

2017 Call to Prayer and Self-Denial: MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

United Methodist Women, and their forebears, organize services based on the needs of women and children which has continued for nearly 150 years. The Call to Prayer offerings from our provocative one-month calendar will enable programs and advocate for the health of mothers and their children worldwide. **Programs may include prenatal and postpartum care, mental health, family planning, cancer screening and access to feminine hygiene products.**

Your sacrificial gifts make a mighty big difference.

One hundred percent of the offerings will directly support health programs next year.

2 MAR.	Prayer of thanks: ALL who helped women/girls find safety and health care from 1896 on	Total:
3	5¢ for each niece you have <i>check this out on youtube: Keeping Girls in School</i>	
4	5¢ for each sister/brother 10¢ if no sisters <i>explore> www.daysforgirls.org/</i>	
5 Sun	Pray for the protection and safety of every child {remember those close to you}	
6	5¢ if you've read about ways to lower infant mortality rates {in USA or far away}	
7	10¢ if you've donated to programs that improve the health of women/children	
8	5¢ if you've known a child who needed "protection" 10¢ if not	
9	5¢ if you know where our Swansboro Women sent 100+ homemade dresses & shorts	
10	5¢ if you can name 3 countries where United Methodist Women have programs [#] 10¢ if not	
11	5¢ I am glad that In Nicaragua, UMW's "Accion Medica Cristiana" trains midwives & provides supplies to maternal health houses, where women can find safer birthing conditions than at home.	
12Sun	Pray for women's ministries who work with victims of violence-near & far ¹	
13	5¢ for each female in your family	
14	10¢ if you've been blessed by good female health care	
15	5¢ if you know that the UMW library includes books that support teens and their concerns	
16	5¢ if you have helped someone get health care 10¢ if you've never had opportunity	
17	<i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 5¢ If you knew he was captured by pirates & a slave from age14-20.10¢ if not	
18	Pray that I can advocate for equality in law & education for women and girls	
19Sun	5¢ for every female medical MD/NP/PA you've ever gone to	
20	1 st day of SPRING 5¢ if I know a woman who struggled with basic prenatal care, 10¢ if not	
21	5¢ if you're glad birth control is easy to get in the USA 10¢ if Not	
22	5¢ if you know our UMW Prayer Calendar tells of UMW programs all over the USA & world	
23	18¢ Birthday of 'United Methodist Women'1869 www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund	
24	5¢ If you can name 3 environmental hazards to women/children's health 10¢ if not	
25	Pray for all who work to help women and girls have a safer/healthier life	
26Sun	10¢ if sad about>If 90 school buses filled with kindergartners were to crash every day, with no survivors, the world would take notice. But this is precisely what happens every single day because of poor water, sanitation ² and hygiene." 5¢ if shocked by that information	
27	10¢ Surprised to know: "Except CA, the rest of the USA saw a nearly 27 percent increase in maternal deaths since 2000. ³	
28	5¢ I am glad we advocate for equal access for women and children to health care 10¢ if not	
Prayers for Maternal-Child Health. Your sacrifice <i>Makes a Difference</i> in more lives because we are a connectional church – we do more working together. Now-Finish up: Add up your calendar. Bring an envelope labeled "Women", your name inside, and self-denial gift of cash/check (No Coins PLEASE) to church/your circle or place it in UMW mailbox/church offering plate. Checks to SUMW :memo: Call to Prayer		Add up¢

A Closing Prayer: O God, the giver of life for all. We come to you with a fresh understanding of women and children who are suffering because of lack of support for their health and well-being. There are some who are denied health care; there are others who are far away from help. But we know that no one is outside your reach for an abundant life and wholeness. Thank you for challenging us and giving us the opportunity to participate in your work in the world. May our offering, given sacrificially in your name, bring health to mothers and children around the globe. We pray in Christ's name. *Add your specific prayer needs here:*

Amen . Donna Akuamaoh ,United Methodist Women's international ministry executive for maternal and child health. # Haiti, Bolivia, St Petersburg, Russia, Nicaragua{prevent cervical cancer}, Costa Rica, China, Philippines, India [out of 100 countries]

*^{1,2}From books in UMW library: AWAKE N.Yeatts,pg.92 and Half the Sky ^{2,3}: UMW Action Alert 12.2016

A Days for Girls story...while hard to read it's relevant to needs expressed by RN Linda Mitchell 2.22.17:

by D.r. Joachim Osur from Daily Nation, January 3, 2014. used with permission. *Edited for space*



I had gone back to my Kenya village to take a break from city life. My neighbors learned I was around so came for medical advice. A girl was brought in on a homemade stretcher. She had severe pain in her genital area and couldn't walk. I took her and her mother to a private room and examined her. "My daughter likes school," the mother started. "Unfortunately, she has to miss classes each month for up to four days when she has her monthly periods." The only solution was to have the girl stay home until bleeding was over. "I use soil or cow dung to clean off the blood," the girl explained. "It's hard doing this at school and so I just stay home until the bleeding is over." This time round, she was worried because examinations were coming in a few days and was afraid to miss them. *Her friends advised her* to use hot ash to dry off the blood faster. She collected hot ash from the jiko, lay on her back and poured it all over her vaginal area. The area swelled immediately. It had been two days since and it was getting worse. "I think the mistake I made was to use very hot ash. I will be more careful next time."

"**There are organizations** that give pads to school girls, have they not reached your school?" I asked. Her mother looked me straight in the eye, a tear dropping down her cheek. ..Something had pierced her heart. "They gave her a pack of pads three months ago, but she has no panty so can't use them." Oops! I always assumed that most girls could afford panties but not sanitary pads. So here we were. The affected area needed cleaning then a painkiller and antibiotics. The girl could not walk and it was important to go to a hospital for good care. Her mother was a poor widow. The hospital was 50+ kilometers away. Even if she reached there, she would be required to pay before treatment....

A missing link? There is gender parity in Kenya but what about this situation? Was it the small things in life, such as lack of panties and pads, which really determined if a girl spent time in school, concentrated on her studies and competed equally with boys? Boys were preparing for exams. This girl was suffering the consequences of being female. I offered to drive her to hospital. "Will you kindly bring her back?" requested her mother. "I cannot afford her transport back.." The girl spent two weeks in the hospital. Her wound needed frequent cleaning.... She was put on intravenous antibiotics and painkillers. As promised, I took her home. "Thank you for the help, sir, I will not repeat the mistake," she said. ...

As I paid her hospital bill, **I wondered if this was the beginning** rather than the end of this girl's problems. Because of natural physiological makeup and processes, girls require special attention yet communities do not seem to realize this. This puts them at a permanent disadvantage in life. I bought her a set of panties. I had the nurse demonstrate how to use them. How I wished that affirmative action would start at primary school to ensure equal opportunities for girls and boys. "**Keep all the these girls & those who help them in prayers.**"