

United Methodist Student Day

Preparation: Bring enough pencils, erasers or another small school supply to give one to each child.

Good morning, boys and girls! How are you this morning?

Allow children to answer.

How many of you go to school?

Have children raise hands.

If young children are present, ask them: The rest of you will go to school when you are a little older, right?

Allow youngest children to answer.

Can anyone tell me why we go to school?

Allow children to answer. Children will likely say things like "to learn" and "we have to." Affirm their answers.

Do you think you might go to college when you are older?

Allow children to answer.

How many of you have thought about becoming a doctor? (*Show of hands.*) A teacher? (*Show of hands.*) An astronaut? (*Show of hands.*) What else might you want to be?

Allow children to answer.

To do many of those jobs, you have to go to college. For some jobs, you have to go to even more school after college. Did you know that you have to pay to go to college?

Allow children to answer.

Sometimes college is very expensive and people can only go because others help pay for it. It's a good thing too, right? What would we do if there were no doctors or teachers?

Allow children to answer.



We'd be in trouble, wouldn't we? It's very good that students can get help to go to college. The United Methodist Church helps some students pay for school. Sometimes the church gives them money for school. Sometimes the church lends money to students for school. That lets them go to school and pay the money back later. When you are older and getting ready to go to college, you might get help from the church to go to college. How would that make you feel?

Allow children to answer. If you have anyone present who has received a United Methodist scholarship or loan, you could ask if he or she would be willing to share how the church helped.

Today, when we share our special offering, you will know how that money is used. That money helps students go to college to study to become doctors, teachers, lawyers, pastors and many other things.

I have something to give each of you. *Hand each child a pencil, an eraser or another school supply.* When you use this, I want you to remember how the church helps students go to college. You can remember how important it is to work hard in school and learn as much as you can so you're ready to become teachers and doctors and (*insert occupations that the kids named earlier as jobs they want to have one day*).

Let's pray.

Dear God, thank you for giving us schools and teachers who help us learn and grow. Thank you for the church that helps students to go to college. Bless students of all ages and help us as we grow up to become what you want us to be. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.