



Hispanic Heritage Month takes place September 15 to October 15 every year as a time to recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of the American Latino community. Beginning in 1968, Hispanic Heritage Month was originally observed as “Hispanic Heritage Week” under President Lyndon Johnson, but it was later extended to a month during President Ronald Reagan’s term in 1988.

Since then, the month has been celebrated nationwide through festivals, art shows, conferences, community gatherings, and much more. The month also celebrates the independence days of several Latin American countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua on September 15th, Mexico on September 16th, and Chile on September 18th. It also includes holidays that recognize Hispanic contributions such as Virgin Islands-Puerto Rico Friendship Day that is celebrated in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In the following link you will find a two-minute video explaining the history behind Hispanic Heritage Month.

<https://www.oprahdaily.com/life/g36651645/hispanic-heritage-month-activities/>

This year we have selected the theme “Bright Hope for Tomorrow” based on Hebrews 10:23 (NCV): “Let us hold firmly to the hope that we have confessed, because we can trust God to do what he promised.”

How will you be celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month? 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 OUTLINE

Call to Worship      **Psalm 130 or 1 Peter 1:3-9**

Invocation:

“Almighty God, through your Holy Spirit You created unity in the midst of diversity; we acknowledge that human diversity is an expression of Your manifold love for Your creation; We confess that in our brokenness as human beings we turn diversity into a source of alienation, injustice, oppression, and wounding. Empower us to recognize and celebrate differences as Your great gift to the human family. Enable us to be architects of understanding, of respect, and love. Through the Lord, the ground of all unity, we pray. Amen.”

—From War Cry, May 2021, p.5

Welcome & Announcements

Praise and Worship:

**“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” (Songbook #662)**

**“Great is Thy Faithfulness” (Songbook #26, Cancionero #394)**

**“Everlasting Hope” (HC #2)**

**“Shout to the Lord” (HC #76)**

Offering

Testimony time:      **Gerardo Cielo, Commissioning 2018**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtZQtgRhWNO&list=PLiS-R1cHNK9hBAddifZi-By8OhTRmDWAc>  
(Or a testimony from someone of Hispanic descent)

Scripture Reading      **Hebrews 10:19-25**

Song

**“Living Hope”** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-1fwZtKJSM>

Sermon:      **“The Hope We Have on the Open Curtain...”**

- 1) ...Allows Us to Come Near to God (v.22)
- 2) ...Allows Us to Hold Firmly to the Hope We Profess (v. 23)
- 3) ...Allows Us to Motivate One Another to Acts of Love and Good Works (v.24)
- 4) ...Allows Us to Encourage Each Other as the Day of His Return Draws Near (v.25)

Time of Commitment/Song

**“He Who Began a Good Work in You”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNjZIHARnEk>

Benediction

We thank you for the gift of our Hispanic and Latino brothers and sisters. Grant that we continue to be a place with open doors, open hearts, making room for all. Give us generous hearts that we may continue to use our gifts to support one another. Amen.

—We Give, The United Methodist Church

# HOW TO START A HISPANIC MINISTRY

The Intercultural Ministries Department released a video called “How to Start a Hispanic Ministry” in July. You may not be starting a Hispanic ministry in the near future, but this resource has some useful segments that you can use as you celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. Here are a few suggestions:

<https://youtu.be/6mQmkCjsGng>

- ✚ **History** (7:05) – We invite you to listen to the beginnings of the Hispanic ministry in the Central Territory, particularly in the Metro Division. Hear the story of Raul Guerrero (Order of the Founder) as shared by his daughter, retired officer, Major Yaneth Fuqua.
- ✚ **Values** (13:16) – Learn some important values about the Hispanic community including “La Familia,” celebrations and food, and hospitality.
- ✚ **ESL** (30:44) – You may want to think about starting an ESL program. Listen to Carlos G. Moran, former ESL Director as he gives some important insights about how to start an ESL Program.
- ✚ **Immigration** (39:01) – Listen to a part of Dr. Alexia Salvatierra and Dr. Rolando Cuellar’s presentation on immigration at the 2019 ONE Conference.  
Topics include:
  - \*Biblical Principles and Challenges
  - \*Jesus and the refugee and orphan
  - \*Positive aspects of current migration

- \*Fear and carrying the cross
- \*More and more future congregations will be multicultural
- \*The church is the answer

## 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”, or “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 printable resources to use with children, and crafts representing different countries like Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, and Mexico.  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/05/crafts-hispanic-heritage\\_n\\_3875830.html](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 including: How to make paper fiesta flowers; musical crafts; Hispanic heroes trading cards; interactive activities, children’s books, Hispanic inventors and 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 with a 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 conversations about race and culture. <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 multi-ethnic ministries. The video, approximately 30 minutes long, can be used in a variety of program settings. Small group discussion questions and activities are included. The viewing guide is 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 begins 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. Christians find themselves torn between the desire to uphold laws and the call to minister to 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 – OTHER VIDEOS

✚ **“La Deuda” (The Debt)** is a brand-new short film produced by Share Change – the Los Angeles-based multimedia arm of The Salvation Army’s USA Western Territory. Filmed on location in Mexico, the Spanish-language film is loosely based on Jesus’ Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, found in Matthew 18. **La Deuda** premiered in early February, with a screening on the HBO Latino channel in the USA and Bermuda. Subsequently, the film will appear on HBO streaming services, including HBO Max. The film is a coming-of-age tale, following a young boy called Victor in his quest to save the life of his beloved pet goat, Isabel. It includes English subtitles, and a companion Bible study is available for download in both Spanish and English from [salarmy.us/LaDeudaStudy](http://salarmy.us/LaDeudaStudy).

✚ **“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/>