



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®



Offering Talk:
United Methodist
Student Day

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Today is United Methodist Student Day, a time in which we celebrate the value of education and give generously to support the scholarships of incredible students.

In just a minute, we are going to take up a special offering, and when the plate comes around, you can drop in your donation.

Before our volunteers pass the plate though, I wanted to share a story about a young woman whose life was changed, at several points in her education, when she received generous financial and emotional investments.

Go back with me to the 1960s, when a young, smart, *talkative* young girl starts making an impression on everyone she meets. Her teachers and administrators begin to invest in her.

Her fourth grade teacher invested by taking time to tutor her; and helping her find new books.

In high school, a teacher invested by helping her to get out of a struggling school district into an affluent one with more opportunities. He helped her with bus fare and made sure she had someone to turn to if she needed.

Upon graduating from high school, this young girl attended Tennessee State University on a full scholarship she had won based on her communication skills.

Today, that "girl" is a billionaire.

A business owner,

A mentor,

A scholarship provider,

And the most successful talk show host of all time.

Is this ringing any bells? **That young girl was Oprah Winfrey.** Investments and scholarships throughout her educational career changed the trajectory of her life.

When we invest in today's students on United Methodist Student Day, we are investing in tomorrow's leaders, lawyers, dentists, doctors, teachers ... and, yes, maybe even talk show hosts!

When you give today, your offering goes toward scholarships for promising students, who might otherwise be overlooked. Your generosity today feeds students in mind, body and spirit.

Let's come alongside students today and invest in the leaders of tomorrow.

Ushers, you may receive the offering now.



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