

Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15-October 15



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](#)

HISPANIC/LATINE HERITAGE MONTH SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15, 2023

By the Rev. Pésida Rivera-Méndez, MDiv

IDEAS TO CELEBRATE FOR 30 DAYS

1. Worship with a Hispanic/Latina church.
2. Invite a Hispanic/Latine congregation to worship with your church.
3. Invite an organization from your community that serves the Hispanic/Latine community and have them share their mission with the congregation.
4. Partner with an organization in your community that is working with the Hispanic/Latine community and ask how the congregation can help them.
5. Host a fiesta potluck day with a Hispanic/Latine theme and food and invite community members to come.
6. Bring a Mariachi band to play in worship or for a special event to celebrate the Hispanic/Latine culture.
7. Read a book about Hispanic/Latine culture and host a conversation about what you have learned or were surprised about the Hispanic/Latine community. *(Some recommendations for books about Hispanic/Latine Culture*

are: “When I Was Puerto Rican” by Esmeralda Santiago or “How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents” by Julia Alvarez; “Solito, a Memoir” by Javier Zamora, and “I am not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter” by Erika L. Sanchez. to mention a few)

8. Incorporate music from Hispanic/Latine composers and writers in your worship during the Hispanic/Latine Heritage Month.
9. Do a fund drive for the month to benefit a Hispanic/Latine community center or for a scholarship for a Hispanic/Latine student.
10. During Sundays in the 30 days of Hispanic/Latine Heritage, pick one or two countries to learn about their history, people, and struggles and have a moment to share in worship.
11. Host an all-church family night to celebrate Hispanic/Latine Heritage. Church families are encouraged to take a country from Central or South America, Mexico, or the Caribbean, bring a brief write-up about the country they chose, and the children can even dress up with the country's colors.
12. Partner with a global mission directly working with a Hispanic/Latine country of origin.
13. Do a midweek movie night. A movie about a Hispanic/Latine family or an issue about the Hispanic/Latine community. (e.g., an immigration story or a story about the border.)
14. Sunday School classes can write pen pal letters to children from Spanish-speaking countries.
15. A Time for Special prayers in worship or throughout the month for those Hispanic/Latine countries struggling to survive against horrific conditions, human civil rights violations, corrupt governments, and other unjust conditions.

These are only a few ideas that I hope will spark some other creative ways for congregations to learn, engage, and celebrate the diversity of the Hispanic/Latine community in our midst. To God be the Glory!