

CELEBRATE - United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) Awareness Sunday

Moment for Mission

Christian Love in Action

“Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” 1 John 3:18, NRSV

Were you aware that United Methodist Volunteers in Mission has been engaged in God’s mission serving in short-term mission since 1976, with projects in more than 90 countries around the world?

Did you know that United Methodist Volunteers in Mission serves in the United States as well as internationally? UMVIM works with people in need in more than 30 states.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission seeks to equip volunteers with experiences that allow them to put Christian love into action in places around the world.

The projects volunteers can serve with are as diverse as the number of places there are to serve. Some of the work involves assisting communities with maintaining clean water sources. According to the World Health Organization, 1.8 million people use water from contaminated sources every day.

Other work involves the building of churches in impoverished areas and assisting people who are in desperate need of not only food and clean water, but also the hope of Jesus. Additional projects include working at medical clinics, teaching English, and improving substandard housing in the United States and globally.

Were you aware that no matter your gifts, there is a place for you to put Christian love in action? Perhaps, on United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday, when many volunteers will celebrate and share their stories, you might find a place to serve.

The recommended date to celebrate United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday is Oct. 15, 2017, in conjunction with Laity Sunday. Be sure to recognize all volunteers who support the ministry of the church (Sunday school teachers, mission chairs, treasurers, church secretaries and others). The basic purpose of UMVIM Awareness Sunday is for every local church to honor their volunteers who engage in mission, even if it’s not called UMVIM.

Offertory Prayer

Almighty God, as we present ourselves to you on United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday, we celebrate those who have given their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness as mission volunteers. We thank you for their ministry of demonstrating Christian love in action. May we be as living sacrifices, willing to go where you would send us, using the gifts you have created within us to serve you in this world, putting your love into action. Grant that we would recognize and support this ministry in all the ways we can. Amen.

From Discipleship Ministries: *Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost* — Living God, we are grateful for your faithful care of all that you have created. We are so glad to rely on your steadfast love. Today, we lift up those who are vulnerable, in physical danger, or caught in addiction. Set them free, like a bird released from a trap. Strengthen our church's caring ministries through our gifts and offerings. May we assist others to embrace the new life that you provide through Christ our risen Lord. Amen. (Psalm 124)

Use this section for your Newsletter.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) has been in existence since 1976. The 1980 General Conference affirmed United Methodist Volunteers in Mission "as an authentic form of personal missionary involvement" (*The Book of Discipline*, 2004, Paragraph 1302.14). In 2016, General Conference approved the annual celebration of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Awareness Sunday to recognize all volunteers.

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UMVIM recognizes the important work of putting Christian love into action across the globe. The success and engagement in God's mission, is training, accountability and celebrating our mission journey.