



Dear UMW Units,

Enclosed in this packet are suggestions of material that may be used for UMW Sunday, 2021. This year we are looking at one of the Mission Focus Issues, "Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline." Because Jesus revealed in the Scriptures His regard and love for women and children, we are suggesting three passages that illustrate that love. The first from Jeremiah is our theme verse for the year.

Jeremiah 31:17 "So there is hope for your children, announces the Lord."

Luke 4:18-19 ".....He has sent me to set free those who are treated badly."

Mark 10:13-16 ". ...Then he took the children in his arms. He placed his hands on them to bless them."

Any or all of these Scriptures may be used as theme verses for the day.

Also attached are samples of worship elements for the Sunday service. The suggestions were submitted by district Spiritual Growth Coordinators and Vice Presidents from throughout the East Ohio Conference, as well as other conference officers. The enclosed materials may be altered or adapted to suit your particular program or the worship style of your church. We encourage you to develop your own programs and share them with us. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or require help in any way.

In Christ's Service through UMW,  
Susan Huston, VP

## CALL TO WORSHIP (SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE)

O Lord, you told us, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Mark 10:14). Send the Holy Spirit to us to help guide both children and youth as they learn and develop their talents and abilities to honor you. Let us instruct them in your teachings and let them always feel your unconditional love. May we be on this journey together forever. Amen.

Submitted by Mary Lou Henneman

## LITANY FOR UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SUNDAY SERVICE 2021

**Leader:** God, we gather this day to celebrate the children among us

**People:** Thank you God for blessing us with the miracle of children.

**Leader:** Help us God to honor our children and to raise them according to your divine goodness.

**People:** Thank you God for acknowledging these children.

**Leader:** As we are called to nurture our children in the Christian faith, we pray for your divine guidance.

**People:** Thank you God, for the children listening to your voice today.

**Leader:** Help us God to be intentional and loving towards all of the children of our community.

**People:** Thank you God and we want to honor you in the way we love our children.

**Leader:** As we hear the call of Jesus to make disciples, help us to reach out to the children in our Congregation, our faith community, our neighborhoods and the world.

**People:** Thank you God for helping us to build a bridge of trust, and a pathway of hope for children to embrace you.

**Leader:** Help us to be good parents, guardians and role models and servants to our children

**People:** Thank you God for creating these beautiful children.

**Leader:** As we celebrate the children, help us to hear the call of Jesus to “Let the little children come to me, do not stop them; for the kingdom of God belongs to them”.

**All:** As we gather today for worship, we pray for children everywhere. As you hold them close to you dear God, protecting them and watching over them, go before us and forgive our mistakes, as we try to follow you by holding them close, having compassion and forming and nurturing them in the faith that they might bear good fruit and become servant leaders modeling the ministry of Jesus Christ. As we gather together with many United Methodist Women today we will listen to the needs of these children, through hope, faith and love in action. Amen

Submitted by Marcia Adamczyk

# Children's Sermon for UMW Sunday 2021

## Working With Youth for a Better Future

Scripture suggestions--

Jeremiah 31:15-17

Genesis 35:18-20

Luke 4:18-19

Mark 10:13-16

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Ephesians 4:32

As we prepared for our United Methodist Women Sunday, children were holding school at home with teachers available by computers. Our church services were also held on computers or outdoors in our cars or lawn chairs. A totally different experience for most of our children. Jesus says to us in Mark 10:13 "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

United Methodist women are all about women and children and making things better.

We could use you to make the world a better place.

Submitted by Roslyn Barnhill

"Be kind to one another and build each other up." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

### Lesson:

Let's start with being kind to one another. It is not kind to push, tease or be mean to others. We can do that by taking turns with our toys and not hurt people's feelings. If someone is mean to you, walk away and ignore the bully and get help from an adult.

Take some time to discuss ways to be kind to each other.

Give each child a coloring page of Ephesians 4:32 as they leave.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians

4:32a



**Be kind and loving to each other.**

## Prayers for Benediction

#1. Most gracious Father we thank thee for the opportunity to come together to praise you for allowing us to share our gifts and ideas for your works as women in mission. We help those locally, we share with others who are far from us, but it is in our hearts. Help us to appreciate and accept each of our gifts and talents; help us to build strong relationships so we can be equipped to face the many challenges women face today, especially United Methodist Women. Keep us in your protection as we end our gatherings and return to our home in peace and safety.

#2. As we leave this place, let us remember these words, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again. Rejoice. Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” Philippians 4: 4-7

Submitted by Ada Norwood

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### POSSIBLE BULLETIN THEMES:

- “Together UMW Can Interrupt the Pipeline”
- “Working with Youth for a Better Future”
- “Justice – Social Action – Education”

#### OTHER RESPONSIVE READINGS: From UM Hymnal

- Page 456 “For Courage to Do Justice”
- Page 607 “Covenant Prayer Wesleyan Tradition”
- Page 858 “Psalm 146”

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR HYMNS

- Page 122 “God of the Sparrow”
- Page 428 “For the Healing of the Nations”
- Page 340 “Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy”
- Page 144 “This Is My Father’s World”
- Page 585 “This Little Light of Mine”
- Page 130 “God Will Take Care of You”
- Page 426 “Behold a Broken World”
- Page 436 “The Voice of God Is Calling”
- Page 593 “Here I Am, Lord”

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR GUEST SPEAKERS OR PROGRAM

- Speakers from probation officers, county children’s services, West Side Community House
- North Coast Children’s Defense Fund, Firelands Children with Disabilities speaker
- Firelands Ottawa County speaker
- Use the push out video from [pushoutfilm.com](http://pushoutfilm.com)