



# 15

WAYS TO CELEBRATE

---

## PEACE WITH JUSTICE *Sunday*



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

# DEAR CHURCH LEADER,

Methodism's founder, John Wesley, described peacemakers as people who "doth good unto all." They share God's love, not only with people they know or who believe exactly as they do, "but step 'over all these bounds' to manifest (God's) love to neighbours and strangers, friends and enemies."

That's our call as United Methodists today. Your gift to the annual Peace with Justice Sunday offering makes an enormous difference in many lives. Because of your generosity, The United Methodist Church can address diverse issues such as immigration, economic empowerment, nutrition, peace, racial justice, the death penalty and leadership development. Imagine trying to tackle that list on your own!

Peace with Justice Sunday is one of the six United Methodist Special Sundays with offerings. Established by the 1988 General Conference, the denomination's highest policy-making body, Peace with Justice Sunday supports programs that advocate peace and justice at home and around the world.

Annual conferences keep half of the Special Sunday offering to fund local peace with justice programs. The other half goes to the General Board of Church and Society to help fund U.S. and global work in social action, public-policy education and advocacy. Each year, Church and Society awards grants to peace with justice ministries around the world.

As you prepare to celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday, we are providing tips for promoting this Special Sunday, along with basic information about the observance. We hope you will find this resource helpful as you plan for this important day in the life of the church.

Thank you for participating in Peace with Justice Sunday. People around the world rely on your gifts to call the church to action for peace with justice. We are grateful for your generosity.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with each of us!

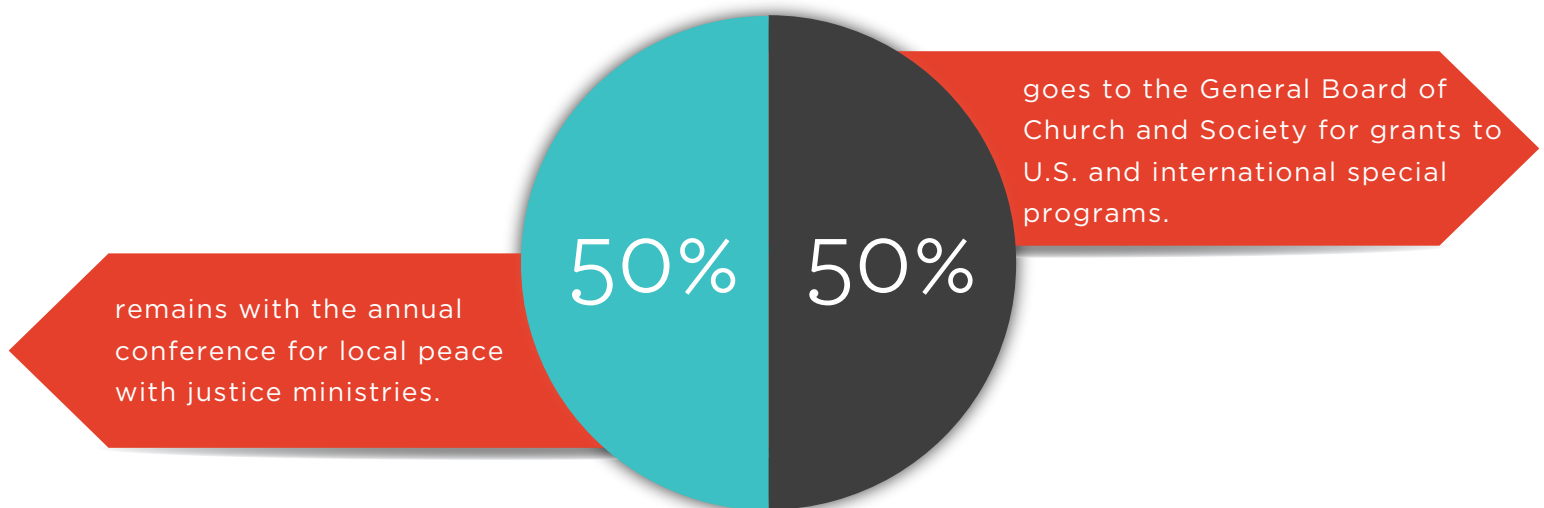
Gratefully,  
Mark Harrison  
Director of Peace with Justice  
General Board of Church and Society

## ABOUT

# PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Traditionally, congregations observe Peace with Justice Sunday on the first Sunday after Pentecost. However, churches may celebrate it on an alternate date of their choice. The day witnesses to God's demand for a faithful, just, disarmed and secure world.

The Peace with Justice Sunday offering supports programs that advocate for peace and justice at home and around the world:



Your gifts empower compassionate people to advocate for human rights, buy fair-trade products, care for the environment, demonstrate for important causes, eradicate poverty, feed the hungry, mediate conflict, provide health care, advocate for affordable housing and model nonviolence and other justice causes. These programs empower United Methodists to advocate for removing structures and systems that harm God's children globally.

Here are the 15 ideas for making your Peace with Justice Sunday celebration a success!



- 1 Auction, auction! Ask people to contribute new or gently used items or to donate services such as babysitting or website maintenance. Use proceeds to benefit the Peace with Justice offering.



Photo Credit: John Gordon





2.

Chart your congregation's Peace with Justice Sunday giving for the past five years. Thank members for their support and encourage them to increase their contributions this year.

# 3.

Cook up a love feast to make money for the Peace with Justice offering. Invite people to bring their favorite main dish for a church potluck and ask adults – as they are able – to make a financial gift for their meal.







4.

Create a mini-peace camp for school-age children in your congregation. Provide training in peaceful conflict resolution and anti-bullying. Ask volunteers to teach the camp and give a nominal camp fee (\$10 per day) to the Peace with Justice offering.



# 5.

Dedicate a church service to peace and justice issues. Use hymns such as “We Shall Overcome” and “Let There Be Peace on Earth” to punctuate the importance of world peace. Ask children to share prayers for peace that they have written.



Photo Credit: Melissa Hinnen





6

Encourage people of all ages to give. Invite children and teens to contribute one week's allowance toward the Peace with Justice offering. See how quickly those small donations add up to big dollars.



7 Give alternative gifts. Instead of giving traditional gifts for special occasions, honor someone by donating to the Peace with Justice offering. Share the recipient ministry's name and information with the honoree.







8 ■

Have fun with a karaoke night or a talent show. Ask participants to raise pledges for their commitment to perform. Sell tickets for the evening of fun. Use proceeds for the Peace with Justice offering.



# 9

Introduce – in person or through vignettes – real people whom Peace with Justice Sunday-funded ministries serve. Tell a compelling story about projects in your annual conference. If possible, invite a recipient or representative to share his or her story.







Photo Credit: Paul Jeffrey

10.

Plan a congregational peace rally. Invite Sunday school classes of all ages to make signs about peace and justice issues close to their hearts; post the signs throughout the church.



# 11.

Plant a community peace garden and harvest food to donate to a local food bank or shelter. Or sell produce to benefit the Peace with Justice offering.



Photo Credit: Bob Laugalis





# 12.

Plant a peace pole to remind people to pray for world peace. A handcrafted wooden post, usually 8-feet tall, carries the message “May peace prevail on earth,” often in multiple languages on each side. Invite members of the community to a dedication ceremony. Celebrate with prayers, liturgy and readings.



# 13.

Spell S-P-E-C-I-A-L. Sponsor a spelling bee with each contestant collecting Peace with Justice offering donations for the number of words he or she spells correctly.







14.

Say “Thank you!” Send a letter or email to the congregation, expressing thanks for Peace with Justice gifts and reminding members that they can support Special Sundays financially all year around.



# 15.

Share the message. Contact your annual conference Peace with Justice coordinator to share about peace with justice work and how the offering supports justice issues. Create a congregational network of Peace with Justice advocates to spread the word and support the Special Sunday through their gifts. Include people from other United Methodist congregations in your district or annual conference.



Photo Credit: Mike DuBose

**LEARN MORE AT**

[www.umcgiving.org/PWJS](http://www.umcgiving.org/PWJS)

General Board of Church and Society

[www.umc-gbcs.org](http://www.umc-gbcs.org)



For additional  
**PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY**  
resources:

[Order free print materials](#) online or call toll free 888-346-3862.

Visit [our website](#) for Peace with Justice Sunday stories to share with your church members.

Download resources from the [Peace with Justice Sunday Pastor and Leader's Kit](#) to share with your congregation during worship or to use as discussion starters in Sunday school.

[Share Peace with Justice Sunday Mission Moments](#) in worship and use Newsletter Nuggets to enrich your online or printed newsletter.



**COMMUNICATIONS**

United Methodist Communications

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH