

# 18

WAYS TO PROMOTE

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# HUMAN RELATIONS *Day*



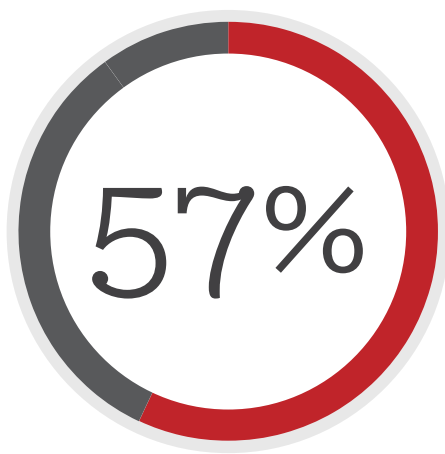
Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

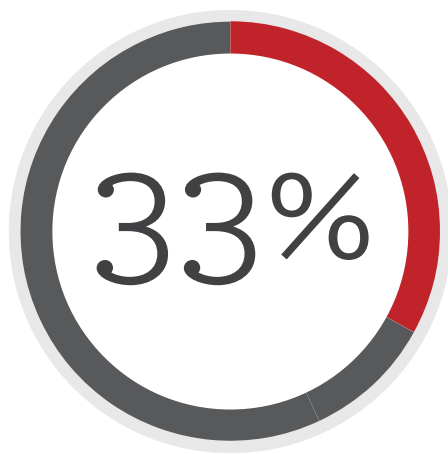
# ABOUT HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

United Methodists from across the connection help bridge the gap between church and community by participating in the Human Relations Day offering. Human Relations Day is one of the denomination's six churchwide Special Sundays with offerings. It is observed annually on the Sunday before the national observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

**The offering for Human Relations Day supports three programs:**



Community  
Developers Program  
of the General Board  
of Global Ministries



United Methodist  
Voluntary Services  
Program, also  
administered by Global  
Ministries



Youth Offender  
Rehabilitation Program,  
administered by the  
General Board of Church  
and Society

Human Relations Day programs look at all ethnic backgrounds and all churches and bring them together around an issue. The goal is to serve and empower the community.

**Your gifts to Human Relations Day nurture a variety of ministries, such as:**

- Child care
- Children's after-school and summer initiatives
- Domestic hunger and poverty
- Economic development
- Education, including tutoring
- Emergency services
- Employment
- Gang intervention
- HIV/AIDS and other health issues
- Homelessness and housing
- Older adults
- Parenting
- Prison outreach
- Restorative justice
- Substance abuse and rehabilitation
- Youth, especially at-risk teens
- Technological empowerment

## SUMMARY:

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You glance at the calendar and realize Human Relations Day is just around the corner. It is too late to do anything, right? Wrong!

Here are ideas for promoting Human Relations Day 365 days a year. These simple steps will strengthen your outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico and encourage social justice and work with at-risk youth.

You can help to open doors in many ways — not just on one Sunday but also all year long.



# 1

## Enrich faith.

Talk with local correctional facilities about leading Bible studies for incarcerated people. Connect people to the church and enrich their faith and yours on Human Relations Day and beyond.

# 2.

## Expand your horizons.

List unusual places where you can make a difference on Human Relations Day and throughout the year. Consider tutoring children and teens, teaching English to immigrants, helping with housing issues, or donating new socks or gently worn coats to a homeless person. Then make it happen!





# 3.

## Get creative.

Set up a Human Relations Day display. Invite youth to search magazines or the Web for photos and stories of people who dedicate their lives to strengthening racial- and ethnic-minority relationships.



# 4 •

## Give generously.

The next time you stop for a bite at a fast-food restaurant, buy a gift card or two in honor of Human Relations Day. Share cards with people who come to the church seeking help.



# 5.

## Give it up.

Give generously to the Human Relations Day offering. Ten dollars is helpful, but if you give up a movie or a meal out, you can double that gift.





# 6

## Go green and recycle.

Commonly recycled materials include aluminum cans, foil, glass, paper, plastic and steel. Recycle 30 pounds (about three full garbage bags) of aluminum cans and earn \$10 to make a difference on Human Relations Day.

7.

## Honor someone.

Honor church and community members who are social justice advocates. On Human Relations Day, ask them to share the story of their ministry and to invite others to become involved personally and financially.





# 8 •

## Knead dough.

Invite individuals or groups to bake several kinds of bread or other baked goods and have a snack bar. Sell the treats to church members and contribute the proceeds to the Human Relations Day offering.

## 9.

## Mentor.

Recruit people to mentor at-risk children and youth. Mariah, now 16, improved her grades and self-esteem because her “big sister” spent time with her and set a positive example. Human Relations Day supports work with at-risk teens.





# 10.

## Share a love feast.

Invite people to bring their favorite main dish for a church potluck. Ask attendees to donate a love offering for their meal and add the receipts to the Human Relations Day offering.

# 11.

## Sponsor an auction.

Ask people to contribute new or gently used items. Have an auction and use proceeds to benefit Human Relations Day.





# 12.

## Volunteer.

Encourage youth to get involved in the community, not just on Human Relations Day. Bradford, an aspiring Eagle Scout, built a food pantry in the corner of his church's fellowship hall. Now many people benefit from his work every day.



# 13.

## Whistle while you work.

Plan a workday and advertise in advance. Encourage members to be companions to older adults, care for children, clean houses and garages, do yard work, run errands, walk dogs, wash cars and do a multitude of other tasks. Charge a set hourly or job rate. Add proceeds to the Human Relations Day offering.





# 14.

## Inspire with Mission Moments and More.

[Download](#) Human Relations Day Mission Moments and offertory prayers to share in worship and Newsletter Nuggets to enrich your online or printed newsletter.

## 15.

Order resources.

Insert Human Relations Day leaflets/offering envelopes in your worship bulletin. [Order print materials online](#) or call toll free, 888-346-3862.





16.

Preach.

[Download](#) Human Relations Day sermon starters to help with the Special Sunday celebration.

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Read all about it.

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[Visit our website](#) to read heartwarming Human Relations Day stories to share with your church members.





# 18.

## Tell success stories.

[Download](#) the Human Relations Day Pastor and Leader's Kit to share videos, infographics, and other resources with your congregation during worship or to use as discussion starters in Sunday school.

LEARN MORE AT:  
[www.umcgiving.org/HRD](http://www.umcgiving.org/HRD)

**General Board of Global Ministries**  
[www.umcmmission.org](http://www.umcmmission.org)

**General Board of Church and Society**  
<http://umc-gbcs.org/>



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