

The 2017 Christmas Eve Miracle Offering ...

This year we will be supporting recovery efforts underway in Puerto Rico through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) in partnership with The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico (MCPR). This fall, Hurricane Maria tore through the island and destroyed virtually everything in its path. Homes, businesses and the power and communications grids were destroyed,



leaving most of the island without power or safe water. Officials counted 55 dead, but funeral homes across the island attribute 499 deaths to the storm. MCPR reached out to UMCOR to assist in recovery and relief efforts. I recently conversed with Mr. Ted Warnock who led the UMCOR advance team to PR and continues to lead the efforts there. Ted says *“Our initial support for Puerto Rico has been significant and the funds have been sent in emergency financial support, emergency communications (Satellite phones), relief supplies, Emergency Response Team (ERT) Training at the request of the Bishop to enable Puerto Rican volunteers to serve within their own country (and side-by-side U.S. continental volunteers), and long-term financial support. Each dollar you provide supports a coordinated response led by the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, and our collective support on so many other levels...The damage is significant in Puerto Rico.*



Much like Hurricane Katrina in 2005 along the Gulf Coast it will take a very long time to recover. This said, a significant grant has just been approved that will allow for the employment of Puerto Rican staff to work in concert with UMCOR. This grant (from funds such as yours) will also provide building materials and direct assistance. We invite you to use the special Christmas envelopes to offer your gift to help God’s people in need!



Welcome to Mt Nittany United Methodist Church tonight.
 As you journey through this worship service, allow this “good news of great joy” to fill your heart with peace. In a world so touched by darkness, may we go forth together to shine the light of Christ, which cannot be overcome! Christ is born! Alleluia!

*Battery candles are available for our youngest worshippers.
 Children’s activity bags are located by the greeter stand.
 A staffed nursery is available for pre-K children.*

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Choral Proclamation *Ring The Bells* Projected

*Responsive Call to Worship
 Joy to the world,
The Lord is come!
 Sing it. Say it. Tell the world.
Go, tell it on the mountain,
 Over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!
 Sing it. Say it. Spread the news!
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 So, come, come and worship.
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

*Carol **“Hark, The Herald Angels Sing” #220**
“Angels We Have Heard on High” (vs. 1,2,3) #238

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 9: 2-7, Micah 5:2-5a p.610, 825

Vocal Duet *Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth* James Beatty
 Christian Beebe

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***Benediction**
***Response**
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