

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)**

Water is an integral part of God’s radical expression of God’s love for 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. **(2016 Book of Resolutions, #1029, “Protection of Water”)**

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, 780 million people lack access to safe and clean water and over 2.5 billion lack access to proper sanitation. Over 1900 children die every day from diseases related to lack of clean water and sanitation.¹
- 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.²
- Average water use (in gallons) per day: U.S.: 100, Europe: 50, Sub-Saharan Africa: 2-5.³
- More than 2400 miles of streams and headwaters have been buried as a result of mountaintop removal coal mining in the Appalachian region of the United States.⁴
- Gallons of water needed to produce one pound of wheat: 25.
Gallons of water needed to produce one pound of beef: 2500.



1 UNICEF, 2 World Health Organization, 3 World Water Council, 4 Earthjustice

What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

Be mindful of your use of water: 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.

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.

Join the environmental justice network to receive tips, resources, and legislative updates at <http://action.umc-gbcs.org/joinnetworks>.



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