



MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TITUSVILLE
206 S. HOPKINS AVE, TITUSVILLE, FL 32796
OCTOBER 2023

Empowering marginalized children through education

By Priscilla Muzerengwa
Sept. 18, 2023 | MUTARE, Zimbabwe (UM News)
<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/empowering-marginalized-children-through-education>

Key points:

- ◆ The women's group in the Mutare District of Zimbabwe has established a scholarship program to provide educational opportunities to underprivileged children.
- ◆ During the women's district conference, urban and rural circuits highlighted the positive impact the program has on the community.
- ◆ The Rev. Togara Bobo, connectional ministries director, commended the efforts of the women and emphasized the church's ongoing commitment to uplifting the marginalized.



Members of the Mutare District's women's organization celebrate the group's unwavering commitment to education during their district conference at Hilltop United Methodist Church in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Representatives from urban and rural circuits highlighted their accomplishments in establishing scholarship programs and providing educational opportunities to underprivileged children. Photo by Priscilla Muzerengwa, UM News.

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The women's organization of The United Methodist Church's Mutare District is celebrating its commitment to education and impact on the lives of marginalized children in Zimbabwe.

During the women's district conference, urban and rural circuits reported on the group's accomplishments in establishing scholarship programs and providing educational opportunities to underprivileged children.

The women emphasized the crucial role the church plays in shaping a brighter future for disadvantaged youth.

Senior Makono, chairperson for the women's group, highlighted the positive impact of the scholarship programs on local communities.

"Most children are in school because of scholarships. There are a number of parents, both from rural and urban settings, who are failing to raise school fees for their children. Some of the children may be orphans or vulnerable, and the guardians may be overwhelmed with other responsibilities," she said.

The Rev. Togara Bobo, Mutare District connectional ministries director, commended the dedicated efforts of the women and emphasized the church's ongoing commitment to uplifting the marginalized.

He said one of the pillars of United Methodist theology is the use of reason or critical thinking. "By so doing, we strive towards empowering people through education," Bobo said. "Education has the power to enlighten and empower individuals, and that is the foundation of our scholarship program."

Itai Chitora, a beneficiary of the Mutare District Women Scholarship, emphasized the transformative power of education, particularly for girls in a society where they may face unique challenges.

"It is clear that education is power, especially for the girl child in Zimbabwe. When one gets educated, that individual is empowered, and for girls, this empowerment is particularly crucial," Chitora said. "When girls are empowered, even in marriages, there are fewer cases of gender-based violence."

Reflecting on her life as a village girl raised by a single parent, Chitora said the scholarship not only empowered her but also provided her with a new sense of hope. She emphasized that educating a girl is educating a nation.

"If I did not receive this scholarship, I could have been doing piece jobs in the rural homesteads and herding cattle to generate income or even got married," she said.

Like other recipients before her, Chitora said the

scholarship has inspired her to become an agent of change in her community and work toward uplifting others through education.

"I am truly grateful for the help and love I have received from the church," she said. "In the future, I wish to give back and create an organization that helps underprivileged children access education."

Through the scholarship, Chitora is in her third year studying Development Planning and Management at Midlands State University.

The scholarship program not only provides financial assistance but also encourages a sense of determination.

"The scholarship program's success in guiding students to tertiary education has empowered them to break free from poverty, instilling hope and self-belief as they face life's challenges," said Lizzie Zvinoera, evangelism vice chairperson for the Mutare District women's group.

The reports during the district women's conference showcased the establishment of scholarship programs, community-driven support systems and the efforts of volunteers in ensuring equal access to education for all children, regardless of their backgrounds.

The Rev. Tendai Makono, Mutare District superintendent, highlighted the church's role in supporting educational opportunities for the underprivileged.

"One of the responsibilities of the church is to reach out to the less privileged. It is our duty as a church to see that those who are failing to go to school due to lack of resources are educated," he said. "This is why almost every circuit in our district is sending children to school, especially those who are less privileged."

The Mutare District women's commitment to education aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal of ensuring inclusive and equitable

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Itai Chitora, a beneficiary of the Mutare District women's scholarship, is pursuing her education at Midlands State University in Zimbabwe. "If I did not receive this scholarship, I could have been doing piece jobs in the rural homesteads and herding cattle to generate income or even got married," she said. Photo by Priscilla Muzerengwa, UM News.

2023 August Budget Summary

The Finance Committee appreciates your contributions and donations. With your support we will be able to continue sharing God's love with those around us.

<u>Income</u>	
Total Income:	\$43,194
<u>Expenses</u>	
Church Programs:	\$0
Finance:	\$436
Church Administration:	\$1,480
Facility Maintenance:	\$8,268
Personnel:	\$30,379
Payables:	\$1,202
Conference Apportionments:	\$4,192
<u>Total Expenses:</u>	<u>\$49,224</u>
Income Under Expenses:	\$2,763

The budget for 2023 is **\$489,821** which, divided evenly, makes each month's goal \$40,818 rather than being weighted differently throughout the year. Although we have begun trying to cut expenses where we reasonably can, we are still feeling the financial pinch. If you are able to still contribute during these lean times, please help us to maintain our regular operating costs as you find you are able. Only with the generosity of our congregation have we been able to weather the storms of the past and even the current storm we are in.

Thank you for your loving generosity in keeping this church operating!

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quality education for all.

By investing in the education of marginalized children, the district is actively contributing to the development of a more prosperous and equitable society, Makono said.

Zvinoera said the Mutare District women's organization remains dedicated to its mission of fostering education for all, guided by the belief that education is not only a means of knowledge acquisition but also a powerful tool for social change and empowerment.

With each scholarship granted and every child supported, she said, the Mutare District Women are paving the way for a brighter future with more gender equity in Zimbabwe.

Muzerengwa is a communicator for the Zimbabwe East Conference.

News media contact: Julie Dwyer at newsdesk@umnews.org. To read more United Methodist news, [subscribe to the free Daily or Weekly Digests](#).



Female Methodist reformer graces coin

By Robert Lopez and Austin Newton

Sept. 22, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO, Texas (UM News)

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/female-methodist-reformer-graces-coin>

Key points:

- ◆ **United Methodists joined in a celebration in San Antonio, Texas, of the United States Mint's coin bearing the image of Jovita Idár.**
- ◆ **Idár was a Methodist who worked as a journalist and activist to advance the rights of Mexican American women and others in the early 20th century.**
- ◆ **With growing interest in women's and ethnic history, Idár's story has become better known.**

United Methodists and others gathered in San Antonio recently to celebrate the minting of a U.S. coin bearing the image of [Jovita Idár](#), a Methodist, journalist and activist who worked to empower Mexican American women and others in the early 20th century.



An enlarged replica shows the design of the United States Mint's coin honoring Jovita Idár, a Methodist who through journalism and activism championed the rights of Mexican Americans and women in the early 20th century. The replica was on display at a Sept. 14 event in San Antonio, celebrating the Idár coin. Photo courtesy of the Rio Texas Conference.

The United States Mint [included Idár](#) (1885-1946) as part of its American Women Quarters series. Other honorees include Eleanor Roosevelt, Maya Angelou and Sally Ride.

Representatives of the Mint joined members of Idár's family, as well as retired United Methodist Bishop Joel Martinez, in a [roundtable discussion](#) about Idár during the Sept. 14 celebration at the University of Texas at San Antonio's downtown campus.

Martinez encouraged those in the crowded lecture hall to be like Jovita Idár, specifically by refusing to be limited by others' expectations.

"We have a tendency to confine and assign roles," said Martinez. "Don't be defined by those who want to limit you. Be defined by the creator who gave you all the gifts that you have and sense and explore them."

Idár's modest celebrity faded after her death and she remained an obscure figure until the late 1970s and early 1980s, when interest rose sharply in women's and ethnic history.

She's since been the subject of a documentary, a [New York Times](#) feature and a historical marker. Laredo, Texas, has named a park in her honor.

Idár was born into a large, relatively well-off Mexican American family in Laredo, and was educated at a Methodist school there.

She would go on to work for her father's newspaper, La Crónica, writing editorials decrying discrimination faced by Mexican Americans and championing women's suffrage.

She helped organize El Primer Congreso Mexicanista, a 1911 meeting of Mexican American activists from both sides of the border. Out of that emerged a women's organization, and she was its first president.

Idár was part of a medical relief group during the Mexican Revolution, and in the latter part of her life, spent in San Antonio, she edited the Rio Grande Conference newspaper and was active at La Trinidad Methodist Church.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Lopez and Martha L. Aki are great nieces of Idár and in the recent celebration shared about growing up hearing their mother's stories about "Tia Jovita."

"Her commitment to The United Methodist Church's values of personal and social holiness prepared a way for me to confront the patriarchal constraints and racism that exists within the UMC," said Lopez, a retired United Methodist elder.

Idár's faith undergirded "everything she did," including her work at La Trinidad, Lopez said.

That church now has on its pastoral staff a woman, the Rev. Raquel Cajiri Feagins.

"My Tia Jovita would be excited and applaud," Lopez said.

Aki recalled that her and Lopez' mother would, as a girl, sneak in and listen to Idár's political discussions with the family.

"We got those stories firsthand from our mom," Aki said.

Idár's activism was supported by her brothers.

"It was just Jovita and the boys — all her brothers. She was an advocate for women's rights because she was

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Jovita Idár has gained fame in recent years, as historians, journalists and documentarians have highlighted her work as an early 20th-century Mexican American journalist and activist. Idár also was a faithful Methodist who late in her career edited the Rio Grande Conference newspaper. Photo courtesy of the University of Texas at San Antonio Special Collections.

supported by her brothers to be that woman,” said Aki. “She was encouraged to study, get out there, write articles for *La Crónica*.”

Martinez emphasized Idár’s value as a role model, and he pointed to other groundbreaking Methodist women.

“In 1956, women were authorized to preach in the UMC, and some of their families were aghast!” Martinez said. “But they wanted to go into preaching. I would raise that up for us to ponder. Do not limit your children — boys or girls — to what you think is their probable potential path to the future. Pray them into a freedom that might take them all the way to a place where you don’t want to see them go. ... God will be with them there.”

Gabriela González, an associate professor of history at UTSA, is working on a book about the life of Jovita Idár.

“Jovita would teach through example,” González said. “The way she dressed and talked, handled herself in public. She talked with gravitas. She was a mentor, teacher and friend. She was nurturing but also firm and could call you out.”

The Rev. Miguel Padilla was part of the Rio Texas Conference delegation attending the coin celebration.

“I was happy to hear of the United States Mint’s efforts to be more inclusive,” Padilla said. “It is affirming how important it is to bring stories of women who look like my sisters and mother. Jovita’s story led me to see that we need everyone’s ideas and voices to create a community where everyone is welcome. It also breaks the stereotype of the silent woman. We need the female perspective and leadership to create new models, systems and ways to do things.”

The Rev. Dr. Robert Lopez is assistant to the bishop of the Rio Texas Conference. Austin Newton is the conference’s assistant director of communications.

News media contact: Julie Dwyer at (615) 742-5470 or newsdesk@umnews.org. To read more United Methodist news, [subscribe to the free Daily or Weekly Digests](#).

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Syncia Jeanty
10 Sally Bradford
11 Jim Talbert
11 Kitty Baldwin
12 Georgia Smith

13 Diana Barnhart
16 Adrienne Herrell
21 Susan Adair
28 Kathy Ireland
29 Pam Delnero





Life Line Screening goes beyond regular checkups to look inside your arteries for signs of plaque build-up



We will be in your neighborhood soon on Thursday, October 5, 2023 at Titusville - First United Methodist Church



HOSTED BY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
TITUSVILLE & CONNECTION KIDS

CORNER OF S PALM AND BROAD STREET
TITUSVILLE FL 32796

October 2023

First United Methodist Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	2 8:00am Conn. Kids Chapel 9:30am Kids Playtime	3 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Youth 6:00pm Soliloquy 7:30pm Broadstreet	4 9:00am Patchwork Friends 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 4:30pm Chancel Choir Reh. 5:30pm We Gather 5:30pm Vivos Voco Reh. 6:30pm Crosspointe Reh.	5 8:00am Life Line Screening 9:00am Ladies Day Out	6 1-3pm Food Pantry	7 7:30am Garden Club 8:00am Comm. Breakfast 10am Fall Festival
8 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Fellowship	9 8:00am Conn. Kids Chapel 10:00am Sara Fernandez Bible Study	10 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Youth 6:00pm Soliloquy 7:30pm Broadstreet	11 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 4:30pm Chancel Choir Reh. 5:30pm Vivos Voco Reh. 6:30pm Crosspointe Reh.	12 10:30am Retired Teachers	13 1-3pm Food Pantry	14 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
15 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	16 8:00am Conn. Kids Chapel	17 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Youth 6:00pm Soliloquy 7:30pm Broadstreet	18 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 4:30pm Chancel Choir Reh. 5:30pm Vivos Voco Reh. 6:00pm Crosspointe Reh.	19 9:00am PEO Mtg. 11:30am Ladies Day Out 4:00pm Leadership Team Mtg	20 1-3pm Food Pantry	21 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
22 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 3:00pm Concert	23 8:00am Conn. Kids Chapel	24 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Youth 7:30pm Broadstreet	25 3:30pm Silver Chimes Reh. 4:30pm Chancel Choir Reh. 5:30pm Vivos Voco Reh.	26	27 1-3pm Food Pantry	28 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
29 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 3:00pm Ann. Conference— Grace UMC	30 8:00am Conn. Kids Chapel	31 Halloween 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Youth 				

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Rev. Wayne Cook - Pastor	Ext 202
Mario Davis - Administrative Assistant	Ext 203
Glenda Waring - Membership Secretary	Ext. 204
Leah Patterson - Finance Secretary	Ext. 204
Lauren Good - Family Ministries	Ext. 205
Tom Mosier - Facilities Manager	Ext. 206
Leah Patterson - Custodian	Ext. 206
Carol Henn - Music Director	
J.D. Daniel - Organist	
Steve Rossi - Sound Tech	
Josh Huss - Lights and Visuals	

First United Methodist Church

206 S. Hopkins Ave
Titusville, FL 32796

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Worship Services: 10:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 8am – 4pm, Monday - Friday
Closed from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

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