SPECIAL SUNDAY



WORSHIP & PRAYER
UMCOR SUNDAY

These worship resources are part of the UMCOR Sunday pastor and leader kit.
They may be adapted for your context and integrated into your worship service with the other material in the kit.
The scripture readings are inspired by Ephesians 2:1–10; John 3:14–21.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, people of God, into the presence of the One who is rich in mercy.

People: *We come trusting the God who hears the cries of a hurting world.*

Leader: When storms destroy, when fires consume, when floods rise, when war displaces, and when hunger weakens the vulnerable, God calls the Church to respond.

People: *We will not turn away. We will Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously.*

Leader: Through Jesus Christ, God has shown us what love looks like in the flesh.

People: *Love heals. Love helps. Love gives. Love stays for the long journey of recovery.*

Leader: We are created in Christ Jesus for good works.

People: *Our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness become signs of God's love in action.*

Leader: Today, as we remember the ministry of UMCOR, we give thanks for a connectional Church that shows up in times of crisis.

People: *Together, we are united in impact. Together, our generosity fuels hope, relief, and ongoing recovery.*

All: *Let us worship God, whose mercy restores, whose grace sustains, and whose love sends us into the world to Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Merciful and ever-present God,

We come before you with grateful hearts and open hands. You are the God who sees every tear, hears every cry, and draws near to every place of suffering. You are present in the storm, present in the fire, present in the flood, present in the rubble, present at the border, present in refugee camps, present in communities recovering from violence, and present wherever people are trying to rebuild their lives after loss.

On this UMCOR Sunday, we pray for individuals, families, and communities affected by natural and human-caused disasters. We remember those recovering from hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, wildfires, earthquakes, famine, war, migration, and displacement. We pray for those whose homes have been destroyed, whose loved ones have been lost, whose communities have been shaken, and whose hope feels fragile.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray for communities still recovering from recent disasters and for places where suffering continues long after the news cameras have moved on.

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[We invite you to lift up disasters impacting your community or nearby communities in your region. Visit umcmission.org/work/humanitarian-relief/updates to learn more]

We pray for families rebuilding, for communities impacted by severe weather, for refugees and migrants seeking safety, and for all who face hunger, instability, trauma, and uncertainty. Remind them, O God, that they are not forgotten.

We thank you for the ministry of UMCOR and for the way The United Methodist Church becomes your hands and feet in times of crisis. Bless every volunteer, disaster response coordinator, case manager, missionary, partner organization, local church, annual conference, and community leader who serves in courage and compassion. Strengthen them when the work is heavy. Give them wisdom when needs are complex. Give them endurance for the long road of recovery.

God, make us a church that does more than speak of love. Make us a church that embodies love. Teach us to Love Boldly when fear tempts us to withdraw. Teach us to Serve Joyfully when the needs around us feel overwhelming. Teach us to Lead Courageously when compassion necessitates sacrifice, organization, advocacy, and faith.

Let our compassion be organized. Let our generosity be purposeful. Let our witness be clear. Remind us that giving is not only a financial act but also an act of discipleship. When we give, we participate in your healing work. When we give, we help turn prayer into action. When we give, we embody your love.

So today, Lord, bless our worship, bless our offering, and bless the ministry it will support. May our gifts become hope for the weary, shelter for the displaced, food for the hungry, strength for the brokenhearted, and light for those walking through dark places.

Use us, O God, as instruments of mercy.

Use your church as a witness of grace.

Use UMCOR as a channel of relief, recovery, restoration, and hope.

We pray all of this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is mercy made visible, love lifted up, and hope for the life of the world.

Amen.

IMPACT MOMENT
(BEFORE THE OFFERING.)

Before we give today, we pause for an Impact Moment — a time to remember how God works through our generosity to bring hope, healing, relief, and love into the world.

Friends, every day, people around the world face overwhelming challenges. Communities recover from natural disasters. Families seek refuge from conflict and violence. Children experience hunger. Farmers work to restore food security. Neighbors rebuild their lives after crisis. In each of these moments, UMCOR is able to respond because The United Methodist Church has chosen to prepare before the need arises.

That is the purpose of UMCOR Sunday.

The gifts we share today help cover UMCOR's administrative costs, providing the operational foundation that makes its ministry possible throughout the year. Because of this shared commitment, every designated gift given to projects and missions can be directed to the work for which it was intended—bringing relief, supporting recovery, welcoming migrants and refugees, strengthening food security, and offering hope wherever people are in need.

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Our gift may begin in one congregation, but through the connectional ministry of The United Methodist Church, it reaches people we may never meet, in places we may never visit, reminding them they are not alone.

That is the beauty of connectional generosity.

Today, we give because God first gave to us. We give because Christ was lifted up for the life of the world. We give because we are created in Christ Jesus for good works. And we give so that, together, the Church is prepared to respond with compassion, wherever and whenever God's love is needed most.

As we prepare to receive this offering, let us give in gratitude, faith, and holy purpose, trusting that our generosity becomes the foundation for ministry that brings hope to the world.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of abundance and mercy,

We thank you for every gift you have placed in our hands: life, breath, community, faith, opportunity, and love.

On this UMCOR Sunday, we give thanks for the privilege of participating in your work of healing the world. We thank you for The United Methodist Connection, for the ministry of UMCOR, and for each act of generosity that becomes hope for someone in crisis.

Bless these gifts. Multiply their impact. Use them to support relief, recovery, readiness, and long-term care. Let what we offer today become food for the hungry, shelter for the displaced, strength for the weary, and light for those walking through dark places.

When we give generously to UMCOR Sunday, we Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously — embodying God's love for neighbors facing disaster, displacement, hunger, and the long road of recovery.

May our giving be more than a moment. May it become a witness. May it reflect the love of Christ, who gave himself for the life of the world.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

By Rev. Dr. Stephanie Moore Hand,
Western North Carolina Conference Evangelist