Why We Celebrate
Native American Ministries Sunday
We celebrate Native American Ministries because Native Americans are very important to Jesus, and as human beings created in the image of God, they should be very important to us as well. It is important that we demonstrate that we care for them and reach out to the downtrodden and poor and needy.

Cresaptown UMC
Cresaptown, Md.
“Many of our congregation, being Oklahomans, have Native heritage, and we all appreciate the value of our Native American culture.”

St Stephen’s UMC
Norman, Okla.
“To recognize and uphold the value of Native American peoples and culture.”

Haller Lake United Methodist
Seattle, Wash.

“To show our sister conference that we support all their ministries! It is this Sunday that we take offering to support Native American ministries.”

Eden Chapel UMC
Perkins, Okla.
“We observe all Advanced Specials. We believe in helping, being present and fulfilling our pledge to be all-inclusive, even where our money is concerned.”

Northern Hills UMC
Cincinnati, Ohio

“It is part of who we are as United Methodists.”

CAYCE UMC
Cayce, S.C.
Because Jesus loves all people, especially Native people. Jesus taught us to love one another. Our denomination is learning and teaching us to do so. We have been blessed with a few Native folk in our church. And this pastor has taken some classes at Lake Junaluska, N.C., from Native American professors.

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FUMC
Titusville, Fla.
"We celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday because we have seen the benefits of Native American men and women of God working for the Kingdom of God. We are predominantly Native American and we have reaped many of the benefits by having Native clergy to come and lead our church in impactful ways for our community."

Sandy Plains UMC
Pembroke, N.C.
We have a ministry to the American Indians.

Trinity UMC
Plant City, Fla.

To bring spiritual healing to a people that have suffered at the hands of the church. By sharing, we are on a path of healing and becoming focused disciples of Christ.

Dunaway’s Chapel UMC
Lascassas, Tenn.
Our congregation is made up almost entirely of Lumbee Indians. This is a tribe which has lost most of its historical practice, language and tradition, though they certainly identify strongly as Native people. We celebrate to remember that every people has something to contribute to the Body of Christ. There are unique ways in which Native people see the world, and God, that are vital to the church claiming its mission of making disciples of all nations. There is also value in recognizing the struggles of a people group which has nearly been extinguished, and in many ways is still actively oppressed, but does not receive great attention due to their small numbers. It may seem corny and cartoonish to some, but this is likely because the reality of life for Native people has become as far-fetched and isolated from mainstream culture as talking rabbits, clowns and aliens. A non-existent entity which can be exploited at Halloween for laughs, but has no basis in reality. We celebrate to say that our people, and all Native people, are in fact real people, with real problems, real value and real gifts to contribute.

Prospect United Methodist Church
Maxton, N.C.
To recognize, remember, and celebrate all the peoples called Native American, and their gifts that have been offered to the church. To help those Native Americans called into ministry, general or representative, fulfill their calling. We also share speakers and resources with other UMCs so they might see the gifts Native people bring to the church and world.

Native American UMC of So Cal
Anaheim, Calif.
“To show respect to our Native American friends, families, members. To celebrate and share the Native American traditions and spirituality. To show appreciation for the gifts Creator has given us and the Native Americans have protected. To repent for acts that have contributed to historical trauma.”

Wilshire United Methodist Church
Portland, Ore.
The FUMC youth group has made a mission trip to the White Mountain Apache Reservation a summer priority for the past five years. As part of that mission work, we celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday.

First United Methodist Church
Nebraska City, Neb.
Since The United Methodist Church is a connectional denomination, we feel that it is important to celebrate all of the six Special Sundays annually. Also, Peninsula-Delaware Conference has both a very active congregation in Indian Mission UMC, Millsboro, Del., and in the Committee on Native American Ministry.

Ebenezer United Methodist Church
Newark, Del.
To support Native American ministries within the conference and in support of the education of Native Americans in seminary school.

**Faith UMC**
Lancaster, N.Y.

To draw attention to the church’s ministries with Native Americans.

**Shiremanstown United Methodist Church**
Shiremanstown, Pa.
“We are called to serve others. A few years ago, we had a speaker who had worked with Indian reservations. It touched our hearts.”

Orems United Methodist
Middle River, Md.
We support bringing the Gospel to Native Americans, but also respect their religious beliefs and their understandings of God. We also have an active member who is part Native American.

Calvary United Methodist Church
Finksburg, Md.
Native American ministries is a mission we focus on. Holbrook/Navajo county is surrounded by three tribal reservations, the largest being Navajo. Arizona has 27 tribes within the state. We focus on youth/family needs within our area.

Holbrook United Methodist Church
Holbrook, Ariz.
NAM is celebrated as part of the UMC churchwide Special Sundays. Several people in our congregation have served Native American sites through United Methodist Volunteers in Mission.

Sunnyvale Trinity UMC
Sunnyvale, Calif.
In Nebraska, we have friends and neighbors and members with Native American connections. Our communities in Northeast Nebraska, particularly, are close to Native American communities.

We have apologized to the Native Americans at General Conference, but we need to move from apologizing to working and praying for and with them.

As a country, we have taken and taken and taken from them. The UMC needs to give a little back.

Native Americans BROUGHT Methodism to Oklahoma.

These are but a FEW reasons that we need to raise them up to our congregations once a year and ask for support for their churches, congregations, pastors, etc.

First United Methodist Church
Ponca, Neb.
I enjoy learning through the Native American experience. I receive positive feedback and those in the congregation with this heritage greatly appreciate these efforts.

Bower Memorial United Methodist Church
Berwick, Pa.
This area has a history of settlement by Native Americans, and our congregation has Native American members who believe it is right to gift this ministry to improve the level of worship and education to the actual founders of this country.

Monterey United Methodist Church
Monterey, Tenn.
We celebrate Native American Sunday to remind us of Native peoples’ connection to the land and to the Great Spirit who created it. In addition, we remember that non-Native people are the immigrants."

**Whiting UMC**
Whiting, N.J.

"Because The United Methodist Church asks us to."

**Grace United Methodist**
Springfield, Ohio
Because we are right across the river from a reservation and the conditions in which Native Americans work and live directly impact us.

Mobridge UMC
Mobridge, S.D.

To help support Native Americans in ministry and to help in some way to make up for past injustices towards Native Americans.

Haven/Mount Hope, Kan.
Haven/Mount Hope
We do so to honor our connection as The United Methodist Church.

Fly Creek United Methodist Church
Fly Creek, N.Y.

It is important to celebrate and learn about diverse cultures. The world is growing and changing, and we should share God’s teachings with every one of the flocks of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

First United Methodist Church
Phoenixville, Pa.
We celebrate NAMS because we want to remember that the indigenous peoples are loved by God and we respect the diversity Native people can bring to our faith community.

Evansburg United Methodist Church
Evansburg, Pa.
It is part of recognizing and embracing our diversity as God’s people. Intentionally. Unconditionally.

Church of the Open Door-Kennett
Kennett Square, Pa.
We have the local Nottaway Indian Tribe at worship once each year to recognize Native Americans in our immediate area and we give directly to their foundation.

Norview UMC
Norfolk, Va.
To help give scholarships to persons of Native American descent and to help advance the theological endeavors of indigenous people.

Middlebrook United Methodist Church
Jackson, Miss.
“So we do not forget the Sand Creek massacre. Because the state we live in passed the racial integrity act in 1924, which recognized only two classifications, white and “colored.” Because we need to remember that Virginia was populated when European settlers arrived.”

Trinity United Methodist
King George, Va.
“For awareness and celebration of the presence and ministries of Native Americans amongst us, United Methodists; to encourage Native Americans to keep going and telling their stories of pain and wisdom despite continued oppression and suffering in the U.S., and especially in the church, for the sake of their history remembered and preserved and for the sake of the United Methodists to keep learning about and from our past — oppressing and humiliating.”

Retired clergy
Freeport, Ill.

“To offer the heritage that our Native American brothers and sisters offer to the UMC.”

Burlington UMC
Burlington, Colo.
Native American Ministries Sunday

A Special Sunday Celebration

Give and learn more at umcgiving.org/NAMS.

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®