Living Missional Generosity

Each year there are special days designated to remind us of our work as Christ's people to build the kingdom of God and ensure that all of creation can experience abundant life. Below are some of the days (though definitely not all) that can invite us to remember, reflect, and respond. These days are invitations for us to do four things: learn, pray, give, act.

For each day that we encounter you are invited to explore the groups working on each issue. Learn about them and their work, pray for God to continue to strengthen and sustain their important work, give if you can, and participate in any actions that they provide. They are many organizations working on each issue, far too many to name here. Below are ones that I trust and believe in and feel confident in sharing with you. Some organizations are named multiple times; all deserve our continued support.

There are also many other special days of recognition that are not named here and perhaps should be. The following days, weeks, and months of recognition are ones that have come from my own convictions of faith. My hope is that this is simply an invitation into a more generous and justice seeking way of life for all of us. It is a place to begin but not to end.

Throughout the year you will be invited to learn, pray, give, and act in the following areas: Human trafficking, education access, relieving medical debt/bills, protecting endangered animals, creation justice and care, clean drinking water, literacy, global health, economic justice, ministry with communities of color, refugees, immigrants, human rights and more.

I have included days and themes that are a part of my faith journey and my rule of life. There is much more out there than included here. I hope these days will inspire you to find other ones that connect to you and your journey.

- **January**
    - 11 - Human Trafficking Awareness Day
        - International Justice Mission - https://www.ijm.org/
            - IJM rescues and restores victims of trafficking and works with local governments and law enforcement to strengthen systems to protect people from being exploited
    - 17 - MLK Jr. Day/Human Relations Sunday (Sunday before MLK Day)
        - http://www.umcgiving.org/ministry-articles/human-relations-day
            - Supports neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through UM Volunteer Services, and work with at-risk youth through Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs
    - 24 - International Day of Education
        - Malala Fund - https://www.malala.org/
            - Working to provide equal access to education for over 130 million girls worldwide
- **February**
    - 4 - World Cancer Day
        - St. Jude Children's Hospital https://www.stjude.org/
        - Help cover the hospital and medical bills for families whose children are battling cancer. At St. Jude's their goal is to make sure no families pay for any medical expenses
    - 27 - International Polar Bear Day
        - Polar Bears International https://polarbearsinternational.org/
            - Adopt and protect polar bears
- **March**
    - 3 - World Wildlife Day
        - Defenders of Wildlife - https://defenders.org/
            - Through a variety of ways they protect animals and their habitats

            - The have action items for online advocacy and you can symbolically adopt wildlife animals
        - National Wildlife Federation - https://www.nwf.org/
            - They work to make sure wildlife thrives. Here you can also symbolically adopt animals.

    - 8 - International Women's Day
        - Malala Fund - https://www.malala.org/
            - Working to provide equal access to education for over 130 million girls worldwide

    - 16 - National Panda Day
        - Adopt a Giant Panda through National Wildlife Federation
            - Help protect wildlife by symbolically adopting a Giant Panda
            - https://www.shopnwf.org/category/shop-adoption-center-adopt-an-animal-adopt-a-giant-panda

    - 21 - International Day of Forests
        - Rainforest Action Network - https://www.ran.org/
            - Take action against companies and industries driving deforestation and climate change
        - Earth Day Network - https://www.earthday.org/campaign/the-canopy-project/
            - Canopy Project: $1 plants 1 tree - your donation plants trees to help reforest the earth

    - 22 - World Water Day
        - Blood:Water - https://www.bloodwater.org/
            - Help provide access to clean drinking water

- **April**
    - 7 - World Health Day
        - RIP Medical Debt - https://ripmedicaldebt.org/
            - Your donations to this group will help eliminate medical debt that people in our country have

    - 22 - Earth Day
        - Help Project Our Environment
            - EarthJustice - https://earthjustice.org/

            - Because the earth needs a good lawyer
        - Environmental Defense Fund - https://www.edf.org/
        - Natural Resources Defense Council - https://www.nrdc.org/

    - 23 - World Book Day
        - Better World Books - https://www.betterworldbooks.com/
            - Buying used books that helps support literacy programs and donates books

    - 25 - World Malaria Day
        - UMC Imagine No Malaria Campaign - https://www.umcmission.org/learn-about-us/our-work/global-health/imagine-no-malaria

    - Native American Ministries Sunday (Third Sunday of Easter)
        - UMC Special Giving Sunday - equips and supports our Native American clergy, congregations, and seminary students
        - http://www.umcgiving.org/ministry-articles/native-american-ministries-sunday

- **May**
    - 15 - Endangered Species Day
        - Endangered Species Coalition - https://www.endangered.org/
        - Creation Justice Ministries - Endangered Species and Faith - http://www.creationjustice.org/endangered.html

- **June**
    - 8 - World Oceans Day
        - Ocean Conservancy - https://oceanconservancy.org/
            - Using science based solutions to protect our oceans
        - Protect and adopt Sea Turtles
            - https://conserveturtles.org/

    - 12 - World Day Against Child Labor
        - Freedom United - https://www.freedomunited.org/
            - Ending modern day trafficking

    - 20 - World Refugee Day
        - World Vision - https://www.worldvision.org/our-work/refugees

- 21 - World Giraffe Day
  - Giraffe Conservation Foundation - https://giraffeconservation.org/

- Peace with Justice Sunday (1st Sunday After Pentecost)
  - http://www.umcgiving.org/ministry-articles/peace-with-justice-sunday
  - Support ministries of peace and justice in our denomination

- **July**
  - 29 - International Tiger Day
    - Adopt a Tiger - Defenders of Wildlife
    - https://gifts.defenders.org/tiger

- **August**
  - 10 - World Lion Day
    - Wildlife Conservation Network: Lion Recovery Fund
      - https://www.lionrecoveryfund.org/
    - Adopt a Lion - National Wildlife Federation
      - https://www.shopnwf.org/category/shop-adoption-center-adopt-an-animal-adopt-a-lion
    - Adopt a Lion - Claws Conservancy
      - http://www.clawsconservancy.org/adopt-a-lion

  - 12 - World Elephant Day
    - Wildlife Conservation Network: Elephant Crisis Fund
      - https://www.elephantcrisisfund.org/
    - Adopt an Elephant - Elephant Sanctuary
      - https://www.elephants.com/

- **September**
  - 1-7 - Labor Day - economic justice for workers
    - Fight for $15 - https://fightfor15.org/
      - Help increase the minimum wage to $15 per hour

  - 8 - International Literacy Day
    - Read Out and Read https://www.reachoutandread.org/
      - Help incorporate reading into pediatric care

  - 21 - International Day of Peace

        - Explore what the UMC is doing to promote and build peace
        - https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/peace-with-justice

    - 22 - World Rhino Day
        - Adopt a Rhino - International Rhino Foundation
        - https://rhinos.org/

    - 26 - International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
        - International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons https://www.icanw.org/

- **October**
    - World Communion Sunday (1st Sunday of the Month
        - http://www.umcgiving.org/ministry-articles/world-communion-sunday - help provide scholarships for UM students of color

    - 11 - International Day of the Girl
        - Malala Fund - https://www.malala.org/
            - Help provide education access for girls around the world

- **November**
    - Last Sunday of November - UM Student Day
        - Help provide scholarships for UM Students
        - http://www.umcgiving.org/ministry-articles/united-methodist-student-day
    - 25 - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
        - Doorways VA - https://www.doorwaysva.org/
            - Helping women and families suffering from domestic abuse

- **December**
    - 1 - World Aids Day
        - UM Global Aids Fund - https://umgaf2014.wordpress.com/

    - 3 - International Day for Persons with Disabilities
        - UMC Disability Ministry - https://advance.umcmission.org/p-400-disability-ministry.aspx
            - Providing grants, resources, education and advocacy for churches and conferences

    - 10 - Human Rights Day

        - UMC Justice: See our work on human rights
            - https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/civil-and-human-rights

    - 12 - International Universal Health Coverage Day
        - See how we are working to advance access to health care
        - https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/health-and-wholeness

    - 18 - International Migrants Day
        - UMC Global Ministries - Projects on Migration https://advance.umcmission.org/projects.aspx?PIMPACT=0011#results

Weeks

- Restaurant Week - January
    - Support ROC United and/or One Fair Wage to help make sure restaurant workers are paid a livable wage and treated justly
        - https://rocunited.org/
        - https://onefairwage.com/

- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 18-25
    - Join the Ecumencial Pryaer Cycle and pray for different countries each week - https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/prayer-cycle

Months

- February - Black History Month
    - Equal Justice Initiative - https://eji.org/
        - Support their work in racial justice and mass incarceration, which disproportionately affects people of color

- Sept 15 - Oct 15: Hispanic Heritage Month
    - United We Dream - https://unitedwedream.org/
        - Support immigrant youth

- October - Domestic Violence Awareness Month
    - Learn more at UMC Justice - https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/women-and-children/domestic-violence