

Mission Throughout the Year

While not exhaustive, this outline will provide suggested connections between the church year, special holidays, all-church offerings and mission.

Fall

Start of School

- Church World Service school kits¹
- Child Sponsorship²
- Correspond with missionaries who are teachers³
- Check with your public schools to see if there is a program for providing extra supplies or doing tutoring

World Communion Sunday

- Bake/use breads from other parts of the world.⁴
- Use prayers or litanies, hymns from other parts of the world⁴

Neighbors in Need Offering (promotion materials sent automatically to churches)

- Contribute to food pantry
- Work at soup kitchen
- Look into Interfaith Hospitality Network (housing for homeless families)
- Participate in Bread for the World letter campaign⁵

Stewardship Campaign

Create displays and make presentations about the mission efforts of the church, including Our Church's Wider Mission

Thanksgiving—As we give thanks, how do we give back?

- Contribute to food pantry
- Begin exploration of work trip for next summer⁶
- Encourage Volunteer Service⁷

Advent

- As part of Advent Workshop make Layettes for CWS¹
- Offer Alternative Gift ideas (Global Ministries⁸, Heifer Project⁹, Conference gift)

Winter

Christmas Offering--Special assistance for those who have served the church (promotion materials sent automatically to churches)

- Carol shut-ins
- Contact local service agency for ways to provide gifts for needy families or children

Epiphany (Visit of the Magi and Flight into Egypt)

- Consider what gifts we bring to the community and the world
- Adults--Begin study of plight of refugees today¹⁰
- Youth use "The Uprooted Game" for a class session¹¹
- Church School—use "Lodu's Escape"¹²

Do CWS School or health kits (used by refugees)¹
 Consider sponsoring a refugee¹³

Lent

Begin a mission study series¹⁴
 Join in a Habitat for Humanity house building
 Youth Retreat—use “A Day in the Life”¹⁵ and “Making the Connection” video¹⁶

One Great Hour of Sharing (promotion materials sent automatically to churches)

Begin planning promotion in January by reviewing promotion materials. Set a goal.
 Order necessary items (offering boxes, special resources)
 Check for special resources on UCC website.
 Plan special OGHS mission moment and bulletin board
 Plan time to show OGHS video¹⁷
 Have youth check UCC website for disaster response information and report to congregation.
 Invite a missionary, Wider Church Ministries Board member or staff member to preach during promotion period.

Spring

Earth Day

Plan liturgy using environmental awareness as theme¹⁸
 Create special bulletin board with tips for recycling

Festival of the Christian Home/Mother’s Day

Prepare CWS layettes¹
 Use prayer from first Mother’s Day to expand thinking about mothers and peace
 Contribute to Battered Women’s Shelter

Memorial Day

Fund de-mining a village through United Nations Association¹⁹

Pentecost—Birth of the Church

Develop a relationship with a missionary²⁰
 Encourage Conference Global Mission Partner²¹
 Encourage Conference to host a missionary visit and invite missionary to your church²²

Strengthen the Church Offering (promotion materials sent automatically to churches)

Summer

Incorporate mission into Vacation Church School²³
 Adults and/or youth engage in work trip (in U.S. or international)⁵
 Engage in volunteer service locally or through WCM Volunteer Ministries⁶

Throughout the Year

Check out UCC and Global Ministries web sites—www.ucc.org and www.globalministries.org

Read “In Mission, A Calendar of Prayer for the UCC”—sent to all churches

Read “Global Ministries News”—sent to all churches

Read “United Church News”—sent to all members who wish to receive it

Phone: 1-800-363-0575; by internet:
www.ucc.org/ucnews

Create and refresh bulletin board dedicated to mission

Encourage use of monthly mission stories from Global Ministries in Sunday bulletin or church newsletter, or on bulletin board

Resources are available from United Church of Christ Resources (1-800-537-3394) unless otherwise noted.

¹Church World Service *Gifts of the Heart* describes how to create health kit, layettes and school kits

²If You Have Hugs to Share--Child Sponsorship Brochure

³*In Mission, A Calendar of Prayer for the UCC*—daily stories and Sunday vignettes of mission across the breath of the UCC, global and local; Mission Personnel Direction—sent to each church

⁴Breads Around the World—hunger facts, worship aids, bread recipes (India, China, Chile, Africa, Caribbean, Middle East) Wider Church Ministries Mission Education Office

⁵Bread for the World, 50 F Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20001; www.bread.org

⁶People-to-People Pilgrimage Program

⁷Engaging in Meaningful Service—Volunteer Ministries brochure lists other helpful resources

⁸Global Christmas 2002 describes giving gifts for specific areas of work through Global Ministries

⁹Heifer Project International, P.O. Box 8058, Little Rock, AR 72203; www.heifer.org

¹⁰Friendship Press mission study, “Refugees and Forced Migrants”

¹¹The Uprooted Game, helps older elementary and middle school students understand some of the realities faced by refugees

¹²Friendship Press Africa mission study for children, “Lodu’s Escape and other stories from Africa?”

¹³Welcoming Uprooted People brochure describes Refugee Resettlement Ministry

¹⁴Brochures describing recent global mission theme resources: Vietnam, Mexico, Cuba, Indonesia, Brazil (coming soon Sudan, following year India)

¹⁵*A Day in the Life* is a four-session youth resource which makes connections between U.S. youth and those in other parts of the world.

¹⁶*Get Connected* is a video which can be used with *A Day in the Life* or by itself, filmed at the Heifer Project ranch in Arkansas, teaches global realities

¹⁷*The Call to Share*, One Great Hour of Sharing video for 2002, includes leader’s guide

¹⁸Contact Eco-Justice Working Group, National Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115

¹⁹Adopt-a-Minefield, contact United Nations Association USA, 801 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017

²⁰Missionary Relationship brochure describes how to establish a relationship with a missionary through Global Ministries.

²¹Global Mission Partners brochure describe partnership between a UCC Conference or Disciples Region and a missionary

²²How to Host a Missionary brochure

²³*Build A Better World, Activities for Children* from Church World Service