

MISSION MOMENT

November 24, 2019

Today is United Methodist Student Day Sunday. Churches are asked to take up a Special Offering to support scholarships nationally like the Gift of Hope Scholarship,

Tori Pedersen spent most of her childhood in Omaha, Nebraska. As a child, Tori went to church, but not every Sunday. Then she discovered The Water's Edge Church, a United Methodist congregation in Gretna, Nebraska. "It wasn't until I found The Water's Edge," she said, "that I truly started to develop a relationship with God. I have found a love for serving, and it has motivated me to look into nonprofit work in my future. So much of who I have become is due to finding my place in The United Methodist Church."

Tori's faith has instilled in her a moral compass, giving her a sense of security knowing that God is always with her. It has also motivated her to do work that serves her community.

She cherishes the Bible study that has eased her transition from home to college. "I hope to be able to give this same experience to other students," she said. "Long-term, I want to plan benefit concerts, work with nonprofits and stay active in the church. My passion in life is people and building relationships. I believe all of these are ways to use my interests to build a career that is centered around my passion and glorifies God."

Today, Tori is a student at the University of Nebraska. She was surprised that as she searched for faith-based scholarships for United Methodists, the first one that showed up was the Gift of Hope, supported by the United Methodist Student Day offerings.

The scholarship has eased a great financial burden for her. Going to college was never a question for her, how she would pay for it has always been a question. This scholarship gave her the freedom to pursue her dreams that are all centered on putting her faith in the Lord into action.