



UMCOR SUNDAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



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Note: While UMCOR Sunday is designed to raise money for the general operating costs of the United Methodist Committee on Relief to ensure 100% of all other gifts go directly to projects, this activity teaches children and youth about a specific program area. The project can be introduced on UMCOR Sunday and continue through Lent and the Easter season, depending on what works best with other church activities.

“YOU WILL DRAW WATER WITH JOY FROM THE SPRINGS OF SALVATION.” ISAIAH 12:3, CEB

Water is essential to life, and access to it directly affects the quality of life for every person. Water represents survival and hope, and as United Methodists, we believe access to water is a human right. Consider these two important facts:

- 844 million people lack access to safe water.
- 80% of sickness around the world is related to contaminated water.

In some places, girls are responsible for getting water for a family. Often they must walk a great distance through dangerous areas to bring home water. This may mean they do not have time to go to school.

Having running water in school bathrooms is also important for good health. People need to have a place to go to the bathroom and to wash their hands.

Nearly 300,000 people in 20 countries, including the United States, benefit from UMCOR's help-with projects that provide clean water and sanitation.

EXAMPLE

Show a map and point out Chicique, Mozambique.

For example, Primero de Maio Secondary School in Chicique, Mozambique, has more than 5,000 students. Cyclone Dineo destroyed the school's bathrooms, creating a potential health crisis for the students.

UMCOR partnered with Primero de Maio to build new bathrooms and offered training to children on proper sanitation and hygiene practices.

DISCUSS

How does life change for people in the community when safe water is available?

DISTRIBUTE FAITH AND FACT CARDS

<https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/8>



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ASK

How can we help raise awareness about the importance of water and raise money for UMCOR water programs?"

Consider these ideas:

- **EDUCATE**

Create posters and signs to display in bathrooms and kitchens and above water fountains, sharing clean-water facts and referencing Scripture.

- **SPONSOR A PROJECT**

Cut out water-droplet paper shapes. Distribute them to parishioners with a note explaining that you are raising money for UMCOR water and sanitation

projects. Ask them to write their name on the water droplet. Explain that when they make a donation, their water droplet will be posted on a designated wall in the church.

- **COLLECT SPARE CHANGE**

Place large empty water jugs in well-trafficked areas and ask people to fill the jugs with loose change and dollar bills. Or, invite the children to hold a “noisy offering” during worship, passing pots and pans to receive donations of change to support UMCOR.

Learn more about UMCOR's water and sanitation projects:

<https://www.umcmmission.org/umcor/learn/our-work/water-and-sanitation>

PRAY

Divine Creator, thank you for the miracle of water. Be with all of the people who don't have clean water nearby. Help us to work together until all people have their basic needs met. Thank you for UMCOR and for the work they do to help so many. Bless the gifts that we give so that more people can have clean water. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



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