



United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries

[Image Description: United Methodist Committee on Deaf & Hard of Hearing Ministries and its logo]

Monthly E-News - SEPTEMBER 2019

ADVOCACY: Deaf Awareness Week is in September

The last week of September is Deaf Awareness Week (Monday - Sunday). It is the week of raising awareness, sensitizing both our faith community and wider community, promoting deaf issues, and sharing Deaf culture. Deaf ministries, hearing churches, and organizations are encouraged to observe Deaf Awareness Week.

Church Events

Church events to consider hosting are

- Hearing screenings
- ASL Day Event (or a half day, even hosting a small event after worship)
- Exhibit booth that highlights [Deaf culture](#), Deaf celebrities, and [Deaf history](#)

Worship

Following the [Deaf Awareness Sunday guide](#) can be helpful when planning Deaf Awareness Sunday. Additional worship ideas include:

- Teaching the sign language version of [The Lord's Prayer](#) in worship
- Invite hard of hearing &/or late-deafened people to be ushers and greeters
- Preach on an accessibility / inclusion text (e.g. Mark 7:31-37 can be interpreted as Jesus said *Ephphatha* "Be Opened," but Jesus could be telling the crowd to be open to Deaf and hard of hearing people)

Advocacy

Other advocacy considerations include:

- Include a [bulletin insert](#)
- Publish a Deaf-related article in the church newsletter
- Offer large print bulletins for Deafblind persons (consider those who have some residual vision)

Churches can consider combining observances such as Deaf Awareness Week and National Recovery Month (highlighting Deaf people in recovery). For further ideas, check out the book [Deaf Ministry, 3rd Ed](#) (2019). This September, take the time to observe Deaf Awareness Week. Share any pictures and/or events with Rev. Leo Yates at leoyjr@gmail.com.



[Image Description: A gold colored leaf with the words "Deaf Awareness Week"]

Deaf Ministry Spotlight



[Image Description: a spotlight shining on the word SPOTLIGHT.]

This month's *ministry spotlight* is [Bradley United Methodist Church](#), a Deaf ministry in Greenfield, IN. The American Sign Language Ministry, the name of their ministry, provides an accessible worship service. The church is committed to making interpreters available during worship and at other events (upon request) by contacting the church office. Also, the church also promotes accessibility for persons with disabilities (differing abilities). In addition, the church collaborates with the ASL program and Interpreting Education Program at Vincennes University.



[Image Description: An image of the church with the church sign "Bradley UMC."]

* Highlight your Deaf ministry with us by emailing Rev. Yates at leoyjr@gmail.com.

Deaf Ministry Best Practice

This edition's Deaf ministry best practice is ***promoting the ministry throughout the annual conference and surrounding community***. Sometimes, Christmas is the church's best kept secret. Instead of keeping the ministry to ourselves, churches should be promoting the ministry to the District Superintendent, the annual conference, and the surrounding community. For instance, if your church offers an interpreting ministry where it has a sign language interpreter or offers periodic sign language classes, these can be promoted at a nearby senior center; Ear, Nose & Throat doctor's office; pediatrician offices (for parent and child classes); a hearing aid center; and an audiology office. Keep the promotion materials fresh, including contact information. Don't forget to disseminate the Deaf ministry coordinator or pastor's business cards. Be sure to promote the ministry

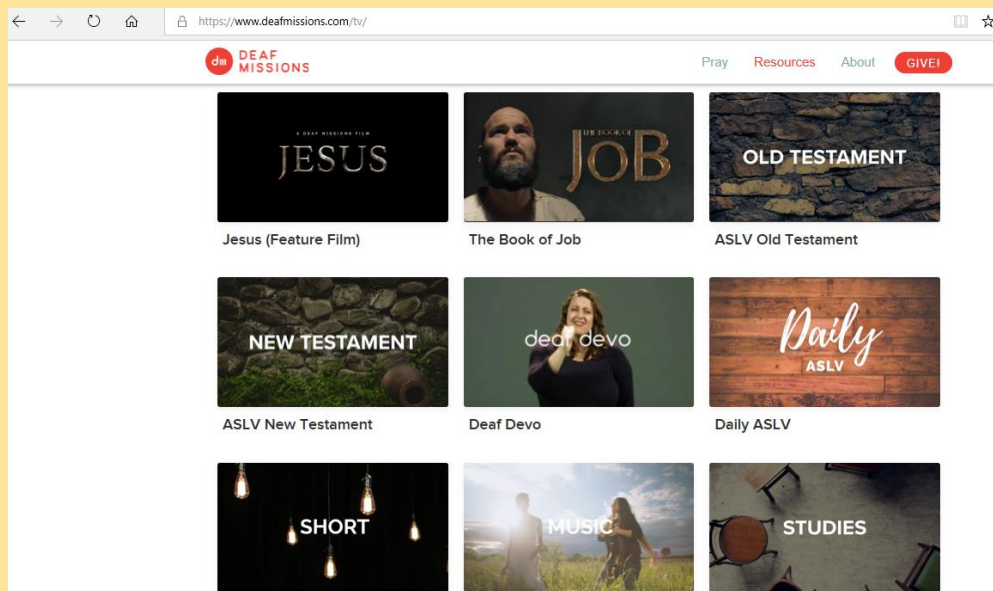
on the church's website by including details about the ministry (many people check out the website prior to coming).



[Image Description: The words "Best Practice" stamped on a piece of paper.]

Deaf Ministry Resource

An online resource for (signing) Deaf ministries (and those wishing to learn) and interpreting ministries are the video resources by [Deaf Missions](#). Books from both the Old Testament and the New Testament are available in sign language and some are captioned. Also, there are short feature films, like [The Book of Job](#), [daily devotions](#), lessons, and more. It offers some of these in the [Deaf Missions App](#) as well.



[Image Description: The Deaf Missions webpage of video offerings (ex. Jesus, Book of Job, ASL Old Testament, ASL New Testament, Daily Devotions, etc.)]

* Disclosure: the videos are mostly Caucasian signing models and do not include racial and ethnic diversity.

Deaf Ministry Support for Churches

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries Committee (of Global Ministries) is available to provide support and consultation for churches considering starting a Deaf ministry. Consultation can include how to implement a Deaf ministry, how to promote a Deaf ministry, brainstorm ideas for expanding the ministry, how to have a Deaf-friendly worship service, what resources are available, to discuss available grants and other funding sources, and among other needs. Each consultation includes receiving a church resource guide. Consultation is provided by Rev. Yates and/or one of our committee members. Contact the Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. at leoyjr@gmail.com.



[Image Description: A white background with 3 computer generated persons holding the word "Support."]

Upcoming Deaf Ministry Boot Camp in GA

Mount Pisgah UMC in Johns Creek, GA is hosting a Deaf Ministry Boot Camp on September 21, 2019 from 10am to 2pm. This exciting and interactive workshop will be presented by the Committee on Deaf & Hard of Hearing Ministries. Registration is free, but participants are required to RSVP (to plan for lunch). Participants will learn some basic sign phrases, ministry ideas, how to improve communication access, suggestions for how to begin a Deaf ministry, and more. [Click here](#) to learn more about the workshop and to register for the event. Contact the Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. at leoyjr@gmail.com if you have specific questions about the workshop. Email reasonable accommodation requests by September 7th to Stephen Taylor at staylor@sns360.org.



[Image Description: Deaf Ministry is displayed in English and the manual alphabet with the stamp Boot Camp.]

Accessibility Ideas



[Image Description: 10 disability symbols, such as low vision, captioning, large print, and audio description.]

This *edition's accessibility idea* for Deaf and hard of hearing people **is the use of captioning during worship**. With many churches using multimedia during worship, such as Microsoft PowerPoint 2016, displaying captioning has become much easier. There is no perfect transcription software, but it has become more accurate than ever before. It's a matter of turning your speech into captions that will display at the bottom of the PowerPoint slide. There are multiple languages to choose from as well (e.g. spoken English into Spanish). The feature works with other transcription/captioning software as

well. To learn more about it, [check this out](#).



[Image Description: A PowerPoint slide indicating where the captioning feature is located.]

Be a Star!

We'd like to make you a star! We're looking for videos of any aspect of Deaf and HOH ministry. Do you sign the scripture readings in church? Would you like to share a short devotion? Is there a Deaf or HOH event or program going on? We'd like to see it and share with other members. You can look at our previous posts at <http://www.umdeaf.org/dvt/>. Send us an e-mail (umdeaf@gmail.com) if you can help.

ELM Conference Planned

ELM: Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist



[Image Description: A post-it with the words "save the date"]

The next Deaf ELM conference planning committee is hard at work planning the next Deaf ministries ecumenical conference. The planning committee gathered this August in Orlando, FL and met with hotel staff (group sales) to view the ballroom, check out menus, and see hotel rooms. The conference schedule was worked on as well. The conference will be in July 2020. Look for more details to come.



[Image Description: 6 committee members sitting together posing for a picture in the hotel lobby.]

Support Deaf & Hard of Hearing Ministries

Help our mission! There are two ways we can get out Congress and Committee pages in front of more people on Facebook. We can pay for ads, or you can join the page yourself, and then click “like” and even “share” posts on your own timeline. When Facebook notices that a lot of people “like” and “share” posts, they will show it to more people. So, at no cost to you, you can support our outreach by doing this!

Red Bird Mission Trip

A Deaf and hearing mission trip to the Red Bird Missionary Conference was held during August 11-17, 2019. Bishop Peggy Johnson led the Deaf and hearing team. The mission team renovated homes in the Appalachia Mountains in Kentucky. [Read here](#) to learn more about the trip and to see some photos. [Click here](#) to read a different article about the trip.



[Image Description: A staff person and Bishop Johnson stand next to the Red Bird Mission sign.]



[Image Description: A flyer of the NEJ Deaf Ministries Conference scheduled Aug 7-8, 2020 at Grace UMC in Philadelphia, PA.]

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[United Methodist Congress of the Deaf](#)

[Mental Health Ministries](#)

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