



CHILDREN'S SABBATH

Moving Forward With Hope: Love & Justice for Every Child in the NAC

October 22-December 31, 2017

The NAC Team of the Pan Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty

Invites you and your congregation to *Host Children's Sabbath 2017*

***CHILDREN'S SABBATH CONGREGATIONAL TOOL KIT:**

1. **Liturgy for Children's Sabbath Worship:**

a. <http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/2017-sabbath-manual/2017-childrens-sabbaths-Promotion.pdf> (This includes helpful worship bulletin inserts and information.)

b. <http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/2017-sabbath-manual/2017-childrens-sabbaths-christian.pdf> (Pages 19-25 worship liturgies; pages 39-42 helpful discussion guides & action plans; pages 43-51 excellent Handouts.)

c. <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/why-united-methodists-observe-childrens-sabbath>

2. **"NAC Children's Sabbath Video" and Study Guide:**

Our gratitude to Pan-Methodist Campaign Founder and Candler School of Theology Professor Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Luther Smith, for sharing his wisdom on our NAC YouTube channel. The Study Guide is posted on the Campaign's NAC web page. <https://youtu.be/folxlr4cQ0>

3. **Our NAC Children in Poverty Facts:**

"Data Map of Children Living in Poverty in Our Annual Conference" – view on the NAC website the number of children who struggle in poverty within the bounds of our AC. What will WE do?

4. **Ideas for engaging schools in your congregation's neighborhood:**

"50 Ways to Engage Local Schools" + the NAC Campaign blog posts on the NAC website.

5. **Share Your Stories:**

Email your stories to the NAC Pan-Methodist Campaign team (see below address).

Did you know...

-More than 1 in 4 (27.3 percent) of Alabama's children were poor in 2015.

-More than 24% of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2015.

-More than 38% of Alabama's 4th grade public school students were unable to read at grade level in 2015.

**Note: Children's Sabbath is different from a Children's Sunday. Children's Sabbath does celebrate your congregation's children, but it also is a time (during worship, study, outreach) to invite our congregations to focus on the realities of children beyond our congregation. Children's Sabbath is a way for our congregations to help children thrive – not just survive – the systems and circumstances impacting their young lives. If October doesn't work for your church, then pick ANY Sunday before December 31 to celebrate Children's Sabbath.*

For more information: www.umcna.org/childreninpoverty

www.umcna.org/childrenssabbath

www.panmethodistcampaignforchildren.org

www.childrensdefense.org

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