

SPECIAL SUNDAYS

Human Relations Day – IGRC Fund # 0026

We are all family. When we walk past our neighbor who is hiding in plain sight, we limit the gifts and graces that our sisters and brothers in Christ bring to the table. We limit the experiences, the voices and the beloved community that take place through mutual sharing of gifts. With a special offering celebrating Human Relations Day, we join with United Methodists around the world, remembering that the size of the table of divine love is unlimited.

Across the United Methodist connection we come together to help bridge the gap between church and community by participating in an offering set aside for Human Relations Day. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this churchwide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: all of God's children are important.

One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own. On Human Relations Day, we join other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs.

In recognizing Human Relations Day, we are called to make an impact in communities where people struggle because they don't have the tools or resources to reach their God-given potential. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens

Celebrate Human Relations Day Sunday on a date that is convenient for your congregation.

Official date: January 16, 2022

Official date: January 15, 2023

Official date: January 14, 2024

More Information & Resources at:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/human-relations-day-sunday-ministry-article>

UMCOR Sunday – IGRC Fund #0022

When disaster strikes around the globe so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world.

When you give you equip Christ's Body to serve in His Name. That's because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (**formerly One Great Hour of Sharing**) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded
- And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday, (**formerly One Great Hour of Sharing**). In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.

When we meet the needs of those who suffer we actually minister to Jesus, who said: "I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me." (Mt. 25:35-36, CEB) As we respond, we recognize Jesus in those who are reeling in the wake of disaster

Celebrate UMCOR Sunday on a date that is convenient for your congregation.

Official date: March 14, 2022

Official date: March 19, 2023

Official date: March 10, 2024

More Information & Resources at:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/umcor-sunday-ministry-article>

Native American Ministries Sunday – IGRC Fund #0028

In the account of Jesus walking on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35), the disciples do not recognize Jesus until they invite him to stay with them and he sits and breaks bread. Similarly, in our churches, it is through sharing with one another that we experience Christ among us.

The Covid-19 crisis has an increased impact on those who live paycheck to paycheck and weren't able to stockpile basic needs. And in places like the Yankton Sioux Tribe on the White Swan Reservation in South Dakota, the nearest substantial grocery stores are 60-90 miles away. The community was still recovering from 2019 flooding when they were further compromised by the pandemic. The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference sent a grant to the tribe to purchase food and supplies and distribute them during the crisis.

Through our giving, we celebrate United Methodist Native American Ministries. As we share in community for this and other denominational giving opportunities, our offerings connect us in ways that recognize Christ among us.

Beyond times of crisis, the special offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences and across the United States and provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans.

The offering has provided for support of the Chihowa UMC to complete the final stage of construction on a new church building and has supported sending youth and leaders from the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference to attend the Youth 2019 event.

When you give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, you empower congregations to find fresh and culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities with Christ's love.

Celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday on a date that is convenient for your congregation.

Official date: May 1, 2022

Official date: April 23, 2023

Official date: April 14, 2024

More Information & Resources at:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/native-american-ministries-sunday-ministry-article>

Peace with Justice Sunday – IGRC Fund #0027

In Arizona border towns, communities facing social challenges are dramatically divided. In Liberian villages, citizens' human rights are being violated. In local U.S. communities, women and girls are being bought and sold against their will.

Although you, and possibly even your congregation, may lack the resources alone to effect change in a broken world, your giving is vital for the UMC to continue its global ministries of reconciliation. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit—of peace.

When you give on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world. Because you give:

- Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities United Methodists
- in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social-justice issues
- Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad

These initiatives, and hundreds of other ones, are possible because you give.

In Jesus' inaugural address, standing in his home synagogue in Nazareth, he detailed his game plan, *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."* (Luke 4:18-19)

Through your giving good news is proclaimed to—and experienced by—the poor.

Celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday on a date that is convenient for your congregation.

Official date: June 12, 2022

Official date: June 4, 2023

Official date: May 26, 2024

More Information & Resources at:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/peace-with-justice-sunday-ministry-article>

World Communion Sunday – IGRC Fund #0023

According to the 1972 Book of Discipline paragraph 163.b there shall be a World Communion (formerly Fellowship of Suffering and Service) offering to support the division of chaplains and ministries, Crusade Scholarships and the scholarship fund for minority groups.

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy.

What would it look like if the church today imitated Jesus' affirmation of the full dignity and God-given potential of all women and men—especially those who've historically been assigned to the world's margins? On World Communion Sunday your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.

As a small child Mary Grace Galapon labored as a housemaid in exchange for food and clothing. Yet, allowed to attend church, she found hope. As a member of The United Methodist Church, your giving on World Communion Sunday has allowed this deaconess, of the Mindanao Philippines Annual Conference, to pursue an education that is now changing her community as she works to eliminate poverty.

Mary Grace's work, and the impact of hundreds more like her, are possible because you give.

Will you give generously on World Communion Sunday to make education and vocational impact possible for more students, like Mary Grace? Will you equip gifted and qualified students from around the globe to become the world-changers God created them to be?

Celebrate World Communion Sunday on a date that is convenient for your congregation.

Official date: October 2, 2022

Official date: October 1, 2023

Official date: October 6, 2024

More Information & Resources:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/world-communion-sunday-ministry-article>

United Methodist Student Day – IGRC Fund #0025

Across the country, the people of The United Methodist Church are serving the people God loves in Jesus' name. We are doing it at home, but so often we would like to do more.

- We want to serve those in other places who are suffering.
- We want to offer spiritual words of hope and life.
- And we want to be well-equipped to do both!
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But the reality for most of us is that our responsibilities—home, family, work—don't allow us to engage with every need we'd like to meet.

Right now, there are UMC young people—who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all—who have been sent by you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day. When you give generously you support these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

What no one person or congregation can do alone, we are doing together.

The son of two addicted parents, Ricky Blue had grown up without much hope for a future. But when Ricky's church family—Louisiana's Luling UMC—raised \$4000 for Ricky to begin college, hope was born. Then, the Gift of Hope Scholarship, made possible only by your generous giving to United Methodist Student Day, allowed Ricky to continue. Today Ricky is a certified candidate for ministry in the Illinois-Great Rivers Annual Conference.

What no one person can do, we are doing together.

Together We Are Raising Up Gifted Christian Leaders

Celebrate United Methodist Student Day Sunday on a date that is convenient for your congregation.

Official date: November 27, 2022

Official date: November 26, 2023

Official date: November 24, 2024

More Information & Resources:

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-student-day-sunday-ministry-article>