

# AWARENESS SPECIAL SUNDAYS

To show our commitment as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, United Methodist designate specific Sundays throughout the year to provide to recognize and support particular ministries in each local church. Each Special Sunday celebrates ministry.

## PURPOSE

**Encourage** local churches to celebrate and recognize specific ministries and individuals within the church and to share the impact each church achieves in their community

## RESOURCES

Ready to use resources that help members understand and appreciate the power of the United Methodist connection. Find these resources at [ResourceUMC.org/ACSundays](https://ResourceUMC.org/ACSundays)

### Three ways to use pew cards

- 1 Print pew cards and place in pew racks, in high traffic areas, visitor packets or Sunday School classes
- 2 Use the envelopes to mail pew cards prior to the Sunday to raise awareness of the ministry
- 3 Include digital pew cards in newsletters, emails or social media post to raise awareness

There are five (5) Awareness Special Sundays designated to focus on a specific aspect of the local church's ministry. Three (3) of these Sundays are observed on dates determined by the General Conference. There is no special offering collected for these ministries.

## AWARENESS SPECIAL SUNDAYS

- **Heritage Sunday** - Celebrated on Aldersgate Day (May 24) or the preceding Sunday. This Sunday is an opportunity to reflect on our heritage, celebrate how the church shapes us and learn from our history as we move forward with a spirit of holiness.
- **Laity Sunday** - Celebrated on the third Sunday in October. This Special Sunday celebrates the ministry and witness of laypersons within the church. Lay people are vital in the ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ in the world.
- **Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday** - Celebrated on the second Sunday in November. This Special Sunday recognized the gift of life through organ and tissue donation. United Methodist acknowledge that organ donation is an act of love and ministry to others in need.
- **Men's Ministry Sunday** - Celebrated on a day the local church determines. This Special Sunday celebrates men's ministry within and beyond the local church. We lift up organized UMC Men units as well as other organizations where men gather for fellowship, nurture, spiritual development, witness, and outreach.
- **Women's Ministry Sunday** - Celebrated on a day the local church determines. This Special Sunday celebrates women's ministry within and beyond the local church. We lift up organized UMC Women units and raise awareness about women's ministries, history and contributions in the church.

## SUPPORTING CONTENT & SOURCES

- **Pew Cards** - designed to explain the ministry of each Special Sunday to explain why we give, how we give and where we give. Card has a QR code
- **Mission Moments and more** - weekly content that feature vital ministries supported by the UMC
- **Impact articles** - monthly articles that explore the impact of each giving effort and its global effect
- **Planning calendar** - consolidates the task, opportunities, publicity ideas and celebrations for each Special Sunday with links to resources
- **Did You Know resources** - questions, answers and 3-5 facts for each Special Sunday, a 30 second video and bulletin inserts (translations available in 2022)
- **Envelope** - a Special Sunday branded envelope that is USPS approved allowing members to mail in donations to their local church
- **Giving Stats** - monthly stats on how much has been given to each ministry from each Annual Conference
- **Giving Notes newsletter** - bi-monthly newsletter with tips, tools and resources to help share the connectional ministry of the UMC