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May 16, 2021

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 2020, two volunteers drove a 26-foot truck to the mission in Kentucky. They transported over 2800 shoeboxes, over 100 sheet sets and bedspreads, as well as numerous books, school supplies, and cleaning supplies.

The need is even greater this year. Our goal for 2021 is to transport at least 3,600 shoeboxes and other supplies to the Red Bird Mission the first week of December. We are asking participating churches to drop off their filled shoeboxes to one of two locations: the **Upper New York Conference**Center, located at 7481 Henry Clay Boulevard in Liverpool or the Endwell United Methodist Church, located at 3301 Watson Boulevard in Endwell between November 1st and November 30th. Also, arrangements to have items picked up can be made by e-mailing Dave at Dalexander4@stny.rr.com. We are looking for churches in the Upper New York Conference that are willing to be collection sites for their respective districts. If your church is willing to be a collection site, please e-mail Dave and your district office. A storage site in Endwell, New York has been secured to store items for the trip.

There are two different styles of shoeboxes-adult and children. Items

needed for the adult shoeboxes include: a comb or brush, shampoo, hand lotion, deodorant, a toothbrush and 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, chap stick, 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. Please do not wrap the boxes. They would like the boxes labeled with the intended recipient-man, woman, boy, or girl. The mission also needs new pillows, new bedspreads, new sheet sets and new blankets for full and twin beds, and new bath towels. Used sheets, blankets, and towels cannot be sent. Books, school supplies, and new backpacks are also in need, as well as cleaning supplies.

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 deliver the shoeboxes and other donations to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky the first week in December. All funds will be deposited into a dedicated account for this mission. A suggested donation is at least \$1 per shoebox. Please <u>do not put money inside the shoeboxes</u>. Place the money in an envelope and attach it to the shoebox.

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,

Dave Alexander, Coordinator