

What does the Bible say?

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. **(1 Corinthians 10:31)**

Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy. **(Ezekiel 16:49)**

Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. **(James 5:1-5)**

And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God. **(Leviticus 23:22)**

'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'**(Matthew 25: 44-45)**



What does The United Methodist Church say?

All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. **(Social Principles, ¶160)**

We support policies that increase access to quality food, particularly for those with the fewest resources. We affirm local, sustainable, and small-scale agriculture opportunities that allow communities to feed themselves. We decry policies that make food inaccessible to the communities where it is grown and the farmworkers involved in its growth. **(Social Principles ¶160.H)**

A prerequisite for meeting the nutritional needs of the world's population is an agricultural system that uses sustainable methods, respects ecosystems, and promotes a livelihood for people that work the land. **(Social Principles ¶162.Q)**

We call upon our churches to do all in their power to speak prophetically to the matters of food supply and the people who grow the food for the world and to develop ministries that build food security in local communities. **(Social Principles ¶163.H)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

What do the facts say?

- Each year, one-third of all food produced globally for human consumption, roughly 1.3 billion tons, is wasted.¹
- Worldwide, agricultural production consumes 70% of accessible freshwater compared to 8% for municipal uses and 22% for other industries.²
- 1 in 9 people – approximately 795 million worldwide - do not have access to sufficient food to live a healthy life.³
- In the United States there are approximately 18,000 community gardens.⁴
- 80 million children aged 5-14 are employed in agriculture – 70% of the world's child laborers.⁵
- In the United States, restaurant workers are twice as likely as the general population to suffer from food insecurity.⁶



1 United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization, 2 World Wildlife Fund, 3 United Nation's World Food Programme, 4 American Community Gardening Association, 5 International Labor Organization, 6 Food Chain Workers Alliance

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

Discuss with your church and conference leadership ideas reduce food waste, support food workers, and reach out to your neighbors by sponsoring a farmer's market or community garden.



Trace the journey of your food from farm to place. Learn more about the communities that provide your daily bread and pray for the many hands that have harvested, processed, packed, transported, prepared, served and sold the food you eat.

Advocate for policies that support healthy and sustainable agriculture, humane treatment of animals, fair wages for workers and access to nutritious food.

Connect with other United Methodists and the church-wide conversation in support of food justice.

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