

2013-United Methodist Women Sunday

Theme: THANKFULNESS

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

CONCERNS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CEREMONY OF DRESSING THE WORSHIP CENTER- Women and children bring in colored cloths.

Leader: Indeed, we are in a sacred space. God is here in our midst and in each of us. As we prepare ourselves spiritually for this service, we must leave behind the care, concerns, and distractions of our lives.

Speaker: I am going to leave behind this clock. I place it on the altar as a symbol of my willingness to be in God's time this morning and not be controlled by clock-time.

Speaker: I am willing to leave behind the distractions that come to me on my cell phone. I am going to place it on the altar as symbol of my commitment to concentrate on God.

Speaker: I bring this pile of stuff to the altar. It is a symbol of the stuff that is whirling in my head and distracting me from listening to God.

Speaker: I bring a globe to the altar as a symbol of the world that God has created and is still creating.

Speaker: I bring these flowers (or this plant) to indicate my openness to new ideas, to new insights, and to fresh interpretations of your word.

Speaker: I bring this open Bible knowing that God's message of resurrection and love will guide me.

Leader: Let us pray. Dear God, We are in your hands during this service. Help us all reflect silently on what we are willing to leave behind so that we can truly be in centered on your presence. Amen.

(Adapted from [Resurrection Women](#) (2004).

or

OPENING PRAYER

Dear God, this morning we are thankful for this new day. We are blessed with your presence and we thank you. We thank you for health and healing, for friends and families, for food and shelter, for the beauty of your creation, and the resurrection of Jesus. May our time with you today be holy and re-creative. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn-** TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS United Methodist Hymnal #349

Scripture Reading- Lectionary or Unit/speaker's choice

***Scripture (Gospel) Reading-** Lectionary or Unit/speaker's choice

Liturgist: The Word of god for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN- WHAT GIFT CAN WE BRING? UMH #87

Children's Message- Have each child or a few children bring someone from the congregation to the front of the church. Choose a child or select a child before the service to be a TV reporter. (Have a special cap with 'REPORTER' on it. Have a microphone for the reporter.) The child asks the congregation folks "For what are you thankful?" Then...Have one of the adults ask the children. Close with a brief prayer.

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

***Doxology-CHURCH CHOICE**

Prayer of Dedication- God of Mission, we offer our monetary gifts and our gratitude to you. We humbly ask you to use these gifts and multiply them to your service. Amen.

Hymn- speaker's choice

MESSAGE- (title) (Thankful for UMW mission work throughout the world should be the focus.)

PRAYER-Joy and concerns of the people followed by the **LORD'S PRAYER**

***Sending Forth Hymn-** Unit choice

***Benediction -** Let us pray. **We thank you, Lord, for raising up among us faithful servants for the ministry of United Methodist Women. Clothe them with your righteousness, and grant that we, with them, may glorify you by giving ourselves to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Stand as you are able.**

Additional UMW suggestions and information:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you develop the service.
- Have the PURPOSE displayed or printed on the bulletin cover.
- Share the RESPONSE mission stories with your speaker.
- Share your unit's history...charter date, pictures of your women in action, etc.
- UMW Mission Giving monies are reported in the June RESPONSE magazine and the 2012 Wisconsin Conference UMW Annual Gathering booklet. (Remember... National (The name was changed from Women's Division at the 2012 General Conference.) always budgets from pledge money from the previous year.) Prayers are needed to support UMW missions.
- There are 261 units in Wisconsin. With gratitude for our unit connectional giving, \$392,508.76 was collected in our conference in 2012! Of that, \$81,410.92 was used for Administration and Membership Development of conference and district planning, training, and programming. \$282,519.66 was sent to National toward our pledge of \$340,000 and an additional \$28,578.18 was sent for designated projects..
- Some special Wisconsin projects are Northcott Neighborhood House, Hmong House of Good News, Harbor House, and United Methodist Children's Services. Prayers are needed.
- We pray for our missionaries, Bill and Gwen Gibson in Senegal and Paul Webster in Zambia. Paul has been very ill with malaria and many of the children have also been afflicted.