



LABOR SABBATH OVERVIEW & WORSHIP RESOURCES

Through Labor Sabbath, congregations have the opportunity to talk about faith, work, and justice. This toolkit offers some introductory resources to help celebrate Labor Day in your community. Across the state this year, we are focused on honoring labor and supporting the need for education to raise the minimum wage in NC. This toolkit provides helpful information for honoring the sacredness of work in your faith community this year. Feel free to email us at info@raisingwagesnc.org with questions and for more information.

GETTING STARTED

There are different ways to plan a Labor Day service that lifts up workers within your community and around the country. The suggestions below can help you get started. Many of these can be incorporated into groups and programs that already exist in your congregation as well.

- Read through the toolkit (kit includes: the Getting Started page, Bulletin Insert, Sunday School/Education class/Tabling activity--Love Letters to Workers explanation, Love Letter template, and check out our Resources page which includes helpful links to in-depth resources for different faith traditions.)
- Register as a participating faith community here:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1sHEZMFC3Yt-ctwiLP0812sXjujJrJW9vez5Vrp0W-pl/prefill>
- Invite a speaker (worker, union leader, worker advocate) or host a worker justice table. Recruit someone from your community to speak on Labor Day weekend. If no one is available, Raising Wages NC can connect you to a worker in your area who will speak. Speakers could do a short 3-5 minutes as a “mission moment,” or announcement, during the service, and/or could table before or after service.
- Focus on education. Labor Day weekend offers congregations the opportunity to highlight issues that impact workers within the community. This year, our focus is honoring labor, raising the minimum wage, and introducing this new state-wide campaign to faith communities. Additional resources are also available at www.raisingwagesnc.org.
- Get the word out. Promote your Labor Day service in your congregation’s bulletin and/or newsletter.

- Develop a worship planning committee. A worship committee can explore creative ways to integrate worker justice themes into the service either by using resources included in this toolkit or creating their own to include workers in songs, prayers, message, children’s activities, education hour, and tabling.
- Lead a study on worker justice from your sacred book/scriptures. Throughout the month of September, have someone (maybe you!) teach a Bible study or lead a prayer group focusing on labor and faith.
- Honor an outstanding member (or members) or your congregation. Feature the good work of members of your community in your city and in the work of justice.

RESOURCES

Worship Planning Helps and Other Resources:

AFLCIO of NC

Labor Sabbath focusing on unions from a faith perspective:

What is Labor Sabbath?

Labor Day weekend is a good time for people to talk about labor unions. We ask people who meet together to worship on Labor Day weekend to say the words “labor union” in a prayer, a song, a talk, a lesson, a homily, or a sermon. Learn more about the people working together in unions for a better life in North Carolina by calling 919-833-6678 or connecting with the NC State AFL-CIO online: [facebook.com/laborsabbath](https://www.facebook.com/laborsabbath), @laborsabbath, www.AFLCIONC.org

Labor in the Pulpit, Bimah, Minbar, as well as other faith traditions

Interfaith Worker Justice’s website:

<http://www.iwj.org/resources/labor-day-weekend-resources>

Living Wages:

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

<http://rac.org/living-wage-and-minimum-wage-new-page>

NC Council of Churches

<https://www.ncchurches.org/lectionary-archive/year-c/living-wages-proper-21/>

contains liturgy, prayers, hymn suggestions, scripture readings and sermon help

Organizations with Fact Sheets and Other Timely Information on Raising Wages:

Raising Wages NC Campaign

www.raisingwagesnc.org

Just Economics of WNC

www.justeconomicswnc.org

United for a Fair Economy

www.faireconomy.org