

SOCIAL COMMUNITY

SOCIAL PRINCIPLES 2020

Worship & Liturgy

Hymns: *The Nurturing Community*
UMH 111 How Can We Name a Love
UMH 560 Help Us Accept Each Other

Other Social Issues
UMH 432 Jesu, Jesu
TFWS 2155 Blest Are They
TFWS 2190 Freedom is Coming

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27
Philippians 2:3-8
1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Sermon Starters:

We are created by God to belong to one another. Diverse communities are visible places where we are free to express our discipleship as living members in the single body of Christ. Because we belong, we engage in acts of mercy and justice as an act of faith in Christ who transforms the Social Community.

Reflect with your congregation: where do you see God's transforming power when we experience belonging? How do we practice the qualities of beloved community? Provide your own illustrations of what it looks like to belong. Consider specific, tragic challenges to the Social Community such as substance abuse, bullying, the sin of systemic racism and tribalism or sexual abuse and assault in light of the Scripture.

Teaching

As a class, write out on an index card the title of several of principles listed in the Other Social Issues section of the Social Community. Each principle amplifies a lived experience. Read a few sentences on each principle and then ask the class, what specifically makes each harmful and to whom; how can we reduce harm to persons and to their communities; what resources do we have now to respond to each principle?



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Advocacy

- **Mental Health:** Commit to implementing the [Caring Congregations pledge](#).
- **Maternal Health:** Support United Methodist grassroots actions that promote maternal health and economic and educational empowerment of girls and women.
- **Substance Abuse:** Urge governments to regulate the sale of tobacco and prohibit the sale of alcohol to youth.
- **Victims of Abuse and Assault:** Create spaces of security and safety for victims of abuse, assault, and harassment in your congregation and community. Hold perpetrators of abuse and harassment accountable through policy and legislation and the [GCSROW #MeToo Toolkit](#).
- **Stop Predatory Gambling:** Remind legislators that gambling preys on our society's most vulnerable. Visit [stoppredatorygambling.org](#) to take action.



Your Response

Share the good news for the **TRANSFORMATION** of the world...

Walk a labyrinth while contemplating the Social Community principles. Visit the [Upper Room](#) to learn more about how to walk the labyrinth. Invite God to expand your circle of compassion for those directly impacted by the Nurturing Community and the Other Social Issues.

Take the [GCORR Implicit Bias online course](#). What are ways you can respond to the “Colonialism, Neocolonialism and the Consequences” and “Racism, Ethnocentrism and Tribalism” principles in your congregation, workplace, and community?

Listen openly to the stories and experiences of people whose lived experience is different than your own. Create safe spaces for young people to talk about their faith journey; places where they are supported to share their suffering and what supported their resilience.



For more information contact:

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