

SPECIAL
SUNDAY



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Offering Talk



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

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United Methodists join Christians of different traditions to celebrate World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday in October. World Communion Sunday began in 1936 as a way to recognize our ecumenical oneness in Christ and to bring Christians together in a spirit of unity and peace.

In The United Methodist Church, congregations throughout the denomination will also join together to receive a Special Sunday offering that helps scholars from around the world reach their full potential through scholarships, training and mentoring. The World Communion Sunday offering is one of six Special Offerings received throughout the year.

Adapt this offering talk as part of a mission moment to celebrate World Communion Sunday in your congregation. For a fully integrated service, coordinate this message with the accompanying Children's Message, Liturgy and Sermon Starter, available for download at ResourceUMC.org/WCS.

**“AND HE TOOK THEM
UP IN HIS ARMS,
LAID HIS HANDS
ON THEM, AND
BLESSED THEM.”**

MARK 10:16, NRSV

Today we have an opportunity to lift up young scholars and bless them. Our special offering on World Communion Sunday helps fund scholarships for United Methodist students around the globe.

Do you remember who helped lift you up when you were a child? The people who impacted your life by giving you a sense of purpose and shaping your values? Today you can pay it forward with your gift that supports young leaders.



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When Garrett Ozmer (<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ethnic-scholar-appreciates-world-communion-sunday-garrett-ozmer-wcs>) was in fifth grade, he had a seizure at school. He was diagnosed with epilepsy, with seizures that caused him to stutter. In high school he began to embrace his challenges, recognizing that they were not insurmountable. Because of the care he received, he began dreaming of becoming a pediatric neurologist.

As he pursues his dream, Garrett was grateful to receive the Ethnic Scholarship, made possible by generous gifts on World Communion Sunday. “Being a doctor is not about the money for me; it’s about healing children who are just as scared and confused as I once was. My faith has always challenged me to give back in service,” he says.

Cleber Lizardo de Assis was active in a church in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and served with several community projects in the Liberdade neighborhood, including Juventude ao Extremo (Youth to the Extreme), for young people; Sombra e Água Fresca (Shade and Fresh Water), for

migrant children from 6- to 14 years of age; and Third Age, for older adults. The World Communion Sunday scholarship helped him pursue a master of psychology degree at Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

Since then, he has received a doctor of psychology degree and a postdoctoral degree in philosophy. As a teacher in psychology, theology, philosophy and social practices, he helps train community leaders and current teachers in these fields of study. He continues to create social programs that promote justice and peace for often-marginalized groups: street children, perpetrators, people addicted to drugs, indigenous people, women and older adults.

He says, “The scholarship allowed me to pursue higher education, continue my service to the community and expand my commitment to social transformation in the world.”

On World Communion Sunday we especially experience and celebrate the connection of the body of Christ when our offering joins with United Methodists around the globe.



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We heard this morning from the Gospel of Mark: “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs” (Mark 10:14, NRSV).

When we share our gifts with young scholars, we equip them to put their faith into action and build up God’s kingdom here on earth. In the words of another World Communion scholar, Yves Mukana Kinangwa, “I recall the valuable lesson that one of my professors taught me. He taught us that eternal

life begins on earth, through our own transformation and change but we must live a life that will characterize us as Christians in everything.”

When you give generously on World Communion Sunday, you partner with gifted, qualified students from around the globe who are becoming the world changers God created them to be.

Thank you for giving generously.



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