

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPECIAL SUNDAYS

To show our commitment as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, United Methodist designate specific Sundays throughout the year to provide opportunities to support ministries that promote sustainable life. Each Special Sunday supports a specific ministry to enhance life for all

## PURPOSE

Educate the impact local churches achieve in their community through their Annual Conference

Equip local church leaders to communicate the ministry of Annual Conference Special Sundays

## RESOURCES

Ready to use resources that help church leaders and members understand and appreciate the power of the United Methodist giving connection. Find these resources at [ResourceUMC.org/ACSundays](https://ResourceUMC.org/ACSundays)

### Three ways to use pew cards

- 1 Print pew cards and place in pew racks, in high traffic areas, visitor packets or Sunday School classes
- 2 Use the envelopes to mail pew cards prior to the Sunday to raise awareness of the ministry
- 3 Include digital pew cards in newsletters, emails or social media post to raise awareness

Annual Conference Sundays support local ministries that benefit the ministries within a specific conference. There are five (5) Special Sundays that are observed on dates determined by the Annual Conference.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUNDAYS

- **Christian Education Sunday** - Celebrates the local educational ministries through the Annual Conference. An offering is taken to fund educational and small-group ministries, teaching individuals of all ages about their Christian faith and motivating service in the church, the community and the world.
- **Disability Awareness Sunday** - Celebrates the gifts and graces of people with disabilities and calls the Church to include them fully in the congregation and the community. An offering is taken to develop intentional ministries of inclusion.
- **Golden Cross Sunday** - Calls the Church to support health and welfare ministries within the Annual Conference. An offering is taken to offering enhances ministries with older adults, children and families, as well as hospital pastoral care.
- **Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday** - Celebrates those who served in short-term missions and global mission work. An offering is taken to support short-term mission locally, nationally and globally.
- **Rural Life Sunday** - Celebrates the rural heritage of The United Methodist Church an offering is taken to help each conference nurture, witness and attend to the ongoing crisis in rural and urban areas within the conference.

## SUPPORTING CONTENT & SOURCES

- **Pew Cards** - designed to explain the ministry of each Special Sunday to explain why we give, how we give and where we give. Card has a QR code
- **Mission Moments and more** - weekly content that feature vital ministries supported by the UMC
- **Impact articles** - monthly articles that explore the impact of each giving effort and its global effect
- **Planning calendar** - consolidates the task, opportunities, publicity ideas and celebrations for each Special Sunday with links to resources
- **Did You Know resources** - questions, answers and 3-5 facts for each Special Sunday, a 30 second video and bulletin inserts (translations available in 2022)
- **Envelope** - a Special Sunday branded envelope that is USPS approved allowing members to mail in donations to their local church
- **Giving Stats** - monthly stats on how much has been given to each ministry from each Annual Conference
- **Giving Notes newsletter** - bi-monthly newsletter with tips, tools and resources to help share the connectational ministry of the UMC