

SPECIAL
SUNDAY



PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

GOD'S PROMISE OF PEACE



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

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“Rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.”

—2 CORINTHIANS 13:11, NIV

“Peace with Justice is a faithful expression of shalom in the Bible. It calls the church to strengthen its capacity to advocate publicly in communities and nations throughout the world. It aims to make shalom visible and active in people’s lives and communities by setting people free from bondage. We will celebrate Peace with Justice when all people have access to adequate jobs, housing, education, food, health care, income support, and clean water. We will further celebrate when there is no more economic exploitation, war, political oppression, and cultural domination.”

—2016 Book of Resolutions, #6139

In 2023, Peace with Justice grants are supporting programs and projects that witness to God’s demands for a faithful, just, disarmed and secure world, including:

- “planting” an Intergenerational Peace and Justice Storytelling Path on the church grounds of Our Lord’s UMC in Wisconsin. The Story Path allows shared learning toward a more peaceful world through open discussions about pressing social justice issues;
- supporting reconciliation training and peace-building dialogue amid the heavy fighting in the capital of Ethiopia’s Gambella region, where vicious aggressions and attacks on the capital have left people of all ages internally displaced;
- addressing ongoing human rights violations in the Philippines by supporting the creation of a rapid response team, comprising church people trained as human rights defenders, to respond to the immediate needs of survivors of violence and human rights violations (especially the poor who have no access to the justice system);
- focusing efforts on the West Ohio Annual Conference to create more restorative policies, practices and reentry pathways at the state and local levels for men and women coming home following an incarceration experience.

HOW TO GIVE:

Write a check to your local church with “Peace with Justice” written in the memo line. To give online or set up monthly giving, go to [UMC.org/SSGive](https://www.UMC.org/SSGive).



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The United Methodist Church, the world and our communities are still recovering from the ongoing global trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of war in Ukraine and other places and the anxiety of denominational splintering.

Now, perhaps more than ever, we are called to—as Paul encourages—“strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace” (2 Cor. 13:11, NIV). Through our gifts and support, we are invited to partner with God to heal and restore by building up peace with justice.



United Methodist Special Sunday celebrations invest in servant leadership, community building and ministries of peace with justice. Concentrating our resources to support shared ministries equips us to work together to restore the world, not to what it was three years ago or fifty years ago, but to the beloved community that God has envisioned for us since the beginning of creation.

The United Methodist Book of Resolutions reminds us that “the heart of the Old Testament is the testimony to *shalom*, that marvelous Hebrew word that means peace. But the peace that is *shalom* is not negative or one-dimensional.

It is much more than the absence of war. *Shalom* is positive peace: harmony, wholeness, health, and well-being in all human relationships. It is the natural state of humanity as birthed by God. It is harmony between humanity and all of God's good creation. All of creation is interrelated. Every creature, every element, every force of nature participates in the whole of creation. If any person is denied *shalom*, all are thereby diminished.” (#6139).

Thank you for being part of Peace with Justice Sunday as a faithful expression of *shalom*.



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