

CLEAN WATER

What does the Bible say?

And God said “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together God called the Seas. And God saw that it was good. **(Genesis 1:9-10)**

You shall worship the Lord your God, and I will bless your bread and your water. **(Exodus 23:25)**

Water shall flow from [Israel’s] buckets, and his offspring shall have abundant water. **(Numbers 24:7)**

When you drink of clear water, must you foul the rest with your feet? **(Ezekiel 34:18)**

To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. **(Revelation 21:6)**



What does the United Methodist Church say?

We endorse policies and practices designed to ensure access to healthy nourishment and clean drinking water, especially for communities that have been subjected to environmental degradation or deprived of adequate resources to produce or purchase their own food **(Community of All Creation, Stewardship of Creation, C. Food Justice)**.

We oppose policies and practices that relegate marginalized communities to a permanent underclass status and ignore indigenous and other sources of communal wisdom, which call for air, land, and water to be treated with profound respect **(Community of All Creation, Stewardship of Creation, A. Environmental Racism)**.

Water is an integral part of God’s radical expression of God’s love to all humanity. Water cannot be monopolized or privatized. It is to be shared like air, light, and earth. It is God’s elemental provision for the survival of all God’s children on this planet. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #1211, Protection of Water)**

United Methodists Shall affirm, educate, and advocate for clean, accessible, affordable water as a basic human right. It is to be shared and enjoyed by all God’s people; policy cannot favor the rich over the poor when it comes to accessing clean water. **(2020/2024 Book of Resolutions, #1211, Protection of Water)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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

CLEAN WATER

What do the facts say?

- Worldwide, 2.2 billion people lack access to safe and clean water and over 4.2 billion lack access to proper sanitation. Over 2000 children die every day from disease related to lack of clean water and sanitation. (World Water Council)
- Less than half of the populations of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, and Papua New Guinea have access to clean water. Two out of every five people without access to clean water live in Africa. (World Health Organization)
- Contaminated drinking water causes approximately 3 percent of deaths worldwide, it accounts for 6 percent of all deaths in low-income countries. (World Health Organization)
- Water systems in the United States that violated safe drinking water standards for 12 consecutive months are 40 percent more likely to be in predominantly communities of color (NRDC)
- Producing 2 pounds of beef requires over 3400 gallons of water while growing 2 pounds of potatoes requires only 26 gallons of water. (World Water Council)



What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Be mindful** of your personal water usage: turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, take shorter showers and be sure to look for and fix leaks in your home.
- **Save money** and protect creation: use a reusable water bottle rather than one of the 200 billion disposable plastic bottles used each year.
- **Educate** yourself and your church on your local watershed, tracing the source of where you get your water and the health and sustainability of your local watershed.
- **Advocate** for clean water. Tell your elected officials to invest in public infrastructure to ensure clean water is available for all. Support efforts to protect headwaters, rivers, and water bodies from pollution



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