

# HEALING AND JOY

on Our Journey  
to God



Program  
Resource  
2021–2022



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

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# United Methodist Women Purpose

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

## The Vision

Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

## Living the Vision

We provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ and put faith into action.

We are organized for growth, with flexible structures leading to effective witness and action.

We equip women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, workplaces, governments and churches.

We work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems.

We provide educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world.

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## ***Special Program***

### Pledge to Mission Service 2022

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## **Healing Leads to Joyful Sacrificial Giving**

**By Thalia F. Matherson**

#### **OBJECTIVE**

To prayerfully consider increasing our Pledge to Mission, giving of ourselves by stretching to increase our pledge so that United Methodist Women may continue to support women, children and youth.

Whether in favorable or challenging times, the mission of United Methodist Women depends on your commitment to Mission Giving. We want to strengthen the spirit of joyful sacrificial giving by each year increasing our Pledge to Mission offering. This year, as you're deciding the total amount of your pledge to the work of United Methodist Women, consider stretching it by a small, meaningful amount — \$15, \$10, \$5, or whatever additional amount you choose each month—making it possible to continue AND INCREASE our ministry to women, children and youth. Also, remember throughout the year the opportunities you have to support mission through the four channels of Mission Giving.



## PREPARE TO LEAD THE PLEDGE SERVICE

In preparation for the service, review the items below, provided to assist the facilitator/leader to be well prepared for a smooth session. To expedite active participation during the service, we suggest that the facilitator does these preparations ahead of the session. They are specific to whether the session is in-person or virtual. Suggestions for virtual sessions are in italics and listed below the suggestions for in-person sessions.

### Face-to-Face/In-Person Service:

1. Determine if the service will be in person or virtual (or both).
2. Read and reread the service to become familiar with it.
3. Meditate and pray for insight into the scriptures.
4. Rehearse the service for timing.
5. Determine and secure songs and music that will be utilized.
6. Be prepared with computer/laptop and any other required technology.
7. Download PowerPoint presentation, if you decide to use this.
8. Determine the best location for your worship site. The center of the room is an ideal place so that it is accessible to all participants, and all participants will be able to see it.
9. Determine if you will need a microphone and secure these for in-person sessions.
10. Determine if you will need newsprint, markers or an easel.

### Additional Preparations for a Virtual Service:

1. *Obtain recordings and permissions, if needed, of the songs and music that will be utilized (determine if you will use live performers), or music to be streamed. See United Methodist Women's copyright and permissions guide for virtual meetings: [unitedmethodistwomen.org/Media/PDF/VirtualEventsCopyrightsPermissionsGuide.pdf](https://www.umw.org/Media/PDF/VirtualEventsCopyrightsPermissionsGuide.pdf)*
2. *Determine whether you will use Zoom or another virtual platform and make sure that you have a laptop available; practice the platform's option for sharing the screen.*
3. *The best location for the worship center is probably in front of the leader or to the side where it can easily be seen.*
4. *It is suggested that you secure someone to serve as co-host to assist with watching the Chat (unless you decide to disable it), and to admit persons into the meeting from the "waiting room."*
5. *Determine if all participants will be muted or unmuted at specific times for participation/input. See United Methodist Women's general guide hosting virtual events on Zoom: [unitedmethodistwomen.org/Media/PDF/HowToHostVirtualEvent.pdf](https://www.umw.org/Media/PDF/HowToHostVirtualEvent.pdf)*
6. *Inform participants to download Zoom if they do not have the app. Also, provide instruction on how to download and instructions for use. See: [unitedmethodistwomen.org/Media/PDF/HowToHostVirtualEvent.pdf](https://www.umw.org/Media/PDF/HowToHostVirtualEvent.pdf)*



## ITEMS AND MATERIALS NEEDED

### In-Person Service:

1. Bible (various versions, if possible) i.e., NRSV, NIV, CEB, with designated scriptures marked.
2. Copies of *The United Methodist Hymnal*, or copies of the song lyrics that can be recycled after the sessions.
3. Litany can be a handout or e-mailed to participants prior to the session.
4. Pen/pencil, writing paper and/or electronic device to take notes.
5. Pledge Card to be distributed to each participant. They can be completed and placed in a designated container in the worship area. Download the form here: [unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-resources/pledgecards](https://unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-resources/pledgecards)
6. Copies of discussion questions for the Activities.

### Virtual Service:

1. *All song lyrics, litanies, prayers, etc. can be displayed via the virtual platform's shared screen, or e-mailed prior to the service.*
2. *The litany can be shared via screen or e-mailed prior to the service.*
3. *The Pledge can be set up monthly online. Go to [unitedmethodistwomen.org/?form=missiongiving](https://unitedmethodistwomen.org/?form=missiongiving) and click on "Monthly" to make your secure donation.*
4. *Ahead of the service, email the Pledge Card to participants.*

## ROOM ARRANGEMENT

If you are meeting in person, chairs arranged in a circle allows for all participants to be seen by the leader and allows for all participants to see and engage with one another.

## WORSHIP TABLE/AREA

Determine the best location for the worship table/area so that it is visible to all participants. The center of the circle would be accessible to all participants and would allow all participants to see it. Prepare the table with a cloth of your choosing, Bible, cross, battery-operated candle(s), basket or other appropriate container where participants will deposit their Pledge to Mission Card, and any other appropriate items you want to place on the worship table.



## POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

The following items are available in PowerPoint: [unitedmethodistwomen.org/program-resource-healing-joy](https://unitedmethodistwomen.org/program-resource-healing-joy)

- Prayers
- Litany
- Scriptures
- Activity Questions
- Lyrics to Songs

**Virtual:** *The leader will want to e-mail these items to the participants prior to the meeting. The shared-screen option also can be used.*

## GATHERING

### **Soft music may be played as people gather.**

Greetings and welcome to everyone and thank you for joining us at this time for the Pledge to Mission Service. Let me share the goal or objective for our time together for the next hour or so. Let us be aware and keep in mind that this service represents helping women, children and youth live a full and productive life. Our Pledge to Mission ensures that this happens. It really is a time that we decide, individually and privately, the amount that each will pledge to give this year through United Methodist Women to go toward meeting the needs of women, children and youth who do not have the necessities to live a full and productive life.

The specific objective is “To prayerfully consider a sacrificial stretch in order to increase our Pledge to Mission this year, so that whether in favorable or challenging situations, United Methodist Women can continue to reach women, children and youth in the United States and around the world.”

## OPENING PRAYER

Good and Gracious God, thank you for this day and the women who have gathered for the Pledge to Mission Service. We pray that you will be with each of us during this time, and guide us as we share with one another, help each of us to hear you speak to us, and may our words, reflections and decisions be done to your glory and your will. Amen.



## SCRIPTURE

### Luke 6:38 (NIV)

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

## SONG

“Open My Eyes, That I May See,” *The United Methodist Hymnal*, #454

## LITANY

*“My Hope and Faith Is in Your Word”*

**By Thalia F. Matherson**

**Leader:** God of all, you give to us and bless us to be a blessing to others.

**Group:** **Yes, God. We are the keepers of our sisters and brothers. Help us to remember that we are.**

**Leader:** We are blessed with gifts and talents given to us by God; or because of the opportunities and circumstances surrounding us; or just the mystery of it all.

**Group:** **When my sisters and my brothers are without, it is out of love and thankfulness that I give to make a difference.**

**All:** **God and Lord of all, keep us mindful that you have given to us so that we will share and care for those in need.**

***Virtual:** The leader may assign one participant to be unmuted to read the bold print; thereby representing all of the participants who read the bold, but remain muted.*

## ACTIVITY #1 (10–15 MINUTES)

Have participants break into small groups of equal numbers depending on the number in attendance. Each group is to select a notetaker who will share the group’s information with the whole group. Each group will reflect, discuss and answer the questions relative to the scripture assigned to each. If attendance is large, more than one group will be assigned the same scripture. The scriptures to assign are the following:

- Nehemiah 8:10–12
- Mark 5:1–16
- Luke 6:38
- 1 Kings 17:10–16



### **Small Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Does the scripture relate to giving, healing, joy?
2. If the scripture relates to one or more of the above, how does it relate?
3. What is the message that the scripture gives, if any?

**Virtual:** Assign participants to various breakout rooms using the Zoom platform option. Inform participants of the allotted time for the activity. Each group will be alerted with a 2-minute warning prior to being automatically returned to the whole group.

### **Return to the Whole Group:**

The small groups each report to the whole group the information from their group for Activity #1.

### **ACTIVITY #2 (10 MINUTES)**

Break into small groups of equal numbers to discuss the following:

1. What is healing?
2. Are there different kinds of healing? If so, name some.
3. How do you know that you have been healed?
4. What is joy and how do I obtain it?

### **Return to the Whole Group:**

Each group reports/shares results from their Activity #2 small group.

### **SONG**

“Here I Am, Lord,” *The United Methodist Hymnal*, #593

### **PLEDGE TO MISSION COMMITMENT**

Loving God, I give because you have given, and continue to give to me.

I honor God who gave it all to me in order that I may give to others.

I give out of love; I give out of joy and I give because I am healed.

Because God is love, I give to others to show love.

Giving to United Methodist Women allows me to give what I can give—no matter how large or small.

My gift grows when added to other givers; and together all givers are able to meet the needs of those women, children and youth who are in need all over the world.

God, everything that we have comes from you; so, help me to give no matter what the circumstances.



## MEDITATION AND COMPLETION OF PLEDGE CARD

When your Pledge Card is completed, place it in the designated container on the worship table. A basket or other appropriate container may be utilized.

Pause for a moment and reflect on your commitment for mission.

**Virtual:** Go to [unitedmethodistwomen.org/?form=missiongiving](https://unitedmethodistwomen.org/?form=missiongiving) and click on “Monthly” to make your secure donation.

## SONG

“Thank you Lord,” *The United Methodist Hymnal*, #84

## CLOSING PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for this day and the opportunity to participate in a service to commit our financial giving. Our giving through pledges made today will be used in many and varied ways to make lives better for women, children and youth all over the world. Bless us to be able to meet what we have pledged; and Lord, may each dollar be used according to your will.

Thank you for this day and the opportunity to make a commitment to Mission Giving.

**Note:** Additional resources for independent viewing are included in the addendum.

## ADDENDUM

### VIDEO RESOURCES ON GIVING

The following are suggested videos to view that are accessible on the United Methodist Women website that relate to Mission Giving. The link to the channel/site follows my list of suggested viewings:

- Responding to the Challenges of Our Time: [youtu.be/bO6nkEz8bJw](https://youtu.be/bO6nkEz8bJw)
- Celebrating United Methodist Women—150+ Years in Mission: [youtube.com/watch?v=h-WWKMFuG5s](https://youtube.com/watch?v=h-WWKMFuG5s)
- Regional Missionaries: Your Mission Giving: [youtube.com/watch?v=hHcmcBO\\_clg&t=13s](https://youtube.com/watch?v=hHcmcBO_clg&t=13s)
- United Methodist Women at First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa, CA: [youtu.be/nzwqhbBi2y4](https://youtu.be/nzwqhbBi2y4)
- “Gratitude and Giving” by Harriett Olson: [unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/responsively-yours-gratitude-and-giving](https://unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/responsively-yours-gratitude-and-giving)



## SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE ON GIVING

### 2 Corinthians 8:1-12 (NIV)

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.

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***Thalia Fae (Brown) Matherson** is an active member of Warren United Methodist Church where she serves and has served in leadership positions during her years there. She is a former president of the North Texas Conference United Methodist Women, and former director of the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church (currently United Methodist Women National Office) where she served as vice president of the Section of Finance. Thalia was elected delegate to Jurisdictional Conference in 1980, and a General Conference delegate in 1984 through 2004. Over the years she has taught in several Mission u's.*