

Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15-October 15



National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed in the United States from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the stories, cultures, and contributions of people from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

We encourage you to acknowledge and celebrate this special month within your units. Here are a few suggestions on how to do that:

WORSHIP SERVICE IDEAS

- **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:** Deuteronomy 10:17-21; Galatians 5:13-26; John 8:33-36.
- **SERMON THEME:** “The Truth Shall Set You Free”
- **PRAYERS:**

O God, you have made of one blood all the people of earth, but you have also richly blessed us with a world of many languages, cultures and traditions. I thank you today for the many contributions which Hispanic Americans have made – and continue to make - to our great country. Enable us always to learn from and appreciate each other. Make us even stronger as one nation because of our diverse gifts and experiences. Enrich our minds, bodies and spirits, we pray, as we celebrate together on this beautiful day. Amen.

- Mitchell Lewis, A Christian pastor in Caesar's army

Creator God, we thank You for our wondrous diversity, for our cultures, traditions and languages, for all the ways we celebrate our humanity and praise Your divinity. We value all peoples, and in this time, we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. May we remember in our churches the leaders, teachers, and theologians that have been part of our Christian faith tradition. May we continue to hear from diverse voices that speak the truth of God's love, peace and justice for all peoples. Guide is in ways of new understandings to build a more inclusive church. In the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior, Redeemer and Friend, we pray. Amen.

- Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

➤ **SONGS:**

- “Everlasting Hope” (HC #2)
- “I Will Sing the Wondrous Story” (SB #855)
- “Go Forth and Tell!” (SB #922)
- “Saints of God, Lift up Your Voices” (SB #928)
- “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations” (SB #943)
- “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” (HC #127)
- “When I Needed a Neighbor” (SB #1013)
- “Jehová es mi pastor” (Spanish Songbook #12)
- “Es Jesús el mejor amigo” (Spanish Songbook #183)
- “Hay cosas que yo no comprendo” (Spanish Songbook #186)
- “Jesús es my Rey soberano” (Spanish Songbook #188)
- “Anhelo trabajar por mi Señor” (Spanish Songbook #429)

- **DEVOTIONAL:** Here is a link for a short devotional from Bread from the World based on Matthew 25:35, 40.

<https://www.bread.org/blog/hispanic-heritage-month-devotional>

PROGRAM IDEAS TO CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE IN OUR CORPS OR INSTITUTIONS

- **Sunday Worship Service:** Choose a Sunday between September 15 and October 15 to have a worship service to highlight this event. Ask someone in your congregation from a Hispanic background to share his/her testimony.
- **Open Air or Open Gym:** Invite the community to learn more about the Hispanic Heritage; prepare different stations around the Gym where people can find information about Hispanic history, music, healthy food preparation from different countries; play typical games of those countries, have activities for children, competitions, crafts, etc.
- **Health Fair:** Invite community groups to participate in a free health fair. Provide free health services such as: eye exam, blood pressure test, weight control, etc. Have available workshops about health information, programs, etc.
- **Recognize a Hero in the Community:** Identify a Hispanic person in your community (police, fireman, teacher, etc.), and recognize his/her work in the community during your Sunday Service or at a special luncheon.
- **Watch a Movie:** Host a movie night and show a movie or a documentary that talks about Hispanic culture. Here are a few suggestions: Under the Same Moon; Bella; Spanglish; Instructions Not Included; The Other Side of Immigration; Which Way Home.

- **Host a Citizenship or Immigration Workshop:** Get in touch with your local World Relief or other similar agency and invite them to give a Citizenship or Immigration workshop.

USEFUL LINKS FOR NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

- **“Crafts to Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month”** – In this link you will find Hispanic heritage printables to use with children, and crafts by different countries like Chile, Cuba, Guatemala and Mexico.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/05/crafts-hispanic-heritage_n_3875830.html
- **“Celebrating Latino Culture for Hispanic Heritage Month”** – In this link you will find Hispanic heritage month activities for kids like: How to make paper fiesta flowers; musical crafts; Hispanic heroes trading cards; interactive activities, children’s books, Hispanic inventors and many more.
<http://www.modernmami.com/hispanic-heritage-month-activities-for-kids/>
- **“National Day”** – In this link you will find useful information on how to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month like Hispanic Heritage Month Timeline; Hispanic Heritage Highlights; and Why Hispanic Heritage Month is important.
<https://nationaltoday.com/hispanic-heritage-month/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES – SMALL GROUP STUDIES

- **Sacred Conversations on Race, Culture and Reconciliation** – This 10-session discussion guide, for small groups, creates a safe space and invites candid and conversations about race and culture. Intercultural Ministries Department, Central Territory. View the document here:
<https://interculturalministriescentral.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2016/10/SACRED-CONVERSATIONS.pdf>
- **CULTURE 101: EMBRACING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES – ENGLISH & SPANISH**
This video, available in English and Spanish, is for those who want to develop cultural competence for intercultural and multiethnic ministries. The video can be used in a variety of program settings. Approximately 30 minutes long. Small group discussion questions and activities includes. Viewing guide available.
Spanish Version: <https://vimeo.com/185958717>
English Version: <https://vimeo.com/174858793>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES – ARTICLES AND BOOKS

- **“What Christians can learn during Hispanic Heritage Month”** – This brief article by Giancarlo Montero gives a brief history of how this celebration started

and invites Christians to celebrate with Hispanic brothers and sisters our unity in diversity.

<https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/what-christians-can-learn-during-hispanic-heritage-month/>

- **“5 Facts about National Hispanic Heritage Month”** – In this article by Joe Carter, he highlights 5 important facts pertaining the observance of this celebration.
<https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/5-facts-for-national-hispanic-heritage-month/>
- **“The Story of Latino Protestants in the United States”** – Juan Francisco Martínez
Beginning with a description of the Diverse Latino Protestant community, this book examines six main periods in the history of American Latino Protestantism, paying special attention to such key issues as migration patterns, immigration policies, enculturation, and assimilation.
- **“Welcoming the Stranger”** – Matthew Soerens & Jenny Hwang
Immigration is one of the most complicated issues of our time. Voices on all sides argue strongly for action and change. And Christians find themselves torn between the desire to uphold laws and the call to minister the vulnerable. The authors ultimately point us toward immigration reform that is compassionate, sensible and just, as they offer concrete ways for Christians and local churches to welcome and minister to our immigrant neighbors.
- **“Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America”** – Juan Gonzalez
The new immigrants have ignited a vibrant “Latin explosion” in American popular culture. But the Latino influence reaches far beyond music, sports, cuisine, or the latest magazine cover. This book features family portraits of real-life immigrant Latino pioneers, as well as sketches of the political events and social conditions that compelled them to leave their homeland, and how they have transformed the nation’s cultural landscape.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES – VIDEOS

- **“Which Way Home”**
This Academy Award Nominee-Best Documentary Feature, follows some unaccompanied children as they make the long and treacherous voyage to the U.S. border. Often traveling for months or even years at a time, these courageous and determined children each have stories of hope and resilience, disappointment and sorrow.

- **“The Other Side of Immigration”** – Juan Gonzalez
This video asks why so many Mexicans come to the U.S. and what happens to the families and communities they leave behind. Filmmaker Roy Germano provides a perspective on undocumented immigration rarely witnessed by American eyes, challenging audiences to imagine more creative and effective solutions to the problem.

SEVEN FACTS FOR NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

According to the Pew Research Center here are seven key facts about the nation’s Hispanic population by age, geography, and origin groups:

1. The US Hispanic population reached 59.9 million in 2018, up from 47.8 in 2008.
2. People of Mexican origin account for slightly over 60% (36.6 million) of the nation’s Hispanics.
3. A record 32 million Latinos are projected to be eligible to vote in 2020, up from 27.3 million in 2016.
4. The share of the Latinos who are immigrants is on the decline.
5. The foreign-born share among Latinos varies by origin group.
6. The share of Latinos in the U.S. who speak English proficiently is growing.
7. More than a half of Latinos in the U.S. live in just three states: California, Texas and Florida.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/10/14/facts-for-national-hispanic-heritage-month/>

SHORT IMMIGRATION COURSE ONLINE

Would you like to better understand U.S. immigration? Here is a five-part email minicourse by the Pew Research Center. You will receive an email every few days over the span of a couple of weeks. Each email will answer a different question about immigration: Who are U.S. immigrants? How has immigration changed the U.S.? Who are legal immigrants and who are unauthorized ones? And more.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/10/16/want-to-understand-u-s-immigration-weve-got-an-email-course-for-you/>