

2026 Labor in the Pulpit

The Labor Day holiday is not just a time to celebrate working people and our contributions to our society; it is also a time to remember the struggle working people endured to achieve the many benefits we now enjoy—such as the eight-hour day, overtime pay, pensions, Social Security, restrictions on child labor, unemployment compensation and the right to organize unions. Over the years, the faith community has joined with the labor movement in support of these advances.

Labor Day provides a unique opportunity for the faith community and organized labor to rediscover their common bonds: social justice, democracy, equality, the dignity of all people, economic and racial justice, fair treatment in the workplace, and the right to form unions. It is also a time to reflect on the current condition of working people and reaffirm the commitment of the faith community to worker justice at a very challenging time.

What Is Labor in the Pulpit?

Labor in the Pulpit is a program of the AFL-CIO federated bodies: state federations, central labor councils and area labor federations. The program places union leaders as guest speakers in Christian faith congregations so that they can talk about the common bond labor shares with the faith community in short, five-minute presentations during the Labor Day weekend—**from Sept. 4, 2026 to Sept. 7, 2026**.

The program is also available the weekend before the holiday (**Aug. 28-30**) and the weekend after (**Sept. 11-13**).

The Labor in the Pulpit program provides congregants with a deeper understanding of the relationship between their faith and work, and serves as a concrete step to establish ongoing relationships by AFL-CIO federated bodies with the local faith community.

Labor on the Bimah for Jewish congregations (bimah is a pulpit in a Jewish congregation) and **Labor in the Minbar** for Muslim congregations (minbar is a pulpit in a Muslim congregation) are also available.



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“Since their inception Labor Unions have served as a liberation force for American workers. Labor Unions were established, much like the African Methodist Episcopal Church, to insure that their members received certain immutable rights. The guarantee of safe working conditions, fair pay, health and retirement benefits remain Labor Unions’ lofty agenda....Labor Unions are endeared to our church as they and their legendary leaders showed unwavering support for African American civil and voting rights movements.”

—African Methodist Episcopal Church

“We support workers’ freedom of association, including their rights to organize unions, to engage in collective bargaining, and to protest both unsafe working conditions and unjust employment policies and practices. We also support workers’ right to strike. We reject efforts to permanently replace workers engaged in strikes or to make organized work stoppages illegal.”

—Social Principles of The United Methodist Church

“There is no good society without good unions.”

—Pope Francis

“The Church fully supports the right of workers to form unions or other associations to secure their rights to fair wages and working conditions. This is a specific application of the more general right to associate....No one may deny the right to organize without attacking human dignity itself. Therefore we firmly oppose organized efforts, such as those regrettably seen in this country, to break existing unions or prevent workers from organizing.”

—United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

“The 75th General Convention reaffirms the right of workers in the United States to organize and form unions as a means to securing adequate wages, benefits, and safety conditions and encourage all levels of the church to be informed about, and act accordingly, when rights of workers to associate is being jeopardized....”

—75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church