

## Recognition Sundays

Native American - Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and in our communities. With more than 20,000 Native Americans within the denomination, Special Sunday helps to ensure that Native American United American United Methodist leaders are recognized and to celebrate their special voice in the United Methodist Church.

Scout Sunday - The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. However, each chartered organization can use either of two other options to celebrate this special day. An organization can adopt a specific Sunday to celebrate. In the instance of the United Methodist Church, Scout Sunday is celebrated on the second Sunday in February. It also is permissible for a local church to celebrate on the Sunday most acceptable to the pastor and congregation to better care for a person in need.

U.M. Students - Students are the future of The United Methodist Church. In the 18th Century, our Wesleyan roots were formed around the importance of education and its role in spiritual formation. In fact, the original Special Sunday was created to help advance education for children - and today we call it United Methodist Student Day.

Peace with Justice - Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between and among them.

The United Methodist Church, with its historic commitment to peace and justice commitment to peace and justice, can and should provide leadership to this social transformation. The General Board of Church and Society Church holds a nongovernment, consultative status with the United Nations. This status with the United Nations. This status allows us to participate in UN meetings, consultations, and conferences. We recognize and renew our call for social transformation, for the quest to open the doors for opportunity for all, to distribute resources more equitably, and to provide better care for persons in need.

M.L.K Observance - The prophetic witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for justice and peace embodies the spirit of the Social Creed, the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church and the inclusiveness of our denomination. His words continue to inspire and guide our commitment to

the whole Gospel: "We cannot be truly Christian people so long as we flaunt the central teachings of Jesus: brotherly love and the Golden Rule," - Martin Luther King, Jr.

UMCOR - As the mission and humanitarian assistance agency for The United Methodist Church, Global Ministries currently facilitates missions in more than 115 countries, leading the church's work in global health. Global Ministries includes the United Methodist Committee on Relief or UMCOR, providing nonsectarian disaster response and sustainable development worldwide. Global Ministries connects the church in mission through the sending of missionaries, evangelism, and church revitalization, disaster response and recovery.

Church Anniversary - Ebenezer is about to celebrate its 200th anniversary. Established in 1824, the church has been a beacon to the community. Worship, outreach and missions continue to be the emphases of this church.

Graduation Recognition Sunday - During a worship service in the winter we recognize all students, young and old, who have an achievement of graduating; have graduated or are moving to the next level of grade school. A ceremony takes place during worship and certificates of achievement are presented to the graduate.

Backpack Blessing - Backpacks to be carried to and from school by the children and youth gathered here are blessed. These backpacks contain work to be done, work that has been returned, books to be studied, tools to complete homework. Notebooks, pencils, pens, protractors, compasses, crayons, rulers, scissors, glue sticks, and other items used for schoolwork will find their way in and out of these backpacks. As these students carry these backpacks, they may be reminded of the love and care of the congregation that surrounds them each school day.