



Dear Presbytery of the Miami Valley Churches,
We know that our theme of World Communion Sunday this year is “...to love kindness.” This is based on Micah 6:8, “What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.” The prophet Micah’s charge “to love kindness” is uniquely embodied when the people of the world join around Christ’s table of grace.”¹ Including the PCUSA World Communion Sunday brochures and offering envelopes, the Presbytery of the Miami Valley is asking all of our churches to also offer this Minute for Mission in their worship services on World Communion Sunday, October 4th, 2026. Our hope is that in doing so we will offer up a strong, unison blanket of prayer over our Springfield, Ohio brothers and sisters from Haiti.

Friends, ICE detentions are increasing in Springfield and the fear inside the Haitian community is growing. Families are being pushed into survival mode. They are asking the faith community to pray, help, and show support for their neighbors. Please pray for those whose family members or pastors have been detained, and for those who are struggling for food, have no way to get to their immigration hearings, or are afraid to go to worship.

A bit of background on what has been happening in Springfield:

Springfield, Ohio is a small city of 60,000 people which includes an estimated 15,000 Haitian individuals and families. 1 in 5 children in Springfield public schools are Haitian and more than 1,300 children ages 5 and under living in Springfield have been born to Haitian parents in the United States. Reverend Carl Ruby is the senior pastor at Central Christian Church in Springfield. His congregation includes many Haitians. He also founded Springfield Neighbors United and G92, dedicated to helping Haitians in Springfield who are facing deportation.

On a recent Morning Edition on NPR, Ruby shared this with Michel Martin, the Host of Morning Edition: “Springfield was a shrinking Rust Belt city before they arrived. And we had gone through 50 years of decline. When Haitians arrived, it was the first time Springfield grew. We went from being one of the fastest-shrinking cities to the fastest-growing city. They fueled our economy. They started businesses, businesses that were already here added shifts, new businesses came because of the Haitian workforce. They had a huge impact. And they show up everywhere. And most of them are professional people who are doing manual labor jobs because their certifications don't apply here. So they're very popular with employers. I've talked to one factory owner in town. He said they always show up, they work as much as they can and they never fail drug tests. So they're the ideal employees. They're exactly what Springfield needs.”

Ruby went on to share this, “and just to kind of give you an indication of what it's like pastoring Haitians during this time - I had a 12-year-old child just this last week who was in the children's program. And we were talking about pigs. And he immediately told a story about seeing feral hogs eating bodies back in Haiti. These are people who have been severely traumatized before they ever arrived here. And, you know, I think your listeners can imagine the fear in a child's mind and heart having fled that. And this child survived a kidnapping attempt. He went on to talk about, you know, hiding in a classroom while there was shooting outside. So they know how awful it is. They know what they're being sent back to and they're terrified.”

The immigrants' fear isn't simply detention or leaving a community in which they have settled. Their home country, Haiti, has been labeled as "Do Not Travel" by the U.S. State Department for six years. Gangs control 90% of the capital city, Port-au-Prince. A new government in place after several years still is not stable.

Public health physician Dr. Bernadette Fouché, said, communities across the U.S. where immigrants live and work will feel the loss. "These are no strangers to America," she said. "They are the nurse who held your mother's hand in the last hour. They are the teacher who learned your child's name on the first day of school. They are the pastor, the farm worker."

"Do not mistreat foreigners who are living in your land. Treat them as you would an Israelite and love them as you love yourselves. Remember that you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God." ~ Leviticus 19:33-34

The righteous will then answer him, 'When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!' ~ Matthew 25: 37-4

The words from Leviticus and Matthew speak to our call as Christians; to love one another and this includes our Haitian brothers and sisters in Springfield, Ohio. The Presbytery of the Miami Valley's Committee on Representation and Diversity (CoRD) monitors committees and offices of the presbytery to ensure fair representation and diversity. On this World Communion Sunday, CoRD, through the Leadership Council of our Presbytery, has asked our 40 churches to share this Minute for Mission and to pray for the "least of these in our midst," our Haitian brothers and sisters in Springfield, Ohio.

Let us pray, Lord, we know that you call us to love one another and especially the "least of these" in our midst. On this day our hearts are drawn to our Haitian neighbors in Springfield, Ohio. Lord, be with them in their fear and insecurity. Be with those who are ministering to them this day. Help us to not stand by but to remain in prayer for them unceasingly and all that is before them. In Jesus' most precious name we pray. Amen.

Resources quoted in the Minute for Mission:

¹ PCUSA World Communion 2026 brochure

<https://www.npr.org/2026/06/26/nx-s1-5870953/ohio-pastor-shares-how-the-scotus-ruling-on-tps-holders-will-affect-his-community><https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/7/10/meeting-jesus-faces-new-neighbors>

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<https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/3/presbyterians-advocate-haitian-neighbors-federal-judge-blocks-now-end-temporary-protective-status>

Flyer that was shared by Rev. Amy Duiker, pastor at Sugar Creek Presbyterian with her congregation.

WAYS TO HELP

In addition to your prayers, you are invited to do one additional thing to show up in love for those who are afraid and in need. Here are the ways you can help right now:

1. Watch the statement from Pastor Viles Dorsainvil:

<https://haitiansupportcenter.org/ice-arrests/>

2. Make a donation to the Haitian Support Center's Emergency Fund. This is local to Springfield, and the money helps provide emergency food and rent support, legal assistance for urgent cases, transportation for families in crisis, help for children when a parent is detained, medication, utilities, tuition assistance for young adults who lose their jobs, and other essential needs.

<https://ancljkuy.donorsupport.co/page/FUNDVDTREKM>

3. Pack a food box or two with friends, family, or neighbors.

Pack Food Boxes that Matter

Organize your group to pack much needed food boxes for our Haitian neighbors.

Create immediate impact!

- Gather donated food items (per list)
- Pack boxes (guide list provided)
- Seal and transport to Springfield

Interested?
Contact Kelton@nehemiahfoundation.org



PLEASE PACK THE FOLLOWING ITEMS INTO EACH 16 x 12 FOOD BOX:

• 1 box Cereal	• 1 can Ravioli
• 1 box Spaghetti	• Peanut butter
• 1 box Mac & cheese	• 1 large can Chicken
• 2x Ramen noodles	• 2 cans Tuna
• 1 can Corn	• 1 bag Beans
• 1 can Green beans	• 1 bag Rice
• 1 can Potatoes	• 2 bags Lentils
• 1 can Peas	• 1qt. Shelf stable Milk
• 1 can Tomatoe	• 1 jar Applesauce
• 1 can Peaches	• 1lb. Beef
• 1 can Spaghetti sauce	• 1 or 2 Toilet Paper



DROP OFF TUESDAY-FRIDAY
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
2415 E. HIGH ST.