

SPECIAL
SUNDAY

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

SERMON STARTER



This sermon starter is part of the United Methodist Student Day pastor and leader kit. It can be adapted for your context and integrated into your worship service with the other material in the kit.

On this Sunday after Thanksgiving, as the letter to the church in Ephesus says, I say to you, “Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, this is the reason that I don’t stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers.”

The letter encourages the Ephesians, recognizing that they are at the beginning of their faith journey. While their faith is an amazing blessing, there is so much more to learn and experience. The prayer continues, “I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God’s call, what is the richness of God’s glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God’s power that is working among us believers.”

Today is United Methodist Student Day. We lift up the gifts and the faith of young people like (offer examples from your congregation). This congregation raises children with the tools that open

the “eyes of their hearts.” They know who they are and whose they are. And they go out in the world filled with confidence that has been instilled in them as a child of God. They are not left alone on their spiritual journey.

Because we are a connectional church, our offerings, when joined with other churches, can go so much further than on our own.

I read a testimony by Ben Rohn, a student who received a scholarship through the United Methodist Student Day Special Sunday offering. The encouragement he received from his local church, combined with the financial support through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, helped him to succeed as a young adult. Ben says he can’t imagine being the person he is without the influence of his church family.

We may never meet Ben Rohn, but his life is changed because of the gifts given through United Methodist Student

Day from churches like ours. Our church’s students also have their lives impacted because they are part of this connectional denomination.

When we pour our gifts into one another, these words and actions ripple into the world. We strengthen one another individually, and by extension, we also impact the communities we interact with beyond the local church.

Through word and action, we help others experience God’s loving presence. It is through a “spirit of wisdom and revelation” that lives are transformed through the power of God through Jesus Christ. Together, we are building hope, empowering futures and shaping tomorrow by journeying together toward the enlightenment of hearts and minds.

The author of Ephesians affirms Christ’s role as the head of the church. When we follow his teachings and work together for the well-being of each person, we, as a body, experience the fullness of who God envisions us to be.



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®