

LABOR SABBATH



What is Labor Sabbath?

Labor Sabbath is the weekend before Labor Day when we celebrate the vital contributions of workers to our community and to stand in solidarity with the struggles of workers. On September 1st, 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 Labor Sabbath important to the faith community?

Too many workers in NC often confront unjust situations such as low wages, unsafe conditions, racism, sexism and other abuses in the workforce. These include fast food workers, farmworkers, hotel industry workers, caregiving workers in homes, hospitals, and nursing homes, associates and clerks in our stores, and many more. All who take care of and provide services for others but then struggle for their own and their families' survival need to be remembered. Loving our neighbors means standing with people on the margins who seek a better life for themselves. Jesus calls us to speak up for those exploited by the powerful and to be thankful for those who bless us with their gifts of labor.



What does scripture say about workers?

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

Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.

Romans 4:4

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

Take Action

During Labor Sabbath Weekend

- Talk about impacted workers during your sermon, Sunday school class, and bible study group.
- Provide resources and educational materials about issues impacting workers.
- Take time to write "Love Letters to Workers" during congregational gatherings- Sunday school class, youth group, children's worship, and others. [Click here](#) for love letters from Just Economics.

After Labor Day

- Honor an outstanding member (or members) of your congregation each Sunday in the month of September.
- Join the [Regional Coalition](#) of Raising Wages NC. Help develop a strategy for outreach to raise wages.
- Continue to discuss issues impacting workers throughout the entire month of September through study groups, Sunday school classes, youth groups, and more.

Learn More

Worship Resources:

[Supporting Workers Lectionary](#)

[Living Wages Lectionary](#)



Council Statements:

[Resolution in Support of Organized Labor](#)

Resources from Organizations:

[Interfaith Worker Justice Labor Day Resources](#)

[A Good-Jobs Agenda for North Carolina by AFLCIO](#)

[Living Wages- Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism](#)

[Just Economics Labor Sabbath 2019 Guide](#)



North Carolina Council of Churches

Strength in Unity, Peace through Justice