

Endwell United Methodist Church



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June 10, 2024

The Mission team at Endwell United Methodist Church is again coordinating the collection and delivery of shoeboxes for the Red Bird Mission, located in Beverly, Kentucky. The Red Bird Missionary Conference is one of three United Methodist missionary conferences in the United States. It is the most comprehensive mission effort of the United Methodist Church, providing outreach and services that minister to the whole person-spiritual, physical, social, and economic.

In December of 2023, five volunteers drove two 26-foot trucks and a van to the mission in Kentucky. They transported over 2,800 shoeboxes, over 100 new sheet sets and bedspreads, as well as numerous books, school supplies, and cleaning supplies.

Our goal for 2024 is to transport at least 3,500 shoeboxes and other supplies to the Red Bird Mission the first week of December.

There are two different styles of shoeboxes - adults and children. Items needed for the adult shoeboxes include a comb or brush, shampoo, hand lotion, deodorant, a toothbrush, toothpaste, ChapStick, a full-size bar of soap, a washcloth, disposable razors, shaving cream, nail care supplies, socks, a pair of work gloves or mittens, and a winter hat or scarf.

Items needed for children's shoeboxes include two or three small toys, two or three items needed for school, a comb or brush, shampoo, hand lotion, a child's toothbrush and toothpaste, ChapStick, a bar of soap, a washcloth, a small flashlight, socks, a pair of mittens, and a winter hat.

Christian bookmarks, wristbands, and other spiritual items are also appreciated.

The Red Bird Mission would like the items put in clear plastic **shoebox-sized** storage containers with locking lids. If you are unable to purchase plastic boxes, the same-size cardboard boxes will work. Please **do not wrap** the shoeboxes or cardboard boxes. Also, it is helpful to the Mission if you clearly **label** each shoebox, so they know who the intended recipient is for the items. Attached, are the shipping labels we use at Endwell United Methodist Church. The idea for the labels came from First United Methodist Church of Greenbush.

The Mission also needs **new** pillows, **new** sheet sets, and **new** blankets for full and twin-size beds, as well as **new** bath towels. Used sheets, blankets, and towels **cannot** be sent.


Books, school supplies, **new** backpacks and cleaning supplies are needed, as well.

Donations of money can be made payable to the Endwell United Methodist Church to help cover the cost of the truck rental, fuel, and lodging and meals for the volunteers who will be delivering the shoeboxes and other donations to the Red Bird Mission the first week in December. All funds will be deposited into a dedicated account for this mission. A suggested donation is \$1.50 per shoebox. Please **do not put money inside the shoeboxes**. Place the money in an envelope and attach it to the outside of the shoebox.

We are in the process of compiling a list of drop-off sites if you are unable to bring items to either the Upper New York Conference Center in Liverpool, NY or to the Endwell United Methodist Church in Endwell, NY.

Please consider being a part of this vital mission. You can learn more about the mission by going to EndwellUMC.org and clicking on Missions. If you have questions, please contact Dave Alexander at 607-743-8955 or Endwell United Methodist Church at 607-754-5735.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dave Alexander".

Dave Alexander, Coordinator