

To: Pastors and Laity of South Carolina United Methodist Churches

Dear Friends,

More and more South Carolinians are hungry. In Greenville County, one of the more financially blessed areas of our state, more than 60,000 residents do not know where they will get at least one of their meals each day. Statewide, 12% of our senior citizens report that they are hungry. Many thousands of children who receive a free or reduced lunch at school face an uncertain food situation on the weekends.

As United Methodists, we have always been concerned with people's spiritual and physical needs and as hunger and poverty increase, we want to be a church that increases our efforts to help in Jesus' name. Through your gifts last year to our conference Hunger Ministries (formerly known as Hungrief), we were able to support United Methodist ministries in our state that help hungry people with \$4,000 of assistance. That is good, but we know that is not nearly enough.

There are 1,040 United Methodist Churches in South Carolina. We are asking each church to give at least \$100 to this special Hunger Ministries call during Lent. Some churches can do much more. Please do! Some churches will be pressed to reach \$100. Please try!

If every church were to give at this level, we could make a real impact on the needs of the hungry in our state. During Lent, let us all remember that God takes a special interest in the cries of the needy and that He uses the church to answer those cries. Remember the hungry people in our state. They are your neighbors. Please support this Hunger Ministries call.

Please send your gifts to the conference treasurer, marked for Hunger Ministries.

Thank you for all you do for the church and for God's people in need.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jerry Hill

SC UMC Conference

Board of Global Ministries

Hunger Ministries Committee