

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY



Hebrews 10:24-25 (CEB)

24 And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. **25** Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

Isn't it wonderful to be at church today? I love gathering here with you and the adults. In worship, we celebrate the many ways we can praise and serve God together. Coming here always encourages me—how about you?

What do you love most about worship?

(Pause and let them share—children often have wonderfully unique answers!)

There are times when I don't feel so happy, but being here lifts my spirit again and I am grateful!

In other churches I've visited, I've seen the same thing as Christians have been passing on their faith for generations. I remember visiting Cherokee UMC, where for many years the members continue to find meaningful ways to integrate their Christian faith with their Cherokee heritage. They focus on sparking love, doing good deeds and

encouraging one another to share their faith in ways that honor their Cherokee heritage.

This reminds me of a message in the book of Hebrews. The author was writing to Christians who were feeling really discouraged. They had been waiting for Jesus to return, but it was taking longer than they expected (and yes, we're still waiting!). Waiting can be hard! But the author reminded them of their purpose: to keep sharing love, doing good deeds, and never stop gathering to talk about Jesus and how to share God's love.

*How can we show love? What are some good deeds we can do? And what can we say or do to encourage others? **(Let them respond—encourage their creativity!)***

Many of these ideas are the same things Christians have been doing for centuries! It's amazing to think we're continuing the same traditions as those in Bible times. This is our heritage, and it's such a blessing to be part of it.

*Let's end our time together praying the prayer Jesus taught his disciples who then taught their friends and their friends, and someone taught us! **(If your children have not yet learned the Lord's Prayer, have them repeat after you.)***

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

From the Ritual of the Former Methodist Church, #895 in The United Methodist Hymnal.

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