

What does the Bible say?

God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them. **(Genesis 1:27)**

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will have your welfare. **(Jeremiah 29:7)**

Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. **(Ezekiel 34:4)**

The Lord who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry; sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. **(Psalm 146:7-8)**

I came that you might have life and have it abundantly. **(John 10:10)**



What does the United Methodist Church say?

We affirm health care as a basic human right and vow to work toward expanded access to all forms of medical treatment, including preventative, therapeutic, and palliative care.” **(Social Principles 163.A)**

“Health care as a human right also means that clinics, hospitals, and medical services and treatments must be accessible, affordable, and of good quality. They must also be available when and where they are needed and be provided on an equitable basis. We call on governments, businesses, churches, and civil society institutions to work cooperatively to ensure that every human being has access to medical services and treatment.” **(Social Principles 163.A)**

The United Methodist Church is committed to health care for all in the United States and therefore advocates for a comprehensive health-care delivery system that includes access for all, quality care, and effective management of costs. **(Book of Resolutions #4201 Health Care for All in the United States)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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

HEALTH CARE IN THE UNITED STATES

What do the facts say?

- Over 27.5 million people in the U.S. still lack health insurance. Most uninsured are in low-income working families.¹
- The average family spends \$8,200 (or 11%) of family income per year on health care premiums and out-of-pocket costs for things such as office visit copays, prescription drugs, and surprise or out of plan medical bills.²
- People who don't have health insurance are more likely to forgo preventative care, rely on emergency room for care, be diagnosed in the late stages of a disease, and leave prescriptions unfilled.³
- Among the U.S.'s maternal mortality rates, African-American women are three to four times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than white women.⁴
- In the U.S. the maternal mortality rate is 17.4 deaths per 100,000 live births, which is twice that of France (7.6 deaths per 100,000).⁵



^{1,2,3} Kaiser Family Foundation, ⁴ The Century Foundation, ⁵ The Commonwealth Fund

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- Remind your members of Congress that health care is a right and not a commodity. Our priority for health should reflect our shared values honoring human life. We should work to correct inequity, especially as it affects the poor, the disabled, and other vulnerable populations who cannot afford or do not have access to health care.
- Learn more about federal spending decisions. Visit the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (www.cbpp.org) for the latest analysis of proposed legislation or the National Priorities Project (www.nationalpriorities.org) to see exactly how your tax dollars are being spent.
- Visit the following websites to learn more about health care reform and options for purchasing or signing up for insurance: the Kaiser Family Foundation (www.kff.org) and www.healthcare.gov.



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Updated 2025

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