

# SPECIAL SUNDAY

*“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may  
teach us his ways and that we may walk in his  
paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”*

—ISAIAH 2:3



UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

## UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

Gift of Hope scholarship recipient Mireille Rhodes (left) hones her filmmaking skills. *Courtesy photo.*

**O**n United Methodist Student Day, we partner with other congregations in a special offering to support the next generation of young disciples on their educational journey.

Raised in The United Methodist Church, Mireille Rhodes said she experienced her first true connection with God at age 13 when she attended Camp Aldersgate in Carrollton, Ohio. “During an invitational service,” she recalled, “I committed my life to Christ.” Two years later, she was confirmed. She was active in the district youth group and served as a sound manager and a liturgist at Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Rogers, Ohio.

Her Christian upbringing, Mireille said, “has brought me to the right people at the right time. I have no idea what kind of person I would be if I had not been raised in the church, or where my mental health would be if I didn’t have access to the people who helped me during [a time of spiritual struggle].”

At Camp Aldersgate, Mireille formed strong friendships and always felt welcome. “It was there,” she said, “that I decided I wanted to attend a Christian university. I wanted to surround myself in the same environment as camp.”

Mireille is grateful for her Gift of Hope scholarship supported by the United Methodist Student Day Sunday offering. “It is helping to fund my tuition to Huntington (Indiana) University, a private Christian school,” she said. “I haven’t had to worry about working an extra job or applying for more scholarships.”

Film production is Mireille’s first love and receiving formal training for film is important to Mireille. “Some people can survive in the film industry without a college degree,” she said. “I firmly believe that because I’m getting this training, I’ll be able to thrive in the industry. Without the support of my church family (and extended church family), my university education would not be possible.”

United Methodist Special Sunday celebrations invest in transforming communities, empowering leaders and building up ministries of peace with justice. Concentrating our resources to support shared ministries equips us to step into a grace-filled new beginning with faithful determination.

### HOW TO GIVE:

Write a check to your local church with “UMSD” in the memo line. To give online or set up monthly giving, go to [UMC.org/SSGive](https://www.UMC.org/SSGive).

\*Full story is available: <https://www.UMC.org/en/content/future-filmmaker-hones-skills-thanks-to-gift-of-hope-scholarship-umsd>



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