

Labor Sunday



What is Labor Sunday?

Labor Sunday is a day to celebrate the vital contributions of workers to our community and to stand in solidarity with the struggles of workers. Today we thank God for the workers in our congregation and those who we never see but depend upon for our food, clothing, and other products. We also commit ourselves as people of God to listen to workers and to stand with them in their fight for justice.

Why is this important for the church?

Too many businesses in NC take advantage of legal loopholes to misclassify workers as independent contractors to avoid paying fair wages or steal wages and tips from employees (wage theft). Jesus calls us to stand up for those exploited by the powerful and to be thankful for those who bless us with their gifts of labor.



What does the Bible say about workers?

LISTEN! THE WAGES OF THE LABORERS WHO MOWED YOUR FIELDS, WHICH YOU KEPT BACK BY FRAUD, CRY OUT, AND THE CRIES OF THE HARVESTERS HAVE REACHED THE EARS OF THE LORD OF HOSTS. JAMES 5:4

NOW TO ONE WHO WORKS, WAGES ARE NOT RECKONED AS A GIFT BUT AS SOMETHING DUE. ROMANS 4:4

WOE TO HIM WHO BUILDS HIS HOUSE BY UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, AND HIS UPPER ROOMS BY INJUSTICE; WHO MAKES HIS NEIGHBORS WORK FOR NOTHING, AND DOES NOT GIVE THEM THEIR WAGES. JEREMIAH 22:13

A Prayer for Workers

Loving, Working God, on this Sunday we ask your special blessing on all people who labor, either for pay or as volunteers, in jobs or at school, in the workplace or at home, in the U.S. and around the world.

We especially pray for your blessings on workers who do not have jobs and for those whose inadequate pay does not allow them to live the full life you intend for each of us.

Creator God, help us to build a new world in the midst of the old. A world where all workers are valued. A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in. A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill. A world where those who serve and care for others are, themselves, also served and cared for.

We pray for the coming of a world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us.

We ask these things knowing that you give us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary. Amen.

From the UCC Labor Sunday Worship Resources

Take Action

- Make sure that your congregation hires and pays fairly
- Support legislation that raises the minimum wage
- Ask contractors if all workers are paid fairly and classified correctly
- Write to your representative and senator about minimum wage and employment fraud
- Support businesses that pay fairly and treat all workers as children of God
- Leave a cash tip in restaurants to prevent wage theft



North Carolina
Council of Churches

Learn More

Interfaith Worker Justice: <http://www.iwj.org/>

NC Council of Churches: <http://www.ncchurches.org/tag/organized-labor/>

NC Justice Center: <http://www.ncjustice.org/?q=workers-rights>
laborsabbath.org