

graduate and graduate students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities.

Additional special offerings

In addition to the Church-wide special Sundays, there are four other Sundays with special offerings. Each Conference sets the dates for these Sunday offerings.

Christian Education Sunday

This special Sunday's offering helps support and strengthen programs that nurture religion.

Disability Awareness Sunday

It celebrates people with disabilities and calls The Church and society to include those with disabilities. Offerings collected are used by Conferences to create architectural and attitudinal accessibility in local churches.

Golden Cross Sunday – Traditionally received in May

The offerings on this special Sunday are used for a Conference's health and welfare ministries.

Rural Life Sunday

Offerings collected on Rural Life Sunday support ministries in rural areas within a Conference.

*The **Bridge** is a Conference Communications Ministry tool that delivers to local churches news and stories of ministry from around the Upper New York Conference and the world.*

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Special Sundays without offerings

There are four special Sundays that help focus attention on a specific aspect of The Church's ministry. There are no offerings collected on these days.

Heritage Sunday

Heritage Sunday is always celebrated the third Sunday of May. It is a day for United Methodist congregations to reflect on its heritage, celebrate where The Church has been, how it views itself today, and the meaning of Christian conferencing.

Laity Sunday

It is always celebrated the third Sunday in October. Laity Sunday celebrates the ministry of all lay Christians.

Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday

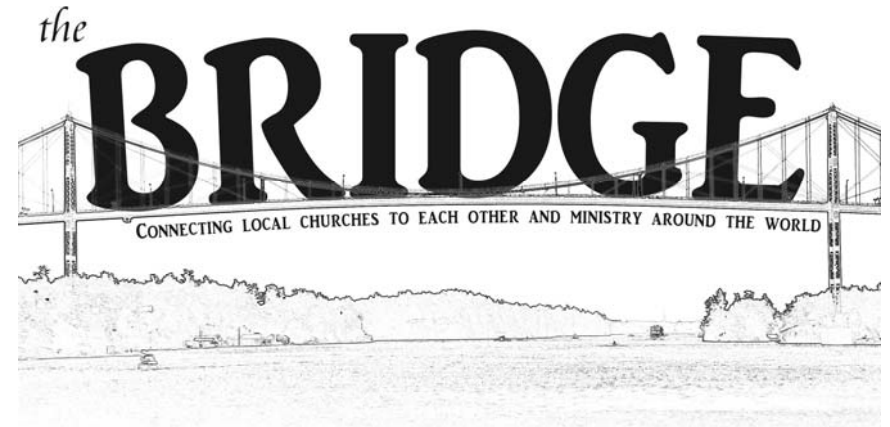
It is always celebrated the third Sunday in November and recognizes organ donation as an act of love and ministry.

Men's Ministry Sunday

The date for this special Sunday is set by the congregation and celebrates men's ministry in The Church and community.

To learn more about UMC Special Sundays, visit <http://bitly/UMCSpecialSundays>.

Learn more about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. by visiting UMC Discipleship Ministries at <http://bit.ly/UNYMLK>



The Upper New York Conference's vision is to live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places.

A look inside!

What are the Special Sundays?

Page 2

What are the Special Sundays?

Ever wonder what a special Sunday is, why these days exist, and when each occurs? Well, read on to find answers to these pressing questions.

According to *The Book of Discipline 2012*, ¶1263:

The special Sundays in The United Methodist Church intended to illustrate the nature and calling of The Church and are celebrated annually. The special Sundays are placed on the calendar to make clear the calling of The Church as the people of God and to give persons the opportunity to contribute offerings to special programs.

Special Sundays can either be Church-wide with offerings or Church-wide without offerings. There are also additional Special Sundays that have dates set by specific Conferences.

Church-wide special Sundays

There are six Church-wide special Sundays with specific celebration dates each year.

Human Relations Day Jan. 15, 2017

It is always celebrated the Sunday before the observance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Human Relations Day supports community developers, United Methodist voluntary service, and youth offender rehabilitation programs.

The goal of this Sunday is to strengthen United Methodist outreach in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth.



UMCOR Sunday (Formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday) March 26, 2017



It is always celebrated on the fourth Sunday in Lent. UMCOR Sunday provides support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which assists people affected by crisis or chronic need with programs and projects in disaster response, health, sustainable agriculture, food security, relief supplies, and more.

Native American Ministries Sunday April 30, 2017



It is always celebrated the third Sunday of Easter. This special Sunday helps nurture mission with Native Americans and provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist seminaries.

Peace with Justice Sunday June 11, 2017

It is always celebrated the first Sunday after Pentecost. Peace with Justice Sunday supports peace with justice ministries through the General Board of Church and Society and the annual conferences, enabling The Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice.



World Communion Sunday Oct. 1, 2017

It is always celebrated the first Sunday in October. This special Sunday provides scholarships for United States' racial and ethnic minority students and international students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.



United Methodist Student Sunday Nov. 26, 2017



It is always celebrated the last Sunday in November. United Methodist Student Sunday provides loan and scholarship funds for under-

Continued on page 4