

United Methodist Women Sunday

What Is Your Mission?

Wisconsin Conference Mission Coordinators

*The purpose of this service is to inspire people to help others through mission.
Please feel free to creatively adapt this service to meet your unit's needs.*

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (IN UNISON)

Loving God, we have gathered here this morning to worship you. Help us to be truly present. Send your Holy Spirit to show us what our mission should be, both as a church and as individuals. Help us to minister to those in need, here and around the world. Inspire us to teach others about you, so that they, too, can be your disciples. We ask all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN:** *Here I Am, Lord* (United Methodist Hymnal 593)

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYER: Include the congregation's joys and concerns followed by the **LORD'S PRAYER**.

SCRIPTURE READING: Lectionary or Unit/Speaker's Choice

SCRIPTURE (GOSPEL) READING: Matthew 25: 34-40 or Lectionary or Unit/Speaker's Choice

LITURGIST: The Word of God for the people of God.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN:** *Change My Heart, O God* (The Faith We Sing 2152)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Tell the children about a woman from the Bible who focused on mission.

One good example is Tabitha who used her gift of sewing to help the poor (Acts 9:36-42).

Another good example is Ruth who took care of her mother-in-law, Naomi (Book of Ruth).

Be creative, and have fun!

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY:** Church preference

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: God of love, we thank you for the many gifts that you have given to us. Please use this monetary gift for your mission. Bless our gifts and multiply them so that we can continue to help others. In your name, we pray. Amen.

UWM PURPOSE: United Methodist Women members stand up and recite the PURPOSE.

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

***HYMN:** Speaker's choice to relate to message

MESSAGE: (Title)

Create a message related to mission, and if possible, related to a United Methodist Women's mission. Some topic suggestions include homelessness, poverty, human trafficking, and Mission studies.

CLOSING LITANY (based on Matthew 25:35-36)

LEADER: For I was hungry

ALL: and we gave you food.

LEADER: I was thirsty

ALL: and we gave you drink.

LEADER: I was a stranger

ALL: and we welcomed you.

LEADER: I was naked

ALL: and we clothed you.

LEADER: I was sick

ALL: and we visited you.

LEADER: I was in prison

ALL: and we came to you.

Words of Assurance (based on Matthew 25:35-40)

Jesus told us that when we do something for the least of our brothers and sisters, we are doing it for Him. God encourages us to reach out to people in need. May you be inspired to find a way to help others. Amen.

***HYMN:** *Here I Am, Lord* (United Methodist Hymnal 593)

***BENEDICTION:** May God inspire you to find your mission. Go forth to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

Additional UMW Information:

In 2014, there were 254 UMW units in Wisconsin and 6,821 members. With gratitude, we contributed \$262,572.85 towards Mission Giving and \$22,366.06 towards Supplementary Gifts.

Some special Wisconsin projects are Northcott Neighborhood House, Harbor House, and United Methodist Children's Services. Prayers are needed.

Here is a message from Laura Pfeffer, Wisconsin UMW President: "It has become clear that there will be serious limits in church apportionment dollars for Wisconsin as our church conference returns to paying 100% of apportionment giving to our wider connection starting in 2017 and into the future. Less money will be available for our Health and Welfare ministries and other ministries traditionally supported through these dollars. This will be especially challenging for those Health and Welfare organizations such as Northcott Neighborhood House, United Methodist Children's Services and Harbor House who primarily serve homeless and low income people in Wisconsin. Having already lost our own Hmong House of Good News ministry due to financial stresses, I pray that we will find significant and sustainable ways of supporting the ministries vital to our mission to reach 'the least of these' in our own state. When we fail to give generously in our first mile giving to Mission Giving, mission suffers. When we fail to go the second mile, connect with, pray for and advocate for the mission projects in our Conference, our mission falters. Rise up 'Mission Mommas' and in whatever creative, supportive ways that you are gifted by God - Make Mission Happen."