

Native American Heritage Month
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Office of Native American Intercultural Congregational Support
November 2022

A self-guided weekly resource for individuals and congregations

**YouTube video presentations can be viewed at your leisure. Please share this information with committees and congregations during November. Self-guided resources about the Indigenous peoples of this land.*

- ❖ **Monday, November 7th: Why a Native American Heritage Month? The Origins of Native American Heritage Month** (4 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fipaCV0w5do>
Young adults help explain the origins and ongoing activities that created Native American Heritage Month.

6 Stories Celebrating Native American History and Culture (12 min.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx14LNK19wc>

From cuisine to code talkers, from art to eagle feathers, this reel celebrates Native American history and culture on Turtle Island, now widely known as the United States.

- ❖ **Monday, November 14th: Indigenous Peoples Day-Movement Toward National Recognition** *The idea to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed at the 1977 UN Conference by Indigenous advocates. Now, more than a dozen states and hundreds of cities have adopted the day. This has been the result of advocacy by local Indigenous organizers since 2009. The movement shifts the focus towards a more accurate representation of history, the resilience, and contributions of Native Americans spanning generations.*

What Indigenous Peoples' Day means to Native Americans (article)

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/10/us/indigenous-peoples-day-native-americans-cec/index.html>

The movement to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day has been decades of struggle. With only a dozen States recognizing it to-date, the struggle goes on.

History vs. Christopher Columbus - Alex Gendler (6 min.) <https://youtu.be/GD3dgiDreGc>

People in the Americas have celebrated the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's voyage for centuries. But was he the heroic explorer who brought two worlds together or a ruthless exploiter who brought slavery, disease and a Doctrine of Discovery to conquer the Indigenous inhabitants of this continent? Did he even discover America at all? In his animated video, Alex Gendler puts Columbus on the stand in History vs. Christopher Columbus. Alex is a freelance writer and editor specializing in political theory, history, and internet culture – subjects.

"We Are Still Here" --- A Documentary on Today's Young Native Americans (8 min.)

<https://youtu.be/HnPKzZzSCIM>

What is the reality of today's Native American youth and young adults? What are the challenges they are facing? How the historical traumas influenced their life? This short documentary touches on these topics and tells the story of the three unique young Native Americans from Minnesota.

❖ **Monday, November 21st** (1 hour live Zoom presentation)

Decolonizing the "First Thanksgiving" Myth

Rev. Irvin Porter

History on North America didn't begin with the Mayflower. Indigenous peoples here weren't frozen in a stone-aged existence until Europeans arrived. They already had a dynamic past, countless generations old that shaped who they were, and what they did including how they responded to the English. They already inhabited a very old world. It was described by the Pilgrims and those who tried to exploit the land before them as being full of villages, roads, cornfields, historical monuments, cemeteries, and forests cleared of underbrush. The Thanksgiving myth always depicts the Indigenous peoples of America as fearful and scared by the invaders but in fact, they were the stronger of the two parties. The Thanksgiving myth played a minor role in this relationship. Far more influential in shaping the alliance between Wampanoag (WAM-PA-NOG) and English were conflicts, stories filled with violence and power politics. The colonists had everything to lose. The Indigenous people did not.

❖ **Monday, November 28th** : Indigenous Peoples' Environmental Concerns

Two Americas: The Navajo Nation water project (5:36 min.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zq1W7p5pdDs>

The largest Indigenous nation in the U.S. has countless citizens without running water in their homes – within one of the richest countries in the world. Dig Deep is doing what the government should be doing. It's even trying to FIX an issue caused by the Feds and private corporations.

People of the Land: (11:42 min.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxY-khXcO4>

Indigenous peoples' relationship with the land shapes who they are and their place in the world. Featuring Cree, Blackfoot, Navajo (Dine) and Nakota people, People of the Land presents a beautiful journey of people and place.

Woodland Cree First Nation - A Vision for the Future (17:38 min.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IVQgNi5cOE>

How one tribe maintains their cultural stewardship of the lands the Creator has entrusted to them through removals and oppression from government and the corporate world.

Partners 15 - Tribal Natural Resources: (26:51 min.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akn8tWBx2uE>

Four tribal colleges and four neighboring land-grant universities began work on the Natural Resource Education project funded by CSREES. This edition of Partners, narrated by Native American N. Scott Momaday, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and national PBS narrator. A modern vision of nature.