

September 17, 2017

Mission Moment

From the beginning, The United Methodist Church's roots have been firmly planted in small communities and the highways and byways traveled by United Methodist circuit preachers.

The United Methodist Church is still present in rural and agricultural areas to this day. In fact, 60 percent of United Methodist churches in the United States are in rural areas.

Rural areas have their own unique experiences, joys and struggles. Many times, the churches in those areas play a vital role in holding a community together. The rural church is uniquely equipped to know the needs of its members and the community surrounding them. On Rural Life Sunday, we affirm those experiences and the work of these rural churches within their communities.

On this day, we also recognize those engaged in the work of growing the food that feeds the world. We affirm those who are watching the sky hoping for rain and faithfully tending the soil. It is a life of service to others while also providing for oneself and family. We affirm on Rural Life Sunday that we are connected with those who plant, sow and distribute the crops that nurture us.

As The United Methodist Church, we affirm the important role rural churches have in our history and in the rural communities they serve.