



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

## Monthly E-News December 2019

This e-news is provided by the United Methodist Committee on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries. It is intended to share Deaf ministry updates, announcements, reminders, best practices, and resources.

### Deaf-Friendly Services



[Image Description: Garland with the words "special worship schedule."]

This is the time of year that churches typically receive

### Giving Tuesday



[Image Description: A flat image of the world with the words "Giving Tuesday December 3, 2019."]

One way to support the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ministries Committee is

more visitors and guests as some church families bring extended family or friends to church. Remember, A Deaf-friendly worship service is a part of the overall hospitality that churches should consider. There are a number of ways worship can be Deaf-friendly (see here for a [comprehensive list](#)). Some ideas include:

- \* Reserve a [sign language interpreter](#) 2-3 weeks before Christmas Eve. Be sure to promote this.

- \* Do NOT dim the lights all the way when using candles, as Deaf people need to see the interpreter and Deafblind persons with low vision need to see handouts.

- \* Learn 1 or more Christmas signs in ASL (e.g. Merry Christmas). [Here's a dictionary](#).

with the upcoming Giving Tuesday. Here is the [link to donate to our Advance project](#) for online giving. Our project # is 982562. The link provided takes you to our committee's Advance project giving page. Any financial donation is welcome & needed. You can make a donation by phone by calling **800-862-4246**. Again, our Advance project number is 982562.

Thankfully, financial donations are tax deductible. We do hope you will consider giving on December 3rd. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have by contacting Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. at [leoyjr@gmail.com](mailto:leoyjr@gmail.com). Our committee thanks you in advance for your faithfulness in helping our

\* Invite your choir to sign a Christmas carol ([Silent Night](#) is slow and repetitive). Showing a Christmas carol video while the choir sings is also a consideration.

\* Use multimedia as it is visual and makes it easier to follow the service.

\* Insert the [manual alphabet](#) in the bulletin.

\* Be sure to use a sound system with a microphone and/or offer an assisted listening system. This helps make the service more accessible for hard of hearing persons.

\* Offer large print bulletins and handouts.

This Advent and Christmas season, be sure to improve accessibility and offer Deaf-friendly services.

committee in such an important way.

### A Quick Survey



[Image Description: A Caption with the word "Survey.""]

The committee is inviting you to take a brief survey to support our work going forward (it's very short). [Here is the link](#) to complete the survey. We appreciate your assistance and hope you will participate in this brief survey.

**Interpreting Ministry Best Practice**

This edition's interpreting ministry *best practice* is ***being familiar with holiday-related signs*** (sign vocabulary). Sign language interpreters who typically provide services in church settings likely are familiar with Biblical and/or church-related signs; however, the holidays are more expansive than this (like Kwanzaa and Hanukah). A holiday (English) vocabulary list can be [found here](#). Here are a few ASL video resources:

- [ASL holiday signs](#)
- [Learn to sign Jingle Bells](#)
- [Christmas sign language lesson](#)

Please be sure to share your resources with us so we can share them with others.



[Image Description: The words in red and white "Best Practice" is in a circle with stars on the outside of the words.]

## Available Grants

This January, the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Ministries Committee is accepting grant applications that support churches or ministries to implement or expand their Deaf ministry. Applications can be [found here](#) and must be submitted no later than January 31, 2020. *Grants of up to*

*\$5,000 will be awarded.* Funding is limited and grants should have some aspect of community impact. Contact Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. at [leoyjr@gmail.com](mailto:leoyjr@gmail.com) for questions or for ministry ideas.



[Image Description: A posted outdoor sign with the word "Grants" along with the blue sky in the background.]

### **Deaf Ministry Spotlight**

This edition's Deaf ministry spotlight comes to you all the way from Reynolds, PA. Located in the Western PA Annual Conference, *First United Methodist Church*, in Reynoldsville, PA, offers a sign language interpreter, has periodic sign language classes, an accessibility webpage, provides assistive listening devices for hard of hearing and late-deafened persons, utilizes multimedia, and disseminates large print bulletins for Deafblind and/or persons with vision

### **Support for Your Deaf Ministry**

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 it, how to have a Deaf-friendly worship service, what resources are available, accessibility ideas, available grants and other funding sources, and

loss. To learn more about First UMC, check out [their website](#).



[Image Description: An image of First UMC in Reynoldsville, PA"]

among other needs. Contact the Rev. Leo Yates, Jr. at [leoyjr@gmail.com](mailto:leoyjr@gmail.com) for your consultation.



[Image Description: An image of a red pencil with the written word "support."]

## Accessibility Ideas



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

This *edition's accessibility idea* is to **post accessibility signs** for not only Deaf and hard of hearing persons, but for people with disabilities as well. Accessibility signs are not only for parking spaces, but wherever people are, both inside and outside the church. When signs are posted, they better assist people who may need accommodations or accessibility. For instance, posting a "Assistive Listening System/Device are Available" sign in

the foyer near the sanctuary doors alerts hard of hearing and late-deafened persons that headsets are available. Also, by posting a “Large Print Bulletins Available” sign near where ushers disseminate bulletins, it alerts persons with vision loss and/or Deafblind persons with limited vision of their availability. Besides posting signs, many churches are including accessibility information on their website and on social media. [See here](#) for an example. Help your church to take “welcoming” to the next level by posting accessibility signs.



[Image Description: a blue “accessible entrance” sign with an arrow pointing to the direction.]



[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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Website: [www.umdeaf.org](http://www.umdeaf.org). Email questions or comments to [umdeaf@gmail.com](mailto:umdeaf@gmail.com) Mailing address:

General Board of Global Ministries

Attn: Sabrina Rodgers

458 Ponce De Leone Ave NE

Atlanta, GA 30308



[Image Description: Red and white rectangle image with the words "Make a Gift Online; 100% of each gift to The Advance reaches its intended mission or ministry" with a link to make a donation.]