

SPECIAL
SUNDAY

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



HUMAN RELATIONS DAY CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Date: January 16, 2022

Scripture

- Isaiah 62:1-5
- Psalm 36:5-10
- **1 Corinthians 12:1-11**
- John 2:1-11

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”
—1 Corinthians 12:7, NRSV

Themes

Partnering our unique spiritual gifts for the common good

Special Sunday

Community Building, MLK weekend, servant leadership, margins, empowerment

Scripture

Spiritual Gifts, common good, activated by God

Liturgical

Epiphany, enlightenment, awareness, wisdom, gifts of the magic

Supplies needed:

- Photos of Rev. King
- A wrapped Christmas present

Tomorrow you don't have school because it is a day to celebrate the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. (Show some photos of Rev. King)

Rev. King was a minister who used his words to change hearts and minds. He organized people to change laws that were unfair to Black people in the United States. He wanted all people to be treated equally.

Even though it made some people uncomfortable and angry, he opened himself and turned to God to help him speak prophetically. A prophet is someone who is a truth teller. One of the famous truths that Rev. King spoke was:

“Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant.”

He recognized that all people belong to God and we are called to work together to take care of our neighbors especially when people are being treated unfairly.

This church is honoring Rev. King's words today by celebrating Human Relations Day Sunday. We are taking an offering that will join with gifts from other United Methodist churches to share what we have with people who are working hard to find and use their own God-given gifts.

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(Pick up a wrapped Christmas present.) It was just a few weeks ago that we gave and received presents or gifts for Christmas. And we remembered the gifts that the magi gave to Jesus. But there are other kinds of gifts as well.

We heard in the Bible today that God gives each one of us gifts that work together with other people's gifts to bring about the equality for all people that Rev. King talked about.

Paul wrote 2,000 years ago to a church in Corinth, teaching them "there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6, NRSV).

Each one of you has gifts from God to serve God's people. You each have a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love. I look forward to seeing how you use these gifts to be great servants.

Please pray with me:

Dear God,
Thank you for sending prophets and teachers who guide us to be servants to build up your love in the world. Thank you for sending Jesus who showed us how to love you and to love our neighbors. Be with us this weekend as we remember Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and his work for all people. Make us servant leaders who together will make your world more fair. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Children's Message summarized for mission moment

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was a minister who used his words to change hearts and minds. He organized people to change laws that were unfair to Black people in the United States. He wanted all people to be treated equally.

The church honors Rev. King's life by celebrating Human Relations Day Sunday. Congregations receive an offering that will join with gifts from other churches to share what we have with other people who are working hard to find and use their God-given gifts.

Each child has gifts from God to serve God's people. Each one has "a heart full of grace [and] a soul generated by love." How will they use these gifts as servants to be truth tellers and organizers who build up the Beloved Community?

Dear God,
Thank you for sending prophets and teachers who guide us to be servants to build up your love in the world. Thank you for sending Jesus who showed us how to love you and to love our neighbors. Be with us this weekend as we remember Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and celebrate his work for all people. Make us servant leaders who together will make your world a fairer place for all. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.