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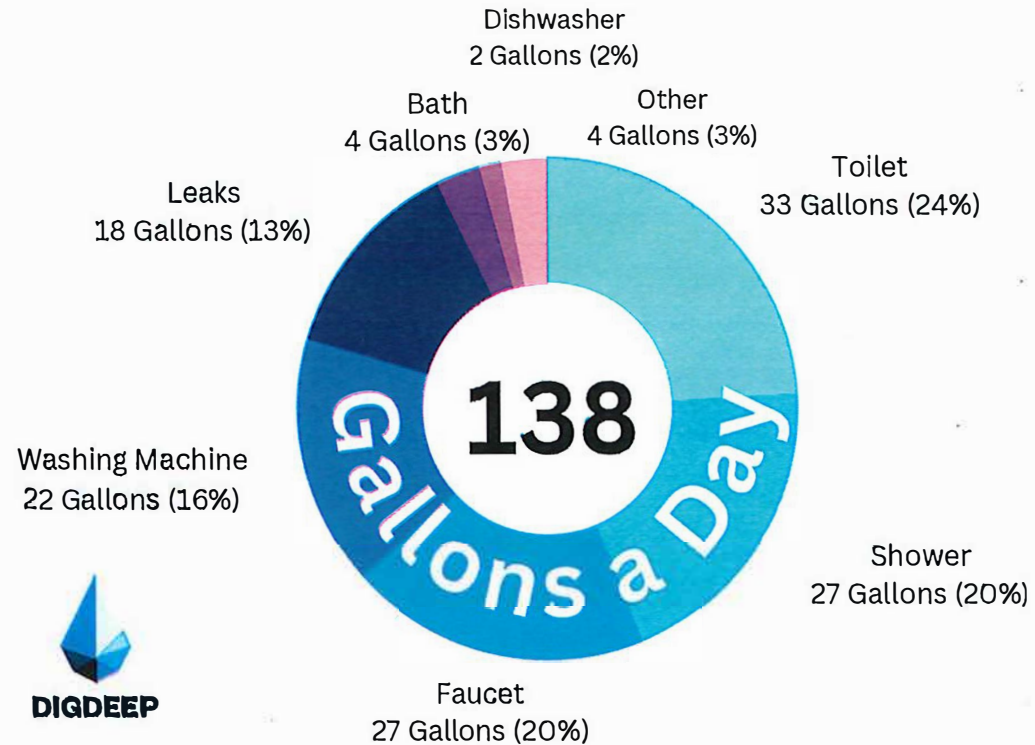
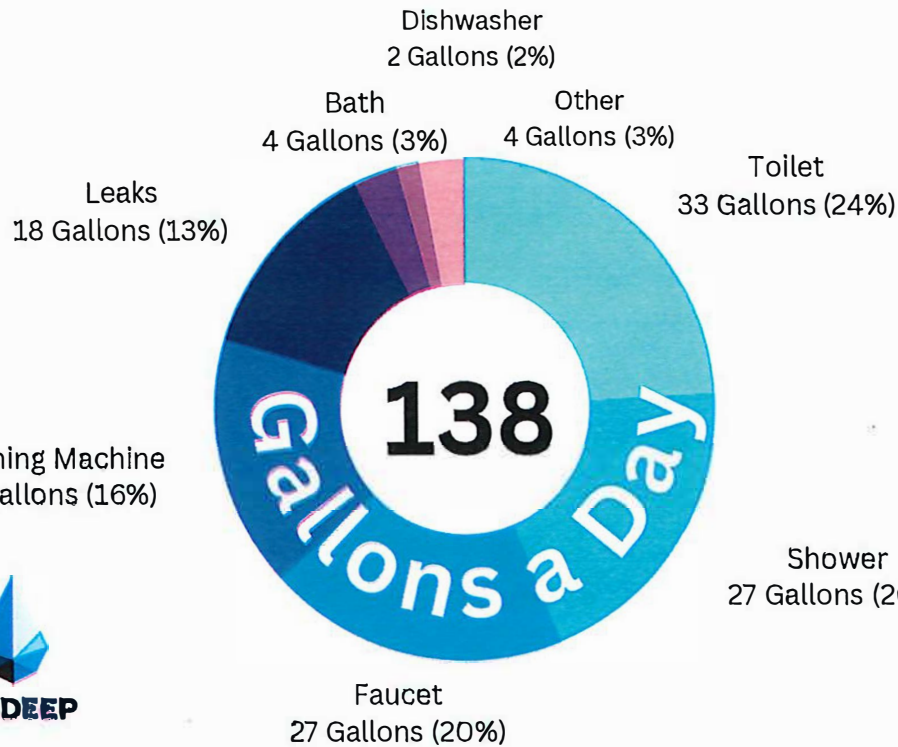


How would YOU carry YOUR Water?

The average household uses 138 Gallons of water a day



How would YOU carry YOUR Water?



Imagine

*Just as water reflects the face,
so one human heart reflects another.*

Proverbs 27:19

Imagine that you are thirsty. You are very thirsty and the only thing that will help is water—clean, cool water. It is only a tap away or a quick stop to purchase a bottle. Simple, right?

Not for everyone. For much of the world, finding clean, safe water is a task that is every day, all year long. There are even communities throughout the bounds of our conference, without clean, safe water, especially in Southern WV.

Water is life.

At the 2022 session of the WV Annual Conference, we passed the West Virginia Clean Water Resolution. We voted to encourage all United Methodists in our conference to learn more about our communities where sustainable potable water systems are needed, to discover more about the partnership between “Dig Deep,” an organization seeking to bring clean water to all communities, and the United Methodists in McDowell County and beyond, and to give generously to the fund established by United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia for bringing clean water systems to rural communities in Southern West Virginia.

We are called to bear one another’s burdens and to hold each other in our hearts through the love and hope of Christ. Imagine water and our hearts reflecting thriving communities where clean water is abundant for all.

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Visit wvumc.org/clean-water-in-southern-district/ to learn more

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WHY IS HELPING PEOPLE OBTAIN CLEAN WATER IMPORTANT FOR US AS A CHURCH?

Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices
Hebrews 13:16

Give to those who ask and don't refuse those who wish to borrow from you.
Matthew 5:42

INSTEAD OF EACH PERSON WATCHING OUT FOR THEIR OWN GOOD, WATCH OUT FOR WHAT IS BETTER FOR OTHERS.

PHILIPPIANS 2:4

For further reasons check our guide book: The Bible

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Justice for All

*But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*

Amos 5:24

On any given day families in some Southern West Virginia communities must engage in creative ways to get clean water for daily needs. Once thriving with coal mines, now closed or abandoned, these communities deal with unsafe well water and ground water, and polluted water from the ever-flowing streams. Some communities have been in a boil water advisory, continuously, for nearly a decade.

Water can be collected in barrels from the rains. Many families spend limited income on bottled water to drink and cook with, not because they want to, but because they must. Spring water that streams out of the sides of hills also provide water, but it is difficult and time-consuming work to get enough water for daily use.

Dig Deep, a nonprofit that works to bring water to Americans without it, calls these situations “water access gaps” and reports that low income, rural communities, and people of color are impacted most. United Methodists in McDowell County, in partnership with Dig Deep are looking for solutions for these communities

These community members, who live without basic clean water are our brothers and sisters, children of God. God longs for all people to flourish, for justice and righteousness to flow over all people, like an ever-flowing stream of clean, safe water, a gift of God that supports all life. These communities need our help.

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WHY?

THE APPALACHIAN WATER PROJECT

A piece of history.

When: A hundred years ago

Where: McDowell County, WV

One of the Wealthiest communities In the nation!

FAST FORWARD



Today:

Many of the folks here don't have access to clean running water.

WHY?

100 year old failing water pipes

Contamination from local mines

The collapse of the economy

DigDeep is bringing clean, running water to hundreds of families right now - some for the first time ever.

Residents guide our efforts; local staff serve their neighbors; and we work in partnership with local government and water utilities, with capacity-building in mind.

DigDeep will bring clean running water to 150 families in 2021.

DIGDEEP



"People think water is just... something. No, it's *everything*. If you don't have it, you're at a total loss."

-Tina, McDowell County Resident

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Hope

*A generous person will be enriched,
and one who gives water will get water.*

Proverbs 11:25

What happens when we begin to look for ways to be generous and offer what we can so that others may flourish? What happens when we look for ways to give water to refresh, restore, and renew life? What happens and what we find is that we are offering hope, embracing hope, and living in the midst of hope, not just ours, but hope for all God's people.

Rev. Brad Davis is one of our United Methodist pastors serving in McDowell County where he sees need, but also sees hope that is deeply connected to faith. Drawing from what United Methodists believe, as stated in our Social Principles, Rev. Davis reminds us and challenges us to remember "all creation is the Lord's, and we (humanity) are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it...God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect. This is our role and responsibility to this home that God has given us as a gift – a gift that must be nurtured and lovingly cared for – respected to the utmost."

When we respond to our faith and the call of God to learn more about what it means for our brothers and sisters to live without access to clean water and look for ways to help, really help, we are offering hope to this world.

How is God calling us to offer hope through giving the gift of water?

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**There is an ancient story
of a hummingbird,
and it is about how
we react to a crisis.**

**Right now,
we face a water
and sanitation crisis.
Do we stand and stare?**

Or, do we act?

‘One day in the forest, a fire broke out. All the animals ran for their lives. They stood at the edge of the blaze, looking at the flames in terror and sadness. Up above their heads, a hummingbird was flying back and forth to the fire, over and over again.

The bigger animals asked the hummingbird what she was doing. “I am flying to the lake to get water to help put out the fire.” The animals laughed at her and said, “You can’t put out this fire!” The hummingbird replied, “I’m doing what I can.”

The hummingbird is helping solve the problem, one drop at a time. She is being the change she wants to see in the world.

You can be a hummingbird, too.

The actions you take, no matter how small, will help solve the water crisis.

World Clean Water Day is March 22nd, how will you respond?

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Partnerships

*...and let the one who believes in me drink.
As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart
shall flow rivers of living water."
John 7:38*

What happens when believers come together to work on ways to help others flourish? Partnerships form!

United Methodists in Southern West Virginia have formed a partnership with Dig Deep, a human rights nonprofit serving the 2.2 million+ Americans without the sinks, bathtubs, or toilets. According to their website at digdeep.org, they have worked with communities to bring hot and cold running water into homes. They also work in research, advocacy, and workforce development all with the goal of closing the "water gap."

Dig Deep reports that there are millions of homes that still do not have running water or a toilet. Families in Central Appalachia are some of the hardest hit. Dig Deep in partnership with United Methodists in McDowell County are working to bring hot and cold running water to homes of many families in McDowell County and beyond.

What happens when partnerships form? Excitement happens. Are you excited to be a part of this project in our communities in Southern West Virginia? How shall rivers of living water flow out of our believer's hearts?

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HOW TO HELP

Look at your Most Recent Water Bill



- Find Number of gallons used
- Consider donating .01 for each gallon of water used. (100 gallons = \$1.00)
- Or consider making any donation because every bit helps!

visit: wvumc.org/clean-water-in-southern-district for more details

**All of the funds collected will be sent to the United Methodist Foundation of West Virginia who is managing a special fund supporting Clean Water in Southern WV. By making a donation you can become part of the solution to bring clean water to our neighbors.

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People of Peace, Agents of Change

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?*

Micah 6:8

When our brothers and sisters are living in situations where they cannot thrive for lack of water, it is time for us to ask God what we can do to help. When we do, it is likely that we will hear the words from Micah 6:8. In any situation, in all situations, what the Lord wants us to do is to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with God. When we make these three ways of life our daily practice, we will find God taking us to places where we can do justice and offer loving kindness and where transformation can happen.

What is just about communities that have no access to clean, safe water? Clean, safe water, good health, and hope are everyone's right.

The partnership of Dig Deep and United Methodists in McDowell County are working with residents. Neighbors are working with neighbors and water utilities and local governments and individuals, and communities to offer the loving kindness of clean, safe water. What a difference this project will make in the lives of families! How exciting this project can be!

How is God calling us to be people of peace and agents of change in all communities? How is God calling us to get excited to help?

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Access to safe, clean water matters to the people called United Methodist!

Global Ministries (UMCOR) believes that access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services is a basic human right and is committed to improving health and wellbeing in underserved and marginalized communities.

In collaboration with both Methodist and ecumenical partners, Global Ministries increases access to clean and safe water; revitalizes sanitation facilities and shares knowledge on sanitation and waste management; and helps to reduce infection from preventable, water-borne diseases by enhancing the quality of care in health facilities.

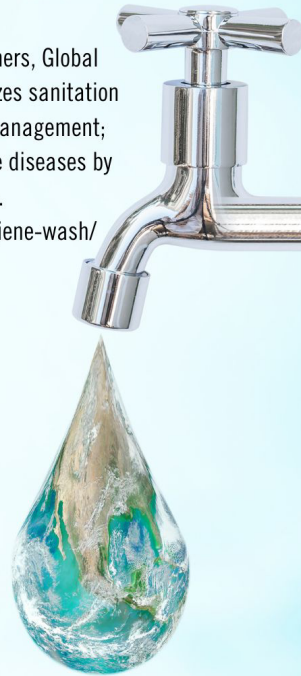
Learn more at: umcmmission.org/water-sanitation-and-hygiene-wash/

General Board of Church and Society: UMCJustice.org

The church has a unique and important role in proclaiming water as a sacred gift from God and working with communities to ensure safe, affordable water is available to all God's children.

As we work to align our own practices with this faithful vision, we continue to advocate for just, sustainable and community-centered policies.

Learn more at: umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/environmental-justice/clean-water



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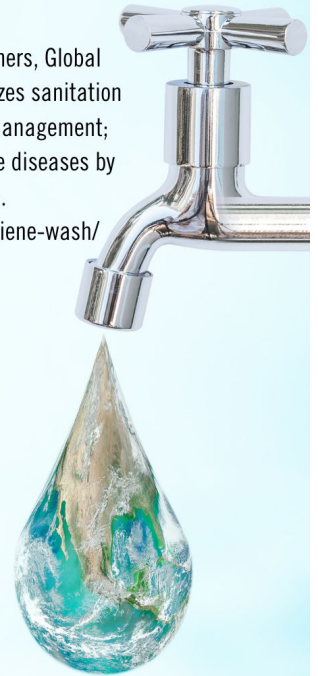
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Transformation

*They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat,
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.*

Revelation 7:16-17

What happens when we begin to consider how God's gift of water offers life to all people? How does life transform when all of God's people have access to safe, clean water?

Clean, safe water leads to better health. Boil water advisories that have been going on for years can be lifted. The burden of providing water for a household will ease. Clean bodies and clean clothes, clean sheets and clean towels can lift the spirits of young and old alike. Clean, safe water can transform whole communities and bring life and hope.

What happens when all of us get involved in bringing clean water to all the communities of our state? We transform too. We are transformed by the deep love that God has for all people. We are transformed by the way God wipes away tears. We are transformed by God's love and compassion, and we find that we have hope and can offer the gift of hope.

How can we offer the gift of God's hope to communities where tears are plentiful and there is yearning for the springs of the safe, clean water of life?

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