

JUST THE FACTS

World Communion Sunday

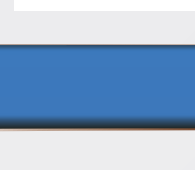


What is it?

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate our inclusivity and diversity!



When is it?

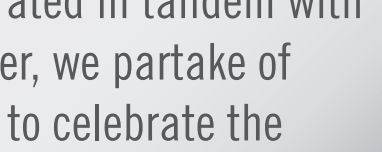


World Communion Sunday is the first Sunday in October.

Why do we do it?

The World Communion Sunday offering provides college scholarships for racial and ethnic minority students across the U.S. and worldwide. Our gifts empower the leaders of tomorrow.

How does it work?



World Communion Sunday is celebrated in tandem with churches all over the world. Together, we partake of communion. Churches may choose to celebrate the different customs from around the world by presenting the body of Christ in a way that represents a different custom from their own.

Together, in communion and offering, through different traditions and customs, we remember the Lord's Supper. It is a celebration of what Jesus has done, and continues to do, for each one of us.

Who can celebrate it?

Every Christian church and denomination that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation.

On World Communion Sunday, churches may showcase or sing the hymns of their brothers and sisters from another part of the globe.

We do this to open our eyes and hearts to the breadth and depth of the Christian family and tradition. We celebrate with different customs so that we understand the worldwide nature of Christianity.

9 Facts About World Communion Sunday

1.

World Communion Sunday was celebrated in the United States and overseas for the first time on **Nov. 1, 1936.**



2.

In 1940, what is now known as the National Council of Churches began to promote **World Communion Sunday to Christian churches worldwide.**

3.

At least **50%** of the offering collected on World Communion Sunday is earmarked for ministries outside of the United States.



4.

37 countries have been represented by 160 scholarship recipients from 2011 to 2016.

- Botswana
- Brazil
- Burundi
- Chile
- Colombia
- Congo (Democratic Republic)
- Costa Rica
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Ecuador
- Ghana
- Haiti
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Mozambique
- Myanmar (Burma)
- Nicaragua
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Panama
- Peru
- Philippines
- Russia
- Sierra Leone
- South Korea
- Sri Lanka
- Togo
- Uganda
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

5.

World Communion Sunday was originally called **Worldwide Communion Sunday.**

6.

An early Christian document, dated to the first or second century, contains the directions on **giving thanks for the communion cup and broken bread that commemorate the Last Supper.**



7.

1,384 scholarships have been awarded in the past five years.

8.

As world conflicts arise and divisions appear between people and nations, our World Communion celebration takes on a **greater meaning as a unifying force.**

9.

World Communion Sunday offerings are disbursed to **World Communion Scholars and Ethnic Scholarships and In-service Training programs.**



UMC Giving total for past 5 years:

\$4,133,612

from UMC churches and individuals

General Board of Global Ministries scholarship total:

2011 through 2016*

World Communion Sunday Scholarships

\$2,832,425

General Board of Higher Education scholarship total:

2011 through 2015*

Ethnic Minority Scholarships and Journey Toward Ordained Ministry Scholarships (U.S. scholarships only)

\$1,391,100



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