

HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

What does the Bible say?

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

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

Do not be among winebibbers or among gluttonous eaters of meat; for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe them in rags ... Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger late over wine, those who keep trying mixed wines. Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder. **(Proverbs 23:20-21; 29-32)**



What does The United Methodist Church say?

As God's children and participants in the gift of abundant life, we recognize the need to respond to those who know brokenness from the widespread abuse of alcohol and other drugs in our world. The experience of God's saving grace offers wholeness to each individual. In light of the reality of alcohol and other drug abuse, the church has a responsibility to recognize brokenness. **(The Book of Resolutions, 3042)**

We affirm our long-standing support of abstinence from alcohol as a faithful witness to God's liberating and redeeming love for persons. We support abstinence from the use of any illegal drugs. Since the use of illegal drugs, as well as illegal and problematic use of alcohol, is a major factor in crime, disease, death, and family dysfunction, we support educational programs as well as other prevention strategies encouraging abstinence from illegal drug use and, with regard to those who choose to consume alcoholic beverages, judicious use with deliberate and intentional restraint, with Scripture as a guide. **(Social Principles, ¶162.L)**

"Neither may we gain by hurting our neighbor in his body. Therefore we may not sell anything which tends to impair health."
(John Wesley, Sermon: The Use of Money)



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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

HEALTH AND WHOLENESS



What do the facts say?

- Alcohol is the world's third largest risk factor for disease; it is the leading risk factor in the Western Pacific and the Americas and the second largest in Europe.¹
- An estimated 95,000 people die from alcohol-related deaths annually, making alcohol the third-leading preventable cause of death in the United States.²
- In 2019, 25.8 percent of people ages 18 and older reported that they engaged in binge drinking in the course of one month.³
- Prescription drugs are the drugs most commonly abused by teenagers. 70 percent of teens who use prescription drugs non-medically get pills from their family or friends.⁴

¹World Health Organization, ^{2,3,4}National Institutes of Health

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

Remind your member of Congress and state legislators that alcohol is a leading cause of addiction. Encourage your state to invest in strongly enforcing your state's criminal laws regarding alcohol and to update regulations for alcohol advertising directed at youths to best practices standards (see the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health). Actively discourage members of Congress from taking contributions from the alcohol industry and raise awareness of the prevalence and dangers of drug abuse, including prescription drugs.

Learn more about alcohol and other drugs by visiting the following web sites: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (www.samhsa.gov), the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.org), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (www.drugabuse.gov), and the World Health Organization (www.who.int).

Make a commitment to value health for others and for yourself equally.



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