



Virginia United Methodist Advocate magazine

This award-winning publication is the conference's official magazine. Published monthly, it includes local church and denominational news, features and Bible lessons. Upcoming training opportunities, resources and information of interest to local church leaders are also included. Print and online versions available. To subscribe, call **1-800-768-6040** or **(804) 521-1100, ext. 110**; e-mail: advocate@vaumc.org; or go online at www.vaumc.org/Advocate-Subscribe.



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SPECIAL SUNDAYS IN 2017

Special Sundays in The United Methodist Church are intended to illustrate the nature and calling of the church and are celebrated annually. Special Sundays are placed on the calendar in the context of the Christian year, which is designed 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. Your support is critical to the survival of these important ministries (listed below) and for sharing God's gifts around the world.

Six General Conference-approved Special Sundays with offerings are listed in **boldface type**. Special Sundays, or time periods, with Virginia Conference-approved offerings are marked with an asterisk (*). Other times of special recognition approved by the General Conference and/or Virginia Conference are also listed.

Men's Ministry Sunday
 (any Sunday in the year)

United Methodist Volunteers In Mission (UMVIM) Awareness Sunday
 (any Sunday in the year)

January 15

Human Relations Day
 (Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday observance)

The month of February

Heart Havens, Inc., Month*

February 5

Disability Awareness Sunday
 (First Sunday in February)

March 26

One Great Hour of Sharing (UMCOR)
 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

April 30

Native American Ministries Sunday
 (Third Sunday of Easter)

May 7

Older Adult Recognition Sunday
 (First Sunday in May)

May 7

Rural Life Sunday
 (First Sunday in May)

May 14

Mother's Day/Father's Day
 Samaritan Fund Offering*
 (Virginia United Methodist Homes)

May 21

Heritage Sunday
 (Sunday on or preceding Aldersgate Day, May 24)

The month of June

Virginia Annual Conference Offering*

National Hunger Awareness Day
 recognition during Worship
 (Any Sunday in June)

June 11

Peace with Justice Sunday
 (First Sunday after Pentecost)

June 11

Children's Day
 (Second Sunday in June)

The month of September

Christian Education Sunday*
 (Any Sunday in September)

September 3

Industrial & Commercial Ministries*
 (Sunday in September nearest Labor Day)

The month of October

Virginia Advocate (conference magazine)
 Promotion Campaign

October 1

World Communion Sunday
 (First Sunday in October)

October 8

Children's Sabbath
 (Second Sunday in October or any time during the year)

October 15

Laity Sunday
 (Third Sunday in October)

November 12

Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (Second Sunday in November)

November 26

United Methodist Student Day
 (Last Sunday in November)

The month of December

UMFS of Virginia Month*