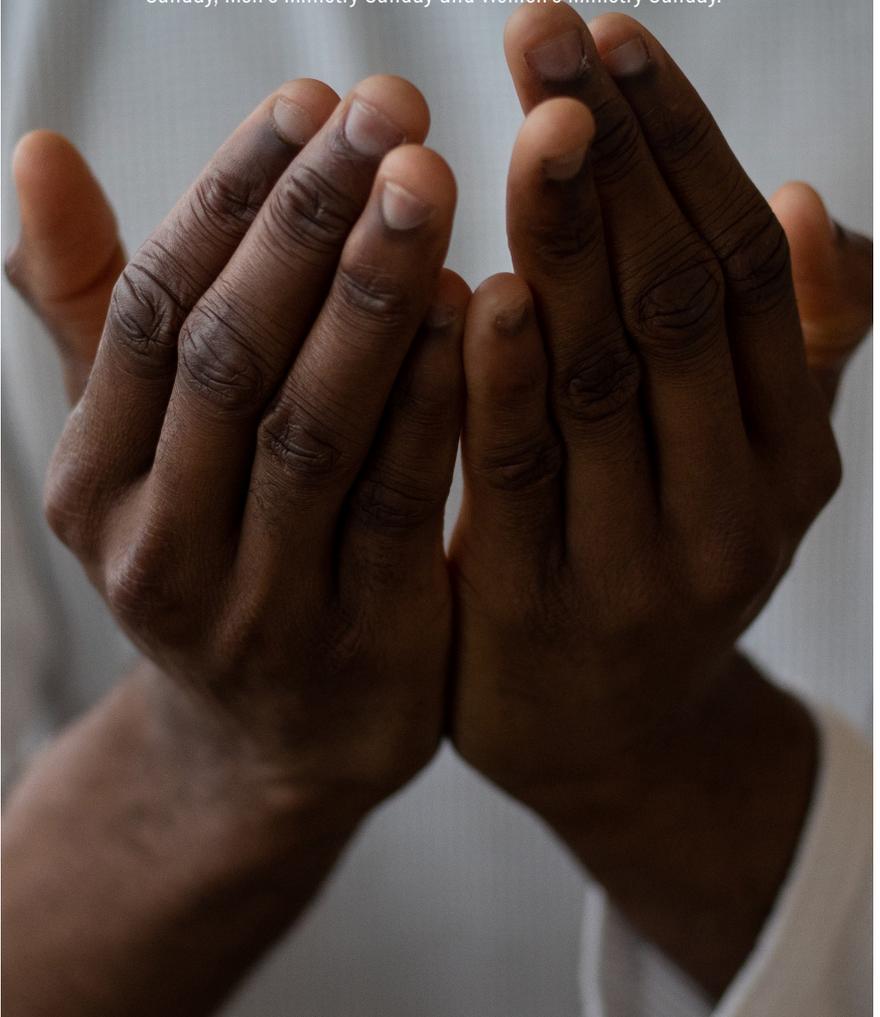




## AWARENESS SPECIAL SUNDAYS

# DID YOU KNOW?

Celebrations are important to our church life as well as to our personal lives. In The United Methodist Church, we celebrate five Special Sundays without churchwide offerings: Heritage Sunday, Laity Sunday, Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday, Men's Ministry Sunday and Women's Ministry Sunday.



The United Methodist Church designates a number of Sundays throughout the year as opportunities for recognizing and supporting particular ministries. These are referred to as Special Sundays and most include an offering to fund the work of these programs, except for the five awareness Sundays where no special offering is taken. These five Special Sundays are designated to focus on a specific aspect of the church's ministry.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**HERITAGE SUNDAY** is set aside specifically for remembering our legacy as United Methodists? We recognize where the church has been, understand how it shapes us and learn from our history to move forward with a spirit of personal and social holiness. It is observed on Aldersgate Day, May 24, or the Sunday preceding.

**LAITY SUNDAY** celebrates the ministry and witness of laypersons within the church? We focus on how all lay Christians are empowered by the Holy Spirit for ministry and equipped to make disciples of Jesus Christ in a world desperately in need of healing and wholeness. It is observed on the 3rd Sunday in October.

**ORGAN AND TISSUE DONOR SUNDAY** recognizes the gift of life through organ and tissue donation? This Sunday highlights organ donation as an act of love and ministry to others in need. As a sign of life and thanksgiving, it is observed on the 2nd Sunday in November.

**MEN'S MINISTRY SUNDAY** recognizes men's ministry within the church? We lift up organized United Methodist Men units as well as other places and organizations where men gather for fellowship, nurture, spiritual development, witness, and outreach. It is observed on a day designated by the congregation.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY SUNDAY** recognizes women's ministry within the church? We celebrate organized United Methodist Women units and raise awareness about women's ministries, history and contributions within and beyond the local church. It is observed on a day designated by the congregation.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Learn more at [ResourceUMC.org/AwarenessSundays](https://ResourceUMC.org/AwarenessSundays)