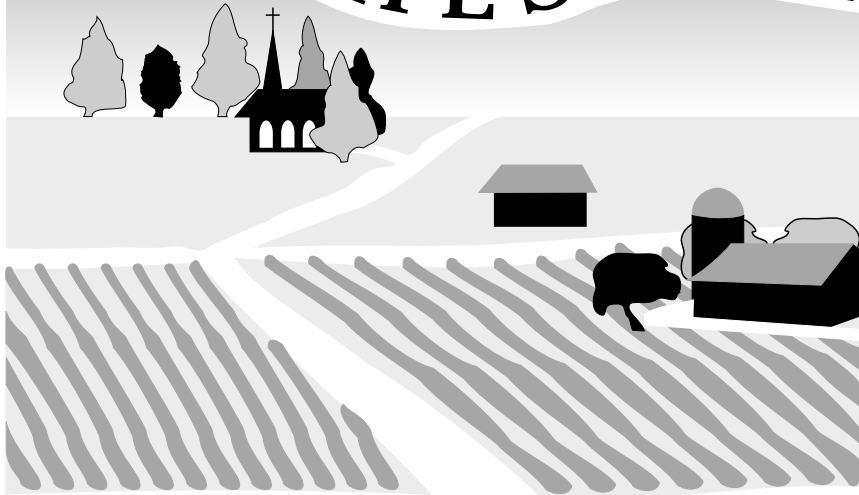


West Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church

RURAL LIFE SUNDAY



Rural Life Sunday is:

- A special Sunday to celebrate God's blessings and the ministries of our small town and rural churches.
- A worship emphasis to praise God for the gifts of rural living, small town life, agriculture, and God's good earth.
- A day for a special offering to provide resources for ministries in rural and small town settings in the conference.

"The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ☉ Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ☉ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. ☉ As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.' ☉ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ☉ You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God; for the rendering of this service not only supplies the wants of the saints but also overflows in many thanksgivings to God." 2 Corinthians 9:6-12 (RSV)

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Did You Know?

Your Rural Life Sunday Offering is the source for initiatives in rural and small town ministries administered in our West Michigan Conference through the Town and Country Committee. Some of these new ministries are:

1. Scholarships for seminary studies and Course of Study. Pastors in training for rural ministries can get financial support for their seminary education;
2. Scholarships for rural pastors' continuing education;
3. Seed funding for Rural Summer Interns in local town and country churches;
4. Rural Life Sunday worship materials for each church in the conference;
5. Town and Country church ministry orientation materials for each new pastor entering the conference; and
6. Promotion of cooperative ministries throughout the conference.

Your Rural Life Sunday gift will enable these programs and further initiatives to be taken for the advancement of ministry in rural and small town churches and communities. **Thank you for your gift of love.**