I’m sure many of you are keeping our sisters and brothers in Puerto Rico in your prayers today, and likely already fielding some questions regarding how folks can help and the UCC response. For those who are unaware, Puerto Rico was struck by a 6.4 magnitude earthquake at 3:24am local time today 8 miles west of Ponce (on the southeastern coast), and numerous aftershocks have been reported. This follows a 5.0 magnitude earthquake yesterday. Numerous homes and structures have been damaged and one casualty has been reported. Folks on the island are in the midst of assessing damage and needs.

We have launched the information and giving pages for the Puerto Rico appeal, with a goal of raising $250,000.

https://www.ucc.org/earthquake_recovery_puerto_rico

Prayer: “Holy God, source of light and life, our hearts are once again grieving as we witness the many tragedies around us. We pray today for our siblings in Puerto Rico who have awakened to the challenges of these earthquakes. We pray their strength and resilience. We pray for those who experienced loss and ask their peace and comfort. Help us to be a source of your presence and love with all in this moment. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.”

Young Adult Service Communities

Young Adult Service Communities are unique opportunities for you to live in an intentional community with others who share your commitment to service and social justice. Young Adult Service Communities are 11-month leadership programs for young adults aged 21-35. Housing, food, a living stipend, health insurance are provided. Together, you will find the space to reflect on questions of meaning and to network for change. Young adult leaders are transforming communities through a faith-inspired pursuit of justice, collaborative action, and intentional living.

Service and Justice Internships:
The YASC network gives you the opportunity to grow professionally and change the world through intern placements with local nonprofit agencies, which are dedicated to justice advocacy and collaborative action.

Congregational Connections:
Your placement will allow you the opportunity to grow spiritually and practice skills as you serve in a leadership position at a United Church congregation. Through this work, you can see the convergence of church and world.

Intentional Community:
YASC provides you a space to grow personally by living in community with other young leaders, exploring together your direction, calling and future action in the world.

For more information and to apply, go to: https://www.ucc.org/volunteer_yasc

Update on Puerto Rico Earthquakes

Has Your Church Signed Up for ALICE Training?

Don’t wait for a tragedy to occur. Prepare your church now! Workshop times will be 9:00 am—12:00 noon. The two options for this training are:

February 22nd @ Zion Blue Mountain, Strausstown
Register at: https://psecalicefeb20.eventbrite.com

March 7th @ First UCC, Quakertown
Register at: https://https://psecalicemar20.eventbrite.com

The training will include an eLearning component, which will require Internet access. Participants will complete this prior to the workshop.