

Miracle Sunday Offering

Resources for Congregations and Conferences That Focus on the Miracle Sunday Offering

The following is a ready-to-use four-Sunday bulletin announcement set designed specifically for churches that are not using the full worship or small-group series and will promote Miracle Sunday and receiving the offering on May 17, 2026.

Each week includes:

- A bulletin announcement (print-ready)
- A brief spoken introduction (30–45 seconds)
- A short video introduction with a specific video link
- A clear connection to giving and Miracle Sunday

The progression builds understanding, urgency, and spiritual meaning, without requiring participation in the full series.

Miracle Sunday Campaign Four-Week Bulletin Announcement Plan

SUNDAY 1 – May 3, 2026

Why Miracle Sunday Matters: God Forms Leaders

Bulletin Announcement

Miracle Sunday Is Coming – May 17

On Sunday, May 17, our congregation will join United Methodists around the world for **Miracle Sunday**, a special offering to strengthen **theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines**.

Across our worldwide church, fewer than **5% of pastors outside the United States** have access to formal theological education. Through Miracle Sunday, we help equip pastors, teachers, and lay leaders who guide churches with wisdom, compassion, and faith, in very challenging places.

This offering supports a **permanent endowment**, ensuring that future generations of leaders are formed to love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously. Please begin praying now about how God may be calling you to participate.

Spoken Introduction (from the pulpit)

“Today we begin a short journey toward Miracle Sunday on May 17. This is a worldwide effort of The United Methodist Church to invest in theological education, forming pastors and leaders who serve faithfully in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. Over the coming weeks, we’ll hear real stories of lives changed through this investment. Today, we invite you to begin praying and listening for how God may be leading you to be part of this miracle.”

Video Introduction

Video Theme: Formation and calling

Video Description (spoken or printed):

“Let’s hear how theological education helps form leaders who hear the call of Jesus Christ in extraordinary circumstances.”

Video: Gabriella – United Seminary, Zimbabwe

<https://vimeo.com/1139802748/c075d83177>

SUNDAY 2 – May 10, 2026
Giving Is an Act of Bold Love

Bulletin Announcement
Empowered Leaders Strengthen the Church

Miracle Sunday is an opportunity to love boldly by investing in leaders who serve refugees, respond to war, stand for justice, and care for the vulnerable. When we give, we participate in God’s work of healing and reconciliation.

When pastors and church leaders are formed through theological education, churches grow stronger, more faithful, and more resilient. The Holy Spirit works through well-trained leaders to bring hope, healing, and abundant life, even in places facing poverty, conflict, or disaster. Miracle Sunday supports leaders who preach the Gospel, care for communities, and serve with courage against overwhelming odds. Through our generosity, we partner with the Holy Spirit in strengthening the global church.

Next Sunday, May 17, we will receive our Miracle Sunday offering. Please prepare your heart and resources to be part of this global act of love.

Spoken Introduction

“Next Sunday is Miracle Sunday. Today, we’re reminded that giving is an expression of bold Christian love. Our generosity helps raise up leaders who walk alongside people in crisis and bring hope where it’s needed most.”

Video Introduction

Video Theme: Bold love across borders

Video Description:

“This story shows how ministry shaped by theological education reaches people displaced by war.”

Video: Rares – Romania (Ministry with Ukrainian Refugees)
<https://vimeo.com/1153774198>

SUNDAY 3 – May 17, 2026
MIRACLE SUNDAY OFFERING

Bulletin Announcement
Miracle Sunday – Together, God Is at Work

Today we join thousands of United Methodist congregations around the world in receiving the **Miracle Sunday offering**. This offering supports a permanent endowment that provides theological education for **500 students every year** in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

These leaders serve churches and communities facing war, poverty, displacement, and uncertainty, proclaiming Christ’s love and hope in powerful ways.

Thank you for being part of this global witness. Through prayer and generosity, God is shaping leaders and transforming the world.

Spoken Introduction to the Offering

“Today is Miracle Sunday. What makes this offering a miracle is not the size of any single gift, it is what God does when we give together. Today, our generosity helps form pastors and leaders who will guide churches for generations to come. Let us give with joy, gratitude, and faith.”

Video Introduction (Offering Video)

Video Theme: Transformation and mission

Video Description:

“As you watch, hold this prayer in your heart: ‘Lord, use our gifts to transform the world.’”

Video: Caleb – Liberia (Ministry among people living in a graveyard)

<https://vimeo.com/1139482432/4c92767f13>

CLOSING PRAYER FOR MIRACLE SUNDAY

Let us pray.

Gracious and faithful God,

We give you thanks for the gift of your Church, united across nations, cultures, and languages. We praise you for every pastor, teacher, and leader who serves with humility and courage in your name. Today, we offer not only our financial gifts, but our trust in you. Bless the Miracle Sunday offering, that it may form leaders prepared to proclaim your Word, shepherd your people, and stand for compassion and justice wherever they are sent.

Use these gifts to strengthen theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. Shape women and men who will love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously—now and for generations to come.

Multiply what we give for the sake of your mission. Transform our generosity into hope for the world. We offer all this in gratitude, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PASTORAL LETTER

(To be shared 1–2 weeks before Miracle Sunday)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

In the weeks ahead, our congregation will join United Methodists around the world in preparing for **Miracle Sunday on May 17**—a special offering that supports theological education for pastors and church leaders in **Africa, Europe, and the Philippines**.

I want to take a moment to share why this opportunity matters.

Across our worldwide church, there are faithful leaders serving in communities affected by poverty, conflict, natural disaster, and displacement. These pastors often carry enormous responsibility with limited access to formal theological education. Yet their calling is deep, their faith is strong, and their witness is vital to the life of the Church.

Miracle Sunday is about more than an offering. It is about **investing in people**—in leaders who preach the gospel, care for the hurting, guide congregations, and stand with courage in difficult moments. Through this offering, we strengthen a **permanent endowment** that will support the preparation of pastors not just today, but for generations to come.

Scripture reminds us that the body of Christ grows when every part is equipped and supported. When leaders are well-formed in faith, entire communities are strengthened. This is one way our congregation participates in God's work far beyond our own walls.

I invite you to pray in the coming days:

- Pray for students preparing for ministry
- Pray for pastors serving with courage around the world
- Pray for God's guidance as you consider how you might participate

Whether through prayer, generosity, or both, thank you for being part of a church that looks outward with faith and compassion. Together, we trust that God will multiply what we offer and use it for the good of the world.

With gratitude for you and hope in Christ,

[Pastor's Name]

[Congregation Name]

THANK-YOU FOLLOW-UP

(To be shared the Sunday after Miracle Sunday or sent by email/mail)

Thank You for Being Part of Miracle Sunday

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your generous participation in **Miracle Sunday**.

Through your prayers, your gifts, and your faith, our congregation joined with thousands of United Methodist churches around the world to support theological education in **Africa, Europe, and the Philippines**. What we offered together will help prepare pastors and leaders who serve in places where hope is urgently needed and faithful leadership makes a lasting difference.

Because of your generosity:

- Future pastors will receive the education they need to proclaim the gospel with wisdom and integrity
- Congregations around the world will be strengthened through well-equipped leadership
- A **permanent endowment** will continue to bear fruit for generations yet to come

Miracle Sunday reminds us that what we give in faith today becomes a blessing far beyond what we can see. Your participation is part of a larger story, one in which God is forming leaders who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your partnership in God's mission.

May God continue to bless you and our congregation as we follow Christ together.

With gratitude,

[Pastor's Name]

[Congregation Name]

[For Africa, Europe, and the Philippines:
Adjust the following to your context]

Miracle Sunday Giving Resources

Individuals and Families, Make Your Gift Special!

You may want to print the material in your bulletin or include in your newsletter a week prior to the offering and the day of the offering.

Let your generosity flow from faith, grace, joy, hope, love, bold, miracle.




Or make it even more special.

Individuals and Families may also name and designate gifts.

- A gift of \$50,000 or more allows an individual to name a fund in their honor or in memory of a loved one.
- A gift of \$100,000 or more grants the donor the ability to name a fund and designate the country or episcopal area it will support.

The following is a giving card that is to be use on Miracle Sunday, May 17,2026 to assist the congregation to make their gift toward the emerging miracle and to allow the church treasurer to acknowledge and record the gift for the individual's tax purposes.

	The Endowment for Theological Education <i>Africa – Europe – The Philippines</i>	If you've checked any of the items, or would like more information, or wish to be listed in a Giving Circle, simply detach this section, take it home, and visit eftecc.org/register. A team member will reach out to you soon!
Complete the following giving card to receive credit from your congregation and to be listed in a Giving Area.		
Name:		
Address:		
Email Address:	Phone:	
Name of Church	Amount: \$ _____	
<i>Check all that apply, and a member of The Endowment will contact you.</i>		
Reoccurring Monthly for ___ 12 months ___ 24 months ___ 36 months or, ___ A year for (insert number of years ___). ___ I would like to explore with The Endowment a naming gift or a larger multi-year gift or a gift of stock.		

Congregations, Make Your Gift Count in a Special Way!

Congregations are invited to join this initiative with gifts that can carry a lasting impact:

- **\$150,000 or more** – your congregation may establish a named fund.

- **\$250,000 or more** – your congregation may both name a fund and designate the country or episcopal area it will support.
- **Circle Recognition** – your congregation can also be recognized as a *Faith, Grace, Peace, Joy, Hope, or Love Circle* when the *average gift per worshiper* meets or exceeds the amount for one of these Circles.
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Example: If your congregation gives a total of **\$8,250** and **29 members** participate, the average gift is **\$284 per giver**. This places your church in the **Hope Circle**, since the average is greater than \$250.

Conferences and Episcopal Areas Make the Giving in Your Area Special

Conferences and Episcopal Areas may also name and designate gifts

- With a \$500,000 gift, an Episcopal Area or Conference may partner with another Episcopal Area/Conference—one from the United States and one from outside the United States—to establish a fund named in their honor. The Endowment will assist in pairing Episcopal Areas/Conferences.
- Smaller Episcopal Areas/Conferences may opt to add a third partner to their collaboration.

Your generosity establishes a lasting legacy, empowering theological leaders worldwide. To explore partnership opportunities or for assistance in connecting with another annual conference or episcopal area, send an email to MiracleSunday@endowftecc.org. and indicate you would like assistance to partner with another conference or episcopal area.

Follow Up to the initiative

Monday, May 18, 2026

- Congregation Coordinator reports gifts and commitments online. Instructions for submitting the report are available at www.endowftecc.org/congregation-resources-manual.

Friday, May 22, 2026 – Because of Time Zones Philippines May 23, 2026

- A **worldwide report of gifts and commitments** will be published online.
- Coordinators and pastors are encouraged to share this report with their congregations on the following Sunday.
- Access the report at www.endowftecc.org/congregation-resources-manual

Sunday, May 24, 2026

- **Pastor and Congregation Coordinator share the worldwide results** of Miracle Sunday with the congregation.
- Celebrate what God has done through The United Methodist Church.
- Reaffirm the church’s shared vision to **educate faithful, courageous leaders** who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously.
- The worldwide report is available at www.endowftecc.org/congregation-resources-manual

Thursday, May 28, 2026

- **Congregation Treasurer sends Miracle Sunday funds** to the Annual Conference Treasurer.
- Mark contributions clearly as **“Miracle Sunday initiative.”**
- Any additional gifts received after May 28 should be sent **monthly** to the Annual Conference Treasurer.