital pew cards for Annual Conference Special Sundays and the Awareness Special Sundays and those can be found [here](#).

Why is the United Methodist Handbook still out of stock?

We realize this one-stop resource 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 the General Conference meeting in 2022. 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 and is available in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).