

CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE FIRST UMC BRIGHTON-WHITMORE LAKE

The United Methodist General Board of Church and Society, provides resources and inspiration in our work to change systems and remove obstacles to human flourishing. To accomplish our goals, we participate in education, action and advocacy. Our guidance comes from the four quadrants of caring: Charity, Mutuality, Solidarity and Advocacy.

Transportation Project

Mary Kushner brought to our awareness the need for transportation for the students at Torch 180. Some of the students lost their jobs because there was no Sunday public transportation. Our goal became advocacy with decision makers to provide adequate public transportation including weekends.

PROCESS, WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR ON TRANSPORTATION

Livingston Essential Transportation Services (LETS) is the main supplier of public transport. Several meetings with LETS and Livingston County Transportation Coalition decision makers raised mutual awareness of the challenges and goals. Ben Tasich, from our committee, is now serving on the Livingston County Transportation Coalition.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY'S NEED FOR ADEQUATE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Currently 24% of households do not have adequate income for household needs. Many Americans with disabilities are public transit dependent. Temporary medical disabilities can create immediate need for public transportation. Demographic reports that there will be an 82% increase in numbers of seniors over the age of sixty-five. With age often comes added public transportation needs.

UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF RESOLUTION

Because of our United Methodist Social Principles, we are called to act on Public Transportation.

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The United States should focus its efforts on managing demand through conservation and efficiency and developing renewable, cleaner alternative sources of energy. Specifically, the United States **must:**
...Support expansion of the infrastructure needed for cleaner energy vehicles, **public transportation** and ride sharing.

Public transportation is reducing energy consumption and harmful greenhouse gas emissions that damage the environment.

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...Economists have concluded that a greater increase in end-use energy can be gained through conservation and energy efficiency than through any single new source of fuel. Furthermore, conservation is nonpolluting, and job produced. We include under conservation: insulation, co-generation, recycling, **public transportation**, ...

A TRANSIT EQUITY DAY WAS CELEBRATED FEBRUARY 4

The event was in honor of Rosa Parks' birthday. Rosa Parks is remembered for her actions toward creating accessible public transportation

Transit Equity Day presented the opportunity to further our advocacy relationship by thanking LETS for the progress made toward our mutual goal of adequate public transportation including weekends. Mary Kushner spoke to the why, telling those gathered about the students at Torch 180 who are transit dependent and lost jobs because of no Sunday transportation.

LETS is adding a bus for Sundays and we met the new Sunday dispatch worker. At the event we met one of the drivers, Jean Bain who is now training to be the dispatcher for the Sunday transportation being added.

The First UMC Brighton-Whitmore Lake Church and Society Committee will continue working for transportation justice.




CELEBRATE!
Today we join you in celebrating Transit Equity Day, a National Day of Action in honor of Rosa Parks' birthday. We want to highlight the need and right to quality public transportation for everyone.




CHURCH & SOCIETY COMMITTEE
FIRST UMC, Brighton & Whitmore Lake
Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE
brightonumc.org/church-society

THANK YOU!
Thank you for riding (and drivers, thank you for driving) public transportation. You are equity and climate heroes! Working together, we can reduce traffic pollution, take strides toward a cleaner, healthier environment and provide adequate and weekend public transportation for all in our communities!



“You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right. Each person must live their life as a model for others.”
—Rosa Parks



Transit Equity Day is a collaborative effort of several organizations and unions to promote public transit as a civil right and a strategy to combat climate change.

We honor Rosa Parks as a civil rights icon who struggled and fought for accessible public transportation in the 1950s. The Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted 381 days before the Supreme Court ruled segregation on public buses to be unconstitutional.

On June 15, 1999, President Clinton awarded Rosa Parks the Congressional Gold Medal.