

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?

All creation is the Lord’s and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. **(Social Principles ¶160)**

We believe water is a sacred gift from God. We further believe water is a basic human right and not a commodity to be traded for profit. **(2106 Book of Resolutions, #1033, Caring for Creation: Our Call to Stewardship and Justice)**

Industrial extraction, production, and waste facilities compromise air, land, and water. Because of this, the health and well-being of surrounding communities are compromised. Yet communities who are wronged by extraction, industrial production, and waste are often under assault and militarized security forces often guard the industries from those who protest for just redress. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #1032, “Principles for Just and Sustainable Extraction and Production”)**

The people called United Methodists shall urge all governments to make transparent, community-centered decisions about water use. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #1029, “Protection of Water”)**



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

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



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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