

LOVE & SERVE

2026 Mission Guide



“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” – Micah 6:8

Dear Mission Leaders,

As United Methodists, we believe that God’s love for the world is not passive but an active, engaged love—a love that seeks justice and freedom for all people. This year, we invite you to reflect on the intentional time you will set aside to live into this by loving and serving in communities near or far. Some of you may feel called to deepen your commitment to transformative local ministries, while others may feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to step into new places and serve with people who will open your eyes to the powerful ways God is working in their communities.

The Love and Serve Mission Guide offers opportunities to serve in various ministries, including in New York, Disaster Recovery, Youth Missions, Camp and Retreat Ministries, and other places in the world. While this guide provides a starting point, it is by no means exhaustive, and we encourage you to use it as a conversation starter within your church community to discern where God is calling you to love and serve this year.

I pray that this guide will inspire and equip you to compassionately serve in new ways. We look forward to hearing the stories of how you witnessed God in your service.

Please reach out if I can help you plan how you will love and serve this year.

Together in community,

Kristina Clark

Associate Director of Missional Excellence
VIM Coordinator
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LOVE & SERVE

in New York



Operation: Home Repair

Dates: Summer 2026

Contact: cobyumc107@gmail.com

Be part of this United Methodist collaborative mission that addresses critical housing repairs in Schoharie County. Opportunities for all abilities!

Schoharie County



Salt of the Earth Youth Missions

Dates: July 30 – August 2nd

Cost: \$100 / youth \$75/ adult

Contact: salttoearthmissions@gmail.com

Serve together with youth across the state.
Organized by Conference Council on Youth Ministries

Buffalo



Camp and Retreat Ministries

Dates: Summer 2026

Contact: crm@unyumc.org

There are numerous ways to serve at camp this summer including in the kitchen, crafts, counseling, or as a chaplain!

Various Sites

LOVE & SERVE

in Disaster Recovery



Disaster Recovery sites are funded by UMCOR and the program is managed by the Annual Conference. You can find more Disaster Recovery sites on the UMVIM website or by contacting disasterresponse@unyumc.



Hurricane Helene Recovery

Conference: Western North Carolina

Contact: disaster@nccumc.org

North Carolina



Central Texas Flood Recovery

Conference: Rio Texas

Contact: ldavis@riotexas.org

Texas



Hurricane Ida Flood Recovery

Conference: Eastern Pennsylvania

Contact: dshelton@epagnj.org

Pennsylvania



LOVE & SERVE

in Youth Missions



U.M. Army

Week-long mission opportunities for youth and adult leaders.



There are three weeks that are hosted in the northeast.

Various Locations



Salt of the Earth Youth Missions

Dates: July 30 – August 2nd

Cost: \$100 / youth \$75/ adult

Contact: salttoearthmissions@gmail.com

Serve together with youth across the state. Organized by Conference Council on Youth Ministries

Buffalo



Appalachia Service Project

Appalachia Service Project is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia.



Various Sites

LOVE & SERVE

in the World



Border Education Program

Contact: scottwmorris47@gmail.com



Learn and connect with organizations in Arizona who are on the frontlines advocating for justice for immigrants.

Arizona



Good Works Retreats

Contact: email@good-works.net



Good Works hosts 200–300 people for Summer Service work retreats, offering hands-on volunteer experiences across multiple ministries, and housing participants at The Hannah House.

Ohio



Costa Rica Mission Projects

Costa Rica Mission Projects is a support ministry for the Methodist Church of Costa Rica. They are dedicated to building long lasting relationships between Christian brothers and sisters from the US and Costa Rica



Costa Rica

LOVE & SERVE

in your Community



At the center of all mission is bringing God's love to our communities! If you are looking for new mission ideas to try this summer, be intentional about your relationship building and hospitality.

Here are a few summer mission opportunities you can try this summer :

Community Swap

Host a one day, free, swap of specific items. This can be children's toys, puzzles, seeds, clothing, sports equipment - or really, anything!

Farmers Market Table

Buy a summer slot at your community farmers market. Churches have used this opportunity to create relationships in the community, provide activities for children, or bring their ongoing mission into the community (free diapers, food, laundry packets, pet food)

Sponsor Free Laundry

Connect with your community laundromat to sponsor a night of free laundry. Collect coins and laundry pods in church the month beforehand. Connect with the laundromat to see how you can turn the laundromat into a hospitable space for that night with conversation, activities for children, or music.

Build a Ramp

If your church has a few people who have the gift of construction, connect with local organizations, like Office for the Aging, to see if they have any families needing a ramp. Many times there are long lists for ramps and not enough resources to supply them all.

Free Haircuts

Partner with a local hairdresser to sponsor free haircuts in the park. This is especially great for back to school. For extra fun, add in activities or other resources from community organizations. Make it a goal to bring the energy and fun of a block party!

If you have questions or would like to discuss these opportunities, email
kristinaclark@unyumc.org

10 STEPS TO PLANNING A MISSION JOURNEY

Contact Potential Host: Ask questions about the application process, cost, work, housing, meals and transportation.
You can find additional host sites at umvim.org/projects

Host an Informational and Interest Meeting

Create a Budget

Include Your Church: Include members of your church who will not be going on the mission journey but can help fundraise or pray for your team both before and during your journey.

Educate Your Team: Contact Kristina Clark (kristinaclark@unyumc.org) for a Team Leader Training and additional resources.

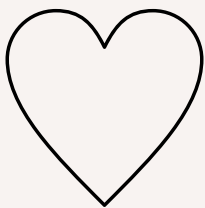
Confirm Travel Arrangements

Team Members Fill Out Forms: Find sample forms at umvim.org/team-toolkit

Purchase Insurance and/or Register Team at umvim.org/insurance

Plan a Commissioning Service at Your Church

Serve and Love



View a complete guide at
umvim.org/umvimresources