

Gray Weekly News



Week Leading to Sunday, May 15, 2022

HOW UMCOR IS HELPING IN UKRAINE

By Elliott Wright, www.umcmission.org

Donors to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) are providing food, water, medicine, shelter and transportation to Ukrainians and other refugees fleeing Russian invaders inside their country and to those seeking refuge in neighboring countries.

“As of April 4, UMCOR has allocated nearly \$2 million to a broad range of local and regional refugee-related services, and other expenditures reaching into the hundreds of thousands of dollars are in planning,” according to Roland Fernandes, general secretary of Global Ministries and UMCOR. “More than \$5 million has been given for the Ukraine work to date. Gifts by mail or through local churches arrive more slowly but contribute significantly to the long-term work of meeting refugee needs.

“Humanitarian response for people displaced by war or natural disasters is always long-term and involves careful action to alleviate immediate suffering and also to lay the groundwork for unfolding, often unexpected, events. UMCOR has an excellent track record in pulling together resources to cover extended needs.”

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Fifth Sunday of Easter



Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

John 13:31-35

“God Surprises”

News and Notes

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 15

Please join us on Sundays at 11 am. If you are unable to come in person, you can watch our livestream at graymemorialumc.org/facebook.com or graymemorialumc.org/youtube, at 11 am or any time after that at graymemorialumc.org/



If you have prayer requests, please contact Norma Adams, Jennifer Skinner or Gail Teems.

You may also call the church office at 850/385-6441 or send a text to 850/933-8469.

Prayer Requests

Sam, Patsy and Betty

Bill Eddy – health concerns

Jack, Randy, Jim & Jane Workman

Joyce and Bob

Safe travels for Pastor Beth on her trip to Ireland

All those suffering from job loss, health issues and family concerns

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The conflict in Ukraine may result in as many as 10 million refugees, according to various estimates. Dealing with even half that number of displaced persons is a major international humanitarian challenge.

UMCOR funds are assisting local community shelters in Zaporizhzhia in Southeastern Ukraine and in Mukachevo and Uzhhorod in Western Ukraine. The United Methodist Ukraine-Moldova Annual Conference is drawing on UMCOR in its support of the basic human needs of people on the move. Shelters exist in cities including Kyiv, Lviv, Kamyantsia and Uzhhorod.

Initial UMCOR operational grants are assisting the efforts of United Methodists in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania to welcome and care for the refugees, many of whom are women and children, leaving Ukraine. In addition, a grant to the Human Rights League in Bratislava is providing emergency legal assistance to refugees in Slovakia, primarily through services at the train stations as they arrive.

The United Methodist Church in Estonia will use an UMCOR grant to refit a camp site to house and provide emergency services to 40 refugees. As of March 30, an estimated 22,000 refugees from Ukraine had made their way into Estonia. Two camps related to The United Methodist Church in the Czech Republic are also being equipped with an UMCOR grant to house refugees.

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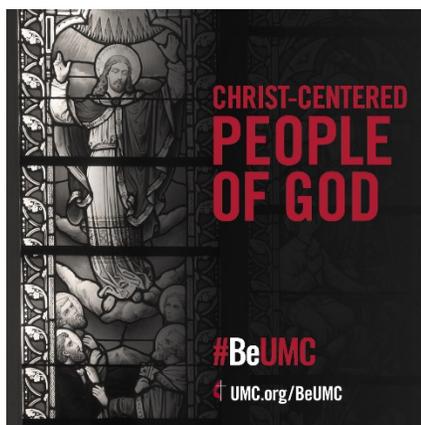
Major support in the range of a million dollars for regional service is being channeled through ACT Alliance, an ecumenical agency with contacts in 125 countries, formerly part of the World Council of Churches. Working with its European staff, ACT Alliance is providing services for new and expectant mothers, children, especially autistic children and others with disabilities, as well as working to prevent exploitation and human trafficking, which are always threats when large numbers of refugees are involved.

UMCOR is partnering with the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) in the transport and care for refugees from Ukraine entering Romania. This work is expected to serve 9,000 individuals. Refugees in Moldova, an independent country between Ukraine and Romania, will benefit from funds designated by UMCOR for the work of Church World Service, an ecumenical agency and a frequent UMCOR partner for refugee ministries.

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmision.org/advance-project/982450>
- By toll-free telephone: 888-252-6174
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with “Advance #982450-Ukraine” written on the memo line, either mailed and addressed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068 or given at or through any United Methodist church

One hundred percent of all Advance project contributions go to the designated cause.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, May 10	2 pm 7 pm	United Women in Faith Executive Council Meets
Wednesday, May 11	10 am 7 pm	Neighborly's Time with Afghan Mothers and Children Acts Bible Study with Todd Clark
Thursday, May 12	10 am 5:30 pm	Bible Study Choir Practice
Sunday, May 15	11 am	Worship Service – Pastor Beth will be back from her trip to Ireland

Note: Volunteers are needed to work on Friday, May 20 between 10 am and 2 pm at Ruediger Elementary School's End of the Year Festival. All the set up will be done ahead of time-we have been asked to help work the games and activities. Please call the church office or send an email if you are interested in helping-it will be lots of fun!