

Peace with Justice

ADULT DISCUSSION

What does the Bible say?

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. - **Matthew 5:9**

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you so that you will be acting as children of your Father who is in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous. - **Matthew 5:44-45a**

What of the wisdom from above? First, it is pure, and then peaceful, gentle, obedient, filled with mercy and good actions, fair, and genuine. Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts. - **James 3:17-18**

If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written, Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord. Instead, If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head. Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good. - **Romans 12:18 - 23**

So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived! All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. - **2 Corinthians 5:17-18**

Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts. - **James 3:18**

He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God. - **Micah 6:8**

Acting justly is a joy to the righteous, but dreaded by those who do evil. - **Proverbs 21:15**

Begin by grounding everything in the truth and foundation of Scripture

Build awareness through the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church

What does The United Methodist Church say?

The church is called to be a distinctive community, marked by preaching of the Gospel, studying of Scripture, breaking of bread, and witnessing to the power of redemption in the midst of a broken world. We respond to God's call in the world by giving witness to the transformational power of the Gospel, engaging in acts of mercy, and striving toward the attainment of justice and peace as hallmarks of God's coming reign. In all of these efforts, Christians are reminded that diverse as we may be, we are all a part of the same body under the sovereignty of Christ. (Social Principles, Preface)

We urge the church to care and work for systemic justice for all people affected by war, and to advocate for peacemaking and nonviolent conflict transformation in global and local conflicts. The church deplores war and all other forms of violent conflict and urges the peaceful settlement of all disputes. We yearn for the day when there will be no more war and people will live together in peace and justice. (Social Principles, ¶ 163.F)

We commit ourselves to support all people as they discern how best to model the nonviolent example of Jesus. The church supports and guides those who serve in the military; those who are conscientious objectors; veterans living with physical, psychological, spiritual, and moral injury; and families of people affected by military service. We urge the church to care and work for systemic justice for all people affected by war, and to advocate for peacemaking and nonviolent conflict transformation in global and local conflicts. (Social Principles, ¶ 163.F)

Peace with Justice

ADULT DISCUSSION



Know the facts.
Recognize the benefits.
Explore why it matters.

What do the facts say?

Understanding our shared impact:

Supporting Local Justice Ministries: A portion of funds remains within each Annual Conference to resource ministries that address injustice, advocate for peace, and strengthen communities at the local level.

Equipping Justice Leaders: Funding helps train and empower people to lead justice-focused ministries, advocacy efforts, and community engagement initiatives.

Strengthening Connectional Impact: Half of the offering supports denominational programs that promote peace and justice ministries across the Church and around the world.

Engaging Congregations in Advocacy: Resources and education help churches take active roles in public witness, encouraging faithful responses to issues of justice and peace.

Consider these ways to take action and get involved

- **Reach out** to your Annual Conference Peace with Justice coordinator to learn about the efforts and initiatives taking place in your conference.
- **Visit** the umcjustice.org to explore opportunities to engage in peace and justice efforts.
- **Give** on Peace with Justice Sunday—through your local church or [online](https://umcjustice.org)—to support peace building efforts and resources in communities both locally and around the world.
- **Email** grants@umcjustice.org to learn more about ministries this Sunday supports.

What do you think?

- What does “peace with justice” mean in the context of our faith and daily lives?
- In what ways are we called to be peacemakers in our own communities?
- How can we actively support and participate in peace building efforts through the Church?
- Why is it important to address the root causes of conflict, not just the outcomes?
- Where do we see signs of hope when communities commit to justice-centered peace?
- How can our congregation take practical steps toward becoming a more active peacemaking community?
- How does our faith call us to pursue both peace and justice together, not separately?
- How does Peace with Justice Sunday support meaningful change within our Annual Conference and beyond?

United in Impact: Our Generosity Pursues Justice, Promotes Peace, and Embraces God’s Call to Be Peacemakers