God has entrusted us to represent Christ’s love through this congregation called (name). What we do as a faith community matters to God. Not only because God has given us this spirit of love and power but also because we are passing these values, this hope and this deeply rooted promise to the next generation.

Today, we have an opportunity to support young scholars.

People like the Rev. John Finau, who was called into ministry at age 16 and later graduated from Candler School of Theology. He was able to do this thanks, in part, to funds received through the World Communion Sunday offering.

Finau, who now serves Keolumana United Methodist Church in Hawaii, said, “For too many Pacific Islanders, the need for work and money heavily outweighs the need for school. … With youth and young adults becoming more involved in crime and drugs, I want to build a space of safe haven for the younger generation.” When we support United Methodist scholars, we impact not only the students, but also all of the people they touch through their ministries.

Young people are asking us to show them how it looks to put the spirit of love and grace into action. They yearn for us to invest in them as recipients of God’s grace. As Paul wrote, “This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” (2 Timothy 1:9b-10, NRSV)

I invite you to respond to that need by giving generously today.