

SPECIAL  
SUNDAY

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

# CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

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**This children's activity is part of the Native American Ministries Sunday pastor and leader kit and connects with the theme "God's Promise of Restoration" based on Acts 2:14a, 36-41. It can be adapted for your church's context.**

## OPENING

We are blessed with many Native Americans who are part of The United Methodist Church. It's important for us to learn about the unique and wonderful contributions our Native American church family makes to the ministry of The United Methodist Church. Today is Native American Ministries Sunday.

In our area, there are Native Americans from the NAME OF TRIBE who were the original people who lived on this land.

## Please repeat after me these greetings in different languages:

- Hello (English)
- O'-Si-Yo' (Cherokee)
- Halito (Choctaw)
- Hau (Dakota and Lakota Sioux)

Share a video of the Lord's Prayer in Navajo. Ask the children to be aware of anything they notice as they listen to the words: <https://youtu.be/dBZnuhFDz-I>

## GOD'S PROMISES FOR ALL PEOPLE

### Please repeat today's memory verse:

*"For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."*

—Acts 2:39

God promises that all people, wherever and whenever they live, are loved. And when we look at people the way God looks at people, everyone's life is so much better!

Today we are celebrating Native American people and churches. We are grateful that The United Methodist Church includes churches with a variety of different cultures and traditions woven together to celebrate the Christian faith. "For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

One Native American cultural event that you might be familiar with is the powwow.



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This is a way to be together, to join in dancing, singing, visiting, renewing old friendships and making new ones.

**Can you tell me some favorite traditions in your family?**

**Do you have favorite songs and dances when you get together?**

**What language(s) are spoken when your family is together?**

**Did you wear anything special for the Easter celebration a few weeks ago?**

There are so many ways to celebrate the wonderful traditions of different cultures. Sometimes those of us who

are non-native are invited to attend and participate in powwows. But, it is very important to be respectful and not try to copy what we see without taking the time to learn about the tradition.

For example, beaded medallion necklaces have been popular for Native American dancers for many generations. Show the children different examples from this webpage: <https://www.powwows.com/how-to-make-a-beaded-rosette-medallion-craft-tutorials/>.



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### CRAFT ACTIVITY: MEDALLIONS

- Construction Paper cut in circles
- Colored Pencils
- Colored Markers or Crayons
- Glitter Glue
- Cords to use as a necklace
- Beads
- Hole Punch

1. Give the children a piece of construction paper cut into a circle to use as the base.
2. Help them create a design using colored pencils.
3. Add beads to the ends of the cord.
4. Lay the cord over the back of the circle and tape it, pushing the beads above the circle and allowing the two ends of the cord to hang below the circle.
5. Turn the circle over to finish the design by coloring it in and adding glitter glue if desired.

Once the necklaces are finished, invite the students to wear them as they dance to a favorite song like this one: <https://youtu.be/YER59ENuKQg>.

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**This lesson is adapted from:**

<https://www.powwows.com/wp-content/uploads/elementary-lesson-plan.pdf>.



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