

### Methodists help Ukrainian refugees in Tijuana

By the Rev. Gustavo Vasquez June 9, 2022 | TIJUANA, Mexico (UM News) www.umnews.com

### **Key points:**

- The northwestern border of Mexico has become a gateway to the United States for many Ukrainian refugees, since the immigration process at consulates in Europe takes a long time.
- The Methodist Church of Mexico A.R., together with other churches, civil organizations and the support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, is providing food and other aid to refugee applicants from Ukraine.
- A church building that houses the "Methodist dining room" was refurbished this year to serve immigrant families.

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May 11, 2022

First United Methodist Church of Titusville 206 S. Hopkins Ave Titusville, Fl. 32796

Dear Pastor Cook & Church Members,

On behalf of The Pregnancy Care Center at BETA and its wonderful volunteer staff, we would like to thank you for the generous blessing of \$579.00.

What an incredible gift it was to open and envelope and receive such a generous unexpected blessing from the community during the Easter Sunrise Service. With the times being as hard as they are for young families and grandparents raising grandchildren, this donation comes at the most perfect time. We appreciate your generosity and your thoughtfulness in supporting our ministry and protecting the unborn babies as well as those babies that are blessed to be here with us today. Our center strives to protect the unborn, educate young families on how to become a strong and supportive parent through understanding, grace and love.

It truly means the world to us that Mims United Methodist Church, St. Andrews United Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church of Titusville believe in and are willing to support our "little but mighty" pregnancy care center. THANK YOU!

In Him,

Kimberly Severson
Executive Director

The Pregnancy Care Center at BETA

www.pccbeta.com

620 Garden Street \* Titusville, Florida 32796 \* Phone: 321.264.0446



### **May Budget Spending 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: \$29,890

Monthly Budgeted Goal: \$39,459

Income Under Goal: \$9,569

**Expenses** 

Church Programs: \$25

Finance: \$0

Church Administration: \$1,412 Facility Maintenance: \$7,156

Personnel: \$27,432

Conference Apportionments: \$3,598

Total Expenses: \$39,623

**Income under Expenses:** \$9,733

The budget for 2022 is \$\frac{\\$473,502}{\}\$ which, divided evenly, makes each month's goal \$39,459 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 from the COVID-19 pandemic. 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!



- 2 Richard Barron
- 7 Donna Mays
- 8 Bill Queen
- 8 Kendra Jeanty
- 8 Mike Boffo

### DIRAMS

- 9 Kennedy Jeanty
- 12 Dotty Everling
- 14 Lisa Mosier
- 15 Lois Queen
- 20 Linda Haas

- 22 Jim Marshbourne
- 23 Mary Jean Thompson
- 24 Frank Russell
- 24 Ruth White
- 31 Melinda Bouchez

## MIVERSARIES

- 1 JD & Pascale Daniel
- 3 Ed & Debbie Grimes
- 4 Frank & Pam Delnero

- 4 Winston & Enis Nathaniel
- 11 Dan & Dotty Everling
- 30 Bill & Lois Queen

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The Methodist Church of Mexico is responding to a surge in immigrants from Ukraine who have been displaced by war and are seeking asylum in the United States.



Maj. Gerardo Ortiz (left), leader of the Salvation Army in Tijuana, Mexico, and Bishop Felipe Ruiz, episcopal leader of the Northwest Annual Conference of the Methodist Church of Mexico A.R., have been working collaboratively to serve immigrant communities on the border, and they are now serving refugees from Ukraine. Photo courtesy of Bishop Felipe Ruiz, Methodist Church of Mexico A.R.

The war with Russia has forced more than 10 million Ukrainians to flee their homes, according to the United Nations. The city of Tijuana, at the northwestern border of Mexico, has become the gateway to the United States for many Ukrainian refugees, since the immigration process at the U.S. consulates in Europe takes a long time, according to media reports.



Volunteers from the Methodist Church of Mexico and the Salvation Army distribute food to Ukrainian refugee families. The families are staying in a gym that serves as a shelter, as they await appointments to cross the border into the U.S. Photo courtesy of Bishop Felipe Ruiz, Methodist Church of Mexico A.R.

The Methodist Church of Mexico A.R., together with other churches, civil organizations and the support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, is providing food and other aid to many of the refugee applicants.

"In the 'John 6:35 dining room,' around 800 meals a day (400 breakfasts and 400 dinners) are being prepared for distribution, along with other food provided by other churches and organizations, in one of the city's shelters where 1,800 people are currently being housed," said Bishop Felipe Ruiz, episcopal leader of the Methodist Church of Mexico's Northwest Annual Conference (CANO).

Initially, the Methodist church building was being used for meal preparation, but Ruiz said it was also opened to house about 25 people, mostly pregnant women and children, when a nearby shelter became overwhelmed.

The building also is being used temporarily to provide logistical support to the group of volunteers who are serving the refugees. Doctors, nurses, drivers and others can rest and get cleaned up after working for long periods.

The "Methodist dining room," as the building is known locally, was partially closed due to the restrictions around the COVID-19 pandemic between 2020 and 2021. Earlier this year, it was refurbished to serve immigrant families arriving from all over the world, with the intention of crossing into the United States.



City officials in Tijuana, Mexico, have arranged the use of a covered gym near the San Ysidro border point for helping more than 1,800 people from Ukraine. The refugees are housed there temporarily as they await processing of their applications to enter the United States. The procedures are taking three to four days. Photo courtesy of Bishop Felipe Ruiz, Methodist Church of Mexico A.R.

"Until now, we have been working with CANO's own resources, but recently, we have received the approval of an economic aid from UMCOR, in the amount of \$10,000, which will serve to increase our service capacity, taking into account (the) constant increase in families arriving," Ruiz explained.

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As part of the service to people who arrive affected by the consequences of the war, volunteer groups have been focusing on providing medical, spiritual and emotional care. The Mexican Methodist Church has been supporting this effort.



Refugees from Ukraine are received by groups of volunteers sponsored by Slavic churches and civil organizations in the United States. The volunteers help the asylum seekers go through the immigration procedures to enter the U.S. Photo courtesy of Bishop Felipe Ruiz, Methodist Church of Mexico A.R.

"The majority arrive very sad for everything they have gone through, but here they feel peace," Ruiz said. "However, the language barrier makes it very difficult for us to communicate. I think that on average, out of every hundred people who arrive, hardly one speaks English, and when our people, who only speak Spanish, want to interact with them, we have to do a double translation to be able to communicate.

"However, we try to pray with them and have put up a banner in Ukrainian that says, 'Let us pray for you,' so that we can offer them spiritual support in the face of so many difficulties they have suffered," he said. News media have been reporting the arrival of asylum seekers and refugees on this side of the border, from Cancun and Mexico City, whose airports receive flights from Europe.

Upon arrival in Mexico, refugees are greeted by groups of volunteers, sponsored by Slavic churches on the U.S. West Coast, who direct them to local flights that take them to the city of Tijuana. There they receive shelter and food and are taken to the San Ysidro border point in San Diego, California, for entry processing.

"Refugees spend between three and four days waiting before receiving their appointment to cross the border, and once they manage to cross, they are connected with family or friends who reside in the United States or are also supported by churches and civil organizations to facilitate their settlement in different localities," Bishop Ruiz said.

U.S. President Joe Biden has stated that the U.S. will receive a total of 100,000 Ukrainian refugees in 2022, according to media reports.

"I understand that only the immigration service in this border area with San Diego is the one that is processing the applications of the Ukrainian families, that there is no other point of the border that is doing it so far," the bishop said. "Although there are currently no other groups arriving on this side of the border, we know that this dynamic can change quickly, and that is worrying people in the city, since we could easily be overwhelmed in our capacities."

Vasquez is director of United Methodist News for the Hispanic-Latino audience. He can be reached at (615) 742-5155 or by email at <a href="mailto:gvasquez@umnews.org">gvasquez@umnews.org</a>. To read more United Methodist news, ideas and inspiration for ministry, <a href="mailto:subscribe-free to UMCOMtigo">subscribe-free to UMCOMtigo</a>.





# Activities of The United Methodist Church in the Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe with/for Refugees from Ukraine



Summary of May 27, 2022

### **Little Change – Continuing Help**

Over the course of the past two weeks, there were no reports from the countries directly or indirectly neighboring to Ukraine indicating that there would be major changes of the general situation. This does, unfortunately, also mean that the prayers for peace in Ukraine have not yet been answered and that the suffering goes on. There are, however, still some developments:

- According to Luca Bírtalan, coordinator of the work with/for refugees in Hungary, the number of refugees accommodated by the Church considerably decreased. The focus of the activities, therefore, shifted to sending humanitarian aid transports to various places in Hungary and in Ukraine.
- District Superintendent Rares Calugar from Romania reported that the transport of medicines and medical equipment to Ukraine might become more difficult because of restrictions of the Romanian State. The Romanian leaders will further explore this situation as they are eager to continue sending this much-needed material to a hospital in the south of Ukraine.
- The number of internally displaced people living in the western part of Ukraine is decreasing, as well. People either go back to the places they have come from, or they try to find refuge in Western Europe. However, the needs of food, medical articles (e.g. for wound treatment), shoes or vests are increasing in Ukraine and many things can no longer be purchased within the country. This has also become visible in a social media post of leaders of Kielce UMC in Poland: "Already the fourth delivery to Ukraine or perhaps only the fourth? Because the need is much, much greater."
- While, according to Jana Křížova, coordinator of the work with/for refugees in Czechia, people in Czech society are still welcoming and willing to help, Karel Nyerges, director of Diakonia UMC pointed to the fact that "predictions of social discontent are slowly but surely beginning to come true". This discontent is mirrored in questions such as "Why does the government cares for people from Ukraine but not for us?" or "Why do people from Ukraine receive help and we do not receive anything?" and in spreading fake news. Jana Křížova, however, underlined that she would pray that people in society remain resilient to rumors and that she would trust that there are still enough people with common sense.

### Activities with and for Refugees from Ukraine

#### Czechia

- Karel Nyerges, director of Diakonia UMC, recently wrote: "I see this war crisis as an opportunity to realize the value of human life and to help those who need it most at this moment." He expressed his thankfulness because of the fact that the centers accommodating Ukrainian refugees on a long-term base are functioning. "People here are safe and have all the basics for a pretty good life." However, he added: "But otherwise they are still the ones who are in a mess. Even though they have a place to live, they are constantly dealing with internal insecurity, anxiety and fear. Maybe they don't show it so much yet, because it's their only defense."
- **Libuše Hajčiarová** from Jihlava UMC informed that a new Humanitarian Aid Center is being prepared in Jihlava. It will not only be for people from Ukraine but also for single-parent families from Jihlava region. The leaders also see this as a contribution towards alleviating unnecessary social tensions that sometimes arise.
- Part of the humanitarian aid transports organized by the Russian-speaking UMC in Prague go to Sumy region in the northeastern part of Ukraine, on the border with Ukraine. A pastor and chaplain serving prisons in this area provides prisoners with food, medicines and hygienic supplies.

#### **Hungary**

- The UMC in Hungary recently brought a food donation to kind of a social kitchen in Ukraine, where food for 60 to 70 people is cooked three times a week, as **Luca Birtalan** reported.
- Another transport was carried out to Mezőkaszony in Ukraine (clothes, diapers, baby food, food) and shared with about 15 families in urgent need.
- The Dorcas refugee center in Debrecen (Hungary) was once again supported with a food donation.
- A refugee family from this camp joined the United Methodist congregation in Debrecen.

#### Romania

- The UMC in Romania continues taking care of orphans from Ukraine, of elderly people accommodated in an Orthodox monastery near Cluj-Napoca, and of other "guests" from Ukraine living in a variety of places.
- They also continue trying to integrate these "guests" in the regular groups, camps, etc. According to **Sarah Putman**, coordinator of the work with/for refugees in Romania, "there is a positive feedback from the Ukrainians they are interested in doing that".

May 27, 2022 / Urs Schweizer (based on reports from CZ, HU, PL, RO, and UA)



# Evensong for Ukraine

### Sunday, July 24th @ 6:00pm

Please join us in an evensong church service filled with music and prayer for the citizens of Ukraine. We will be collecting an offering which will be sent directly to UMCOR specifically to benefit

We also encourage any and all

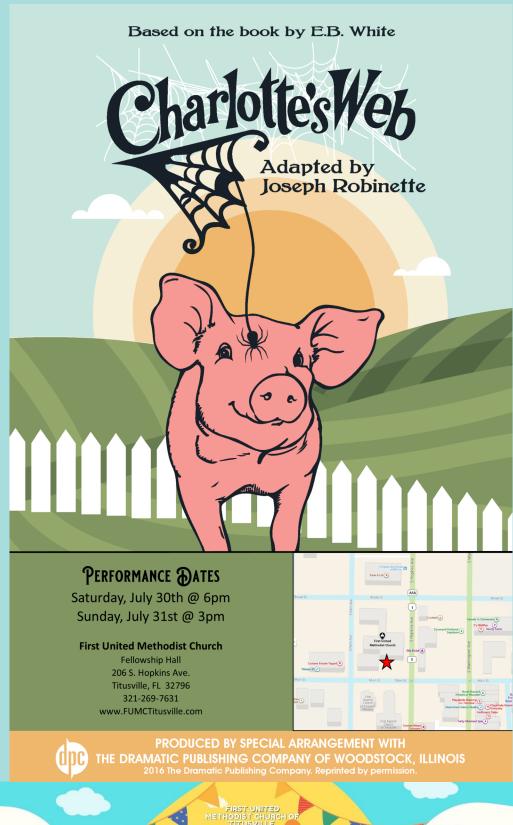
and assist the citizens of Ukraine.

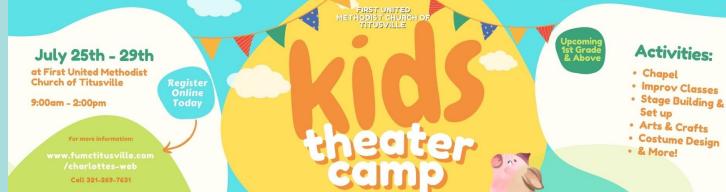
singers to join us in the choir.

### Rehearsals:

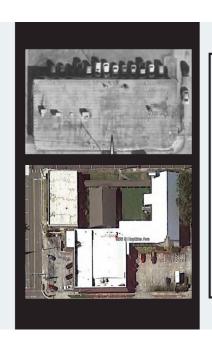
Every Thursday at 6pm starting on June 23rd

First United Methodist Church 206 S. Hopkins Avenue Titusville, FL 32796 321-269-7631





Set up



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TITUSVILLE

# 2nd Mile Giving Re-Roofing Campaign May 1st - May 31st RE-ROOFING UPDATE FUNDRAISING GOAL 100,000

FUNDRAISED \$53,070.00



The days are longer and the weather is warmer!

It's time to celebrate summer!

Join your friends from First United Methodist Church of Titusville and Connection Kids at 206 S Hopkins Ave for a time of fun with food, friends and family!

We will have water slides, music, and games for the whole family!

Bring the whole crew and have a great time with us!

### **July 2022**

### **First United Methodist Church**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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3 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Ice Cream Social	4 Independence Day — OFFICE CLOSED — HAPPY  HAPPY  JULY	5 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	6 9:00am Patchwork Friends 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	7 6:00pm Evensong Rehearsal	8 10:30am Connection Kids Party 1-3:30pm Food Pantry	9 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
10 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	11 10:00am Sara Fernandez Bible Study 6:00pm Charlotte's Web Rehearsal	12 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	9:00am ADK 1:30pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Charlotte's Web Rehearsal 6:00pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	14 10:30am Retired Teachers Mtg 6:00pm Evensong Rehearsal	9:30am Ladies Day Out 1-3:30pm Food Pantry 6:00pm Charlotte's Web Rehearsal	16 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
17 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	18 6:00pm Charlotte's Web Rehearsal	19 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	20 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Charlotte's Web Rehearsal 6:00pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	21 4:00pm Leadership Team Mtg 6:00pm Evensong Rehearsal	22 1-3:30pm Food Pantry 6:00pm Charlotte's Web Rehearsal	23 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
24 Parents' Day 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Evensong for Ukraine  31 9:00am Sun. School 10:00am Worship 3:00pm Charlotte's Wel	ol p	26 9:00am Theater Camp 2:30pm Sit & Fit 6:00pm Soliloquy 8:00pm Broadstreet	27 9:00am Theater Camp 3:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 4:30pm Chancel Choir 6:00pm Vivos Voco Rehearsal	28 9:00am Theater Camp 10:00am Conn. Kids Puppet Show	29 9:00am Theater Camp 1-3:30pm Food Pantry	30 6:00pm Charlotte's Web

Pastor Wayne P. Cook Church Office: 321-269-7631 206 S Hopkins Ave, Titusville, FL 32796 Email: office@fumctitusville.com

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### 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.

Phone: (321) 269-7631 Fax: (321) 269-8359

amazonsm

E-mail Address: office@fumctitusville.com Website: www.fumctitusville.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/682694095204027 Twitter Handle: @MethodistFirst

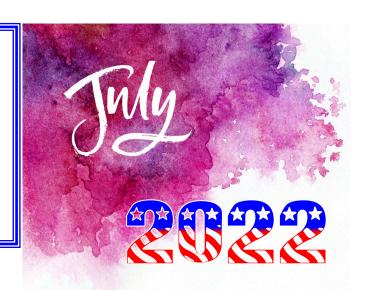
Instagram Handle: @UnitedChurch321 YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/

UChscOcLDe-wGkXHftvzGX9Q









### **FUMC Staff**

Reception Desk	Ext 201
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 Peterson - 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	

### **HAPPY PARENTS' DAY!**

Josh Huss - Lights and Visuals Dr. Bob Titus - Pastor Emeritus







