

Over this Labor Day weekend, Arise Chicago invites you to reflect on what our faith teaches about the sacred worth of all who work. From John Wesley, to UMC Bishop Jesse DeWitt, to Bishop Sally Dyck, The United Methodist Church has long embodied the Gospel and faithfully lives out our United Methodist roots to stand up for justice in the workplace. But, as we know, the income gap between the wealthiest and poorest among us continues to grow, resulting in many hard-working families living below the poverty line. That is why, this weekend, in partnership with the Chicago Federation of Labor, Arise Chicago has speakers in over 100 services, lifting up the sacred link between work and faith.

Founded in 1991 by Bishop Jesse DeWitt and a Rabbi and Monsignor, Arise Chicago partners with low-wage immigrant workers to end poverty and exploitation. Arise unites faith communities with workers to allow people of faith the opportunity to live out our baptismal vows in tangible ways as we partner with low-wage immigrant workers.

Paralleling John Wesley's concern for the coal miners on the margins of society and in response to the recent attacks on immigrants, Arise Chicago developed a Tool Kit and online videos (16,000 views in just one week!) to keep families together and thriving in their workplaces. Go to www.arisechicago.org for more info.

As a part of our Labor Day reflection, let us turn away from the idolatry of wealth that can fool us into believing that we are self-sufficient and instead, embrace the truth that we are all connected to each other. We cannot live in a world without car mechanics, shoe salespersons, teachers, hotel workers, grocery store clerks, nurses, etc. Arise invites you to honor the dignity of workers that you encounter in your daily interactions and reflect on how each of us, through our work, contribute to the common good of humanity. Our interconnectedness gives us a lot to celebrate together! Happy Labor Day!

-Rev. C.J. Hawking
Elder, Northern Illinois Conference, and
Executive Director of Arise Chicago