

SPECIAL
SUNDAY

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY



RESTORING COMMUNITY



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

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HUMAN RELATIONS DAY: RESTORING COMMUNITY

“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

—ISAIAH 49:6 NRSV

What is Human Relations Day?

Human Relations Day is one of six Sundays United Methodists set aside to support and celebrate specific ministries. We join other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs.

When do we celebrate Human Relations Day?

United Methodists celebrate Human Relations Day on the Sunday before the US observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday to recognize his vision of “the beloved community.” In 2023, it falls on January 15.

How does The United Methodist Church distribute the offerings received on Human Relations Day?

It starts with you! Gifts collected in each local church are directed to The General Council on Finance and Administration, where funds are allocated to the administering agencies. Each agency has a specific role in the ministry behind Human Relations Day:

- General Board of Global Ministries administers grants for both the Community Developers Program and the United Methodist Voluntary Service Programs
- General Board of Global Ministries administers grants for Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs
- United Methodist Communications produces resources to celebrate and promote Human Relations Day

HOW TO GIVE:

Give through your local church or donate online at [UMC.org/SSGive](https://www.UMC.org/SSGive). Make checks payable to your local church and write “Human Relations Day offering” in the memo line.



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The Community Developers Program is a network of racial-ethnic UM congregations and communities throughout the United States committed to being in mission with the communities in which they are located. Churches within the network are focusing on work such as education, housing and homelessness, immigration and racial equity.

Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs promote ministries that respond to non-violent young offenders through advocacy and community engagement. The program supports services such as reconciliation with families, training, organizing support and development within the community and programs for re-entry initiatives after incarceration.



The United Methodist Voluntary Services seeks to be in relationship with community groups and organizations that work with “the least of these.” It addresses unjust political, social and economic systems that continue to drain the energy and resources of those in poverty.

Concentrating our resources to support shared ministries equips us to build the beloved community that God has envisioned for us since the beginning of creation.

Thank you for contributing your spiritual and financial gifts to build up and restore what the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. called “the beloved community.”



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