

...open hearts, open minds, and open doors...

# June Mission of the Month

## United Methodist Special Sundays

by Wesley UMC Missions Team Member, Rev. Steven M. Smith

Every year the *United Methodist Church* observes six special Sundays on which offerings are received to help extend the love of Christ in six areas. The six areas suggested by the *Book of Discipline* (the organizational book of our church) are: *Native American Sunday*; *World Communion Sunday*; *Human Relations Day*; *Methodist Student Day*; *One Great Hour of Sharing*; and *Peace with Justice Sunday*. In former years Wesley United Methodist Church observed each of these on the assigned Sunday. However, our Wesley Church also wished to support several other missions, and the number of “*Special Sundays*” became overwhelming.

This prompted the *Missions Work Team* to adopt the “*Mission of the Month*” plan, which put most of these “*Special Sunday Offerings*” into one month’s appeal.

We continue to have a separate appeal for *One Great Hour of Sharing* because we perceive a need for greater support of the ability of the *United Methodist Committee on Relief* to extend the love of God quickly and efficiently in response to emergency situations.

This year we observed the *Peace with Justice Sunday* on a on May 18<sup>th</sup> with Rev. Russ Smith focusing the theme of the worship services on *Peace with Justice* and a special insert in the bulletin put together by Sandra Nelson, our Social Concerns Team chairperson.

The remaining “*Special United Methodist Sunday Offerings*” will be included in our June Mission of the Month. Below is a brief description of each of these special mission efforts of the *United Methodist Church*.

## One Month—Four Special “Missions” of the Church Supported

**NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY** -- This offering nurtures mission with Native Americans and provides needed scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians.

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY** -- This offering provides Ethnic Scholarships for undergraduate students, Crusade Scholarships for international and U.S. racial and ethnic minority graduate students seeking second careers in church related work. Our *World Communion* offerings enable persons to “*press on toward the goal*” of life-changing ministries.

**UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY** -- This offering provides funds for scholarships in *United Methodist* related Colleges to nurture women and men who train to serve their churches and their communities.

**HUMAN RELATIONS DAY** -- Our *Human Relations Day* offering supports church-based community developers work in racial and ethnic minority communities to help children to see Jesus, and to help them grow developmentally and spiritually. It also helps Christ-Centered Rehabilitation Projects which give teenagers a chance to succeed.

These church-wide “*Special Sundays*” offerings enable us to offer refuge in times of disaster, promote peace with justice, provide scholarships and student loans, reach out to the community, teach skills to encourage self-sufficiency, and share the love of Jesus.

Please give generously throughout June by marking your check or offering envelop, “*Mission of the Month*.”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UNITED METHODIST SPECIAL SUNDAYS** go to:

<http://www.umciving.org/> ⇒ click on *Connectional Giving Programs* ⇒ *Special Sundays*