



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Update

October 2025

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It's Harvest Time!

Rev. Ross Reinhiller, Upper Midwest Conference Vice Superintendent

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
Matthew 9:35-38

Traveling through the country this autumn across the Conference, crops are coming off the fields and being stored in granaries and elevators. The size of the equipment is astounding, the trucks and combines amaze me. The number of acres one person can harvest is nothing short of mind boggling. When I was pastoring in my first church I farmed a quarter section and it took me days to plant and harvest. Now a quarter section is planted and harvested in half a morning.

(Continued on next page)

There is one harvest that still takes time, and no amount of equipment or economy of scale will make a difference, that is the harvest of souls. Jesus looked and saw the need and we do too. There is a world harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Every day we meet people without hope and without purpose waiting for someone, anyone, who knows a better way.

This is the season to enter the fields. Pray for those who are in your life that do not know the joy of God's salvation. Write that note, send that email, jot a text letting the ones God placed on your heart know of your love for them and the hope you have in Jesus our Savior.

Take time and tell your faith story over a cup of coffee or a meal. Invite the one that God placed on your heart to receive the Lord's forgiveness and start a new life. We are the answer to Jesus' prayer, the harvest is plentiful and the harvest is great. Enter his fields and the heavens will rejoice! Happy harvesting!



Lord, Have Mercy on Us!

by Rev. Dr. Christina Sung

America is once again shocked, devastated, and in pain by the shootings at a Catholic school, Charlie Kirk, police officers, the deadly stabbing of a Ukrainian refugee, Iryna Zarutska, 23 years old, on a train,

and more cases. It seems America, our culture is broken; so we are broken with feelings of pain, rage, helplessness, and frustration. Lord, have mercy!

Turning to God is the most powerful tool in our arsenal.

1. As I seek God's mercy, I sensed that God was making a couple of His points to me.
2. You shall not murder (5th Commandment)
3. Forgive as you are forgiven and forgive seventy times seven times (Mt 18)
4. Love one another (Jn 13:34)
5. Treat others as you want to be treated (Lk 6:31)
6. Pray (1 Thess. 5:16–18).
7. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says that we must forgive others to be forgiven (Matthew 6:14–15) and that the merciful shall receive mercy (Matthew 5:7). Later, Matthew 18:21–22 tells us to forgive, seventy-seven times. I admit that it is a challenging task. We do not have the power to forgive, or change the world, nor conquer evil with good. So we need God and His mercy and help. Intercession prayer is a God-given, powerful weapon for His people. Therefore, on behalf of the Conference Prayer Team, I invite and encourage everyone and all churches in our conference to join us in praying the following prayers daily in October. The prayer will take one minute. We cannot change the hearts of people or the world, but when we pray, God works.

(See prayer on the following page.....)

(Continued from previous page)

Intercession Prayer for America

Heavenly Father, we come to You with a broken and devastated heart, asking for Your forgiveness, grace, and mercy for me and America for not living as You teach. We pray for comfort, healing, forgiveness, and peace for people who have lost their loved ones in these terrible tragedies. We pray for healing and reconciliation, and respect. May we treat others as we want to be treated. We pray for Your wisdom, blessings, guidance, and power to be upon the aspects of family, religion, education, media, arts and entertainment, business, and government in America. May America turn back to righteousness, peace, and holiness. Jesus, please strengthen us that we may conquer evil with good, compassion, truth, forgiveness, and living as Your light-bearers. Jesus, we enthrone You and proclaim You are the King of Kings and the Lord of the lords. All glory, honor, and power are Yours now and forever, Jesus. Amen.



Women's Ministry in the Upper Midwest

by Becky Heeren, Upper Midwest Conference Coordinator
for Global Methodist Women's Ministries

***"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again:
Rejoice!" - Philippians 4:4 NIV***

We've had some questions about the sewing directions we shared in the September newsletter for the Girls' Empowerment purses to support Blessman International Ministries in South Africa. Here they are again.

See instructions below to get all the directions needed to create a unique crossbody purse:.

Happy sewing!

Fabric Requirements: • Use a sturdy woven fabric such as cotton, denim, or corduroy.

- It should be possible to get 3 bags out of 2, 1-yard pieces of fabric
- Wash, Dry, and Iron before cutting • Exterior/Outside of bag – 11" x 33" (1/3 yard cut selvage to selvage)
- Bag lining – 11" x 32" (1/3 yard cut selvage to selvage)
- Pocket – 7" x 16" (1/4 yard will yield 2 pockets) can be contrasting fabric
- Strap – o 48" of 1" Polypropylene Webbing or o 3" x 42" (or width of fabric not to exceed 48") § If using fabric for strap, it is recommended that you also use an iron on interfacing such as SF101

Pocket – • You can use either the exterior or lining fabric, or a completely different complementary fabric

- Fold the right sides together. Using a 1/4" seam sew around the 3 sides, leaving a small gap at the bottom to turn the pocket right side out.
- After sewing, clip the 4 corners at an angle and turn inside out.
- Press and sew a top-stitch line 1/4" along the folded top.

Body Preparation – • Place the exterior fabric and lining right side together, matching up 2 corners of each. The lining should be 1" shorter on the other short side.

- With all 4 corners together, use a round object to mark a curve. You can use a plate, a large cup, I used a small cake pan. Mark this curve and then cut the curve away. This is now your flap end.

Pocket Placement – • Using the lining piece on the Right side of the fabric. Center your pocket and place top-stitched side of pocket 10" from the edge of the Flap end.

- Stitch the pocket on 3 sides 1/4" from the edge of the pocket.
- Repeat sewing again at 1/8" inch, between the edge and the 1/4" stitching.
- If you have a double needle and want to sew just once around, you can

Body Construction – • Now take the exterior body fabric and the lining, placing right sides together, matching up flap corners. Remember that the lining still should be 1" shorter at this time.

- Using a 1/4" seam, start at the uneven end and sew 3 sides together, leaving the short end opposite the flap end open.
- If you have a serger and want to do this seam with a serger, make sure it is set on 1/4" seam.
- Then carefully clip around the curved edges.
- Turn the bag Right side out and press the seams down. If you finger press or pin the edges, it makes the pressing go quicker.
- To finish the open edge, lay the bag down with lining facing up.
- Fold the raw edge of the exterior down 1/2" or to the raw edge of the lining. Make sure the sides are tucked in to match seam allowances. Press in place
- Then fold again at the edge of the lining fabric. Press in place
- Top-stitch the exterior edge (where the exterior meets the lining) about 1/8" – 1/4", making sure all layers are caught in top-stitch.
- Putting right side of exterior bag together, fold the bottom of the bag (non-curved edge) up 12". This will leave about 7" for the flap.
- Starting at the bottom corner of the bag, stitch a 1/8" seam along one side and around the curved edge and back down the other side.
- Triple tack at bag opening on both sides.
- This will give the bag a "French Seam" style seam with no raw edges showing.
- The 1/8" top-stitch will secure the inside raw edges on the flap.
- Turn the Bag right side out and press.

- **Strap Construction:**

- Option A: o Use 1" Polypropylene Webbing 48" long
Zig-zag both ends to prevent unraveling.
- Option B: o Cut a 3" strip of fabric the length of the fabric.
- Iron the same size strip of interfacing to it.
- Fold right sides together
- Sew together using a 1/4" seam.
- Turn inside out
- Carefully fold both ends into the strap and press.
- Top-stitch on all side of the strap, especially closing the opening ends

Strap placement.

- Measuring 2 – 1/2" on each end of the webbing or sewn strap
- Match this mark with the top-stitching across the bag stitching.
- Center webbing or strap over seam and pin in place.
- Then sew a box around the webbing or strap 1/8" from edge.
- Triple stitch across the top and on the bottom.
- Then sew an "X" in the middle of the box
- Triple tack at end to secure stitching.

Things to keep in mind as you sew the Blessman Crossbody Purse

- Have fun sewing these purses
- Remember, you are creating them for young women in South Africa
- You may embroider or embellish, just make sure the purse is washable
- Make sure your fabric is culturally appropriate
- In Iowa, we call it "Blue Ribbon" quality
- Sew as if you are entering your purse into a judging competition
- Sew as if you are making a gift for your dearest friend
- We ask the teams to include a dark-colored washcloth and 2 pairs of girl-size panties (10, 12, 14, 16) with each purse. These purses will then be filled with a Blessman Girls Empowerment kit made in South Africa. The kit includes: 2 bases, 12 inserts, a small waterproof bag, a bar of soap, directions for kit use, and a cycle tracking card. When your bags are completed, please mail them to Blessman International at: Blessman International Attn: Girls Empowerment Program 2557 106th Street Urbandale, IA 50322

Thanks for the donations you have made to Habitat for Humanity, His Hands Free Clinic, Willis Dady, Student Lunch Funds at Linn-Mar and Marion Independent School Districts, and Marion Methodist Men for a wheelchair ramp accessibility program.

REJOICE! Women's Ministry is on Facebook! Go to Facebook and look up [Rejoice! Women's Ministry – Upper Midwest GMC](#) – it is a private group, so you will need to ask to join. We will review and accept you.

We need all of you to help make this a place to show what God is doing through your women's group. Share announcements and photos of your events. Post discussion topics, your favorite Bible verses or songs, questions about how to improve your women's ministry, etc. Check back often to see what other women are doing around the Conference.

Our goals are to connect and resource Women's Ministries across the Upper Midwest GMC. We are eager to engage with your questions, dreams, hopes, and success stories of women's ministries in your setting. We'd love to hear from you!

Rejoice!
Becky Heeren,
Upper Midwest Conference Coordinator for Global Methodist Women's Ministries
641-751-6024
Rejoice.gmc@gmail.com

"We rejoice in whom God has made us!"

Join Us in Prayer for the 2026 General Conference

Please pray the following prayer points for the 2026 General Conference gathering of the Global Methodist Church:

THOSE ATTENDING THE 2026 GENERAL CONFERENCE who require a visa for entry.

"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." – Deuteronomy 31:8

A SPIRIT OF PRAYER to fall afresh on this move of the Holy Spirit in the Global Methodist Church.



"Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints." – Ephesians 6:18

"WORSHIP THE LORD IN HOLY SPLENDOR; TREMBLE BEFORE HIM, ALL THE EARTH." – Psalm 96:9

Please go to the following address to access the Prayer Guide for General Conference:

https://mcusercontent.com/64124f1d5b1170491dea9f3cf/files/7d191308-696a-5a5f-5715-2e1abb7f2e89/Sept_Oct_General_Conf_Prayer_Guide.pdf



Introducing *Spirit-Filled Methodism*: An Assembly of Bishops Video Series

We are excited to share a **new eight-week teaching series, *Spirit-Filled Methodism***, from the Assembly of Bishops of the Global Methodist Church. The first few lessons have already been posted. You can view the lessons. Go to YouTube and enter "Spirit-filled Methodism" Global Methodist church. [Spirit-Filled Methodism – Lesson 1 – English - YouTube](#)

Each week, you'll hear directly from our bishops as they explore what it means to be a Spirit-filled Methodist — **living, leading, serving, and praying under the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Over the next two months, you can receive one lesson per week in your inbox. . **Share the videos with your church and community** to grow alongside one another and encounter the Holy-Spirit

What You'll Experience in This Series:

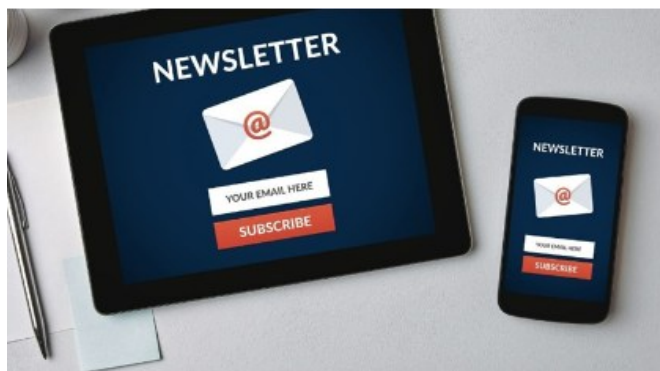
- The biblical call to Spirit-filled living and **holiness**.
- The evidence of the Spirit's presence in **spiritual gifts**.
- How Spirit-led disciples **live, lead, serve, teach, evangelize, and pray**.
- Practical reflection and prayer to help you **grow in faith**.

We invite you to watch, reflect, and share. Let's walk together as Spirit-filled Methodists, empowered to love God and neighbor with freedom and joy.

A Prayer to Begin this New Series

Come, Holy Spirit, and lead us into this journey of renewal. Open our hearts to Your truth, transform us by Your power, and unite us in love and holiness. May this series inspire us to be Spirit-filled people for the sake of the world. Amen.

MORE INFORMATION



Sign up for our Upper Midwest Newsletter

Subscribe at: <https://www.uppermidwestgmc.org/newsletter>



Global Methodist Church

"Across the Globe" Newsletter Subscribe at:
<https://www.globalmethodist.org/connect>



November 6–18, 2025
Mission Trip to South Africa

June 19–21, 2026
Upper Midwest Annual Conference

August 30–September 5, 2026
General Conference, Johannesburg, S Africa

Full Calendar can be viewed at: <https://uppermidwestgmc.churchcenter.com/calendar?>

Upper Midwest Prayer Opportunities



Lovingly walk alongside laity and clergy as they make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly.

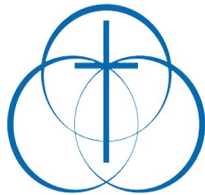
The Upper Midwest Conference Daily Noon Prayer

Can you imagine what would happen in the spiritual realm if we prayed the same prayer together at noon daily?

Scheduled Zoom Prayer Meetings

Please click the button below and let us know that you would like to join and we will send you the link.

Monthly on the 3rd Tuesday



GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH UPPER MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Lovingly walk alongside laity and clergy as they make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly and witness boldly.

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