

# STEPPING OUT IN SISTERHOOD: A CALENDAR CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF WOMEN IN UNITED METHODISM

## JANUARY

Jan. 1, New Year's Day - Resolve to be inclusive this year! In 1985 celebrate the culmination of the "United Nations' Decade for Women," focusing on global equality, development and peace. A world conference takes place in Nairobi, Kenya, in the summer of 1985. The centennial of United Methodist Women is 1986.

Human Relations Day, Last Sunday of Epiphany - Special day. See 1984 Discipline.

Jan. 15, Martin Luther King's Birthday - Celebrate Coretta Scott King's continuing struggle for civil rights.

ADDITIONAL DATES:

## FEBRUARY

Black History Month - Highlight the special contributions of Black women in the church and society.

Feb. 14, Anna Howard Shaw's Birthday (1847) - Eloquent minister and suffrage leader. First ordained woman in Methodist tradition.



Feb. 15, Susan B. Anthony's Birthday (1820) - Organizer and prime mover for the women's suffrage movement, giving it force and direction for half a century.

Feb. 27, Helen Kim's Birthday (1899) - President of EFWHA College, Seoul, Korea, from 1938-1961.



ADDITIONAL DATES:

## MARCH

Mar. 4, World Day of Prayer - Church Women United.

Mar. 8, International Women's Day - Celebrate Women's History Week.

Mar. 10, Death of Harriet Tubman (1913) - Born in 1820? (Date uncertain, day unknown.) Fugitive slave, conductor of the anti-slavery underground railroad. A deeply religious woman, called the Moses of her people.

Mar. 24, Fanny (Frances Jane) Crosby's Birthday (1820) - Prolific hymn writer. (Methodists "for a time" observed a Fanny Crosby Day.)

Mar. 25, Margaret Ann (Maggie) Newton Van Cott's Birthday (1830) - First woman granted local preacher's license in Methodist Episcopal Church (MEC), North.

Mar. 29, Isabella Thoburn's Birthday (1840) - First woman sent to India by the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. Women's College in India bears her name.

Forth Sunday in Lent, One Great Hour of Sharing - Special Day. See 1984 Discipline.

ADDITIONAL DATES:

## JULY

July 4, Independence Day - Research the lives of women in the American Revolution, including Abigail Adams, who admonished her husband to be sure to include "the ladies" in the new code of laws.

July 10, Mary McLeod Bethune's Birthday (1875) - Daughter of freed slaves, she fought tirelessly for the education of Black children. Distinguished humanitarian and churchwoman. Founder of the National Council of Negro Women. Her memorial is the first to a Black American or a woman to be erected in a public park in Washington, D.C.



July 18, Clara A. Swain's Birthday (1834) - Founder of what is reported to be the first hospital for women in India.

ADDITIONAL DATES:

## AUGUST

Aug. 17, Death of Barbara Ruchle Heck (1804) - Born in 1743, day unknown. The "Mother of Methodism," she founded John Street Church in New York City after discovering her Irish American cousins gambling in her kitchen. Class meetings and worship services began 1766; church erected 1768.



Aug. 26, Women's Equality Day - Celebrates the 1920 passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote.

ADDITIONAL DATES:

## SEPTEMBER

Labor Day, First Monday - Acknowledge women who work outside the home; recognize women who do enormous amounts of unpaid work at home, in the church and in the community.

Christian Education Sunday (date to be determined by the Annual Conference) - Acknowledge the role of women as teachers.

Sept. 18, Frances Elizabeth Caroline Willard's Birthday (1839) - Temperance leader and feminist who shaped the W.C.T.U. into a broadly-based politically influential movement. She was one of five elected as the first women delegates to a Methodist General Conference (1887) and then denied seating.



ADDITIONAL DATES:

## APRIL

Lent and Easter - Remember the women who were last at the cross and first to witness to the resurrection at the tomb. Church history begins with Mary's account to the disciples of the resurrection.

April 21, Georgia Elma Harkness' Birthday (1891) - Theologian, author, seminary professor, champion of women, peace and ecumenicity.



April 25, Sarah Dickey's Birthday (1838) - Founder of the Mount Hermon Female Seminary for Black Girls in 1875. Ordained Minister in United Brethren in Christ in 1896.

Sunday following April 23, Heritage Sunday - Birthdate of the United Methodist Church. Focus might be on our United Methodist foremothers.

ADDITIONAL DATES:

## MAY

Second Sunday, Mother's Day, Festival of the Christian Home - Might be another opportunity to focus on foremothers in the faith rather than/or in addition to biological motherhood. Or explore the Motherhood of God.

May 11, Thelma Stevens' Birthday (1902) - Veteran advocate for justice for women and racial ethnic minority persons. Long-time staff member of Methodist Women's Organizations. Social pioneer in peace issues.



May 18, Maud Keister Jensen - Becomes the first Methodist Episcopal woman to receive full clergy rights (1956, Central Pennsylvania Conference). An opportunity to honor other United Methodist clergywomen.

ADDITIONAL DATES:

## JUNE

Graduation Day - Highlight changing roles and increasing career opportunities for women.

Annual Conferences Wrap Up - Lay delegates from the church might be asked particularly to report special Annual Conference actions related to women.

June 27, Helen Keller's Birthday (1880) - Inspiring lifetime of triumphing over physical handicaps. An advocate for world peace.

June 30, Evelyn Reilly Nicholson's Birthday (1873) - First president of the World Federation of Methodist Women.

Dorothy Eugenia Rogers Tilly's Birthday (1883) - Civil Rights reformer in the MEC South.

ADDITIONAL DATES:

## OCTOBER

First Sunday, World Communion Sunday - Special Day. See 1984 Discipline. Give witness in this ecumenical celebration to women in other denominations who challenge their churches to be inclusive.

Second Sunday, Laity Sunday - Special Day. See 1984 Discipline. Sponsor a dialogue about vocation and mutual ministries for laywomen, laymen and youth.

World Order Sunday, on or preceding Oct. 24 - Special Day. See 1984 Discipline. Celebrates the founding of the United Nations. Focus on women who have worked and continue to work for world peace and justice.

Oct. 14, Laura Askew Haygood's Birthday (1845) - Served in China in the China Mission of the MEC, South.

ADDITIONAL DATES:

## NOVEMBER

Nov. 1, All Saints' Day - Recognize living and past women saints.

Nov. 2, Jessie Daniel Ames' Birthday (1883) - Anti-lynching reformer who founded the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.



Thanksgiving, third Thursday.

Sunday after Thanksgiving, UM Student Day - Have women and men students talk about their perceptions of the changing roles as they experience them in today's world.

ADDITIONAL DATES:

## DECEMBER

Advent and Christmas.

Dec. 1 (1955) - The date that Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus, thus launching a movement for civil rights and the career of a national hero, Martin Luther King.

Dec. 3, Belle Harris Bennett's Birthday (1852) - Founder of Scarritt Bible and Training School which prepared many women for service around the world.

Dec. 18, Phoebe Worall Palmer's Birthday (1807) - Evangelist and religious author whose career influenced many other women to wider fields of service.

ADDITIONAL DATES: