



Health Wealth Longevity Happiness
National Marriage Week

Feb 7-14 www.NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org

Financial Stability · Better Health · Less Troubled Kids · Greater Happiness

Whether currently married or not, most of us understand that strong, healthy marriages benefit our whole society.

Research shows that most married couples are happier, healthier, and more economically secure than the unwed. Children with married parents perform better in school and are less likely to get into trouble.

Recent research revealed alarming statistics for our country:

- In 1970, 78% of adults were married; in 2008 only 57 percent of adults were married.
- Also in 2008, 40% of all children in America were born out of wedlock, while 72 % of African American children were born without married parents.

“The alarming drop in marriage rates in America combined with high divorce rates are costly to the nation—financially costly to taxpayers and individuals, and emotionally costly to children. We all need to work together to turn the tide...”

Please join in this effort by committing to:

- Strengthen your own marriage and family
- Help promote events and resources to strengthen marriages and families in your church and community

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“There are proven ways to repair and restore marriages – but most people don’t know where to go for the help they need...”

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The United Methodist Church has been working to strengthen its ministries with married couples and families. You will find many helps at www.marriagelovepower.net, which features:

* **“Best Practices Articles and Recommended Resources,”** on a variety of relevant topics, which may be downloaded and duplicated and distributed as desired.

* **“The UM Marriage and Family Ministries Directory”** with contact information for leaders trained and certified in various programs, listed by jurisdiction, area, and conference.

* **“Upcoming Events and Training Opportunities”**
 (Search for these same documents by title or topic at www.umcdiscipleship.org/leadership-resources/intergenerational-family-ministries)

Capitalize on and enhance the impact of the 2016 national media promotions. If your church hosts or helps host any kind of relationship education event(s) this year, please post that information in order to highlight UM efforts and help persons find the help they need. <http://www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org/submitanevent/form/form/3-submit-an-event>

Please inform your pastor of your interest in marriage and family strengthening programs.

*Bulletin insert prepared by Jane P. Ives,
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