

# SERMON STARTER

## UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY



These worship resources are part of the United Methodist Student Day pastor and leader kit. They can be adapted for your context and integrated into your worship service with the other material in the kit.

**It is based on the Scriptures  
Joel 2:28-29 and Psalm 139:7-10.**

### **JOEL 2:28-29 (NIV)**

*“I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”*

Today we are celebrating United Methodist Student Day, which raises awareness of the denomination’s commitment to education and the generous support offered to all people. The prophet Joel speaks a message of inclusivity reminding us that God pours out God’s spirit upon all flesh, which paves the way for people of all ages to proclaim God’s message of hope.

Joel reminds us that “sons and daughters prophesy,” people “dream dreams,” and youth “see visions.” Through this Scripture, we notice the need to invest time into the callings of students in our congregations. Often youth and young adults are pressured to hold the expectations of past generations and

find their voices limited. The church is invited to create spaces to listen to our students’ prophetic cries for justice and equality; to their dreams for a church where all are welcomed; and to their vision of love and grace and mercy available to all. As we listen to their voices, we desire to hold safe and sacred space where they are seen and heard.

We find this Scripture, quoted also by Peter in Acts 2, when he preaches his Pentecost sermon, reminding us that the call for Christian ministry resides with all people; including our youth and young adults. United Methodist Student Day provides a great opportunity to create space for young voices to answer the following questions:

*What do you believe God is calling the church to do?*

*What is your dream for the church?*

*What is your vision for the church?*

A modern-day Pentecost moment could occur as the church hears from its younger generations who are not merely the future church, but as Joel proclaims: they ARE the recipients of God’s spirit and the church TODAY.

### **BENEDICTION:**

**In the spirit of celebrating students, we suggest using the traditional United Methodist Youth Benediction from Numbers 6:24-26.**

*May the Lord bless you and keep you.*

*May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.*

*May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.*

\*By Ella Queen, age 17, and Rev. Sally Queen, Myers Memorial United Methodist Church in Gastonia, NC.