



Kanata United Church

March 11, 2022

Dear Friends,

The past few weeks we have found ourselves reeling in the news of what is occurring in Ukraine, and for many of us the question has been "How can we help"? Without question the response to such a question will evolve over the next several months, and I want to assure you that the United Church of Canada, our Eastern Ontario-Outaouais Region, and your KUC Leadership Teams are seeking ways to answer that very important question.

To that end, please know that currently there are a number of organizations available to receive financial donations for humanitarian efforts. Two of these include:

Financial Donations:

- The United Church of Canada, working in partnership with ACT Alliance and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, has joined the Humanitarian Coalition to call on Canadians to show tangible support for the people of Ukraine by providing people with urgently needed shelter, clean water, food and medical attention. Contributions may be made at:
 - <https://united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/ukraine-crisis>
 - If you prefer, you may make a donation by phone by calling: 416-231-5931 or toll-free 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738 and use your Visa or MasterCard;
 - or by sending a cheque or money order to: The United Church of Canada, Philanthropy Unit - Emergency Response, 3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4 (*Please be sure to note "Emergency Response—Ukraine" on the face of your cheque*);
- The Canadian Red Cross, where this past week they welcomed the announcement by the Government of Canada for an additional \$20 million to match individual donations to the Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal, bringing the total opportunity for match funds to **\$30 million**. Funds may be donated electronically at: <https://donate.redcross.ca/page/100227/donate/1?locale=en-CA>

Items for Refugees:

We are seeking new partnerships within the United Church Eastern Ontario-Outaouais Region to identify ways in which we can provide clothing, furniture and household items for Ukrainian refugees who will be coming to our Ottawa area as well as identify other opportunities that are being created within Communities of Faith. These efforts are currently being coordinated and we will continue to update you as arrangements unfold.



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A Time of Prayer:

My friends, I know for many of you, this has been particularly challenging, and often the helplessness that occurs can be quite destabilizing. I invite you to join with me in a time of prayer each day offering these words, followed by a time of quiet contemplation.

War is terrible but you find us, Loving God.

You find us anxious as conflict rages in the country of Ukraine.

You find us angry at the senseless loss of life,

you find us distressed as civilians are caught up in a terrible war,

you find us grieving over the death of innocent bystanders.

War is terrible but you listen to us carefully, Loving God.

You listen as we ask the politicians, "Can't you work for a peaceful solution?"

You listen as we say to the aggressors, "Don't put children or hospitals at risk."

You listen as we give thanks for countries that welcome those displaced with big hearts and open arms;

you listen as we fear for journalists who put themselves in danger to report the truth.

War is terrible but you give us hope, Loving God.

Hope that leaders will patiently give peace a chance.

Hope that despite the heartache, the terror, and the loss,

places of sanctuary will be found and acts of kindness will take root and grow.

Hope that feelings of revenge for broken livelihoods and broken bodies will be replaced by a willingness to restore community and to forgive.

We pray in the name of Jesus, crucified one. Amen

(written by David Sparks)

We will continue to walk together, work together, and pray together as a Community of Faith that is committed to respond to the world, seeking a deepening understanding of how our faith speaks to us in this time and place. And in doing so, let us remember that:

Peace is harder to achieve than war;

Grace is harder to extend than anger;

Justice is harder to live than imagine;

Love is harder to nurture than hate; and

Hope is harder to keep alive than despair.

In Christ,

Cindy

Reverend Cindy M. Casey, MDiv, B.A, FLE