SPECIAL SUNDAY

UMCOR SUNDAY OFFERING TALK



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

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This offering talk is part of the UMCOR Sunday pastor and leader kit and connects with the theme "God's Promise of Restoration." It can be adapted for your context and integrated into your worship service with the other materials in the kit. Consider inviting someone who has served on a mission trip with UMCOR to share their testimony instead of using the example below.

The psalmist reminds us that goodness and mercy follow us. Today we have an opportunity to be agents of God's goodness and mercy.

On UMCOR Sunday, we join with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support The United Methodist Committee on Relief, an organization that acts on our behalf when there is a crisis. This allows for 100% of gifts given in response to disasters to assist with the disaster.

UMCOR can do this because the funds we give today join with those of millions of other United Methodists to help cover the costs of doing business. From training volunteers to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly when disaster strikes.

Since the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine by Russia, UMCOR has provided support to those who've remained in Ukraine and those who've fled to surrounding countries, working with United Methodist churches in the region as well as local and governmental partners. Because UMCOR Sunday covers the overhead costs, 100% of the gifts made to the International Disaster Response and Recovery Advance can support direct relief efforts, quickly and effectively.



UMCOR works through Methodist churches in Ukraine's neighboring nations—Poland, Hungary,

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Romania, Slovakia, Estonia, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. It is awarding grants to trusted partners like ACT Alliance, International Orthodox Christian Charities and Human Rights League. Grants provide transportation assistance, humanitarian supplies such as food, water, clothing, shelter and medication and legal services and safe spaces for families, women, children and those with disabilities.

In addition, UMCOR has funded the transport of more than $2 million in medical supplies to hospitals in Kyiv, with more supplies scheduled to be delivered in the coming months. UMCOR is in continual dialogue with our UMC bishops and other partners throughout Europe to identify needs as the war drags on. The situation in Eastern and Central Europe is constantly evolving and recovery efforts will take years. UMCOR will be there continuing to assist.

Please give generously. Write a check addressed to this church and write, "UMCOR Sunday offering" in the memo line. To give online or set up monthly giving, go to **UMC.org/SSGive**.

PLEASE PRAY WITH ME:

Merciful God, thank you for UMCOR, which shepherds communities through the storms of life.
Thank you for preparing a table to nourish the hungry.
Thank you for offering green pastures with resting spaces to restore our souls.
Our cup overflows with abundance and with thanksgiving.
Receive our gifts and transform them into acts of goodness and mercy that still the waters of suffering and offer hope and healing around the world. Amen.

