



NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

OFFERING TALK



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

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Though congregations may observe Native American Ministries Sunday at any time, they are encouraged to celebrate with a special offering on the Third Sunday of Easter, April 26, 2020. This script may be used to introduce the offering during your online service.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT CHURCHES MAY NOT BE WORSHIPING IN PERSON YET.

Consider sending the bulletin insert, liturgy and poster in an email ahead of time with links to give online at UMCgiving.org/giveNAMS. Integrate it into a video worship service and direct people to give through UMCgiving.org/giveNAMS. We remember that in times of crisis like this, it is the most vulnerable communities who often experience the greatest hardship. Feel free to adapt it to fit the context of your congregation and worship experience. Consider sharing digital versions of the [liturgy](#) on your social media and website or handout to remind your congregation of this special day in the life of the church. Tie the fullness of this Special Sunday with a coordinated [sermon starter](#) along with [children's resources](#) that families can use at home.

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.

Today, we highlight and 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.



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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.

FOR EXAMPLE, LAST YEAR, THE OFFERING PROVIDED FUNDING FOR:

- Native American Rock and Community Interaction, a three-day event implemented by the Native American Ministries of the Tennessee Annual Conference.
- Support for Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference to send 25 Native youth and leaders to the national Youth 2019 event held July 10-14, 2019, in Kansas City, Kansas.
- Support for Chihowa (Oklahoma) United Methodist Church to complete the final stage of construction on a new church building.
- Delegation funding that provided travel and lodging to a 13-member team that attended the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on behalf of The United Methodist Church.

(More information for how the offering is shared is available here:

<http://www.nacp-umc.org/native-ministries-sunday-grant.html>)

When you give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. You empower congregations to find fresh and culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities with Christ's love. Please make your gift today through UMCgiving.org/giveNAMS.

Please pray with me: Divine Creator, thank you for the ministries of Native American United Methodists. As Easter people, we share our gifts with hope that these offerings will meet the needs of your people. Bless these contributions to help others experience the risen Christ. Multiply their impact through The United Methodist Church to strengthen and magnify your holy and abiding presence. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.